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EP.#301

## **SCANDAL**

“It’s Handled”

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FINAL DRAFT  
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SCANDAL

“It’s Handled”

CHARACTER LIST

ABBY WHELAN  
CYRUS BEENE  
DAVID ROSEN  
HARRISON WRIGHT  
HUCK  
JAKE BALLARD  
OLIVIA POPE  
PRESIDENT “FITZ” FITZGERALD GRANT  
MELLIE GRANT  
QUINN PERKINS

Charlie  
Ethan  
Flight Attendant  
Hal Rimbeau  
James Novak  
Jeannine Locke  
Mara Jones  
Navy Servicewoman  
Rowan  
Sally Langston  
Smug Cable Newswoman  
Tanner Shaw  
Tom  
Vanessa Chandler

SCANDAL

“It’s Handled”

SET LIST

INTERIORS	INTERIORS (CONT'D)
OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM OLIVIA'S OFFICE QUINN'S OFFICE HALLWAY GARAGE	UNDISCLOSED LOCATION
LIMO	EXTERIORS
WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY OVAL OFFICE CYRUS'S OFFICE BRIEFING ROOM BOWELS TUNNELS CONFERENCE ROOM RESIDENCE BULLPEN SALLY'S OFFICE	AIRPLANE HANGAR
PRIVATE PLANE	OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES ALLEY
AIRPLANE HANGAR	D.C. STREET
MALLOY'S BAR	WHITE HOUSE/NORTH LAWN
BUNKER	
B613 HEADQUARTERS HALLWAY THE HOLE ROOM	
CYRUS AND JAMES'S BEDROOM	

SCANDAL

"It's Handled"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

- 1 INT./EXT. VARIOUS PHOTOGRAPHS - DAY 1
- We SMASH INTO a series of ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS:
- 1A -AMIDST A BUSY OVAL OFFICE BRIEFING FULL OF AIDES, FITZ DUCKS HIS HEAD DOWN, EAR COCKED AS CYRUS WHISPERS INTO IT. FITZ'S FACE SHOWS HIS SHOCK. THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR BEHIND HIM, WE CAN SEE MELLIE MAKING HER WAY INTO THE ROOM, HER FACE STONY AND COLD. 1A
- 1B -CYRUS, SHOULDERS SLUMPED, LEANS AGAINST HIS DESK. FLUTTERING IN THE AIR ON ITS WAY TO HIS FEET IS THE VIVID FRONT PAGE OF THE DISTRICT TIMES. ITS HEADLINE SCREAMS: *FIRST MISTRESS?* 1B
- 1C -WE'RE PEEKING THROUGH THE DOOR OF THE OVAL. FAR AWAY. BUT NOT TOO FAR TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF MELLIE RAGE-WHISPERING AT CYRUS, her face contorted with rage. BEYOND THEM, FITZ PLAYS PEEK-A-BOO WITH BABY TEDDY, determined to remain OBLIVIOUS. 1C
- 1D -WHITE HOUSE AIDES AND ASSISTANTS (INCLUDING ETHAN) STAND STARING UP AT THE BANKS OF TELEVISIONS, THEIR NECKS STRAINING, WATCHING AS AN IMAGE OF OLIVIA POPE AND FITZGERALD GRANT APPEAR ON THE SCREEN. ONE AIDE, JEANNINE, IS CLEARLY TRYING NOT TO CRY. 1D
- 1E -BENEATH A PORTRAIT OF JACKIE O, MELLIE SITS ALONE IN A CHAIR SOMEWHERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE. HER SHOES OFF, HER FEET CURLED UNDER HER. SHE LOOKS LONELY AND TIRED AND AFRAID. AND SHE CLEARLY BELIEVES SHE IS ALONE. BECAUSE SHE'S SHOVING HALF A CANDY BAR INTO HER MOUTH. 1E
- 1F -FITZ SITS AT HIS DESK IN THE OVAL. HANDS CLASPED UNDER HIS CHIN. STARING INTO SPACE. IMMOBILE. AROUND HIM, THE ARMY OF AIDES AND CYRUS SWIRLS AROUND HIM. THEY ARE A BLUR OF MOVEMENT AND ENERGY. FITZ IS TOTALLY STILL. 1F
- And as we SWIPE through these iconic images -- the ones that belong on the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek*, in newspapers and all those commemorative photo books that document generation-defining moments like this -- we finally get to a STILL of THE SCENE OUTSIDE OLIVIA'S APARTMENT FROM THE END OF 222:
- 1G Where OLIVIA shields her face from the SEA OF REPORTERS with TWO MEN IN SUITS hustling her into Rowan's car (from Ep 222). And as we go off this frozen image... 1G

2 INT. LIMO - DAY

2

Olivia sits exactly where we last saw her. In the limo. Staring at ROWAN. Staring at her Dad. In disbelief. We get the feeling she's been doing this for a long time. Rowan eyes her. She eyes him. He glances at his watch.

ROWAN

22 minutes without making a sound.  
If only you'd been this quiet as a  
child.

Olivia doesn't say anything. Just stares him down. Rowan leans in.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

You're trying to figure out your  
next move. You're weighing your  
options. Let me help you. There  
are no moves, no options. Game over.  
Daddy's home.

OLIVIA

Why did you try to have me killed?

ROWAN

I didn't try to have you killed. I  
tried to have Jake Ballard killed.

OLIVIA

(sarcastic)

Oh. Well. Fine.

(then)

What did you do to him? Is he alive?

ROWAN

That's not the question you should  
be asking. The question you should  
be asking is, are you?

As Liv takes this in, the car turns and Rowan looks up.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

We're here.

3 EXT. AIRPLANE HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

3

The car pulls into a hangar. Parks. The door opens and Rowan and Olivia get out. Olivia stands, staring at a beautiful G5 jet and its crew waiting at attention. Then she turns and looks at Rowan.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

OLIVIA

No.

ROWAN

You've gotten yourself into a bit of trouble, Olivia. And I am here to fix it.

OLIVIA

No.

ROWAN

I am not asking.

OLIVIA

I don't need your help-

ROWAN

Now you listen to me. You raised your skirt and you opened your knees and you gave it away to a man with too much power. You are not special. You are not rare. Your story is no different from a thousand other stories in this town. So you know how this goes. You know the drill. You can call this in your sleep. Hell, you wrote the White House playbook for them. First, they'll smile, be warm, sympathetic, on your side, letting you know they will fight for you. They'll lull you into a false sense of security. And then once your belly's exposed, they will turn on you, disown you, drag your name through the mud. They'll make you a scapegoat for every awful thing they've ever done. They will gut you and everyone you know. And they will be swift about it. By the time you realize you should be fighting back...well, you're already bleeding to death. It's the Presidency versus you. Whose victory do you think they will fight for? Whose body do you think they will bury?

OLIVIA

He would never-

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

ROWAN

HE would never. You and I both know that HE is not in charge. HE is never in charge. Power is in charge. POWER got him elected.

(off her surprise)

I know more than you could possibly imagine about things of which you cannot dream.

He knows everything. And as that realization comes over her face...

ROWAN (CONT'D)

You will never be alone with him again. You will never whisper sweet nothings at Camp David, you will never touch the Constitution, you will never defile the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office ever again. That life is over. This new life? Is ruined. They will ruin it. They will destroy your life. And your business. And the lives of the people who work for you. Do you understand that?

Olivia stares at him, stricken. And for just a beat, Rowan loses it. He leans in, furious and paternal and loving and abusive.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

He told you that you would be First Lady and *you believed him*? Did I not raise you for better? How many times have I told you? You have to be what? You have to be what?!

OLIVIA

(mumble)

...Twice as good...

ROWAN

WHAT?

OLIVIA

Twice as good.

ROWAN

TWICE AS GOOD as them to get HALF of what they have. Sleeping with that...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

ROWAN (CONT'D)

(beat of disgust)

...and for God's sake, you know to AIM higher. At the very least, you should have aimed for Chief of Staff! Secretary of State! First Lady...Do you have to be so mediocre?!

And right before our eyes, Olivia Pope seems to get smaller, lesser, muted. It's awful.

Rowan pulls it together. Breathes. Awkwardly pats her as if to soften that exchange. He's not the best dad in the world but he is her dad.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Your staff will be taken care of financially. Your business will continue to run. Money is not a problem. There is always money. Money bought that plane. Money bought the silence of the gentlemen flying the plane. On board you'll find an envelope. It contains a passport, a Swiss bank book, a go file, an entirely new identity. There's a very nice island waiting for you at the end of the flight. You'll stay there for 8 months. And then I can arrange a place for you in Brussels. Or Thailand if you prefer. Johannesburg. Anywhere but here, really. As long as you disappear.

OLIVIA

And what if I don't want to go?

Rowan's voice is calm, measured and very, very dangerous.

ROWAN

Olivia. You are getting on that plane. Come hell or high water. And to be clear? I? Am the hell AND the high water.

And as Olivia takes in Daddy's threat, that's our...

TITLE CARD OUT.



4 INT. WHITE HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

4

CYRUS on the march, trailed by twenty-something ETHAN, an ambitious junior policy aide; and thirty-something JEANNINE, a pretty and sharp Communications staffer.

ETHAN

Should we cancel the briefing, sir?

CYRUS

Canceling the press briefing would show weakness. We are not weak. We are busy. We are handling the business of the country. And the country is full of subjects other than the identity of the President's supposed mistress. Right, Jeannine?

JEANNINE

Tornado killed a school bus full of Girl Scouts in Oklahoma.

CYRUS

No one can say they don't care about dead Girl Scouts. You care about dead Girl Scouts, don't you Ethan?

Cyrus fixes him with a death glare.

ETHAN

Yes, I do.

CYRUS

Then it's settled, Jeannine will bat away the mistress questions and pivot to the dead Girl Scouts.

And Cyrus leaves them and pauses where TOM stands guarding the door. He looks at Tom, questioning. *What's it like in there?* Tom shakes his head. *It's BAD in there.* Cyrus sighs, heads past Tom and we follow him into-

5 INT. WHITE HOUSE/OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

5

Where Mellie turns on him as soon as he enters. Fitz stares off into space.

MELLIE

*I want whoever leaked Olivia's name!  
I want their head on a stick! This  
had to come from inside the White  
House!! YOU need to talk to EVERYONE  
in this building!*

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

YOU need to use your indoor voice.  
Or every junior staffer gets one  
hell of a tell-all book deal.

MELLIE

You're the gatekeeper, Cyrus. Isn't  
that what you call yourself? Why  
was the GATE OPEN?! This leak!? Is  
on you. This is your *failure*. So  
you better find out who did this. I  
WANT A NAME, Cyrus. Until we have  
one, I want this White House on  
lockdown.

Mellie moves to Fitz, puts a gentle hand on his back.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

It's going to be okay. Everything  
is going to be fine.

And with a pointed glare at Cyrus, Mellie heads out. Once  
the door closes behind her...

CYRUS

Sir? How are we doing?

Fitz just stares into space.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Sir, I know I am not your favorite  
person right now but I would like to  
be of some help to you-

FITZ

I need to talk to Liv.

Cyrus is flabbergasted.

CYRUS

No.

FITZ

Cyrus, we left her out in the cold-

CYRUS

You don't talk to Olivia. Contacting  
Olivia Pope under any circumstances  
*whatsoever* is off limits to you.  
There are now legal considerations.  
Jeopardies.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

CYRUS (CONT'D)

*Exposures.* Questions you will not want to answer when the FBI, a Congressional committee, or, God help us, a Special Prosecutor comes calling, curious about what exactly was discussed between this White House and the President's alleged mistress. The lawyers are in charge now.

FITZ

Bring her in from the cold, Cy.  
Find a way.

And then Fitz looks away. Cyrus stands there a beat. Being ignored by Fitz. Finally, Cyrus turns and heads out.

6 INT. PRIVATE PLANE - DAY

6

Olivia sits alone inside the jet. It's luxurious and lovely. She could care less. She holds the envelope her father left for her. Stares at it, pensive. Looks out the window -- her father stands beside the limo waiting for the plane to take off. The FLIGHT ATTENDANT comes over to her.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

We'll be taking off in a moment.  
Can I get you anything to drink?

OLIVIA

No, thank you.

As the flight attendant turns away, Olivia catches sight of the phone clipped to her belt. Makes a decision.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Can I borrow your phone?

Off the flight attendant, looking back, surprised...

7 INT. WHITE HOUSE/CYRUS'S OFFICE - DAY

7

Cyrus heads into his office, answers his cell phone.

CYRUS

Cyrus Beene...

Formal because he doesn't recognize the number.

INTERCUT WITH:

8 INT. PRIVATE PLANE - DAY

8

Olivia's on the phone. Speaking low, a casual smile on her face because the flight attendant is watching her.

OLIVIA

It's me.

CYRUS

I have been calling you for hours.

OLIVIA

I don't have my phone.

CYRUS

Where are you?

OLIVIA

I'm sitting in a G5 on a runway.

CYRUS

Where are you going?

OLIVIA

Nowhere. I'm disappearing.

CYRUS

That is not an option.

OLIVIA

It is. Apparently it's very simple.  
I just get on this plane and I  
disappear into thin air.

And there's a moment where they just listen to one another breathe. Weighing each other. Scared.

CYRUS

Get off the plane. Don't run.

OLIVIA

Yeah, you need me here so you can  
throw me under the bus. I know how  
this goes. I can run this play in  
my sleep. You'll burn me.

CYRUS

I won't burn you. Not unless you  
burn me. We are on the same side.

OLIVIA

Are we? Who leaked my name, Cy?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

CYRUS

When I find out, they will suffer.  
Get off the plane.

OLIVIA

I just wanted to say goodbye.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

CYRUS

Olivia-

OLIVIA

Tell him I said goodbye.

CYRUS

(emotional, panicked)

OLIVIA. OLIVIA.

OLIVIA

What.

Cyrus swallows, vulnerable.

CYRUS

If you disappear...if you disappear,  
he will think that I had you killed.  
And he will never trust me again, he  
barely trusts me as it is, and I  
will not be able to help him out of  
this. If he thinks you're dead...I  
won't be able to save him.

He listens. Waiting. She takes that in. Breathing. Then:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Don't run. I have fought and will  
continue to fight tooth and nail to  
keep the two of you apart. I have  
done dark things. But I have also  
fought to keep your secrets. I have  
also been your friend and your  
champion.

OLIVIA

When you aren't a monster.

CYRUS

I am a monster. But honey? I'm  
your monster. And I will fix this.  
I will put this ridiculous untrue  
rumor about you having an affair  
with the President to rest. Because  
it does not serve me or you or him  
or the Republic to have it out there.  
I will put it down. I will bury it.  
I just need a little time. And I  
need you not to run. I need you to  
get off the plane, my friend. Get  
off the plane.

And as Olivia sits there a beat, deciding, we TIME CUT TO:

9 INT. AIRPLANE HANGAR - DAY

9

Olivia exits the plane. Rowan walks towards her. Impatient.

ROWAN

Olivia-

She walks right past him.

OLIVIA

I'm not going.

ROWAN

Yes, you are.

OLIVIA

Thanks for the offer but no.

ROWAN

You're being stupid about this-

OLIVIA

I am many things, stupid is not one of them.

He grabs her arm.

ROWAN

Look, I know you may not believe me or trust me but as your only family I am trying to help you, if you would just let me-

OLIVIA

You are my father. Biology says so. But we have not been family for a very long time. -- Can you let go of my arm now? I have to go to work.

And she's so matter of fact. It's kinda heartbreaking. Rowan lets go of her arm.

ROWAN

Olivia, you can't possibly think that you are going to return to your life as if nothing is happening.

OLIVIA

What is happening is that I am taking care of myself.

She climbs into the limo.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
(to the driver)  
Take me to my office.

The driver looks at Rowan. Rowan nods and the driver heads around to get into the car. Rowan leans in and looks at Olivia through the open window.

ROWAN  
The White House will destroy you.

A beat as she looks at him.

OLIVIA  
That's what Mom used to tell me about you.

And she rolls up the window and the limousine pulls away. Off Rowan, inscrutable, we...

END ACT ONE



ACT TWO

10 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

10

We're on a TV screen. News anchor TANNER SHAW, interviews VANESSA CHANDLER, an attractive young society reporter with more game than her fancy outfit suggests. In the background, the phones RING incessantly, in every office.

TANNER SHAW

...Joining us now, the reporter who broke this story -- Vanessa Chandler of the Post's Styles section.

Quick cuts to BLINDS BEING SHUT in Olivia's office.

TANNER SHAW (CONT'D)

Vanessa -- we have a name now. Former White House Communications Director Olivia Pope. How sure are you that she's the woman who had an alleged affair with President Grant...

Quick cuts to a series of RINGING PHONES BEING UNPLUGGED. Inside the ELEVATOR. A switch is flipped, locking it.

VANESSA CHANDLER

It's just one source but it's a good source. A source in a position to know the true identity of the President's mistress. And, well...you know how this works. It's just a matter of time before others come out of the woodwork and more details emerge...

And we REVERSE to reveal Quinn and Abby gathered, glued to the TV. Quinn's glaring at the TV, venomous.

QUINN

Give me ten minutes alone with that stupid reporter and I'd get the name of her source. She'd lose a finger or two but we'd have the name.

Whoa. Quinn looks up, sees Abby. Abby's freaked.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Joking.

She totally wasn't joking. She heads off. Abby turns, sees Harrison in Olivia's office, his back to her. As she squints, curious...

11 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 11

Where HARRISON stands before the open safe, looking at the BLACK FOLDER Liv gave him in Episode 221. And he's running his finger across the seal, clearly unsure whether now's the time to open this thing. Abby appears in the doorway.

ABBY

What is that?

Harrison puts the folder back in the safe. Locking it up.

HARRISON

Nothing.

Abby watches him, as the two of them move back into...

12 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS 12

Just as HUCK arrives, opening his bag and unloading a stack of NEW PHONES.

HUCK

New phones, new phone numbers, registered to aliases. Your old cells are compromised, probably hacked, don't use 'em.

ABBY

Good. Press has been jamming our lines all morning. Liv wouldn't be able to get through to us even if she tried.

HUCK

It's madness out there. Dozens of reporters, satellite trucks...

Quinn peers at the TV.

QUINN

They're swarming. We're surrounded.

HARRISON

(to Huck)

You able to track her phone on GPS? Find out where she is?

Huck pulls Liv's cell from his pocket. They all stare it.

HUCK

It was in her apartment. Wherever she went, she left it behind.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

A beat as they take that in. Olivia leaving her phone behind is a sobering, scary thought.

HARRISON

Okay. Let's wipe Liv's computer, go through files, shred anything having to do with the White House...

HUCK

Not until Liv says.

HARRISON

We're under siege here. And we have no idea where she is.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

HARRISON (CONT'D)

You want to sit on our asses, wait for the Feds to come and raid our office?

QUINN

Hey! I think I found Liv.

And they turn to look at the TV to see -- LIV'S LIMO, outside their building...

A13 EXT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/ALLEY - DAY

A13

From high above we see the limo, Liv's limo, pull in towards the garage. It's immediately swarmed by PRESS, CAMERAPeOPLE, EXTENDED BOOM MICS and FLASHES OF LIGHT.

B13 INT. LIMO - DAY

B13

Olivia sits calmly, shielded by the blackened windows. She was expecting this. As the garage door opens before them, the DRIVER tries to wave off the press, get them out of the path. Frustrated, he reaches for the door handle. Ready to get physical. Olivia lurches forward-

OLIVIA

*Don't!*

But it's too late. Driver is out and immediately pushed aside as CAMERAS replace him. Like clowns, the PHOTOGRAPHERS AND PRESS push into the front seat, angling for a shot or a question. Olivia's trapped, holding up her coat to shield her. Just like one of the many high profile criminals she's defended so well.

Then it gets worse. Someone's trying to open her door lock from the outside. After a few seconds, HER DOOR OPENS. Olivia recoils but then hears.

HUCK (O.S.)

Olivia!

Olivia looks up to see Huck's outstretched hand. Behind him, Harrison gets physical. Pushing people back.

HUCK (CONT'D)

Take my hand.

And she does and then we're...

C13 EXT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/ALLEY - MORNING

C13

Where Harrison and Huck act like blockers, pushing through the crowd. It feels scary. The reporters are relentless and Olivia has to struggle along with Huck and Harrison to push through the sickening scrum. Off the mayhem we...

CUT TO:

D13 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - MORNING

D13

Olivia is quietly changing clothes -- putting on earrings, tucking in her blouse, changing her shoes, getting back into her armor. She's still shaken but not as badly as her troops who have gathered close.

ABBY

What should we do? What's our first move?

OLIVIA

We do nothing.

An exchange of surprised looks amongst the team.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

It's being handled. Which means all of you can get back to work. Business as usual.

HARRISON

*Business as usual? How is that even possible?*

OLIVIA

You pick up the phone and call our clients, show them we're as dedicated to them as ever.

(off their silence)

*What?*

HARRISON

Are we really gonna *not talk about* the fact that you're the most infamous woman in America-

ABBY

The world.

HARRISON

IN THE WORLD right now!?

(CONTINUED)

D13 CONTINUED:

D13

OLIVIA  
It's. Being. Handled.

HARRISON  
By who? The White House?

Olivia doesn't answer -- which is all the confirmation Harrison needs.

HARRISON (CONT'D)  
Olivia-

OLIVIA  
We're done here.

ABBY  
Liv, the phones have been ringing off the hook all morning. Aside from the reporters, the only people getting through are clients calling to fire us.

Olivia stops. Because of course she knew this would happen. But the fact that it's already happened is even a surprise to her.

OLIVIA  
Who?

Quinn reads from a list on her notebook.

QUINN  
The Needham Group, Hemmings and Walsh, Orrin Terry, Barry Weshnick...

OLIVIA  
I'll call them all directly.

She takes Quinn's notebook. Looks at them all. Waiting for them to leave. Finally, stymied, they head out and she closes the door after them.

Then Olivia slumps down in a chair. Tries to breathe. And her eye catches the WHITE HAT David gave her in 222, sitting in her armoire. She moves to it, touches it briefly. Then she steels herself, closes the armoire door.

13 INT. WHITE HOUSE/OVAL OFFICE - DAY

13

SALLY LANGSTON and her aide MARA JONES with Cyrus and Fitz. Looking unimpressed as Cyrus tap dances his heart out...

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

The attacks on this White House by the liberal media are an abomination. It's an attack on the party, on family, on women, on race. It's a lie. It is a lie, Sally. I cannot emphasize that enough.

Fitz is barely paying attention. Sally is paying too much attention. Mara is just VERY uncomfortable having this conversation in front of the President. She keeps sneaking nervous glances at him.

SALLY

Mmmhmmm.

CYRUS

And we're going to need you to stand up on this one.

SALLY

Excuse me?

CYRUS

There's Energy Summit, the Women's Caucus, the Republican Ladies lunch, the Southern Christian trip...you'll need to step in for the President on those.

MARA

What?

CYRUS

Until I can find the source of the fire and put it out. Tamp this thing down.

MARA

You want the Vice President to take on the President's public appearances? In the middle of all of this? That's going to be a press nightmare. She's going to get the questions...ALL the questions.

CYRUS

And she'll dodge them and be very good at it.

MARA

Cyrus, maybe you and I should get together and discuss this-

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

Sally holds up a hand.

SALLY  
I don't think so.

CYRUS  
Sally-

SALLY  
Madame Vice President.

CYRUS  
What?

SALLY  
We are not friends. We are not familiar. So use my title. Madame Vice President. Not Sally. Not Bible Thumper. Not Bitch. Not any other name you enjoy using behind my back. Madame Vice President.

CYRUS  
Madame Vice President, I don't know what you think you've heard-

SALLY  
My answer is no.

CYRUS  
Ma'am-

SALLY  
No, I will not be aiding and abetting a man breaking his marriage vows and laying with another woman. I will not be surrendering that piece of my soul. I am the Lord's witness.

CYRUS  
No. The people. The people, Madame Vice President. The people elected you to be THE PRESIDENT'S SIDEKICK! NOT THE LORD! THE LORD did not fill out his voter registration card! So guess what? THE LORD DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE in the United States of America! So, and I know this is gonna come as a shock, THE LORD did not elect you!

(CONTINUED)



SALLY

I am done with you and your superiority and rudeness. You think you're smarter than me. You think you're better than me. But you are just nastier and meaner. I have never once mentioned what I think of your Godless homosexual lifestyle and that poor sweet brown baby you dragged into it. I keep my personal opinions to myself. But you find an opportunity each and every day to belittle me and my desire to serve the Lord. You have no respect. Not for me. And not for the voters I handed you on a platter in the last election. Voters I will take with me when I go.

CYRUS

Go? Where you going? Canada? Because that's the only place you have a chance getting elected on a sitting President FROM YOUR OWN PARTY WHO-

SALLY

--IS SLEEPING WITH WHORES?

MARA

Ma'am...

CYRUS

Oh, now it's whores?!

SALLY

It may as well be!

FITZ

I'd like to speak with Sally alone, please.

Everyone eyes him. Sally and Cyrus had almost forgotten he was there.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Alone. Please.

Mara looks to Sally. Sally nods, grudging. Fitz claps Cyrus on the back as if to say it will be okay. Mara and Cyrus leave. And Sally and Fitz are alone. A beat. Fitz eyes her. He's got a raw honesty about him as he looks at her. As if he's seeing her as a person for the first time.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (4)

13

SALLY

Well.

FITZ

Do you drink? Ever?

SALLY

Excuse me?

FITZ

I'm not trying to...I just...if you were a man, I'd offer you a scotch. And I thought, I'm kind of an ass if I only offer the scotch if you're a man, what is that, it's prep school crap that I was raised with, so I thought...do you drink?

Sally's taken aback. A beat.

SALLY

I would like a scotch. Neat.

She sits. Fitz makes them both drinks.

FITZ

Sally.

SALLY

Yes.

FITZ

I slept with someone who was not my wife.

Sally looks at him surprised.

FITZ (CONT'D)

You're not surprised that I cheated. You're surprised that I'm admitting it. Which is...I did. I had an affair. It's my fault. I take responsibility. And I'm sorry. I failed you.

SALLY

Me, sir?

FITZ

You. As your team member. As your President. As your fellow citizen.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FITZ (CONT'D)

I did not live up to my promise to the best man I could be. I lied. I lived a lie. And I'm sorry about that. Okay?

Sally is stunned. And moved. Because Fitz is vulnerable in a way she's never seen.

SALLY

Alright, Mr. President.

FITZ

Fitz.

SALLY

Fitz.

FITZ

Okay, so...these public appearances that Cyrus is asking you to stand in on for me?

SALLY

Sir-

FITZ

Sally, it's time for me to do the right thing. Be the leader I've always wanted to be. In order to do so, I'm going to have to stand in front of the world and say who I am and what I have done and deal with the consequences. And I am okay with that. That moment is coming and I want it to come. What I am asking you for is the chance to buy a little time to get the people in my life ready for that moment. Can you do that for me?

Sally stares at him a long moment.

SALLY

Yes. Yes, I can.

FITZ

You'll make a fine President.

SALLY

Thank you, sir.

(CONTINUED)

- 13 CONTINUED: (6) 13
- And we're off Sally, touched to be welcomed back into the fold as we move to...
- 14 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY 14
- Olivia's pacing, all business on the phone.
- OLIVIA
- It's Olivia Pope for Governor Suarez.  
(pause)  
Yes, that Olivia Pope.  
(pause)  
Yes, I'll hold.
- Off Olivia's annoyance we rack focus to Harrison, watching from his office, kicking off a speedy little mini-sequence.
- A15 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/HALLWAY - DAY A15
- The hall is empty and then we see Harrison move into frame. We watch as he pauses. Deliberating. Unsure. Then he shakes his head, turns and goes back into his own office. A beat. He comes out again. Steels himself. Heads down the hall and disappears into Abby's office.
- B15 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY B15
- Olivia's on a different call, leaning on her desk now.
- OLIVIA
- We've got a great strategy, Jeff. I don't think you realize how much your candidate needs us right now-
- C15 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/HALLWAY - DAY C15
- Empty hall. And then Abby emerges from her office, followed by Harrison. Abby heads into Quinn's office. And Harrison disappears into Huck's office. It all feels very covert and hush-hush. Like they know they're doing something wrong. And as they clear frame we go back to-
- D15 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY D15
- OLIVIA
- Okay, Jeff. Your call. But don't call me in two hours when this nonsense blows over.
- Olivia hangs up, angry. Crosses another client off the long list. Halfway there and so far the top half is all crossed out. Olivia picks up the phone again, bucking herself up as she dials.

(CONTINUED)

D15 CONTINUED:

D15

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Ambassador Heller, Guten Tag!

We CUT OUT TO-

E15 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/HALLWAY - DAY

E15

Harrison emerges from Huck's office. Huck's right behind him. They head for Quinn's office. Before they get there, Quinn pops out of her door. She's confused. About to say something, ask what the hell is going on. Harrison puts a finger to his mouth as if to say BE QUIET. Points to Liv's office. And then he turns Quinn directing her back into her office. Huck and Harrison follow. Abby peeks out, checking for any sign of Olivia. They don't want her to know about this. Once they are all inside Quinn's office, Abby closes the door. And we're back-

F15 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

F15

At her desk now, head in her hands.

OLIVIA

Sandra, I know you're in a tough position. I do. But honestly, so was I when I defended your son who was guilty of rape. I never once left your side, and-  
(listening, resigned)  
I know. Yes...I understand. Goodbye, Sandra.

Olivia hangs up the phone. Crosses the last name off the list -- Sandra Harding. Off her defeat and worry we go-

15 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/QUINN'S OFFICE - DAY

15

Where Harrison has gathered Huck, Quinn, and Abby. It's hushed and urgent throughout.

HARRISON

You think Liv has her head in the game on this? She doesn't. The White House is going to bury her. And do you know who else goes down with her? Us. We all burn. You know it, I know it -- everyone knows it. And there is no one on earth who can handle something like this better than we can, so that's what we do. Handle it. Even if Liv won't.

He looks at them. Huck shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

HUCK  
It's not our call.

QUINN  
What if she has some secret plan?  
We'll screw it up.

And now Harrison looks to Abby, whom he can always trust to be critical. But she just shakes her head at him-

ABBY  
Liv told us what she wants us to do.  
So...over a cliff. Remember?

And the rest are all in agreement: Over a cliff it is. Off Harrison, soundly outvoted...

16 INT. WHITE HOUSE/BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

16

Jeannine handles the PRESS CORPS fury with a smile. Playing good cop.

JEANNINE  
...Like I said and will continue to say in a variety of ways, the White House has no official comment on these accusations and has no plans to comment further...

In back, Cyrus fumes as Ethan looks on, concerned, as he anger-whispers...

CYRUS  
Pivot to tornado...Dead Girl Scouts...

ETHAN  
The stress, sir. It's not good for your-

Cyrus silences Ethan with a look or a wave as we cut back-

JEANNINE  
There are many pressing matters on the President's schedule that continue to demand his full attention...

CYRUS  
*Dead Girl Scouts! Pivot!*

JEANNINE  
And frankly, there are other things going on in the world right now.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

JEANNINE (CONT'D)

A troop of forty-five Girl Scouts  
was caught up in a tornado in  
Oklahoma...

CYRUS

Finally!

JEANNINE

...The President is monitoring the  
situation closely and has offered  
assistance from the National Guard...

JAMES

Excuse me, Jeannine...

CYRUS

Oh, no you don't.

JAMES

...The First Lady herself brought  
this subject to light, and I happen  
to know from personal experience  
that the President and Ms. Pope have  
had many occasions to be alone  
together. Both on the campaign and  
in the White House.  
Whether that relationship was romantic  
or not is fair game as far as...

Ethan watches as Cyrus goes all Hulk-y.

CYRUS

*Personal experience!?* That son of a-

Off Cyrus's hate we HARD CUT TO-

17 INT. WHITE HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

17

James walks along, checking his phone when Cyrus appears out  
of nowhere. All smiles.

CYRUS

Helllooo, sweetheart!

James is rightfully caught off-guard.

JAMES

You want something.

CYRUS

Just to congratulate you.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Great stuff in there! Tough but fair. Reminded me of Anderson Cooper in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. Classic. Old school. Made me proud.

JAMES

What do you want?

CYRUS

Shame to get scooped by a society page blogger. Vanessa something? She's so beneath you. How does someone that low-level get access to White House sources? Is she making it up just to get ahead? Or sleeping with someone-

James stops him.

JAMES

No. We're not playing this game.

CYRUS

I'm playing. And if you play too, you get a prize. A scoop.

JAMES

A scoop?

CYRUS

A good one.

James thinks for a beat, then-

JAMES

Malloy's.

CYRUS

Excuse me?

JAMES

Bottom feeders like Vanessa tend to troll for crumbs of gossip at Malloy's.

CYRUS

What's special about Malloy's?

JAMES

The Secret Service drinks there.

(CONTINUED)



17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

Cyrus has never loved James more. Plants a nice kiss on him right there in the hallway (new ground for Cyrus) then rushes off.

CYRUS (O.S.)

Sweetheart!

JAMES

You owe me!

Off James, not sure he did the right thing, we go-

18 INT. WHITE HOUSE/HALLWAY - EVENING

18

HAL, standing guard, sees Mellie approaching. She's smiling, friendly. Hal stands a little taller.

MELLIE

Hal.

HAL

Ma'am.

MELLIE

You serve my husband.  
But we've always had a special bond,  
wouldn't you say?

Hal nods. Mellie moves in close, speaks quietly.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

I consider you a friend, Hal. Someone  
I've always trusted. Someone who's  
always been discreet, no matter how  
sensitive the situation.

HAL

Thank you, ma'am. That's nice to  
hear.

MELLIE

Hal, I need to ask you a question.  
And I would like you to be honest  
with me.

HAL

All right...

MELLIE

Do you know how the rumors about  
Olivia Pope and my husband got  
started?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Hal stares at her.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

I only ask because I know that sometimes you and the other agents like to drink at Malloy's after work. And there's always journalists there, waiting to pick up a crumb or two.

He looks away, something dawning on him.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

Hal?

And as we stay on Hal's now stricken face, we FLASH BACK TO:

19 INT. BAR - NIGHT - PAST

19

Hal, drunk, holds a glass of scotch as he talks with Vanessa Chandler, the society reporter.

VANESSA CHANDLER

People talk in this town. Mellie Grant would choke somebody with those pearls if she had to. She's a nightmare. Of course the President was stepping out.

HAL

You're a society reporter. What do you care?

VANESSA CHANDLER

I know a vindictive housewife when I see one. That woman couldn't wait to tell the world that her husband couldn't keep it in his pants.

HAL

You blame her? She just found out her husband's been screwing one of their trusted advisors right under her nose! You want another one? You're buying-

Hal downs his drink, oblivious to what just slipped out. Off a very interested Vanessa Chandler, we FLASH BACK TO:

20 INT. WHITE HOUSE/HALLWAY - EVENING

20

Back with Hal and Mellie. Hal looks utterly stricken.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

HAL

I don't think I...I didn't mean to...I would never...

(finally he blurts)

You deserve better than how he treats you, ma'am!

Wow. There it is, Hal's true feelings. He stands there, far more vulnerable than a Secret Service agent should ever be. Mellie leans in.

MELLIE

I want you to think very carefully now. Did you give her a name?

Hal looks away, struggling.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

Did. You. Give. Her. A Name?

And finally-

HAL

No. No -- I didn't. I did not.

Poor horrified Hal watches as Mellie turns and stalks off down the hall. At the end of the hall, waiting for her, is Cyrus.

21 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

21

Olivia stares at the messy crossed-off client list.

DAVID (O.S.)

Hate to be in your shoes.

Liv looks up to see DAVID standing in the doorway.

OLIVIA

You wouldn't look as good in them as I do.

David makes his way toward the sofa.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You shouldn't be here.

DAVID

Why? Because I'm the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia and may be asked to investigate the President's affair with you? I left that hat at the door.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

OLIVIA

David-

DAVID

Don't. Say anything. I'm not looking for proof. I'm not asking for an explanation. I'm here as your friend, and the less you say, the less I'll know when the Democratic Leadership pulls me into a room and asks me all their questions about you. Do you have a good lawyer?

OLIVIA

You walked by them on your way in.

DAVID

I'd go with a more reputable firm if I were you.

OLIVIA

Appreciate the concern.

DAVID

No, you don't. But that's okay.

A beat. David fixes her with a stare.

DAVID (CONT'D)

So. Have you made up your mind?

OLIVIA

About what?

DAVID

About which road you're gonna take. The hard one -- where you put on the white hat and admit everything up front. Or the harder one. The one that could destroy not only you but everyone you hold dear. The one I don't want to see you anywhere near.

OLIVIA

You're making a lot of assumptions.

DAVID

Perhaps. But if there's proof? It won't take much. And once they get their hands on it? It'll be the shot heard 'round the world.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

And he's starting to leave when Abby appears in the doorway looking grave. Surprised to see-

ABBY

Hey! What's he...*What are you doing here?*

DAVID

I missed you too. Return my calls.

He means it. As Abby looks away conflicted -- Quinn, Huck and Harrison rush in.

HARRISON

Liv. Turn on the TV.

Olivia grabs her remote, turns on the TV to reveal-

BNC NEWS ANCHOR TANNER SHAW reporting live under a "Breaking News" banner.

TANNER SHAW

...A new development in the presidential affair scandal. This one provided by one of our viewers, who...can we bring up the video?

GRAINY CELL PHONE FOOTAGE appears on the screen. A DRUNK GEORGETOWN KID laughs as he pisses on the side of a building.

TANNER SHAW (CONT'D)

There it is. This was taken only a few weeks ago. You'll forgive the graphic content...but there, in the background, freeze that image.

The VIDEO FREEZES then ZOOMS to reveal Fitz and two Secret Service agents exiting Olivia's building in the b.g.

TANNER SHAW (CONT'D)

See? That's President Grant. And that building he's coming out of? That's the building where Olivia Pope lives. Wow. So there you have it, folks. The first real evidence that Olivia Pope is the President's mistress.

Olivia and David look at each other.

DAVID

(regretful)  
Bang.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

And off the team, exchanging looks as they realize they can't stay on the sidelines anymore, we-

22 OMITTED

22

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

23 INT. WHITE HOUSE/CYRUS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

23

We're CLOSE ON the TV NEWS, the SOUND MUTED, replaying the GRAINY CELL PHONE FOOTAGE of Fitz exiting Liv's apartment in the wee hours.

CYRUS (O.S.)

Try B.N.C.

PULL BACK to find a frustrated Cyrus watching the footage get re-played, Jeannine at his side holding the TV remote.

JEANNINE

They're playing it too.

CYRUS

What about the cables-

JEANNINE

It's wall to wall, sir.

Cyrus looks away, his face tightening.

JEANNINE (CONT'D)

What's our next move?

A long beat. Then he turns back to Jeannine. Speaks slowly, calmly, deliberately.

CYRUS

Start a kill folder on Olivia Pope. Dig hard. Dig deep. Find a narrative. Nothing is below the belt. Nothing's off limits.

JEANNINE

What is there to find? You know Olivia better than anyone and you've always called her a political nun.

CYRUS

(reluctant)

She likes older men. Start there.

Jeannine just stares for a beat, a little surprised he would sacrifice his own like that.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Is there a problem?

Jeannine shakes her head and goes as Cy's CELL BUZZES. He picks it up, not recognizing the number-

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Who are you and how did you get this number?

INTERCUT WITH:

24 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/QUINN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

24

Harrison's on the phone. Abby, Quinn and Huck stand by uncomfortably.

HARRISON

Harrison Wright. Pope & Associates.

CYRUS

Do you have something from Olivia?

HARRISON

No.

CYRUS

Then I don't know you.

HARRISON

But you know this town. And if the President was having an affair with someone who worked for him -- someone who does favors for him, someone he does favors for -- there are going to be subcommittees on the subcommittees. Special hearings that drag on for years and suck everyone either one of them ever talked to down into the political muck. And it doesn't matter if anything unethical happened; you'll be lucky if it's over by the time he's cutting the ribbon on his library a decade from now.

(a beat, then quietly)

It can't be Liv. For all our sakes.  
It can't be Liv.

CYRUS

As I've said -- I don't know you.  
Don't call me again.

And with that, Cyrus hangs up. As his gaze drifts back to the TV and the endless replaying of the damning footage...

AA25 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

AA25

Where Olivia lays on her sofa, unable to sleep. Her new cell phone rings.

(CONTINUED)



AA25 CONTINUED:

AA25

OLIVIA

Hello?

And then she sits up. Suddenly alert.

A25 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/HALLWAY - NIGHT

A25

Olivia heads quietly down the hallway. We see Abby asleep on her sofa, Huck asleep in the hallway and then Olivia very quietly slips out the door of OPA...

B25 INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

B25

Olivia steps into the dark garage. Rowan is there, waiting in the shadows. Olivia holds up her cell phone.

OLIVIA

How do you have this number?

ROWAN

I have *all* the numbers.

A frustrated beat for Olivia. Then:

OLIVIA

What are you doing here?

ROWAN

Trying to help you. And given all the press gathered outside, you're in need.

OLIVIA

I don't need your help.

ROWAN

So tell me. How's work? Getting many new clients these days?

OLIVIA

No. *I* ask the questions. Where is Jake Ballard?

ROWAN

(warning)

Olivia.

OLIVIA

Where is Jake Ballard?

ROWAN

That is not a question you're at liberty to ask.

(CONTINUED)

SCANDAL: "It's Handled"

10-3-13 FINAL 36A.

B25 CONTINUED:

B25

OLIVIA  
Where's Jake Ballard?

ROWAN  
Jake Ballard refused an order-

(CONTINUED)

B25 CONTINUED: (2)

B25

OLIVIA  
WHERE IS HE AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE  
WITH HIM!?

Rowan's in Liv's face, just as pissed off as she is.

ROWAN  
NO ONE REFUSES ORDERS IN MY BUSINESS!  
You may choose to not understand  
that. You may choose to feel disgust  
at that. You may choose to pretend  
that what you do and how you live is  
not made possible by what I do and  
how I live. That is fine. That is  
the American way. I accept that.  
Because I am a patriot. I do my job  
so fatty can watch reality TV and  
eat fast food and stare at the  
internet and screw their husbands or  
their battery-operated products and  
never use their teeny tiny brains to  
think about the freedoms I make  
possible. Never think about the  
democracy that I make possible.  
They never think about it so they  
sleep like babies at night. Jake  
Ballard refused an order. And then  
he shot a loyal agent in the forehead.  
You think about that while you wonder  
who the bad guy is. You think about  
that while you sleep like a baby at  
night. Me? I choose to sleep like  
a grown-up. One eye open.

They stare each other down breathlessly. Then finally, Olivia  
enters the elevator. Presses the button.

ROWAN (CONT'D)  
Get on the plane, Olivia. You're  
running out of options.

OLIVIA  
I'm never out of options.

And as the elevator doors close we cut quickly to-

25 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

25

Determined, Olivia heads to her safe, opens it and takes out  
the black folder, breaking the seal.

In it, a single PIECE OF PAPER with a single PHONE NUMBER  
and an I.D. CODE typed neatly.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

As she picks up her cell again and dials, we launch into a SEQUENCE:

26 OMITTED 26  
AND AND  
27 27

28 INT. BOWELS OF THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT 28

CLOSE ON a RED PHONE. Ringing. A NAVY SERVICEWOMAN answers.

NAVY SERVICEWOMAN  
Identification number.

29 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT 29

Olivia on her cell.

OLIVIA  
Three, zeta, five, one, nine, alpha.

30 INT. BOWELS OF THE WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT 30

NAVY SERVICEWOMAN  
Password?

31 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT 31

OLIVIA  
Providence.

32 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/GARAGE - NIGHT 32

CLOSE ON Olivia stepping into a Black Town Car. And then we're-

33 EXT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES - NIGHT 33

Where a restless PRESS SCRUM is camped outside. And just as we're beginning to wonder how in the hell Olivia's going to get anywhere with this kind of crowd outside, we're BACK IN-

34 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/GARAGE - CONTINUOUS 34

Where Olivia's black town car starts up. We PULL BACK TO REVEAL a line of SEVEN IDENTICAL BLACK TOWN CARS next to hers. Their engines start. As they all move out of the garage in unison, we CUT BACK OUT TO-

35 EXT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES - NIGHT 35

Where the PRESS all perk up as a Town Car exits the garage. Until they realize it's ONE OF EIGHT. They've been played.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

And as we watch all seven cars fan out in opposite directions, too many to follow, we're suddenly in-

36 INT. TUNNELS - NIGHT 36

Where Olivia walks down a tunnel, escorted by a pair of ARMED NAVY SEALS, machine guns at their sides. The Seals stop at one of the many nondescript, unmarked doors. One Seal swipes a key card. The door unlocks and opens into-

37 INT. BUNKER - CONTINUOUS 37

Where Olivia walks into the tiny, windowless room. A beat, until-

FITZ (O.S.)

Hi.

OLIVIA

Hi.

Because there he is. Fitz. Staring right back at her. And off the metal door painfully shutting us out, we:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

38 INT. BUNKER - NIGHT

38

Fitz and Liv are alone. Fitz paces, edgy. Beside himself. Liv stands there, watching him. She's calm.

OLIVIA

We don't have a lot of time-

And he's in her face. Upset. Worried.

FITZ

Do you realize what you've done?

OLIVIA

I do.

FITZ

You pulled the fire alarm.

OLIVIA

I did.

FITZ

Liv, that was a one time thing, for extreme emergencies-

OLIVIA

I know.

FITZ

You can't ever use it again. The codes are already being rewritten-

OLIVIA

I know.

FITZ

You don't work in the White House anymore, you're not in the bubble anymore, I can't get the NSA to overlook you being issued a Providence key again, not *now*-

OLIVIA

I understand-

FITZ

If there's an attack -- terrorist, nuclear, chemical -- I can't get you, you understand?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

FITZ (CONT'D)

You're on the outside, you're dead  
because you already pulled the fire  
alarm!

OLIVIA

We're already under attack. And I'm  
already on the outside. My name is  
out there.

A beat as Fitz takes that in...

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

We need to talk about how to fix  
this. We need to make a plan.

FITZ

Okay, we can do that...

OLIVIA

When all of us are here.

FITZ

All of us? You asked Cyrus to come?

OLIVIA

No...

And the door to the bunker opens. And, escorted by armed  
NAVY SEALS, Mellie enters.

MELLIE

So. Let's do this.

Off these three, we CUT TO...

39 INT. WHITE HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

39

Cyrus, on the hunt, comes upon Secret Service Agent TOM,  
just the man he was looking for. Cyrus bears down on him.

CYRUS

Tom. Where's the President?

TOM

He's unavailable, sir.

CYRUS

I need to see him. Where is he?

TOM

I'd rather not say, sir.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

CYRUS

I don't care what you'd rather do.  
Tell me where he is. Now.

A beat. Then, carefully:

TOM

The President is with the First Lady.  
In private. Having personal...private  
time.

Cyrus stares at him. There's just a long beat of staring  
where no one says anything.

CYRUS

Fitz and *Mellie*.  
(off Tom's silence)  
I'm sorry, you're saying that the  
President is off. With his wife.  
With MELLIE. For a *quickie*?

TOM

They didn't say how long they'd be.  
Sir.

Cyrus turns to go but something stops him. A dawning  
realization.

CYRUS

Tom. Who are they with?

And Tom doesn't answer. But it doesn't matter. Cyrus knows.

A40 INT. WHITE HOUSE/CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

A40

Where Jeannine and Ethan are huddled over their laptops as  
Cyrus enters, tightly wound, wearing an expression we've  
never seen on his face before. And as he speaks, it dawns  
on us: Cyrus Beene is ashamed of himself.

CYRUS

Is the kill folder ready?

ETHAN

There's not much, but-

Jeannine stands, cutting him off.

JEANNINE

It's enough for what we need.

And with that, she opens the FOLDER that's sitting on the  
table, pulling out pages for Cyrus to look at as she speaks-

(CONTINUED)



A40 CONTINUED:

A40

JEANNINE (CONT'D)  
Olivia Carolyn Pope, Princeton  
undergrad, Georgetown Law-

CYRUS  
(hating this)  
Yes, I was there, I know.

Jeannine nods -- hold on -- as she continues, putting down  
various PHOTOGRAPHS of the young Olivia...

JEANNINE  
Only child. Mother Maya was a  
secretary; died when Olivia was twelve.  
Father Eli curates antiquities at the  
Smithsonian, has ever since graduating  
from Princeton in '67.

CYRUS  
Where are the family photos?

ETHAN  
Very private family, by all accounts.  
Didn't hang with the Georgetown set.

JEANNINE  
Didn't have the dough. Her dad must  
have spent most of his income on  
boarding schools for his daughter,  
because she's been to nothing but the  
best -- St. Anne's, Surval Montreaux-

Photographs of Olivia in an immaculate SCHOOL UNIFORM; SKIING  
in GSTAAD; riding a DRESSAGE HORSE. And though these pictures  
are beautiful, and glamorous, we can't help but notice that  
in every photo, Olivia is alone.

JEANNINE (CONT'D)  
But she never lived in the family  
home again after her mother's death.

Cyrus takes the photos, looks at them.

CYRUS  
I never knew that about her.

And now there's a hint of sadness on Cyrus's face, as the  
loneliness of Liv's childhood sinks in. We catch it, but  
Ethan's oblivious-

ETHAN  
We're thinking that's where she got  
the daddy issues.

(CONTINUED)

A40 CONTINUED: (2)

A40

Photographs of various SILVER FOXES go down on the table.

JEANNINE

Your older men suggestion yielded a juicy narrative. Pope has a well-documented preference for powerful older men.

And then more photos, of Liv in her 20s, dressed more provocatively than we'd ever think possible...

JEANNINE (CONT'D)

In fact, after college she had quite the reputation as a party girl -- did time on the D.C. circuit. Ambassadors, lobbyists, Cabinet Secretaries...it's a nice line-up of silver foxes.

ETHAN

(amused)

She was working her way up the totem pole.

CYRUS

Enough.

That had a sharpness to it. Jeannine puts the folder down.

JEANNINE

Enough-

CYRUS

To play the ambitious slut card.  
Yes, I know.  
(then, grimly)  
Good work.

Jeannine swallows, slightly disgusted with herself.

JEANNINE

Yeah.

And off Cyrus, wondering if he's enough of a monster to actually use any of this...

40 INT. BUNKER - NIGHT

40

Fitz, Olivia and Mellie all stand there. It's distinctly uncomfortable.

(CONTINUED)

MELLIE

I don't see what the problem is.  
It's the same plan as always. Fitz  
and I hold hands and smile for Oprah  
or Barbara Walters. We do what we  
always do. We act happy. And we  
just...deny it.

(to Olivia, as if to  
a bug)

Deny you.

OLIVIA

That would have worked. Before.

MELLIE

Before what?

FITZ

Before you got the bright idea to go  
on national television and tell the  
world I cheated on you.

MELLIE

You did cheat on me.

FITZ

That's not the point.

MELLIE

It's *exactly* the point.

FITZ

Not if you want to smile at Oprah.

MELLIE

I wouldn't need to smile at Oprah if  
you didn't screw that whore every  
chance you got-

OLIVIA

Mellie? I know this situation is  
difficult. I do. And I'm so so  
sorry. But we have a job to do here.  
And in order for me to do my part  
effectively, I'm going to need you  
to refrain from referring to me as a  
whore. At least in front of my face.  
Alright?

And Mellie turns, heads to the far side of the room like a  
boxer taking her corner. Disengaging from the conversation.  
Olivia takes a moment to breathe.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Now. Mellie's already told the world you had an affair with someone. And my name has been leaked so I'm now the public face of that someone. I don't know, we've got to find a way to change the narrative or...

FITZ

Or we claim the narrative. We tell the truth.

Liv looks at him.

FITZ (CONT'D)

We're looking for a way out. Why aren't we looking for a way through? Why not just...stand up and tell the truth? Mellie and I face the press. Say yes. I cheated. I slept with Olivia Pope. I had an affair.

(beat)

Liv?

OLIVIA

I'm thinking.

A beat on Liv, her head down. She's going over all the scenarios in her head. Like math. Then she nods slowly.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You and Mellie do a statement in the Press Room. No. In the Rose Garden. Full press, no questions. You hold hands. Mellie wears a soft color, lavender or light blue. You bring in the kids from boarding school but you don't have them with you for the statement -- that always looks staged, the kids look like pawns and the parents seem opportunistic -- but the photo op *after* of you both meeting Jerry and Karen as they step off the chopper...that's Kennedy perfect. Especially if Baby Teddy is running on the grass beside you. The next day, you do one sit-down. A full tell all. I'd go with James. He did the Mellie interview, the public will like the story of seeing him talking to both of you now, they like knowing that he's a family friend.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Plus, Cyrus can control him. Twelve hours before your sit-down with James, I'll release a paper statement. "I regret my affair, I've apologized to Mellie, I've prayed, blah, blah, blah, trying to put the whole thing behind me, etc." Barring any kind of Special Prosecutor probe into whether or not I was given any favors because of the relationship...the whole thing should be put to bed well before the primary elections are over. It works. The truth works.

Fitz smiles at her.

FITZ

The irony.

Liv finds herself smiling back. But that's cut off by:

MELLIE

I'm sorry, the truth does not work.  
It does not work *for me*.

And Mellie's come out of her corner.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

They're going to want details, Fitz. That's how this works. The reporters. The Special Prosecutor. Details. Dates and times and locations. When did the affair start? When did it end? How long did it last? What happened when? What did Mellie know and when did Mellie know it? And if all we had to talk about was a blue dress with a stain and a cigar that'd been in interesting places, I'd be fine. I would not give a damn. But I'm not going to stand in the Rose Garden and hold your hand while you tell the White House press corps that you had an affair with Olivia Pope that lasted a year. And then ended. And then started again. And then ended. And then started again. I'm certainly not going to sit in the Blue Room of the White House and hold your hand while you tell James how you couldn't keep your hands off of  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (4)

40

MELLIE (CONT'D)

her on the campaign trail. How the Secret Service drives you to her apartment in defiance of security protocols. The sex acts in the Oval Office. The phone calls in the middle of night. That when you were shot the name you called out was Olivia. Or any of the many ways you've degraded our marriage. Because that is not you making a mistake. That is not you cheating on me. That is you...

She can't even go on.

FITZ

That is me being in love with another woman.

MELLIE

If you try to tell that disgusting fairy tale to the press, I will make such a scene. I will open up our closet and pull out our laundry and share it with the world. I'm *that* tired.

She heads back to her corner. And there's just this ugly uncomfortable beat. Then:

OLIVIA

How many times?

MELLIE

What?

OLIVIA

How many times did Fitz and I sleep together? Three? Five? How many would you be okay with?

MELLIE

Two.

OLIVIA

Okay. Fitz and I slept together twice. The first time was...

FITZ

After I was elected. You didn't get the job because we were sleeping together. Might as well make sure nobody questions that.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (5)

40

OLIVIA

So the first time was after you took office.

MELLIE

The night of the inauguration. Fitz and I went to four inaugural balls. We were supposed to go to six. But Fitz said he was exhausted. And honestly, so was I. It'd been a long day. So we came back to the White House. I went right to bed. But Fitz was just...wired. And so he went down to the Oval Office to just...take it in. Which is where he ran into you. I'm guessing that was no coincidence since he made a call from our bedroom but let's leave that part out when we tell the story. Let's just say that you two got to talking and one thing led to another. It was just sex. It didn't mean anything. You felt terrible after. And it didn't happen again until after you got shot.

And no one can look at anyone else. Because that is so horrible to know that she knew. And horrible for her to admit.

OLIVIA

Okay...so twice. Once after the inauguration. And then second time?

Mellie's not looking at Olivia. She's looking at Fitz.

MELLIE

After the assassination attempt. You had sex once after you'd recovered from your gunshot wounds. Because you were feeling your mortality. Facing death. Okay?

And slowly, Fitz nods.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

Good. It's important that the timing of my television interview lines up correctly.

OLIVIA

Once on inauguration night. And once after the assassination attempt.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (6)

40

FITZ

I'm not lying.

OLIVIA

It's still the truth. Just not the whole truth.

And that sits there.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Are we agreed?

Fitz nods. Olivia turns to Mellie.

MELLIE

Agreed.

And Mellie eyes Fitz. Distrusting this. She heads for the door, stalking out. When she's gone, Fitz and Liv are alone. Olivia turns away from Fitz, puts a hand to her mouth. She looks like she wants to be sick. That was not easy for her.

FITZ

Liv-

She puts up a hand, silencing him. A long beat as she struggles for composure. Then:

OLIVIA

I'm fine.

FITZ

I'm sorry. I know that wasn't easy for you-

OLIVIA

I'm fine.

FITZ

I'm not.

And she turns and looks at him. And there's just a raw honest moment there. He loves her. She loves him. And that hurts.

FITZ (CONT'D)

How are you? Really?

OLIVIA

(I'm doing my best)  
I'm fine.

FITZ

Your name is a headline. You're not fine.

(CONTINUED)



40 CONTINUED: (7)

40

OLIVIA

I tell my clients all the time that  
it's not personal. The reporters,  
they're just doing their job. It's  
not personal. It's not about me.  
It's the story.

(I'm devastated)

I'm fine.

A beat. And then Fitz removes his jacket. Lays it on a  
chair. And then he's moving to her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Don't.

But he keeps moving.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Don't.

And Fitz takes her in his arms and pulls her to his chest.  
Holding her. She stands there, frozen and stiff. And then  
she leans in.

He holds her. No words are spoken. They don't need words.  
He just holds her.

Olivia buries her face in his chest and then she lets go and  
cries. Just for a beat. For one beat, she sobs. And then  
she pulls away. Fights off his comfort. Wipes her face.  
Sucks back in her pain. Turns to head out. At the door,  
she pauses.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Mellie is very angry with you. Be  
careful with her.

He nods, a little sad.

FITZ

Everyone is very angry at me.  
Including me.

And then Olivia is out the door. Fitz stands in the bunker  
alone.

41 OMITTED

AND

42

41

AND

42

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

A43 OMITTED

A43

1A43 INT. WHITE HOUSE/OVAL OFFICE - DAY

1A43

Fitz stands in the Oval, staring out the window. Sipping scotch. A beat. And then Sally comes in.

FITZ

Thanks for seeing me this morning,  
Sally.

Fitz gestures to the scotch tray.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Scotch?

SALLY

A touch early for me, sir.

FITZ

How was the Senate Women's Caucus?

SALLY

Angry at you. But I handled them.

FITZ

I appreciate it. Thank you.

Sally eyes him, a tiny bit wary.

SALLY

I hope you used the time wisely.

FITZ

I wrote a speech. Taking full  
responsibility. Mellie and I are  
facing the press at noon today.

Sally's impressed.

SALLY

Mellie is standing with you? So  
your marriage will weather this storm?

FITZ

There are the children to consider.

SALLY

Well. That's...I'm glad for you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1A43 CONTINUED:

1A43

SALLY (CONT'D)

It's refreshing to hear a man valuing the family. Good men are hard to come by.

And there's something about the way she says it...

FITZ

How's Dan these days?

SALLY

Oh. Fine. Fine.

(beat)

Moving to D.C. has been exciting for him. My husband, he's having a little more...fun these days. He's still Daniel Douglas, he's just...fun now.

Sally struggles a beat. Then...

SALLY (CONT'D)

I am the most powerful woman in the free world. There are...challenges associated with that. Daniel Douglas is not as Christian as I am. Your wife is lucky that you have seen the error of your ways.

And suddenly a veil has been lifted and we have an entirely different picture of the life of Sally Langston. We feel sorry for her. Fitz feels sorry for her. He feels sorry for Mellie.

FITZ

Sally...

SALLY

Yes, Mr. President?

And when she looks up at him, the veil has dropped again and Sally's cold hard shell is back in place. Because Sally's not interested in anyone feeling sorry for her. Fitz can see that.

FITZ

After my speech? There will be a window. Climb through it. And be bold. Condemn me. Make yourself the moral center of the party. Use the moment to rise. Can you do that?

SALLY

Oh, I believe I can, Mr. President.

(CONTINUED)

1A43 CONTINUED: (2)

1A43

A beat.

SALLY (CONT'D)

Why are you helping me? Why are you  
extending kindness?

And he finds himself smiling ruefully down into his drink.

FITZ

Because we are not married to one  
another.

They stand there. Thinking about the kinds of cruelty  
marriage often inspires.

B43 INT. WHITE HOUSE/CYRUS'S OFFICE - DAY

B43

Cyrus stares at the Olivia Pope kill folder, contemplating  
the sheer horribleness it represents, when Mellie comes in  
on an icy wind, guns blazing.

MELLIE

Why'd you schedule the press  
conference?

CYRUS

Because our President told me too.  
Because you had a secret meeting-

MELLIE

Yeah, well...unschedule it. Change  
of plans.

CYRUS

You want to clue me in here?

MELLIE

They want to go public-

CYRUS

Again, aren't you part of *they* now?  
One third of some secret unholy  
political trinity...

MELLIE

*They* want to go public. And we need  
to stop them. And fix this.

CYRUS

How? Presser's in three hours.

(CONTINUED)

B43 CONTINUED:

B43

MELLIE

I think I have a plan. But it has  
to come from the outside.

Cyrus opens a drawer, drops Olivia's kill folder into it,  
shuts it.

CYRUS

I know a guy. On the outside.

Off Mellie's concern.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Not that kind of guy. Anyway, what's  
your plan?

And as Mellie sits, settling in, we go-

43 OMITTED

43

44 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/QUINN'S OFFICE - MORNING

44

Where the team is crowded into Harrison's office. It's tense  
in here. Like a bomb's just been dropped. Huck hands over  
a DVD.

ABBY

I feel horrible about this.

Harrison takes in their downtrodden faces.

HARRISON

We're doing the right thing.

HUCK

Olivia says what the right thing is.

QUINN

It's not too late to pull back.  
Couldn't we just kill another intern?  
It wouldn't be that hard.

Off the shocked looks.

QUINN (CONT'D)

A bad one. *The worst one.*

Abby looks at Huck -- like "what the fuck?"

ABBY

*Huck.*

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

HUCK

Quinn.

And his look is stern.

QUINN

Sorry...

HARRISON

We need to be united on this. Are we united on this?

No response.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

I don't do this unless we all do this. You have to have my back.

Reluctant nods all around.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

Are we gladiators or are we bitches? I need to hear it.

ALL

(weakly)

Gladiators.

HARRISON

All right then.

As they break apart we stay on Harrison and go-

A45 OMITTED

A45

B45 EXT. D.C. STREET - DAY

B45

Where a town car pulls to a stop and the window rolls down revealing Cyrus.

CYRUS

You people work fast.

Reverse to reveal-

HARRISON

Could've been even faster if you listened to me the first time.

Harrison hands over the DVD to a grateful Cyrus. And we transition to-

C45 INT. WHITE HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

C45

Cyrus catches up to James. Slides him the DVD.

CYRUS

Here. A gift.

JAMES

What is it?

CYRUS

Something I wouldn't give to Anderson Cooper.

And Cyrus keeps moving. Off James's confusion we CUT TO-

D45 OMITTED  
AND  
45

D45  
AND  
45

46 INT. WHITE HOUSE/BULLPEN - DAY

46

Jeannine enters briskly, head in her clipboard, as various PRESS PEOPLE loudly mill about in the bullpen. TVs are on in the B.G., streaming cable news. The room quiets as she speaks-

JEANNINE

Hi, everyone, just a couple details about the President's statement today-

SMUG CABLE NEWSWOMAN

Can we get a copy beforehand?

JEANNINE

No.

SMUG CABLE NEWSWOMAN

Is he gonna admit to anything this time? 'Cause if it's another duck and weave-

JEANNINE

I am not going to comment on the content of the President's statement, that is not why I'm here, *I am here* to remind you we're going live at twelve-oh-four from the Oval...

But she's trailing off, frustrated, noticing that one by one the PRESS PEOPLE are all beginning to whisper and stare at the TV SCREENS that ring the room.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

JEANNINE (CONT'D)  
OH C'MON YOU GUYS-

And then she's stopping short, because she's followed their gazes, and is SEEING-

HER OWN FACE ON EVERY SCREEN IN THE ROOM, it's a video of a three-years-younger Jeannine slugging back a can of beer and GIGGLING to one of her CAMPAIGN COLLEAGUES as another films it with a cellphone.

GIGGLY JEANNINE (ON TV)  
I think Governor Grant's got the election in the bag. I mean, he really cares about the middle class, his record on social issues totally resonates with young people and most importantly...*he's freakin' hooooooooooooott!!!*

And we're on Jeannine. Shocked, stunned, staring at the TVs and as the reporters take a breath, about to launch a litany of questions at her we FREEZE ON HER FACE, ARCHIVING THE IMAGE for history. Over the still, we begin a flurry of news reports. Starting with...

JAMES (V.O.)  
I'm reporting to you live from the White House where, counter to earlier erroneous reports of Olivia Pope being-

NEWS ANCHOR #1 (V.O.)  
We now have two high-level White House officials just now confirming-

DISSOLVE TO:

47 OMITTED  
THRU  
50

47  
THRU  
50

A51 EXT. WHITE HOUSE/NORTH LAWN - DAY [ARCHIVE PHOTO]

A51

A line of reporters, including James, reporting the breaking news frantically.

JAMES (V.O.)  
-- *Confirming* that 26-year-old Communications Aide Jeannine Locke IS the other woman in the Grant affair-

(CONTINUED)



A51 CONTINUED:

A51

NEWS ANCHOR #2 (V.O.)

In addition to this damning campaign video, sources say there are multiple emails from Jeannine to friends detailing her strong feelings for the President-

DISSOLVE TO:

B51 INT. WHITE HOUSE/RESIDENCE - DAY [ARCHIVE PHOTO]

B51

Fitz watches the news in shock. Behind him, Mellie wears something beautiful and the oh-so slyest of smiles to match.

TANNER SHAW (V.O.)

"Super awesome" "super cool" and "super do-able" -- just a few of the adjectives Locke used in emails to describe the President...

C51 INT. WHITE HOUSE/CYRUS'S OFFICE - DAY [ARCHIVE PHOTO]

C51

Ethan next to him, clutching a briefing book in total shock, Cyrus glances at the TV, hiding his pleasure.

JAMES (V.O.)

With multiple sources also confirming Jeannine Locke and the President had what they describe as an *intimate working relationship* that grew into something more, calling it, quote, a brief fling...

DISSOLVE TO:

51 INT. WHITE HOUSE/SALLY'S OFFICE - DAY [ARCHIVE PHOTO]

51

Where a gobsmacked Sally, arms crossed is also watching the news. Mara watches over her shoulder, equally furious.

JAMES (V.O.)

...Those sources at the same time denying that Olivia Pope had any form of inappropriate relationship with the President...

52 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

52

Where the team is glued to the news as well, Abby's checking her BlackBerry.

(CONTINUED)

JAMES (V.O.)  
...And promising a live statement  
from the President sometime today...

ABBY  
Leading every net.

HARRISON  
'Course it is.

And they're all watching, guilty but resolute, when suddenly  
Olivia's in the doorway, glaring.

OLIVIA  
WHAT. DID. YOU. DO!?

And off her stark fury, we...

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

53 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

53

As before. A furious Liv faces the team.

HARRISON

We were only doing what you wouldn't do for yourself-

OLIVIA

Because that is not the way I do things anymore! That is not the way WE DO THINGS ANYMORE! You destroyed an innocent woman's life and now we have to fix it-

HARRISON

Liv, please-

OLIVIA

WE ARE GOING TO FIX THIS!!

And we're off Liv standing there, contemplating her next move...

54 INT. WHITE HOUSE/CYRUS'S OFFICE - DAY

54

Where Jeannine is sobbing to Cyrus.

JEANNINE

You have to believe me -- people have to believe me. I never... None of this -- any of it -- is true! I mean, yeah, I called him hot --

CYRUS

Jeannine, calm down, we're gonna clear this up and-

JEANNINE

My name, my picture, it's all over TV. My private emails... Do I need a lawyer, Cy!?

CYRUS

Do not call a lawyer. You're in communications, you understand appearances. Guilty people call lawyers. The White House will handle this.

I, personally, will handle this.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

CYRUS (CONT'D)  
 And everything will be all right.  
 If it's as you say.

Cyrus's phone buzzes, he picks it up.

CYRUS (CONT'D)  
 (into phone)  
 Not now.  
 (then)  
 All right, I'm coming out.  
 (hanging up, to  
 Jeannine)  
 Stay. This'll just take a minute.  
 (rising)  
 You're not in this alone.  
 (crossing to door)  
 We're all here for you. You're part  
 of the family.

Cyrus exits, leaving the distraught Jeannine behind. After a moment, her cell RINGS. She answers it.

JEANNINE  
 (into phone)  
 Hello?

55 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

55

Liv on her phone. INTERCUT the call.

OLIVIA  
 Jeannine, this is Olivia Pope.

JEANNINE  
 (bewildered)  
 ...What..?

OLIVIA  
 I need you to listen to me very  
 carefully...

And off a shaken and unsure Jeannine as she listens-

56 INT. WHITE HOUSE/OVAL OFFICE - DAY

56

Fitz comes roaring into the Oval Office. Yelling over his shoulder.

FITZ  
 I don't CARE where he is, Lauren!  
 You FIND CYRUS AND GET HIS ASS IN  
 THE OVAL NOW!

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

MELLIE (O.S.)

Calm down, honey.

Mellie is standing in his office.

FITZ

What the hell is going on? What the hell did Cyrus do? What the hell did he do to that poor innocent girl?

MELLIE

Jeannine?

FITZ

She's a kid. What did he do? It doesn't make any sense, we have a press conference scheduled. You and I have to get out there to the Rose Garden in 20 minutes and now we have to amend our statements. I should call the speech writers, see if we can change the remarks so that we make it clear that it wasn't Jeannine-

MELLIE

I don't think so.

FITZ

What?

MELLIE

You could go out there and say it wasn't Jeannine, that it was Olivia. You could say that someone must have made a mistake, gotten the story wrong. You could. I won't be with you. Cyrus won't stand by you. The Democrats would LOVE that. They'd open up a special investigation, dig through every email, every promotion, every late-night call log from the Oval. And then you'd get impeached.

FITZ

Why are you so happy to jump on Cyrus's plan to ruin this girl's life?

MELLIE

Cyrus's plan? No. See? Leaking Jeannine's name was my plan. It was this crazy idea that I got from you.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

FITZ

From me? What-

MELLIE

After you leaked Olivia's name.

And there's just a beat of silence.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

The upsetting thing about being as educated as I am and as intelligent as I am is that being First Lady is profoundly boring. What did you call me? Ornamental. Not functional. I am a rose dying on the vine here. Give me a war to run or the CIA or something. But I use the copious amounts of free time I have to think. And I have been thinking. Who could have possibly leaked that name? And why? And then I realized who would benefit the most. My idealistic, romantic, optimistic, idiotic, husband. You thought if you leaked Olivia's name and then I stood next to you and held your hand and smiled as you told the press what you did, it would neutralize the whole situation. What did you say in the bunker? Stop looking for a way out and look for a way through? You get me to play the good wife, control me and by extension the nation? Because, and here's the best part: You still somehow believe that the country will eventually embrace the idea of you bringing your whore into the White House as First Lady. And step one? Leaking Liv's name.

And Fitz is moving in to Mellie, faster and darker than we've seen him in a while. Tougher. Also hotter and sexier because, let's face it, America: a dark Fitz is a hot Fitz.

FITZ

No. Step one? Was me coming to Blair House and laying my head in your lap like I gave a damn about your forgiveness. This is a war, Mellie. You and I are at war. What happened today is simply one battle of many.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (3)

56

FITZ (CONT'D)

And let's be clear: the reason I leaked Olivia's name is because as long as you had her name in your arsenal of weapons, Olivia was at your mercy. Now she is free. So I leaked her name. And I'd do it again.

And off Mellie, we FLASH TO:

57 INT. WHITE HOUSE/OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

57

Tom enters to find Fitz standing. Waiting.

TOM

Sir?

FITZ

Shut the door, Tom. I need a favor.

As Tom closes the door, we FLASH TO-

58 INT. BAR - NIGHT - PAST

58

Hal, as we saw him earlier. Same spot, same Vanessa Chandler...

HAL

You want another one? You're buying-

Only this time, we CONTINUE THE SCENE as Hal drunkenly gets up to flag a waitress down. When he's gone, Vanessa Chandler turns to Tom, who's sitting at the next table, listening to their conversation. Tom shakes his head wryly at Hal.

TOM

Good thing he's off tomorrow.

VANESSA CHANDLER

No way, Tommy. Who's this 'trusted advisor'?

Tom pretends to hesitate.

TOM

Just between you and me, right? I don't want to see this on the internet.

VANESSA CHANDLER

And I don't want you to ever have to pay for a drink in this town.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

Beat. Tom grins.

TOM

It's Olivia Pope. Worst kept secret  
in the White House.

And off the delighted Vanessa, we CUT TO-

59 INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES/OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

59

Olivia, trying to wrap her head around this new Jeannine  
development. Her cell RINGS, she answers.

ROWAN (O.S.)

Congratulations.

INTERCUT WITH:

60 INT. B613 HEADQUARTERS/HALLWAY - DAY

60

Rowan walking, on his cell.

ROWAN

You just got a reprieve.

OLIVIA

(explosion of  
frustration)

*What do you want?!*

ROWAN

I was concerned about my daughter.  
I expressed that. Now, I'm expressing  
my relief.

OLIVIA

This isn't about me. This is not  
because you care so much for your  
little girl. This is...everything  
you do has an agenda. You want  
something. And whatever it  
is...whatever you are really up to?  
I don't care. I want no part of it.  
Stop calling me. Do not try to see  
me. We are done.

ROWAN

Olivia? We are never done.

And as Olivia takes that in, Rowan hangs up on her. We stay  
with Rowan as he walks into-



61 INT. B613 HEADQUARTERS/THE HOLE ROOM - CONTINUOUS 61

The B613 AGENT minding the hole (in its closed position) snaps to attention. Rowan nods for the Agent to open the hatch. The Agent lifts the lid, revealing a haggard, beaten, bloody, dead-eyed JAKE BALLARD, who winces from the light. Rowan appraises him.

ROWAN

You've become something of a problem.

And we get the sense that Jake is in a lot of danger...

62 INT. CYRUS AND JAMES'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - DAY 62

It's dark in here, as Cyrus enters, fumbling with the door, his hands full of dry cleaning, cell to his ear-

CYRUS

(into cell)

It's Cyrus again, Jeannine, just trying to catch you, I know you must be scared, but just hold tight we'll get this whole thing straightened-

But Cyrus stops. 'Cause he's flicked on the light and come face to face with-

CHARLIE, lounging on Cyrus's bed, GUN in hand, trained calmly on Cyrus. Next to Charlie lies an unconscious James. Cyrus just stares, horrified.

CHARLIE

Sorry, shoes on the covers, how rude of me.

Charlie happily swings his feet off the duvet, but Cyrus can't appreciate the bit, he's staring at James, frozen, wondering-

CYRUS

Did you -- Is he...

CHARLIE

Dead? Nope, just taking a little drug induced nappy. Baby's out, too. Didn't have to drug her, that fancy swing you got in there is worth every penny.

CYRUS

What do you want, Charlie?

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

CHARLIE

It's not what I want. You know how I work. Always serving a higher purpose.

Charlie stands up. Almost involuntarily, Cyrus takes a step back. Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you gonna run? Oh c'mon, please run! Then I'd have to catch you. Now if I remember correctly, you weren't so nice to me the last time we talked, so I'd actually really enjoy that. Having to catch you. It'd be freakin' awesome. And let's face it, pretty easy considering you did just have a heart attack and I do Crossfit.

A long beat. Cyrus sags.

CYRUS

I'm not going to run.

Charlie shakes his head, so disappointed.

CHARLIE

You're not gonna run.

63 INT. OLIVIA POPE &amp; ASSOCIATES/CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

63

A shell-shocked Jeannine's sitting at the table, staring off into space. As Quinn hands her a glass of water, we PULL BACK TO FIND-

Liv watching Jeannine through the glass, contemplating their next move. Harrison steps to her, shaking his head.

HARRISON

Right now? You're good. You're golden. You're in the clear, Liv.

He looks at her.

HARRISON (CONT'D)

There's nothing wrong with a little self preservation. Doesn't mean you don't wear the white hat.

Olivia doesn't look at him. Beat.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

OLIVIA  
We've got a client. Let's get to  
work.

And with that, Olivia heads into the conference room-

64 INT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - DAY

64

As Cyrus sits in a chair in the middle of an otherwise-empty  
room.

And he's alone, and he's scared, because this looks like the  
kind of place that certain high-level people might be taken  
to die. And then we hear the DOOR CREAK OPEN, and into the  
light steps Rowan carrying a sealed folder.

ROWAN  
I would have called, but I couldn't  
risk Secret Service being anywhere  
near the conversation we're about to  
have.

CYRUS  
Trunk was very comfortable, thank  
you.

He hands Cyrus a Microsoft Tablet.

ROWAN  
Thumbprint please.

Off Cyrus's baffled look-

ROWAN (CONT'D)  
(holds up his folder)  
I need to break the seal on this,  
but can't until I raise your security  
clearance.

Cyrus presses his thumb against the screen.

ROWAN (CONT'D)  
The other hand.

Cyrus presses his other thumb against the screen. Rowan  
hands him a stylus.

ROWAN (CONT'D)  
And now your signature.

Cyrus signs his name on the screen. Rowan takes back the  
tablet.

(CONTINUED)

CYRUS

So Charlie-

ROWAN

Came home to Papa. When the Republic's in danger, there's no place for spite.

CYRUS

(off the word "danger")  
If you're talking about the President's affair with Olivia-

ROWAN

This is bigger than that.

And if he didn't have Cyrus's attention before, he certainly has it now.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

What do you know about Operation Remington?

CYRUS

Only that it was a classified mission that Fitz flew with Jake Ballard in Iran, back when they were in the Navy. Most of it's redacted.

ROWAN

Would it surprise you to know that Olivia Pope's father ran point on that mission?

CYRUS

Considering he's a mid-level nobody at the Smithsonian, yes, it would. Why?

ROWAN

Because I'm that mid-level nobody, and *this*...

He hands Cyrus the folder.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Is what *really* happened on that mission.

Cyrus doesn't know what to say.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Go ahead. Have a read. I'm gonna  
need you caught up.

A shell-shocked Cyrus breaks the seal and opens the folder.  
He reads for a beat. Then blanches.

CYRUS

Oh my god...

And off his horror, we...

END SHOW

ADDENDUM

Sc. 10: TANNER SHAW interviews VANESSA CHANDLER on BNC.

(Note: Scripted dialogue from Scene 10 is in **BOLD**)

We're on a TV screen. News anchor TANNER SHAW, interviews VANESSA CHANDLER, an attractive young society reporter with more game than her fancy outfit suggests.

TANNER SHAW

**Joining us now, the reporter who broke this story -- Vanessa Chandler of the Post's Styles section... Vanessa -- we have a name now. Former White House Communications Director Olivia Pope. How sure are you that she's the woman who had an alleged affair with President Grant?**

VANESSA CHANDLER

**It's just one source but it's a good source. A source in a position to know the true identity of the President's mistress. And, well...you know how this works. It's just a matter of time before others come out of the woodwork and more details emerge.**

TANNER SHAW

Can you give us an idea of how high up this person is in the administration?

VANESSA CHANDLER

No. They came to me in confidence at great personal and professional risk. But, I will say that my source is one hundred percent positive Ms. Pope is the President's mistress and if they are right -- and obviously I believe they are -- there will be a lot to report really soon. When that happens, Tanner, you will find out about it like everyone else, by reading my blog in the Styles section of the Post's website.

TANNER SHAW

So you're not concerned that it has now been hours since you broke the  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TANNER SHAW (CONT'D)

story and we have not heard any comment from the White House.

VANESSA CHANDLER

I think the silence says it all. Look, we're not talking about some doe-eyed intern here. As you said, she was President Grant's Communications Director. Before that she was one of his closest advisors on the campaign. This is a woman who directly influenced policy. If she attained that level of power while she was sleeping with the President, it could be very bad for the administration. The White House obviously has to plan their next move very carefully. With every moment that goes by without the White House addressing it, I become more confident that I'm right on this.

TANNER SHAW

Let's talk about Olivia Pope. Other than her work at the White House, what do we know about her?

VANESSA CHANDLER

In a word, she's fabulous. She's stylish, beautiful and extremely capable. I've been in this town a long time and I know more than my fair share of power players who owe their entire careers -- in some cases even their lives -- to the services of Olivia Pope-

TANNER SHAW

Sorry to cut you off, Vanessa. But, we're now going live to Olivia Pope and Associates, Ms. Pope's crisis management firm, where I'm hearing the limo we saw her get into earlier this morning has just pulled up...

ADDENDUM

Sc. 16: JEANNINE LOCKE handles the PRESS CORP in the Briefing Room as Cyrus comments in the back.

(Note: Scripted dialogue from Scene 16 is in **BOLD**)

INT. WHITE HOUSE/BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

JEANNINE

**...Like I said and will continue to say in a variety of ways, the White House has no official comment on these accusations and has no plans to comment further.** So you all *could* keep asking the same questions over and over. I don't mind. I like you guys. But, I think we can all agree that would be a waste of everyone's time. **There are many pressing matters on the President's schedule that continue to demand his full attention and frankly, there are other things going on in the world right now. A troop of forty-five Girl Scouts was caught up in a tornado in Oklahoma. The President is monitoring the situation closely and has offered assistance from the National Guard...**



ADDENDUM

Sc. 52pt: JAMES continues to report live from the White House North Lawn.

(Note: Scripted dialogue from Scenes C51, 51 and 52 is in **BOLD**)

EXT. WHITE HOUSE/NORTH LAWN - DAY

JAMES

**...With multiple sources also confirming Jeannine Locke and the President had what they describe as an intimate working relationship that grew into something more, calling it, quote, a brief fling. Those sources at the same time denying that Olivia Pope had any form of inappropriate relationship with the President. And promising a live statement from the President sometime today.** Although the sources would not elaborate on the content of the President's statement, it will likely be an admission of guilt and official confirmation that Jeannine Locke is indeed the woman the First Lady was referring to when she went on live television and revealed to me that President Grant had been unfaithful. After that interview, the President stated in no uncertain terms that his personal life was none of our business. But, in light of these new developments, it looks like President Grant has realized he has no choice but to address the nation, a nation which is today demanding answers.