

THE BOYS

Episode #408

"Season Four Finale"

Written by

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Directed by

Eric Kripke

Based on the Comic by

Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson

PRODUCTION WHITE	02/02/23
REVISED BLUE PAGES	02/14/23
FULL PINK DRAFT	02/21/23
FULL YELLOW DRAFT	02/27/23
REVISED GREEN PAGES	02/28/23
FULL GOLDENROD DRAFT	03/06/23
REVISED 2ND WHITE PAGES	03/09/23
REVISED 2ND BLUE PAGES	03/10/23
REVISED 2ND PINK PAGES	03/13/23
<b>REVISED 2ND YELLOW PAGES</b>	<b>03/20/23</b>

**REVISED 2ND YELLOW PAGES (2 TOTAL)**

10, 11

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**THE BOYS**

Episode #408

"Season Four Finale"

(FULL GOLDENROD DRAFT)

3/6/23

**CAST LIST**

BILLY BUTCHER.....	Karl Urban
HUGHIE CAMPBELL.....	Jack Quaid
HOMELANDER.....	Antony Starr
ANNIE JANUARY/STARLIGHT/SHIFTER ANNIE...	Erin Moriarty
MOTHER'S MILK.....	Laz Alonso
THE DEEP.....	Chace Crawford
FRENCHIE.....	Tomer Capon
KIMIKO.....	Karen Fukuhara
BLACK NOIR.....	Nathan Mitchell
MR. MARATHON.....	Ben Rumson
ASHLEY BARRETT (VOUGHT CEO).....	Colby Minifie
VICTORIA NEUMAN (VP-ELECT).....	Claudia Doumit
RYAN (BECCA AND HOMELANDER'S SON).....	Cameron Crovetti
ROBERT A. SINGER(PRESIDENT-ELECT).....	Jim Beaver
SAGE.....	Susan Heyward
FIRECRACKER.....	Valorie Curry
JOE KESSLER.....	Jeffrey Dean Morgan
GRACE MALLORY.....	Laila Robins
SAM RIORDAN.....	Asa Germann
CATE DUNLAP.....	Maddie Phillips
ZOE (VICTORIA NEUMAN'S DAUGHTER).....	Olivia Morandin
CALHOUN (SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE).....	David Andrews
EVAN LAMBERT.....	David Reale
ALSO ASHLEY.....	Sabrina Saudin
CINDY.....	Ess Hödlmoser
LOVE SAUSAGE.....	Derek Johns
HAILEY MILLER.....	Leigh Bush
DOUG FRIEDMAN (VOUGHT LAWYER).....	Bruce Novakowski

THE BOYS #408 CAST LIST - 3/6/23 - FULL GOLDENROD DRAFT

MALE NURSE..... Mark Macrae  
SECRET SERVICE AGENT #1..... Dylan Rampulla  
STAGE MANAGER..... John Leung  
MAKE-UP ARTIST.....  
THE TRUTHBOMB W/ FIRECRACKER CREW.....  
REPRESENTATIVES.....  
HOMETEAMERS.....  
STARLIGHTERS.....  
SECRET SERVICE AGENTS (IN SECRET BUNKER)  
MARINES (IN SECRET BUNKER).....  
AIDE (W/ SINGER IN SECRET BUNKER).....  
SECRET SERVICE AGENT (W/ NEUMAN).....  
SECRET SERVICE AGENTS (W/ CALHOUN).....  
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE..... Peter Van Wart  
**CALHOUN' S WIFE.....\***  
**CALHOUN' S CHILDREN.....\***  
FBI AGENTS.....  
CAMERAMEN.....  
AIDES.....  
SENATORS.....  
VOUGHT SWAT-LIKE SECURITY.....

**CAMEOS**

NNEKA ELLIOTT

**OMITTED**

EMPLOYEE (TEK TECH CELLPHONE SHOP)

**THE BOYS**

Episode #408

"Season Four Finale"

(REVISED 2ND BLUE PAGES)

3/10/23

**SET LIST**

**INTERIORS**

SEVEN TOWER -  
    CONFERENCE ROOM  
    HOMELANDER'S APARTMENT  
    HALLWAY  
  
VNN TODAY W/ HAILEY MILLER SET  
  
VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY -  
    ANOTHER ROOM  
  
HUGHIE AND ANNIE'S APARTMENT -  
    MAIN ROOM  
    BEDROOM  
  
HAZLET SAFE HOUSE -  
    BUTCHER'S ROOM  
  
ABANDONED BUILDING -  
    ROOM  
  
THE TRUTHBOMB W/ FIRECRACKER SET  
  
NNC NEWS SET  
  
SECRET BUNKER -  
    HALLWAY  
  
NEUMAN'S TOWNHOUSE  
  
CONGRESSIONAL DINING ROOM  
  
WHITEHOUSE ROOM  
  
JFK AIRPORT -  
    BATHROOM

**EXTERIORS**

ABANDONED BUILDING  
  
DEPT. OF WATER AND POWER -  
    ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY  
  
ABANDONED FACTORY  
  
BORING BRICK BUILDING  
  
COUNTRY ROAD  
  
HARBOR

**VEHICLES**

THE BOYS' VAN  
  
**FBI SUV \***  
  
HUGHIE'S CAR  
  
VOUGHT SECURITY VAN  
  
BUTCHER'S CAR

**OMITTED**

DEPT. OF WATER AND POWER -  
    GLENROCK, NEW JERSEY  
  
SPEAKER'S OFFICE  
  
FIELD  
  
GOVERNMENT FACILITY  
  
OFFICE BATHROOM  
  
SEVEN TOWER -  
    ASHLEY'S OFFICE  
  
TEK TECH CELLPHONE SHOP -  
    NEW JERSEY

THE BOYS  
"Season Four Finale"

FADE IN...

1 INT. VNN TODAY WITH HAILEY MILLER SET - DAY 1

NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 1 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.

A CHANNEL FRITZ, then grinning and gleaming in a chair --

HAILEY MILLER  
Good morning, Patriots. It's  
January 6th, and this is *VNN Today*.

A GRAPHICS BUMPER takes us to footage of "*Training A-Train*,"  
BTS pics of set, etc.

HAILEY MILLER (V.O.)  
Coming up in this hour, stunning  
news out of Vought Studios, who are  
cancelling the eagerly anticipated  
film "*Training A-Train*," though it's  
completely finished.

We CUT TO ASHLEY, in front of the SEVEN STATUE, in P.R. mode.

ASHLEY  
We just realized we'd make more from  
the write-off.

ANOTHER GRAPHICS BUMPER whisks us to a P.S.A. Black and  
white close-up images of some of our heroes.

HAILEY MILLER (V.O.)  
We go behind the scenes of the  
powerful new Vought P.S.A.

FIRECRACKER  
I take responsibility.

CUT TO BLACK NOIR, holding a sign that says "**I TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY.**" Then CUT TO DEEP, hands tented over his  
mouth (see Aaron Paul's video, who did this FOR REAL) --

DEEP  
I take responsibility. For racism.

One last GRAPHICS BUMPER takes us to shots of CONGRESS --

HAILEY MILLER (V.O.)  
Finally, Congress counts electoral  
votes today to certify the incoming  
President. Usually a formality,  
Dakota Bob's extreme anti-Supe  
agenda has made it anything but...

CLOSER ON SPEAKER CALHOUN. He bangs a gavel --

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Folks, we will count the  
certificates in an orderly fashion,  
with no debate --

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 1 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

2 INT. SEVEN TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

2

We come off the TV to find BLACK NOIR, mask hiked up, eating an ALMOND JOY, looking through a THICK PILE of PAPERS. Every single one is a ROUGH DRAWING of BUSTER BEAVER. These are Old Noir's drawings. He sighs, Old Noir remains a mystery --

BLACK NOIR  
I don't get you, dude. Why Buster  
Beaver?

When he hears FOOTSTEPS approach. He quickly pulls his mask down, just in time so HOMELANDER doesn't see his face.

Homelander is a combustible mix of festering paranoia and maudlin sentimentality.

HOMELANDER  
You're up early. I couldn't sleep  
either.

Homelander takes in the room. Nostalgic. So many heroes come and gone. The history of it all.

HOMELANDER  
Used to be, The Seven was a circle  
of trust. The good old days. One  
for all and all for one. A-Train, I  
would've killed for him. I have  
killed for him. I'd do the same for  
any of you, you know that, right?

That's... sweet? But... *is Noir supposed to answer?* He makes the tiniest sound and Homelander cuts him off:

HOMELANDER  
Did A-Train say anything? Why --  
how -- he could do that to me?

Noir shakes his head. Homelander gets closer. Raw emotion slipping out from under his stoic facade...

HOMELANDER  
I wonder how long he was plotting  
behind my back. Laughing at me,  
with William Butcher? As if I'm  
some fucking moron, as if I'm too  
long in the tooth to bite back.

Homelander, frustrated, but not with A-Train, with himself --

(CONTINUED)

HOMELANDER

Fuck all of them. Fucking Sage,  
Starlight, Maeve, Stillwell -- they  
all stabbed me in the back. Christ,  
even my own son is... rebelling.  
I'm starting to think... maybe I'm  
the problem.

(a revelation?? Nope:)

I'm too open. I trust people too  
much. They mistake my kindness for  
weakness. Well, no more. I don't  
need any of them. And if you want  
something done right...

Homelander finds a small spark of clarity in this. He'll  
have to finish this on his own. Then notices the ALMOND JOY  
wrapper. A reminder that this isn't the *real* Noir.

HOMELANDER

Your predecessor was a good  
listener, too. He was my favorite,  
I could tell him anything... but he  
kept the biggest secret of all.

Noir subtly tenses.

HOMELANDER

I wonder what secrets you're keeping  
in there? Hmm? Stand up, would you?

Noir does, wary. Homelander looks him right in the eye.  
Studying Noir. *Is he about to get disemboweled?*

But instead... Homelander HUGS him. Noir hesitates a beat,  
then wraps his arms around Homelander.

HOMELANDER

I've missed this.

Off Homelander, with a new focused purpose. As he hugs Noir,  
he looks to the TV SCREEN, satisfied as Calhoun continues the  
count, and the march to Homelander's victory --

3 **INT. VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY - DAY**

3

A TV plays C-SPAN, where Calhoun presides over the process.

CALHOUN

The certificate from Connecticut,  
the parliamentarians advised me, is  
the only certificate of vote from  
the state...

M.M., frustrated, divides his attention between C-SPAN and  
studying the PILE of MAPS and FILES from the Shifter's place.

MOTHER'S MILK

Yo. Anyone hear from Butcher?

(CONTINUED)

REVEAL: FRENCHIE, wearing GOGGLES and GLOVES as he hovers over Kimiko's severed, pustule-covered leg that he cut off in Ep. 407. KIMIKO watches from a safe distance, holding her BEE -- the virus is fatal to her. Both shake their heads.

FRENCHIE

Non.

MOTHER'S MILK

Where's the fucking virus, Frenchie?

FRENCHIE

I'm close.

MOTHER'S MILK

Y'know, once they bang that gavel, Neuman's one goddam bullet from the Oval Office, so how close?

FRENCHIE

Close-ish? *J'y suis presque.*

Frenchie, feeling the pressure, injects a SYRINGE into one of the fat pustules, extracts some viscous yellow PUS. As M.M. snags his PHONE, shoots a concerned glance back at the TV...

4 INT. HUGHIE AND ANNIE'S APARTMENT - MAIN ROOM - DAY

4

...which plays on the TV in b.g. as HUGHIE focuses on his computer, trying for the thirtieth time to hack into the FBSA database. An ERROR message pops up: "ACCESS DENIED."

HUGHIE

Fuck.

Hughie's phone PINGS with a new text from M.M., which appears above his head: "**You in the FBSA database yet? We need to ID the Shifter ASAP!!!!!!**"

HUGHIE

(under his breath)

No, I told you Vicky locked it all down, and please lower your voice.

SHIFTER ANNIE (O.S.)

(a bit self conscious)

Hey.

Hughie glances behind him -- and double takes when he sees SHIFTER ANNIE (he doesn't know it's the Shifter) in a designer dress and heels.

HUGHIE

What the hell are you wearing?

(CONTINUED)

SHIFTER ANNIE

Who am I wearing. Ellie Wilde.  
They sent it a year ago -- for free -  
- and I never even took it out the  
bag. You don't like it?

HUGHIE

I love it, it's just, is now really  
the time? With the whole country  
barreling ahead to 1984?

Shifter Annie takes a breath. Here goes nothing.

SHIFTER ANNIE

Yes. Now is the time. See, the  
night before my great grandfather  
shipped out, he put on his dress  
uniform, barged into dinner at my  
great grandmother's house, and got  
down on one knee. He wanted to go  
to war knowing they were each  
other's, forever.

HUGHIE

Okay...

SHIFTER ANNIE

You dummy. Hughie Campbell, will  
you marry me?

Hughie. Shocked.

HUGHIE

I thought you weren't ready.  
(off Shifter Annie's frown)  
I mean, of course I want to marry  
you, but -- you kept saying it  
wasn't the right time.

SHIFTER ANNIE

There'll never be a 'right' time...  
but if things go bad -- well, at  
least we have something good.

Damn, Shifter Annie sells that shit... and Hughie swallows  
said shit hook, line, and sinker.

HUGHIE

Stay right there, don't move.

Hughie crosses to a nearby drawer and pulls out a RINGBOX.  
He goes back to Shifter Annie, opens the box to reveal his  
MOTHER'S ENGAGEMENT RING.

HUGHIE

Annie January, I have loved you from  
the first time you kicked my ass  
with that triple strike in the  
eighth round.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HUGHIE (CONT'D)

You're literally the nicest person in the city, all the other nice people should fuck off, and you're right, I'm scared of what's going to happen -- but I'm glad I get to face it with you.

Hughie slips the ring onto Shifter Annie's finger. She pulls him into a kiss... then another... and soon she's pulling his shirt off as they giggle and stumble into the bedroom.

5 INT. HUGHIE AND ANNIE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

5

ON THE ENGAGEMENT RING. Shifter Annie admires her new prize as Hughie catches his breath, post-coitus.

HUGHIE

Wow. I, uh... that was surprising. Maybe next time, just the pinkie?

SHIFTER ANNIE

Sorry, was trying to level up.

Shifter Annie admires the ring -- when the skin on her finger suddenly SLOUGHS open in a bloody gash!

Before Hughie sees the tear, Shifter Annie rolls out of bed and quickly throws on jeans and a sweater.

HUGHIE

Where you going?

SHIFTER ANNIE

We need some champs to celebrate, and not that Kirkland shit in the fridge. Be right back.

The Shifter throws a smile over her shoulder, but Hughie's surprised when Shifter Annie bee-lines for the car keys on the dresser before she exits --

For reasons we'll explain later, Hughie reacts. That was odd. Hughie settles back onto the bed, the tiniest twinge of suspicion clouding his happiness...

6 INT. HAZLET SAFE HOUSE - BUTCHER'S ROOM - DAY

6

OPEN ON THE TELEVISION IN THE CORNER. As Calhoun certifies another vote from another state. The clock is ticking!

Under the BEEPS and WHIRS of what looks like a hospital room, we find BUTCHER, gaunt and exhausted, sitting up in bed. His medical emergency at the end of 407 drained him of whatever vitality he had left, he's sicker than we've ever seen him. A MALE NURSE finishes taking his BLOOD PRESSURE.

MALE NURSE

You're 90-over-60. It's low.

(CONTINUED)

BUTCHER

You don't fuckin' say? Piss off.

MALE NURSE

I'm here if you need me.

KESSLER (O.S.)

Y'know, if you need any help...?

BUTCHER

I don't need yer help.

Kessler speaks with a devilish, mischievous spark, in contrast with a weakened Butcher. GODDAMN, does Butcher want to give in to Kessler. But he holds out.

KESSLER

Really? You're shitting in a bedpan. You're days from being planted, and what do you have to show for it? Singer's as good as dead, Homelander won, and you gave away the virus, the only fucking weapon that could stop him. But you turn that frown upside down, lil' camper, cause you still got me!

BUTCHER

You ain't even real.

KESSLER

Interesting philosophical question. But what is real are the fucking V'd up tumors mushrooming in your guts and noggin. Super Cancer! What's real is the part of you that wants to burn every fuckin' Supe on earth.

(beat)

How do you think you ripped Ezekiel into fun-sized chunks? Me. I gave you the juice when you needed it, I could do it again. You just gotta hold up your end of the bargain.

BUTCHER

Bargain?

KESSLER

We go all the way. C'mon champ, what's a little genocide between friends?

Butcher wrestles with the temptation.

BUTCHER

Just fuck off and let me die in peace, would you?

(CONTINUED)

GRACE MALLORY (O.S.)  
Wish I could.

Butcher turns to see GRACE MALLORY in his doorway. When we reverse back to Butcher, Kessler's gone.

BUTCHER  
Since you're here, make yourself  
useful and fetch us a pint, would  
you, love?  
(off her eye roll)  
Don't be a cunt, I'm fuckin' dyin'.

GRACE MALLORY  
Funny, you dying's been pretty high  
on my wishlist lately.

BUTCHER  
Where's Singer? He safe?

GRACE MALLORY  
For now. He's at an undisclosed  
location, you know the one.

Despite Butcher's best intentions, a tiny sliver of real sincerity slips out:

BUTCHER  
Appreciate what you're doing for me  
here, Grace.

GRACE MALLORY  
Not one bit of this is for you.

Butcher nods. After what he's done, it's understandable.

BUTCHER  
Then give us me phone, luv. We got  
work to do.

Mallory does. Off Butcher, white knuckling, as Kessler GLARES at him, as he tries to hold on to his humanity...

7 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HOMELANDER'S APARTMENT - DAY 7

ANGLE. Homelander opens his secret cabinet of treasures. Remember the PUBE JAR? Well, he kept it up. It's now STUFFED to the brim with fuzzy gray pubes.

He regards it, simmering. His mortality is humiliating to him. Unscrews it, puts in yet another sample.

Closes the cabinet lid, pivots into the room. Noticing for the first time -- a bit of a MESS by the sofa -- Ryan's distinctive BACKPACK, strewn jacket, a few school books.

HOMELANDER  
God damn it, Ryan...

(CONTINUED)

Annoyed, he picks up a few things and shoves them into Ryan's backpack. Where inside, he finds something. Pulls it out...

It's the framed picture of Butcher, Becca, and Terror that Butcher sent to Ryan in Ep. 407. Homelander tries to contain the rage building in him, but he fails -- his eyes FLARE --

8 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 8

RYAN approaches the door to the apartment, when he hears ANGRY LOUD THUDS inside, the sound of Homelander's LASERS and smashing GLASS. Ryan slows, worried...

9 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HOMELANDER'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 9

Ryan peeks around the corner to see:

Homelander, in the WRECKAGE of their apartment. Statues, tables smashed, LASER burns, spot fires on the couch, TV GLITCHING with strange colors and patterns.

The picture of Butcher in his fist.

When -- he TURNS and sees Ryan. A beat between them -- Homelander's eyes still FLARING RED -- they blink off --

HOMELANDER  
Ryan. Come here.

Ryan holds his ground. Scared. But defiant.

HOMELANDER  
I'm your father, not him. Come here right now. That's an order, young man!

Some balcony GLASS from the second floor falls between them, SHATTERING, punctuating the tension. With that, Ryan turns and RUNS out of the apartment.

HOMELANDER  
Ryan. Ryan!

10 EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING - DAY - TO ESTABLISH 10

ON THE "FORECLOSED" SIGN on a shitty apartment building.

11 INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - ROOM - DAY 11

The real ANNIE, filthy, bound with THICK METAL SHACKLES and CHAINS! Surrounded by empty water bottles (been a day since she last drank), a ratty blanket, half-eaten Lean Lad Diet Lunches, a large waste bucket, a roll of toilet paper, and the discarded KAREN SKIN from 407, now a bit ripe.

She PULLS like hell at her WRIST SHACKLES. It fucking hurts. But she keeps at it. Until --

(CONTINUED)

The O.S. SOUND of a SERIES of HEAVY LOCKS UNLOCKING. Annie quickly stops, as the door opens, Shifter Annie enters --

Shifter Annie strips out of her winter gear... revealing her HANDS have split further, oozing BLOOD and PUS. When she scratches a LESION on her cheek, the skin PEELS AWAY in a long, fleshy strip. The Cronenberg family would approve.

SHIFTER ANNIE

I'd be careful, those Lean Lad Diet Lunches cause kidney stones the size of jawbreakers, there's a whole class action lawsuit.

Annie glares. Refusing to rise to the bait.

SHIFTER ANNIE

The silent treatment? Adorbs.

And the Shifter reaches a BLOODY HAND out to Annie.

ANNIE

Don't fucking touch me!

SHIFTER ANNIE

Chill, just need a lil' recharge.

But Annie's struggles are futile, she can't stop the Shifter from laying her hand against her cheek. As soon as they touch, the Shifter's eyes DOUBLE BLINK RAPIDLY.

SHIFTER ANNIE

Aww, don't worry. Why the fuck would I kill your mother, that requires going to Sedona. No one should ever have to go to Sedona.

ANNIE

Get out of my head.

*Holy shit -- the Shifter's reading Annie's thoughts through touch!* Shifter Annie releases Annie... but Annie locks stunned eyes on the engagement ring. (Meanwhile, Shifter Annie's peeling skin slowly knits itself together.)

SHIFTER ANNIE

Oh, this? I proposed to Hughie this morning. Even told him the story about your great-grandparents. Then we fucked to celebrate. Nice cock, surprisingly narrow, like humping a stork leg. Little butt play, he was into it. Christ, it's like a furnace in here.

It isn't -- Annie's shivering from the cold --

ANNIE

Why?

(CONTINUED)

SHIFTER ANNIE

Don't you just love proposals? The joy on the other person's face when they get their happily ever after.

ANNIE

You're a psychopath.

SHIFTER ANNIE

Sociopath. Which is to be expected, really -- every memory from every person I've ever been, mashing together into a cesspool? I barely remember what I look like.

(then)

First time I shifted? One minute I was me, and the next I was Ms. Jamison, my preschool teacher. I could see it all -- her fucking her husband's best friend, hitting a student, shoplifting lip gloss.

(beat)

The funny part? She felt justified about every shitty thing. Her husband was a prick, she didn't get paid enough. That she was right. You all do it. You all think you're the hero of your own story. Look at you, you built your entire identity around it -- that you're so much more honest and moral and good than the rest of us wallowing down in the shit.

ANNIE

I don't think that.

SHIFTER ANNIE

(taps her temple)

Sure you do. Mind reader, remember? It wasn't your fault you were a little cunt at the pageants, that was Mommy. Or that you sucked cock like a popsicle to stay in The Seven. No wonder it was so easy for Firecracker to shatter your whole self-image.

ANNIE

Fuck you. You don't know anything, about me or my life.

But Annie's denial is shaky. The Shifter is saying aloud everything Annie fears, everything she harbors guilt about.

SHIFTER ANNIE

No? Then why aren't your powers working?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SHIFTER ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hell, you weren't even the first choice to kill Singer, but you're such a hot mess, you just made it undeniable. But don't sweat it, you'll have a couple non-consecutive life sentences to work through your identity issues.

Shifter Annie snags a WATER BOTTLE from a table out of Annie's reach, kneels before her, offers it.

SHIFTER ANNIE

To wash down those Lean Lad Lunches.

Annie doesn't want to, but she's fucking thirsty. She takes it from Shifter Annie.

The Shifter exits, shutting the door on Annie's frustration.

12 **INT. HUGHIE AND ANNIE'S APARTMENT - DAY** 12

C-SPAN plays the election certification in the b.g., Hughie sits at his laptop, still no dice. He makes a call...

13 **INT. HAZLET SAFE HOUSE - BUTCHER'S ROOM - INTERCUT** 13

CLOSE ON: Butcher's PHONE BUZZES. WIDER. Still in bed, he thinks for a beat, then answers.

BUTCHER

...Hughie.

HUGHIE

Where have you been? I've called you like fifteen times. I was worried, we thought you were...

BUTCHER

Dead? You and me both.

HUGHIE

Well, we're kinda up against it. They're a few hours from certifying the election, and then they're coming for Singer -- we need your help tracking the Shifter, it's all hands on deck.

BUTCHER

When I was a kid, I heard about this place in Nevada, a steakhouse where the birds get their baps out when bringin' yer ribeye. Lenny pissed himself when I told him, thought it was the funniest thing he ever heard.

HUGHIE

Uh... huh.

(CONTINUED)

BUTCHER

We was gonna go someday but... funny  
what you think of when your time's  
up. Do us a favor and go, wouldya?  
For me and Lenny.

HUGHIE

Where are you? I'll come to you --

BUTCHER

Hughie. I asked you something.

Hughie sighs. Doesn't want to give up on Butcher. But knows  
he may not have a choice.

HUGHIE

Fine. I'll... go to the topless  
steakhouse for you.

Butcher turns, sees Mallory in the door.

BUTCHER

Magic. An' tell The Boys I'm sorry.  
For... well, just tell 'em I'm  
sorry. Cheers, Hughie.

Butcher hangs up. Off Hughie, thinking he just talked to  
Butcher for the last time. Off Butcher, thinking the same.

14 INT. THE TRUTHBOMB W/ FIRECRACKER SET - DAY

14

CLOSE ON Homelander, on the TruthBomb set, lost in thought.  
CREW scurry to get ready for a live broadcast.

Beside him -- FIRECRACKER. Behind her desk. Tell you the  
truth, she looks under the weather. A MAKE-UP ARTIST applies  
a little extra color.

FIRECRACKER

Hey. Have Negin get me an extra-  
large caramel pretzel s'more frappe  
from Jitter Bean, double whip, I am  
just molasses in winter today.  
(to Homelander)  
Morning, sir, I --

When she suddenly HACKS a DRY, RASPY COUGH, Homelander reacts  
with a touch of revulsion.

When... VICTORIA NEUMAN approaches with ALSO ASHLEY --

VICTORIA NEUMAN

Can we just make this quick please,  
I have slightly more important  
things to do today.

ALSO ASHLEY

Yes ma'am, of course.

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA NEUMAN

Hey.

Homelander doesn't answer. Off Neuman, oookay.

STAGE MANAGER

Standby, we go in 5, 4, 3...

The TRUTHBOMB OPENING GRAPHICS PACKAGE plays, throwing to FIRECRACKER. Firecracker's a pro, she fights through the sick feeling. Ashley and Also Ashley at the monitors.

FIRECRACKER

Welcome to the show, folks, we've got a happy surprise for y'all, Homelander and Vice President-Elect Victoria Neuman! Bless both your hearts for being here.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

I'm always happy to make time for my friend Homelander.

FIRECRACKER

So let's skip the BS -- Dakota Bob says he's gonna pass nutbag anti-Supe laws in his first hundred days, as his VP, what are you gonna do to stop the insanity?

As they talk, we're ON HOMELANDER. Staring at Neuman.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

Like a lot of Americans, I'm very concerned about the hateful rhetoric, and as a staunch ally of the Super-abled I will --

HOMELANDER

"Ally," Victoria, really? You're a bit more than that. It's time to tell them.

Neuman and Firecracker exchange a nervous glance.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

I'm... not sure what you mean.

HOMELANDER

It's nothing to be ashamed of, quite the opposite. So tell the truth.

(then)

Fine, I will. She's a Superhero.

A silent beat. The Ashleys exchange a terrified look. No one knows how to react. Especially Neuman. Until... she turns to the cameras and laughs:

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA NEUMAN

That's a nice compliment, but the truth is... we all try to be heroes in our own way, but I'm not *literally* a --

Homelander's EYES FLARE -- and he LASERS Neuman right in the face -- SCREAMS from the CREW -- her EYES GO MILKY WHITE --

ASHLEY

Oh fuck...

Neuman is rattled, a hand to her unharmed cheek. Her eyes resolve to normal. Until Firecracker breaks the tension:

FIRECRACKER

It's all true!

Neuman's mind is reeling, should she leave? Should she pop his fucking head? All she can do is keep smiling for the camera. As Firecracker rants, we go --

15 **AROUND THE HORN - INTERCUT**

15

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 15 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

To see our heroes, mouths agape, watching on their TV's. Hughie. M.M., Frenchie, Kimiko. Butcher and Mallory.

FIRECRACKER (ON TV)

Ms. Neuman here's been operating as a secret dagger in the heart of the Deep State, standing up to the forces of darkness trying to sodomize our democracy and our toddlers... but it's time for the Great Awakening! Where we go one, we go Vought, y'all!

ON BUTCHER. He gets the last word, as usual.

BUTCHER

Well, cunt's outta the bottle. Now it gets interestin'.

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 15 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

16 **INT. THE TRUTHBOMB W/ FIRECRACKER SET - DAY**

16

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 16 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

Seconds after the show ended, Homelander strides off the TruthBomb set, Neuman in pursuit. She waits until they're out of earshot of the crew to unload --

VICTORIA NEUMAN

I worked my whole life to keep that secret!

(CONTINUED)

HOMELANDER  
Secrets rot your soul. You're  
unburdened. You should thank me.

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
Sage said --

HOMELANDER  
Fuck Sage. She's long gone. We  
don't need that arrogant bitch.

Neuman reacts -- that's not great news. She takes her PHONE  
out of her purse, it's BUZZING over and over and over...

HOMELANDER  
We're going to change the world,  
Vicky, for our children, and their  
children. We freed our race from  
bondage, they'll sing our song for  
centuries. It's our destiny, yours.  
The first Super-abled President.

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
I'll be impeached. And we can't get  
rid of Singer now, everyone will  
know I'm behind it.

HOMELANDER  
Why would we care?

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
Because I have to get re-elected in  
four years --

HOMELANDER  
Says who?

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
Article II of the Constitution.

HOMELANDER  
New world, new rules.

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
You'll have to arrest half the  
country. Half your own company.

That gives Homelander the briefest of pause -- he *is*  
surrounded by traitors...

HOMELANDER  
You think I didn't think of that?  
Of course I thought of that. Our  
fates are connected now, Singer's as  
good as dead, and I am the only  
friend you've got. This train has  
left the station, gorgeous. And  
you're on it.

(CONTINUED)

Homelander walks away from her, leaving Neuman rattled. He approaches the Ashleys, who are glued to their phones.

ASHLEY

The response on socials has been...  
mixed...

HOMELANDER

I need you to make a list. Anyone  
inside Vought who might have  
damaging information about me or The  
Seven, anything that might give them  
leverage.

Ashley and Also Ashley share a brief look. That seems... not  
great? But what choice do they have?

ASHLEY

Of course. Right away, sir.

Homelander goes. Off Ashley, not sure she made the right  
choice when A-Train gave her the chance to run...

We **CHANNEL FLIP** to: **C-SPAN** as Calhoun stands at the podium,  
shouting to be heard over the CHAOS in the chamber as the  
divided REPRESENTATIVES heatedly argue over the news that  
Neuman is a Supe. It's a total clusterfuck.

CALHOUN

The Purpose of the joint session  
having concluded, pursuant to Senate  
Concurrent Resolution 1, 118th  
congress, the Chair declares the  
joint session resolved!

He hammers the gavel with finality -- the vote is finished!

**CHANNEL FLIP** to: **NNC**, **NNEKA ELLIOTT** reports as **FOOTAGE** cuts  
between **FIGHTS** breaking out across the country as **HOMETEAMERS**  
and **STARLIGHTERS** clash. It's chaos. **NEW CHYRONS** tell us:  
**Houston. New York City. Detroit. Los Angeles.**

NNEKA ELLIOTT

...has certified the election  
despite the shocking news that Vice  
President-Elect Victoria Neuman is  
Super-abled. Protests have erupted  
all over the country as  
Starlighters, citing a breach of  
public trust, call for Neuman to  
resign. Violent clashes with  
Hometeamers have also been --

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 16 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

17 INT. VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY - DAY 17

M.M. and Kimiko cluster around the television, watching the country spiral in real-time. Shit has finally hit the fan, and it is horrifying. Frenchie continues to work.

MOTHER'S MILK  
That's the ballgame. It's open  
season on Singer now.  
(to Frenchie)  
Tell me you got it.

FRENCHIE  
I'm working as fast as I can.

MOTHER'S MILK  
Ain't fast enough.

M.M. picks up the phone. Dials --

18 INT. HUGHIE AND ANNIE'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT 18

Hughie watches coverage of Neuman's outing -- it's a punch to his gut. When -- his PHONE RINGS. He answers:

HUGHIE  
You seeing this?

MOTHER'S MILK  
Get the dirt on Neuman ready in case  
we gotta go nuclear.

HUGHIE  
What about the virus??

MOTHER'S MILK  
There is no virus.

HUGHIE  
Shit! Y'know, she'll kill us if we  
release this.

MOTHER'S MILK  
(hard eyes on Frenchie)  
If we had another fuckin' choice,  
I'd take it.

Hughie runs to his CLOSET SAFE. Pulls out his computer, established in 407. Taps a few keys. But --

HUGHIE  
What? No... no no no FUCK!!!!

SHIFTER ANNIE  
What's wrong?

Shifter Annie stands in the front door, champagne in hand.

(CONTINUED)

HUGHIE  
Did Vicky send a virus? But how --

SHIFTER ANNIE  
Hughie!

To both Shifter Annie and M.M. on the phone --

HUGHIE  
It's all gone! Everything we had on  
Neuman: the murders, her links to  
Stan Edgar --

MOTHER'S MILK  
But you have backups -- another  
computer, the motherfucking Cloud!

HUGHIE  
You're not hearing me, they're gone.  
The originals, the backups, we've  
got nothing.

Hughie doesn't see Shifter Annie's satisfaction.

MOTHER'S MILK  
Then there ain't nothin' stoppin'  
her, only one thing left to do.  
(to Frenchie)  
You, stay here, work fucking faster.  
Kimiko, with me.  
(into the phone)  
Hughie -- I'm sending you  
coordinates. I need you and Annie  
there ASAP.

HUGHIE  
What's the plan?

MOTHER'S MILK  
We fucked our chance at offense.  
All we got now is defense.

19 INT. SECRET BUNKER - DAY

19

SINGER, at a podium with an "OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT" seal.

BOB SINGER  
-- I'm as shocked as the rest of you  
by this profound betrayal of trust.  
In America, you tell people who you  
are before you ask for their vote.  
Which is why I'm calling for an  
emergency meeting of Congress and a  
new, free and fair election. Mark  
my words: if Victoria Neuman becomes  
Vice President, it'll be over my  
dead body -- because she had me  
assassinated.

20 INT. HAZLET SAFE HOUSE - BUTCHER'S ROOM - DAY 20

Mallory turns off the TV. Can't bear to watch any more.

BUTCHER  
Lemme guess. You gotta go an' take  
a bullet for the geezer?

GRACE MALLORY  
I think it's more important that I  
stay here.

A look between them. An understanding. The Nurse enters.

MALE NURSE  
Your visitor's here.

GRACE MALLORY  
Send him in.

The NURSE exits to fetch the visitor. With great effort,  
Butcher CLIMBS OUT OF BED, STANDS. Trying to project  
strength, but we see how frail and weak he is. As --

RYAN enters. Passing -- KESSLER. To Butcher --

KESSLER  
This isn't gonna work.

Butcher ignores him. This is far too important. Meanwhile,  
Ryan takes in the medical equipment. It bums him out.

RYAN  
Hey.

BUTCHER  
You got my text.

RYAN  
You shouldn't have done that, my dad  
could have seen.

BUTCHER  
Desperate times. Glad you came.

As Grace talks, Kessler gets in Butcher's face --

KESSLER  
There's no saving the kid, he can't  
escape his own blood.

GRACE MALLORY  
You're almost taller than me, now.  
What are they feeding you -- and  
tell me there's vegetables involved  
somewhere?

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

There's lettuce on the burgers.

GRACE MALLORY

I've missed you, kiddo.

Ryan takes a beat. His feelings on this are a little more complicated.

BUTCHER

Listen Ryan, we need to have a bit of a serious chin wag.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

You look... really sick.

BUTCHER

Don't I know it. Mate, I wished myself dead more than I can count, now here I am, 'n all I want is more time. But I ain't got it, and I ain't got time to ease you into this.

KESSLER

You have to kill him, Billy.

Ryan looks at him -- what? Butcher takes a beat. Then --

BUTCHER

You can't go back to the Tower. You're goin' with Aunt Grace.

RYAN

What? Like -- when?

BUTCHER

Now. Right now. Today.

RYAN

I -- I can't. Dad would find me. He found me before.

GRACE MALLORY

Not this time, kiddo, trust us.

RYAN

Well. I'm not sure I wanna leave. I like it there. Parts of it.

KESSLER

See? Stab the virus into him and do it today.

GRACE MALLORY

Ryan, no -- your Dad is a --

Mallory is understandably impatient with the world about to end. But Butcher gives her a look. Cool it. He relates to the boy, connects with him.

BUTCHER

Look. When your Mom died. Which weren't your fault. You heard what she said. She had me promise to keep you safe. That's all I'm tryin' to do here.

(then)

So if you're tellin' me that the place you feel safest is with Homelander. Then I ain't gonna stop you.

(CONTINUED)

Mallory, alarmed, disagrees with this approach. But --

CLOSE ON RYAN. His last interaction with his father ringing in his head. How unhinged Homelander looked. Versus how... human Butcher looks now. When he notices... a CONNECT 4.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN  
Wanna play?

BUTCHER  
You ain't too old for it?

RYAN  
Too old to beat your ass? Never.

Butcher nods, smiles. Kessler is GONE. Sees Ryan maybe, hopefully, taking a step into the light.

HOMELANDER (PRELAP)  
Have you seen Ryan?

21 INT. SEVEN TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 21

Homelander enters the conference room with Ashley. Deep, Noir, and Firecracker (in Sage's old spot) already wait at the table.

ASHLEY  
Should I send a PA to look?

That irks Homelander. But he doesn't want to look needy --

HOMELANDER  
No. Boys need space.

ASHLEY  
(sotto)  
Oh, here's the list you asked for...

Ashley hands him a paper. He gives it a casual glance.

ASHLEY  
I highlighted anyone who has a contract we'd have to pay out if they're... let go.

HOMELANDER  
Right. Well, you can leave.

ASHLEY  
You need anything els -- ?

Firecracker CLICKS a remote, the doors start to close.

ASHLEY  
Okay, I'll -- bye.

Ashley exits as the doors finish closing. Homelander sits, a pitcher of MILK and GLASS before him -- this is the new protocol. The remainder of The Seven assembled. Firecracker looks worse than she did before. Pale, sweaty.

(CONTINUED)

HOMELANDER

The Seven is a circle of trust.  
What we're going to tell you is  
extremely sensitive. Needless to  
say, you understand the absolute  
horror that awaits you if it leaves  
this room?

Deep and Noir nod solemn. Deep holds up his right hand, as  
if taking an oath. Then puts it down awkwardly.

HOMELANDER

Robert Singer will be dead by end of  
business. Neuman will be sworn in.  
(Deep and Noir react)  
People will panic. Riots, bloodshed  
-- *someone* will need to swoop in and  
restore order.

He nods to Firecracker, his trusty #2. She clicks a remote --  
a long list of SUPE NAMES APPEAR on screen.

FIRECRACKER

We'll send out the call for every  
Vought hero, every fucking one.  
They'll surround the Capitol, the  
White House, the Pentagon.

HOMELANDER

Defending the rightful President  
Neuman and --

She devolves into another DRY, HACKING COUGH. Homelander is  
disgusted by this point.

HOMELANDER

Oh for fuck's sake, get a Ricola.

FIRECRACKER

Oh. Sorry, sir. Turns out, it's  
the meds I'm on.  
(boob milk meds)  
You know. The meds. They're  
causin' some heart palpitations and  
high fever, ain't no big deal.

He reacts. Thought she was stronger than this.

HOMELANDER

You're coughing all over me, it's  
disgusting. Go sit further down.

Humiliated, she moves down one seat. She DID THIS FOR HIM.

HOMELANDER

Further.

She gets up. Moves away to the furthest possible point. As  
Homelander hands Ashley's LIST to Deep.

(CONTINUED)

HOMELANDER

Meanwhile, every employee on this list needs to be... removed by end of day. They all know a little too much about us. Any problems?

Firecracker. Heart palpitations. Shakes her head, no sir. Homelander nods, good, pours some milk, takes a lusty sip.

DEEP

If we're thinking about who's got the most dirt on us, shouldn't Ashley be, like, at the top?

Homelander weighs the idea for half an afterthought, all Ashley warrants.

HOMELANDER

Yeah, sure. Good idea.

A MOMENT for Deep. He swells with pride.

DEEP

Awesome. I'll just add her real quick -- does anybody know Ashley's last name?

22 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HALLWAY - DAY 22

Where Ashley eavesdrops outside the conference room door... she backs away from the door, reeling... she is so completely fucked. She runs off down the corridor...

23 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HOMELANDER'S APARTMENT - DAY 23

Ashley rushes into Homelander's apartment and sprints to Homelander's hidden drawer, yanking it open -- revealing rows of Compound V vials.

Ashley takes a syringe from the drawer, plunges the needle in. She taps out air bubbles, then hesitates -- is she really going to do this? Does she have any other choice?

With a sob, Ashley PLUNGES the syringe into her arm! Terrified, she waits for the drug to hit...

And suddenly SCREAMS as the V SURGES through her body! She crumples to the floor, on her hands and knees, writhing in pain. Drops her head in agony, her WIG falls off. She's got some more strands than last year, but still pretty bald. When something ripples on her skull, beneath her skin.

PULL BACK as the Compound V does its horrific work... (*Will she get powers? Will she explode?? Find out in Season 5!*)

24 OMITTED 24

25 OMITTED 25

A26 EXT. DEPT. OF WATER AND POWER - ELIZABETH, NJ - DAY A26

Stock, baby! An unassuming UTILITY BUILDING: "DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER." But under the surface...

26 INT. SECRET BUNKER - DAY 26

We watch a BUNKER DOOR -- the kind of massive armored contraption that could withstand a nuclear blast -- electronically CLOSE and LOCK.

The bunker is concrete chic, the sparsely furnished space only sporting one decoration: the SEAL of the President.

The Boys gather around Bob Singer as TWO SECRET SERVICE AGENTS and TWO MARINES stand guard. (We'll number them 1, 2, 3, 4, in the order they get killed! Spoiler!) Singer, pissed, holds a PUTTER, stands at an expensive version of one of those PRACTICE PUTTING GREENS.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #1  
You seriously telling us the Shifter  
can get through that?

MOTHER'S MILK  
For all I fuckin' know, they're in  
here already. So from now on,  
everyone moves with a partner.  
Check-in's every five minutes on the  
dot. Stay sharp, follow your  
motherfuckin' orders.

The Secret Service Agents exchange skeptical looks, disperse.

MOTHER'S MILK  
You'll be fine, sir.

Singer taps the ball, misses, shoots M.M. a withering look.

BOB SINGER  
If you'd killed Neuman like I  
ordered, we wouldn't be 4 stories  
underground playing pocket pool.  
Idjit.

M.M. steps over to Kimiko, Hughie, Shifter Annie. To Kimiko:

MOTHER'S MILK  
Kimiko, stay on Singer.

She nods, on mission, heads over to Singer.

SHIFTER ANNIE  
You really think the Shifter's in  
here?

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER'S MILK

Hope to fucking Christ they ain't.  
But they could be anyone so eyes on  
everyone.

SHIFTER ANNIE

You got it.

As M.M. moves off to speak with the Secret Service, Hughie studies everyone who passes with suspicion... when he notices something bizarre: a BEAD of sweat on Shifter Annie's temple.

(CONTINUED)

HUGHIE

You okay?

SHIFTER ANNIE

Yeah, fine, just warm. It's like a furnace in here.

PUSH-IN ON HUGHIE. As the realization hits Hughie like a punch to the gut: this isn't Annie.

**FLASH TO 407.** Hopefully the same angle as Annie. When the SHIFTER, then disguised as the bruised woman in underwear, climbs out of the closet, says "it's like a furnace in here."

**BACK TO SCENE.** Hughie. Oh fuck. OH FUCK.

HUGHIE

You should find some water.

SHIFTER ANNIE

Yeah, okay, be right back.

She walks off, oblivious she's made a fatal error.

HUGHIE

Oh fuck.

27 **OMITTED** 27

A28 **INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - ROOM - DAY** A28

Real Annie struggles against her shackles. By now, the cuffs GOUGE her wrists, BLOOD has dripped down her arms, seeped into her clothes, puddled on the floor...

But despite the obvious pain and the strength of the chains, Annie doesn't give up, gritting through the pain, determined, refusing to quit... and in slow agony, she wrenches one BLOODY HAND free of the shackles, stripping skin! But she's still got the other hand, a long way to go...

28 **INT. SECRET BUNKER - DAY** 28

Singer misses another putt, swears to himself. Hughie, barely maintaining his composure, strides to M.M.

HUGHIE

(sotto)

Stay cool. It's Annie.

MOTHER'S MILK

What's Annie?

HUGHIE

(sotto, not cool)

The Shifter, it's Annie, she's the Shifter!

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER'S MILK

Are you sure? How do you know?

HUGHIE

Trust me, I don't know how or when they switched but that's one hundred percent not Annie!

MOTHER'S MILK

Yo. The fate of the country literally depends on us keeping our shit tight right now, so chill. The fuck. Out.

But at that moment, Shifter Annie rejoins Hughie and M.M. They immediately plaster over their panic with it's-all-good looks as Shifter Annie passes out a few bottles of water.

As she guzzles water, she notices the men aren't drinking.

SHIFTER ANNIE

What are you looking at?

MOTHER'S MILK

Nuthin'.

Hughie and M.M. Outwardly chill, inwardly shitting themselves... until Shifter Annie fixes M.M. with a look.

SHIFTER ANNIE

I know.

*Oh God, what does she know??* But Shifter Annie lifts her hand, wagging her finger with the engagement ring.

MOTHER'S MILK

(oh fuck)  
Wow! Congratulations.

SHIFTER ANNIE

Thank you!

HUGHIE

(regrets everything)  
Yep. Yes. We did that.

SHIFTER ANNIE

For the record, I proposed. 'Cause peg the patriarchy, right?

Hughie and M.M. laugh.

HUGHIE

(how is this happening)  
So true, the patriarchy needs to be pegged in all its holes...

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER'S MILK  
(keep it together)  
Congratulations! Getting hitched is  
the best decision I ever made.

While the Shifter is focused on M.M., Hughie scans the room, trying to make eye contact with any of the Secret Service Agents without the Shifter noticing... but the Shifter studies the two men, their senses tingling.

MOTHER'S MILK  
Anyway, I'm gonna hit the head, you  
guys hold down the fort --

Singer finally SINKS A PUTT --

And M.M.'s interrupted when the Shifter suddenly PUNCHES him so hard he flies five feet back!

HUGHIE  
SHIT!!!

She SHOVES Hughie, HARD, he flings back into the wall and goes down, bell badly rung. It takes both Hughie and M.M. a hot minute to shake the concussion cobwebs.

Shifter Annie explodes into action! Brutally HURLS SECRET SERVICE 1 BACK into a table, her BACK SNAPS the wrong way.

Then she snags SINGER'S PUTTER, SMASHES MARINE 2 across the face! Again! He goes down. She wildly, brutally CLUBS him below frame, over and over. Blood spatters on her clothes.

Kimiko and AGENT 4 hustle Singer to the bunker door. Agent 4 types in the access code, but the thing weighs a ton and opens excruciatingly slow -- and with every inch the Shifter gets closer and closer!

Meanwhile, MARINE 3 positions himself between the Shifter and Singer -- but the Shifter's on him! She shoves him against a COAT HOOK on the wall, which embeds in the soft spot on the back of his skull! He hangs there, dead.

But the door's open! Kimiko pushes Singer through, then follows, along with AGENT 4.

29 INT. SECRET BUNKER - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

29

Shifter Annie lunges through the door, pursuing, when Agent 4 pivots to FIRE! But Shifter Annie DIVES on him, opens her mouth and TEARS into his NECK, FERAL.

Shifter Annie rises, coldly WIPING the blood from her mouth with her sleeve, then bolts with murderous intent after --

Kimiko and Singer sprint down the hall, but as Kimiko looks over her shoulder, she sees Shifter Annie CHARGING them, Singer can't outrun her.

(CONTINUED)

So Kimiko pivots, launches at the Shifter. The two Supes grapple. Meanwhile, Singer makes it to the next door. There's a KEYPAD beside it, Singer doesn't know the code! Fuck! He taps one in, frantic. BEEPS RED. No good.

BOB SINGER

Balls!

Hughie and M.M., back in the fight, race past Kimiko -- she nods, get to Singer! They sprint up to him, see the door.

MOTHER'S MILK

Sir! I got it!

M.M. starts entering the extremely long code.

The Shifter deftly wall-flips over Kimiko and lands behind her, CLUTCHING Kimiko's head and WRENCHING it a FULL 180. A sickening CRACK. Kimiko looks at Shifter Annie blankly, facing the wrong direction. Then falls, paralyzed!

With M.M., still tapping in the code --

HUGHIE

How many fucking numbers are there??

When Shifter Annie steps to them. M.M. aims his PISTOL, but it's useless and he knows it. They stand between the Supe and Singer's terrified ass, they're all dead for sure --

When the real Annie EXPLODES out of a SECOND MAINTENANCE DOOR, tackles Shifter Annie, rolling onto the floor! She made it just in time!

ANNIE

Take Singer! Go, now!

M.M. finally BEEPS the door open. Hughie hesitates, but then he and M.M. haul Singer away --

Shifter Annie SHOVES Annie off. The two face off. The real Annie versus Shifter Annie. They study each other. The Shifter is calculating, Annie practically vibrates with rage.

SHIFTER ANNIE

You really think your broke down ass  
can take me?

(re: Annie's bloody wrists)

You couldn't even blast your way  
out, could you?

But Annie just CHARGES the Shifter with a guttural ROAR! The two trade BRUTAL BLOWS, neither getting the upper hand. Until the Shifter opens her mouth, goes for Annie's throat -- only to sink into Annie's blocking HAND!

Annie SCREAMS -- and then SLAMS the Shifter onto the ground and wraps her hands around the Shifter's throat. Squeezes.

(CONTINUED)

The Shifter thrashes and fights -- but Annie doesn't let go.  
Spits out --

ANNIE

You're right, I dunno if I'm a hero  
anymore, I dunno who the fuck I am.  
But I do know I'm the bitch beating  
your ass.

Until the Shifter goes limp. ANNIE IS FUCKING TOUGH. Shares  
a glance and a nod with Kimiko, who's just cracking her neck  
back into place.

30 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HOMELANDER'S APARTMENT - DAY 30

Homelander paces, agitated, in the ruins of his apartment.  
He checks his phone, but there are no notifications. The  
CRACKED TV is on, but it's business as usual.

He throws a look to SAGE'S NOTEBOOK, which she left behind in  
407. It's tempting. When -- his PHONE RINGS.

HOMELANDER

Victoria...

31 INT. NEUMAN'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY - INTERCUT 31

Neuman stands alone in the completely empty townhouse. Just  
a few stray MOVING BOXES remain, a box of wire hangers, etc.  
It's lonely and a little sad.

VICTORIA NEUMAN (ON PHONE)

Singer's alive. Your assassin  
failed.

HOMELANDER

Failed.

VICTORIA NEUMAN (ON PHONE)

Now the CIA's going to find an even  
deeper hole to hide him in.

HOMELANDER

There's nothing on the news.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

Because he's gonna hit me back  
quietly, and I'm fairly fucking sure  
he has the means to do it!

(off his silence)

Where is Sage? Maybe she can see a  
way out of the idiotic mess you  
dropped us in --

HOMELANDER

We have not failed. I will end  
Singer myself if I have to.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)

You will be President, and you will go along with every word I say as if my hand was shoved up your tight puckered asshole, like the puppet you've always been. And if you stray an inch off that path, I'll make sure Zoe feels nothing but pain for the rest of her life, and I'll send you a piece of her every fucking year for the rest of yours.

He clicks off, enraged. We GO OFF Neuman, rattled, this deal is getting worse all the time...

32 INT. VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY - DAY 32

OPEN ON FRENCHIE. At his lab table, doing lab stuff. He pivots, gleeful, as the other Boys enter behind him --

FRENCHIE

Guess who has two thumbs and is the fucking genius of all fucking geniuses?! The virus is *complet!*

He stops short as he sees them -- bloody, exhausted, beat to shit, like they've been through war. And they have.

FRENCHIE

What happened to you guys?

**LATER.** M.M. finishes wrapping Annie's bloody hands with BANDAGES. Leaves as Hughie tentatively approaches.

HUGHIE

You okay?

ANNIE

I'm fine.

But Annie won't make eye contact.

HUGHIE

Thank God you showed up. How'd you find us, anyway?

And that little nudge is all it takes for Annie to explode.

ANNIE

"Find Your Phone." I also found your fucking fiancé.

HUGHIE

She's not -- wasn't -- my fiancé.

ANNIE

No? You put the ring on her finger! I know, cause I pried it off her dead fucking hand!

(CONTINUED)

Annie waves the ENGAGEMENT RING in front of Hughie's face.

HUGHIE

I thought I was getting engaged to you! She looked just like you, down to that little freckle you have --

ANNIE

So you did fuck her.

HUGHIE

(fuck)  
...I mean...

ANNIE

How many times?

HUGHIE

...had to be less than twenty.

ANNIE

I was gone for like ten days!

HUGHIE

She almost always initiated, and again -- cannot overstate this enough -- I thought it was you!

ANNIE

Yeah, and as long as you were getting laid, you didn't look too close. That's the Annie you want, right? Down to go down whenever. The perfect girl, and a piece of ass in the bargain, who doesn't get depressed or fucked up or come with any complications.

HUGHIE

You know how I knew it wasn't you? Cause she wore some designer dress, and you ditch your bra for sweats as soon as you're home. She found your car keys on the first try and you have never found your keys in under fifteen minutes. But the final clue? She was sweating in the bunker and you have always been ninety percent Pashmina. I love that about you. All your weird fucked up-ness makes you, you. And you're the one I want to spend the rest of my life with.

It's a touching speech... but Annie's too raw from everything she's gone through to take it in. She walks off.

Suddenly, Hughie's phone rings. He double-takes at the caller-ID, which we don't see. WTF?? Hughie ducks out the room --

33 INT. VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY - ANOTHER ROOM - DAY 33

Hughie answers the call.

HUGHIE

Vicky?

34 INT. NEUMAN'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY - INTERCUT 34

VICTORIA NEUMAN

I want out.

HUGHIE

...is this a joke?

VICTORIA NEUMAN

No. It's gone too far.

HUGHIE

You're only saying that because the assassination failed.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

I'm saying it because it'll never end! Homelander's unhinged, he's not even listening to Sage anymore. If I become President, I'm going to be his puppet and if I fight back...

(then)

I'll resign without a fight, but you need to get the CIA off my ass and me and Zoe out.

HUGHIE

You're like the asshole who cried wolf, I mean, the shit you've done --

VICTORIA NEUMAN

Like how you forced Sameer to cook up some more virus to kill me, and oh yeah, cut off his fucking leg!

HUGHIE

(so there's that)

Ah. So glad you two connected. Okay, the leg thing wasn't me, but also, you didn't leave us with a lot of choices --

Neuman notices something peeking from under one of the moving boxes -- picks it up. It's Zoe's CRAYON DRAWING, wrinkled and partially torn, from 304, when she injected Zoe with V in the first place. She studies it.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

The point is, you hit me, I hit you, and it never fucking ends! War Games, Hughie. The only way to win is not to play.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VICTORIA NEUMAN (CONT'D)

(a wrenching confession)

I thought I wanted this. Not for Zoe, or Edgar. For me. I just wanted to feel... safe... and not like some terrified kid at Red River. But I'm not safe, and I'm not getting Zoe killed over this. This is the only way.

Hughie's conflicted. Neuman sounds sincere... but can he really take her at her word?

HUGHIE

I don't know how to trust you.

VICTORIA NEUMAN

I'll tell you where Zoe is.

HUGHIE

Is she okay?

VICTORIA NEUMAN

Yes, but if I get her, it'll draw too much attention. And that's how you know you can trust me, because I'm trusting my daughter with you.

(beat)

Please, Hughie. You are literally the only person on earth I can turn to right now.

Neuman hangs up. OFF Hughie, conflicted...

35 INT. SEVEN TOWER - HALLWAY - DAY

35

Good ole DOUG FRIEDMAN from legal HAULS ASS down the hallway as -- Firecracker chases him. But she is SLOW, OUT of BREATH, her ENLARGED HEART hurts like a motherfucker.

FIRECRACKER

Enough fucking running!

So she draws her pistol and SHOOTs him in the back. Then walks up, unloads the rest of her clip into his back. R.I.P. Doug Friedman. Then hands on her knees, catches her breath. Maybe she's bitten off more tobacco than she can chew.

EVAN, panicked, passes, runs for his life down the hall. Until he's suddenly cornered by Deep!

DEEP

Sorry, bro.

EVAN

(grovels)

Don't kill me! I can pay you --

(CONTINUED)

DEEP  
Dude, you're a writer, you don't  
earn shit.

EVAN  
Please, I'll do anything!

DEEP  
Tell me I'm the smartest Superhero  
in The Seven.

EVAN  
You are, by far, the smartest  
Superhero in The Seven. You're  
brilliant, a genius!

DEEP  
And you respect me the most.  
Besides Homelander, of course.

EVAN  
Of course I respect you, you're  
amazing!

Deep swells with importance and pride, relishing in his power  
over this pasty, groveling normie.

DEEP  
You're only saying that cause you're  
scared.

EVAN  
No, I'm not! I swear!

DEEP  
Yes, you are. But you know what,  
bro? Good enough for me.

And then Deep HAMMERS his fist into Evan's mouth, CRUSHING  
his jaw, teeth and skull in an explosion of brains and blood!  
R.I.P. Evan.

Deep savors the kill, pulling Homelander's now blood-smeared  
list out of his pocket. He scans the list of names -- dead,  
dead, dead. A job well done. Calls out --

DEEP  
Yo, have you seen Ashley?

REVEAL -- ALSO ASHLEY, cowering before Black Noir!

ALSO ASHLEY  
Please, I don't know anything!

But Black Noir IMPALES her with his sword! Pins her to the  
wall. She dies, standing up, sword jutting out. R.I.P. Also  
Ashley.

(CONTINUED)

BLACK NOIR

This is Ashley.

DEEP

No, bro, this is the other Ashley.  
She's not even on the list.

BLACK NOIR

Well, I don't know, everyone here's  
fucking named Ashley!

DEEP

(all good, don't sweat it)  
Bro. Bro.

Deep starts to walk on. When... Black Noir feels a certain  
blood flow in his pants. He's *thrilled*.

BLACK NOIR

Bro! I'm hard as a rock... I got a  
murder boner! You know what this  
means? Do you know what this  
means?? I understand my character!

36 INT. VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY - LATER

36

Hughie's just told The Boys his Neuman news. They're  
confused. Stunned. Generally pissed off.

ANNIE

You've got to be kidding me.

FRENCHIE

*Es tu fou?* I finally tame this  
virus, and we're not to use it??

Kimiko holds up her phone: "**IT'S A TRAP,**" with a bunch of  
insulting emojis to drive the point home. As The Boys all  
stare Hughie down, he rises to the occasion.

HUGHIE

Maybe, but if we can flip Neuman to  
our side? As powerful as she is,  
with what she has on Vought? If  
there's even a 5 percent chance?

FRENCHIE

So, what, we just forget Neuman is a  
monster?

HUGHIE

I'm not saying that. But -- we've  
all done bad shit. What if -- she's  
just fucked up like all of us,  
trying to do right by her kid?

ANNIE

It's insane we're discussing this!

(CONTINUED)

HUGHIE

What's insane is our solution to every problem is murder.

(then)

I used to freak out at the sight of blood. Now I barely blink at it. It shouldn't be like that, this isn't some fucking Vought movie. Violence isn't brave, vengeance isn't brave. But forgiveness, letting go, a little fucking mercy? That's brave. Crazy but brave. It's about the last thing my Dad ever taught me, and I just think -- if we're ever gonna win against monsters, I think we gotta start acting human.

The Boys. Conflicted... but we see this land hard on Kimiko -- then M.M -- who's been listening intently --

MOTHER'S MILK

Fuck it.

ANNIE

Really. Just -- fuck it?

MOTHER'S MILK

We're probably dead either way, so might as well go out with our heads high. Fuck it.

ANNIE

Oh. Great.

MOTHER'S MILK

Annie. It was crazy to give A-Train a chance, look what happened.

Despite her trauma and anger, Annie can't help but be moved by all this. She exhales.

ANNIE

Shit. Fuck it.

FRENCHIE

And if *Petit Hughie* is wrong?

MOTHER'S MILK

Trust but verify. Can you get the virus into Neuman's system?

FRENCHIE

With a carbon meta-material tip to the dart gun, and I aim for soft tissue, perhaps.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER'S MILK

Do it. If this is a trap, least we  
won't be walking in blind.

(to Hughie)

Neuman even blinks funny, and  
Frenchie's gonna drop her.

HUGHIE

Fair. Got it. Thanks.

As the rest of The Boys get to work, Annie approaches Hughie.

HUGHIE

Annie --

ANNIE

Shut up. You are going to get  
tested for every disease known to  
man. I am not getting Shifter  
syphilis.

Hurray, Annie and Hughie are on the road to reconciliation!  
We leave them and move to:

ACROSS THE ROOM. Frenchie pulls Kimiko aside.

FRENCHIE

You really think this is wise?

KIMIKO

(signs)

*What if Hughie's right? What if  
forgiveness is the best we can do?*

FRENCHIE

Even to Neuman.

KIMIKO

*To Neuman. To ourselves.*

FRENCHIE

Neuman is easy compared to us. How?

KIMIKO

*We try a little every day, I guess.  
I will if you will.*

Frenchie takes that in. A small nod. Kimiko gulps.  
Something very big and very scary to say.

KIMIKO

*Remember when I said you should be  
with Colin?*

FRENCHIE

*Oui.*

(CONTINUED)

KIMIKO

*I lied. I mean, I wanted you to be happy... I just thought you deserved to be with someone...better than me.*

Frenchie. Surprised. Tender.

FRENCHIE

*Mon couer, there is no one better than you.*

Kimiko looks nervous -- then rises to her tiptoes and gives him a kiss! (*HOLY SHIT, IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING!! FRENCHIE AND KIMIKO SHIPPERS, REJOICE!!!*)

Frenchie gazes down at Kimiko, deeply moved, no words. All he can do is lean in for another kiss. Swoon!

37 INT. HAZLET SAFE HOUSE - BUTCHER'S ROOM - DAY

37

PLINK -- a CONNECT 4 piece falls into place. Butcher and Ryan play quietly at a small table with two chairs.

While in the b.g., Mallory's on the phone, expression dour. After a beat, she hangs up. She moves to Butcher, whispers something in his ear.

RYAN

You know I can hear you.  
(proving it)  
"Marvin said there was an attempt on Singer's life, he survived."

BUTCHER

That's just... ain't nothin' you gotta worry about, mate.

Mallory gives Butcher a hard look. Yes, it is.

GRACE MALLORY

They're gonna try again, and that virus is a Hail Mary at best. We're out of time, and out of better options. Ryan needs to know the truth.

BUTCHER

We'll get to it.

RYAN

What truth?

GRACE MALLORY

The assassination attempt -- it was on your father's orders.

RYAN

What...?

(CONTINUED)

GRACE MALLORY  
And Flight 37, Homelander killed  
every soul on board --

BUTCHER  
Grace.

RYAN  
You're lying.

GRACE MALLORY  
We have it on video. He's murdered  
countless more. Your father isn't  
who you think he is.

RYAN  
Just stop --

GRACE MALLORY  
And he wasn't having an affair with  
your mother --

BUTCHER  
Grace!

GRACE MALLORY  
He raped her, Ryan.

Ryan looks to Butcher. *Please, say it isn't so.* But Butcher  
nods -- *it's all true.* Ryan processes that.

BUTCHER  
I'm sorry, son, but that's who  
Homelander truly is. He's evil. A  
monster.

RYAN  
And?  
(off Butcher)  
Your heart's pounding. There's  
something you're not telling me. So  
tell me.

BUTCHER  
And -- you're the only one who can  
stop him.

RYAN  
Stop him? Like -- kill him?

Butcher is overcome with guilt. He's putting Ryan in  
terrible danger and he knows it.

RYAN  
I can't. Don't ask me to.

BUTCHER  
You can. You're strong.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN  
He's stronger.

GRACE MALLORY  
We'll train you. Get you ready.

RYAN  
That's why you want me to go with  
you. So you can teach me how to  
kill my Dad? I -- I have to go.

He steps towards the door. But Mallory, who's been standing  
near it this whole time, subtly shifts to block him.

GRACE MALLORY  
Just stay, we can talk it out  
together.

RYAN  
I don't want to talk right now.  
I'll be back, I need to think.

BUTCHER  
There ain't gonna be a next time for  
me, mate. Let's just take a  
breather.

Ryan steps right up to Mallory, but she doesn't budge.

GRACE MALLORY  
You can't go.

Ryan reacts -- "can't"? Then he looks around the room,  
horrible realization dawning. We don't see the effect, but  
he's using his x-ray vision to look through the walls.

RYAN  
Wait. The walls are six feet thick.

GRACE MALLORY  
This is the CIA's Hazlet safe house,  
designed to hold people like you. I  
could seal us in here -- flood the  
room with halothane and we all take  
a nice, long nap. But I don't want  
to do that, kiddo.

And we see, from an angle outside the room, a PANIC BUTTON on  
the wall beside the door. Within arm's reach of Mallory.

Ryan looks to Butcher, realizing the horrible truth:

RYAN  
You planned this, all along -- you  
brought me here to trap me.

BUTCHER  
We brought you here to help you.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

You're locking me in a cage unless I agree to be your weapon, just like they did to my dad.

Ryan steps towards Mallory in the doorway.

BUTCHER

That ain't how it is.

RYAN

Let me go.

GRACE MALLORY

(raw vulnerability)

Ryan. When I lost my grandkids, it left this big empty black hole inside me, that I never thought I'd fill. But then the greatest miracle came along: you. I love you, kiddo. Please.

With emotion, that struck a chord with Ryan --

RYAN

Aunt Grace, I want to leave.

But she doesn't budge. She inches her hand towards the PANIC BUTTON on the wall outside Butcher's room...

GRACE MALLORY

I'm sorry.

RYAN

Get out of my way.

BUTCHER

Grace, enough. Let him go.

GRACE MALLORY

I'm sorry.

But before she can press the button, Ryan LASHES OUT --

He SHOVES Mallory out of the doorway, she RATCHETS into the wall with a sickening CRACK, then drops to the floor.

BUTCHER

No!

Ryan steps forward, stares down -- he didn't mean to push her that hard... but it's not like with his Mom. He's not as horrified or forlorn. More like... curious.

Mallory's eyes are open. Her neck bent at an odd angle. She's dead. R.I.P. Grace Mallory.

Ryan looks back to Butcher. There's some regret there. But also defiance. Anger. It's chilling. Then he goes.

(CONTINUED)

Leaving Butcher, impotent, as he stumbles over to Mallory's broken body. Kneels beside her. Closes her eyes with his hand as a small goodbye. *This all went so wrong.*

Then he looks up. To see Kessler. Staring down at him, somber. As if to say -- *you know what you have to do.*

Butcher looks back. A long beat. Then, in a WIDE SHOT, with Butcher alone. He leans back. His energy, his will, his humanity, depleted. Takes one last small gasp of air. Then his eyes go glassy. His chest stops. IS HE FUCKING DEAD??

38 INT. VOUGHT FRESH FARMS FACILITY - DAY 38

NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 38 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.

ON HANDS, LOADING the virus DART into the RIFLE. CA-CLACK!

Frenchie looks up from his work, locks eyes with M.M. *This better fucking work.*

When -- the DOOR opens. Hughie enters, nerves frayed, and just behind him: Victoria and ZOE NEUMAN. One of Neuman's trusted SECRET SERVICE AGENTS just behind them.

HUGHIE  
So, uh... hi everybody.

Frenchie lifts the rifle -- not directly pointing it at Neuman, but not NOT pointing it at her...

LOOKS between them all -- Kimiko gives hard eyes to Zoe Neuman. M.M. and Annie have eyes locked on Victoria.

FRENCHIE  
(to Zoe)  
You, uh, you got your braces off,  
since last we --

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
Let's not do that.

MOTHER'S MILK  
How's this gonna work?

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
Simple. You help me get clear of  
Homelander, and Singer's people at  
the CIA... and I go quietly.

MOTHER'S MILK  
And you owe us one.

ANNIE  
A lot more than one.

VICTORIA NEUMAN  
I'll owe you -- many.

(CONTINUED)

HUGHIE

Great. So then -- you're gonna help us take down Vought. And Homelander.

Neuman looks to Hughie. A small nod. Even a small smile. Could they be partners again? But then --

BUTCHER (O.S.)

No deals.

Every eye turns to the back door, where BUTCHER has just walked in. We give him a cool as hell reveal, because he's no longer frail and on death's door, he's strong and vital, healthier than we've seen him all season.

HUGHIE

Butcher...?

Butcher glares murder at Neuman. Something SLITHERS under the skin at Butcher's temple. Hughie sees it.

HUGHIE

Just hold on. It's all good.

BUTCHER

No deals.

Hughie moves close to Butcher. After all, Hughie is his canary, his conscience. His Lenny.

HUGHIE

I know how this looks. But everything we've been through together, I've never once asked you to trust me, but I'm asking now. Like you used to trust your brother. Please, Butcher.

Does invoking Lenny give Butcher pause? Butcher gives Hughie a long look. Then reaches out, puts his hand on Hughie's shoulder. A small, grateful smile from Hughie.

Then Butcher MOVES HUGHIE OUT OF THE WAY. Gives Hughie a dangerous gleam. Hughie doesn't even recognize him anymore.

Then, we get the reveal we've been waiting for all season -- Butcher's shirt RIPS OPEN and we see what his powers REALLY look like --

-- as BLACK, TUMOROUS TENTACLES EMERGE from his chest --

They FLY towards Victoria Neuman, faster than she can react -- they WRAP AROUND HER FACE, blocking her line of sight -- another tentacle around her waist, too -- they BODYSLAM her onto Frenchie's chemistry table, the glass explodes!

Her SECRET SERVICE guy pulls his gun --

(CONTINUED)

Zoe SPRINGS to her mom's defense, her face SPLITTING OPEN --

But one of Butcher's tentacles SWATS the Secret Service guy across the room --

And another SLAMS Zoe into the wall, knocking her out.

Annie and Kimiko are about to move forward, but a TENTACLE hovers in front of them, like a cobra about to strike.

Frenchie RAISES THE RIFLE, pointing it now at BUTCHER --

HUGHIE  
(to Butcher)  
Stop!

It's too late. With a hateful glare, Butcher uses his tentacles to RIP VICTORIA NEUMAN IN HALF, killing her instantly. Buckets of blood and gore shlop onto the floor. R.I.P. Victoria Neuman.

We're ON HUGHIE as he reacts in horror --

The Secret Service Agent struggles back to his feet, but sees that Neuman's already dead. He runs out the door.

Tentacles retracting, Butcher turns back to The Boys, not an ounce of regret on his blood-spattered face. BEAT. He steps up to Frenchie, who still has the virus rifle raised.

BUTCHER  
Give us the virus.

MOTHER'S MILK  
No fucking way.

Frenchie presses the tip of the rifle to Butcher's chest. Kimiko rushes over to give Frenchie back-up.

FRENCHIE  
You took V? Then this will work on you, too...

But then... Butcher simply reaches out and takes the rifle from Frenchie's hands, calling his bluff. Frenchie looks down, ashamed. Kimiko looks ready to pounce.

Annie also tenses to attack. But Hughie shakes his head urgently at both of them. He's seen, more clearly than anyone else, into Butcher's dark heart.

HUGHIE  
No, it's suicide.

BUTCHER  
I wouldn't hang about if I were you.

(CONTINUED)

Rifle in hand, Butcher walks towards the door. Without looking back at them.

BUTCHER

By the way... you're all fucking welcome.

He EXITS. And we go off of our heroes, especially Hughie -- he stares down at Neuman, mourning, eyes wet. Understanding now that the worst is yet to come... We CHANNEL FLIP TO:

**NNC NEWS COVERAGE**

ON A CRACKED TELEVISION SCREEN, NNEKA ELLIOTT at the news desk, reporting BREAKING NEWS:

NNEKA ELLIOTT

-- we're interrupting our regular reporting with a breaking news story, that -- I'm sorry, I'm looking to my producers, is this confirmed?

(then)

They're telling me it has been -- the Vice President-Elect, Victoria Neuman, is dead, assassinated today only hours after revealing to the world that she is Super-abled...

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 38 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

39 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - HOMELANDER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT** 39

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 39 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

We pull back from the screen to find Homelander, twitching with anxiety. His apartment's in pieces. *His whole world is in fucking pieces.*

When... he sees something peeking out from under the couch. He picks up Ryan's distinctive BACKPACK.

He holds it to his chest, heart breaking. He pushed Ryan away right when he needed him most. When -- a VOICE:

SAGE

Where's Ryan? This was all for him after all. Right?

SAGE walks in, back in her CLOTHES from 401, acting like this is just another day. CELL PHONE in one hand, a MYLAR BALLOON on a string in the other that says "**CONGRATS! YOU DID IT!**"

Homelander, incredulous, is 50/50 on lasering her or crying.

HOMELANDER

What are you doing here?

(CONTINUED)

SAGE  
Celebrating. We won. Here.

He doesn't take the balloon. It drifts up, out of frame.

HOMELANDER  
Have you fucking lobotomized  
yourself again? Everything turned  
to shit. The plan is dead --

SAGE  
This is the plan. I mean, a few  
curveballs, sure, but we got here.  
I just had to keep a few bits to  
myself, the bits you'd fuck up by,  
y'know, being you.  
(off his look)  
Neuman would have been a shit patsy,  
stubborn, too many "ideas." So I  
went another way.

She points to the TV. Where a CHRYON shows: "BREAKING: CIA  
Team Involved In Neuman Assassination." And, of course,  
mugshots of THE BOYS. Sage turns the volume up.

NNEKA ELLIOTT (V.O.)  
-- including explosive video of Bob  
Singer himself ordering the  
assassination. Here's that tape:

CUT TO PHONE FOOTAGE of the BUNKER. HOLY SHIT, SHIFTER ANNIE  
RECORDED THIS --

BOB SINGER (ON TAPE)  
If you'd killed Neuman like I  
ordered, we wouldn't be 4 stories  
underground playing pocket pool.  
Idjit.

CUT TO STREET. Bob Singer, hands cuffed behind, being led by  
FOUR FBI AGENTS into an idling SUV. Shouting "she tried to  
kill ME first," but no one really listens. Besides NNC, ONE  
NEWS CAMERAMAN (VNN) is already filming, ANOTHER races up.

NNEKA ELLIOTT (V.O.)  
We go now to live footage -- that's  
President-Elect Robert Singer taken  
into custody by federal agents, in  
an unprecedented --

CLICK. Sage turns off the TV. Holds out her phone.

SAGE  
Oh, uh, it's for you.

HOMELANDER  
Who is this?

(CONTINUED)

SAGE

Speaker of the House Calhoun. Once they invoke the 25th, he's next in line to be President. He'd like to pledge his allegiance to you.

HOMELANDER

To me.

SAGE

Like I promised. We made a deal.

HOMELANDER

I broke the deal.

SAGE

I didn't. I told you to trust me, boo, I got your back.

HOMELANDER

But... I threw you out like... garbage. Why would you do this?

She thinks for a beat. Admits the honest truth:

SAGE

To see if I could.

(beat)

Thank you. This was fun. Just next time, listen to me.

She offers the phone again... and Homelander takes it. She finds her QUEEN MAEVE NOTEBOOK under some debris. Picks it up, dusts it off.

HOMELANDER

Next time?

TRACKING BACK WITH SAGE. She leaves with a small, satisfied smile. Man, this bitch is dangerous.

SAGE

Hellz yeah. Buckle up for Phase 2, babydoll!

We go off a stunned Homelander -- the greatest victory he's ever achieved, and only he and Sage know he had almost nothing to do with it. He puts the phone to his ear.

HOMELANDER

Hello?

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL SCENE 39 DIALOGUE AT END OF SCRIPT.**

40 INT. CONGRESSIONAL DINING ROOM - NIGHT

40

**NOTE: FIRECRACKER DIALOGUE FOR SCENES 40-48 AT END OF SCRIPT.**

(CONTINUED)

Calhoun, alone in the cavernous room save for TWO SECRET SERVICE, spears his fork into a piece of bloody rare STEAK.

CALHOUN

Homelander. I'm honored to be at the service of a great patriot like yourself. Whatever you need, you just say the word, y'hear?

(CONTINUED)

As the needle drops on a kick-ass song and our SEASON-ENDING MONTAGE begins...

**CHANNEL FLIP: "TRUTHBOMB" ON VNN. A SPECIAL REPORT:  
Inauguration Day!**

In a WHITE HOUSE ROOM, Calhoun places his hand on the Bible held by his WIFE. Three lily-white CHILDREN (20's, two MALE, one FEMALE) watch proudly. A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE presents the oath of office in front of multiple AIDES, SENATORS, etc.

FIRECRACKER (V.O.)

Today, President Calhoun was sworn into office, in an intimate ceremony due to security concerns.

CALHOUN

I, Steven Beauregard Calhoun, do solemnly swear...

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

...that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States.

CALHOUN

...that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States.

Then we CUT TO a second clip: Calhoun, mid-speech at a podium in the same room. The camera WIDENS OUT SLIGHTLY to reveal -- standing beside him -- Homelander.

CALHOUN

...that's why, as my first official act, under Article One, Section Nine of the Constitution, I'm declaring martial law and deputizing hundreds of Superheroes nationwide, who will report to Homelander himself to --

HOMELANDER

Thank you, Mr. President.

Homelander takes the podium, takes over, Calhoun quickly steps aside, as if he was Homelander's lackey (he is).

HOMELANDER

Victoria Neuman was a great American and a dear, dear friend. Murdered in cold blood for being a hero, for being Super-abled. A hate crime, plain and simple, perpetrated by treasonous deep state Starlighters embedded in our own government. This will not stand.

41     **EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - DAY** 41

Annie and Hughie, Kimiko and Frenchie, and M.M. gather. M.M. hands out FORGED PASSPORTS to everyone. They lost. They've got to lay low for a bit.

HOMELANDER (V.O.)  
Now that we have full legal authority, a veritable army of Superheroes will be called on to rout these traitors from our government and our streets. We will make America safe, that is my solemn oath to you. And to the Starlighters who would harm this great nation, be warned. Whatever rock you're hiding under, we're coming for you. Because as of today, a new age of heroes begins.

They all share one last, fraught look -- some may shake hands or hug, they don't know when they're going to see each other again -- and then disband, each going their separate ways.

42     **INT. THE TRUTHBOMB W/ FIRECRACKER SET - DAY** 42

Firecracker behind the desk. Make-up spackled over her illness. As if Tucker Carlson reported the moon landing.

FIRECRACKER  
You heard the man. We wake to a new world, where hope, purity and Jesus's love shine down upon us all.

Firecracker's impassioned commentary CONTINUES OVER a SERIES OF SHOTS: Homelander's America --

43     **EXT. BORING BRICK BUILDING - AROUND THE HORN - DAY** 43

We follow a morose Zoe Neuman being led by a tired SOCIAL WORKER into an old brick building...

FIRECRACKER (V.O.)  
Where Children can sleep peacefully in their mother's arms, knowing Starlight's pedo agenda has been thwarted.

PAN to a SIGN: "RED RIVER GROUP HOME." History has repeated itself, and it seems like the rest of Zoe's childhood will be just like her dead mom's...

44     **INT. CAR - AROUND THE HORN - DAY** 44

Hughie and Annie drive down a country road.

(CONTINUED)

FIRECRACKER (V.O.)

Where America finally sees the  
"woke" mob for what it is: monsters  
who want to destroy our heritage,  
traffic our children, and feminize  
our men --

As Hughie drives, Annie focuses on her hands (this is two weeks after Jan. 6th, her hands are no longer bandaged). She breathes deeply and concentrates, trying to summon her powers -- when she's rewarded with a small glow. Annie looks up at Hughie, hopeful --

When suddenly, a FISHING BOAT -- that's right, a FUCKING FISHING BOAT -- suddenly DROPS DOWN from the sky, CRASHING on the road in front of them. (Its hull weirdly scrunched in the middle.) What in the holy fuck? Hughie SLAMS on the brakes, but still hits it, AIRBAGS DEPLOY!

Aftermath. Annie, Hughie, both dazed. When VOUGHT SWAT-LIKE SECURITY, RIP Hughie out of the driver's seat! Annie SPRINGS out of the car, ready to fight --

45 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - AROUND THE HORN - DAY

45

When she sees CINDY (*that's right, telekinetic Cindy from Sage Grove, S2!*) That's who dropped the boat. She idly toys with a small scrap of metal from the boat, that HOVERS above her palm. Then she clenches her fist, then waves it to the side, as if tossing something away. The FLOATING METAL CRUMPLES into a ball, flings off into the grass.

Annie locks eyes with Cindy. Annie's in no condition to fight... and they both know it.

So when Cindy smiles and slowly raises her hand, Annie shoots Hughie an agonized look -- she has no choice -- then concentrates harder than she's ever had to in her life:

The electricity in Hughie's car goes haywire -- the radio blasts, the dials swing wildly -- and Annie's eyes GLOW... right before she FLIES up into the air, faster than a bullet! She escapes... yet leaves Hughie behind... off Cindy --

46 INT. JFK AIRPORT - BATHROOM - AROUND THE HORN

46

Mother's Milk, incognito, washes his hands.

FIRECRACKER (V.O.)

Where the mighty vengeance of  
Homelander will rain down upon these  
filthy degenerates like the  
righteous fist of the Lord.

But M.M. doesn't see an enormous, prehensile PENIS rise up like a cobra behind his back (*reader, you know that penis!*) *It taps his shoulder!* MM turns -- sucker punch! The penis delivers a BRUTAL HAYMAKER.

(CONTINUED)

M.M goes down. We REVEAL: LOVE SAUSAGE, M.M.'s arch nemesis!

Love Sausage grins down, as a TEAM of VOUGHT SECURITY THROW their knees into a struggling M.M., CUFFING him --

47 **EXT. HARBOR - AROUND THE HORN - DAY** 47

Frenchie and Kimiko, toting rucksacks, sneak through rows of cargo containers towards a freighter.

FIRECRACKER (V.O.)  
And where, with Homelander's  
guidance, we will all come together  
in unity.

When WHAM -- Kimiko's THROWN six feet into the side of a cargo container!

Stunned, Kimiko looks up and sees SAM from Gen V blocking her path! But Kimiko looks past Sam, her eyes wide with fear.

At CATE patting Frenchie on the cheek with her ungloved hand!

CATE  
Get in the van.

Frenchie promptly follows Cate to an armored Vought Security van, compelled by her powers.

Alarmed, Kimiko tries to leap past Sam to get to Frenchie -- but he ROUGHLY GRABS HER, pins her arms behind her back! She fights back, but he's far too strong.

Kimiko can only watch, helpless, as Frenchie gets into the van. Pinned down by Sam, Kimiko opens her mouth and forces out a raw, anguished cry --

KIMIKO  
N -- Nooooo!!!

It's Kimiko's first word in four seasons as she's separated from the love of her life (*it's heartbreaking and all the Frenchie/Kimiko shippers should be howling for the writer's blood! Specifically David's, it was his idea!*)

OFF Kimiko screaming...

48 **INT./EXT. CAR - AROUND THE HORN - NIGHT** 48

We find Butcher, driving down a dark road. Tumors RIPPLE beneath his skin, as he lifts -- the VIRUS DART from the cup holder. Observes how the oily black fluid catches the moonlight. Puts it back. Then checks the rear-view.

FIRECRACKER (V.O.)  
We will make America strong again.  
Proud again. And most of all, we  
will make America Super again. God  
bless you, and God bless America.

(CONTINUED)

...where Butcher sees KESSLER'S REFLECTION staring back at him with a genocidal grin.

And as the song ends, Butcher's CAR drives off into the black night... and we DIP TO BLACK.

**NOTE: FIRECRACKER DIALOGUE FOR SCENES 40-48 AT END OF SCRIPT.**

49 **OMITTED** 49

50 **INT. GOVERNMENT FACILITY - NIGHT** 50

RED BOOTS march down a poured concrete corridor. Homelander and President Calhoun are escorted by several CIA AGENTS into a dimly-lit room. With an edge of irritation:

HOMELANDER  
How long have you known?

CALHOUN  
(placating hard)  
Only since this morning's Classified Briefing, you were my first call, hand to God.

They stop. See something off-camera. Homelander reacts.

HOMELANDER  
You've gotta be fucking kidding.  
This whole time?

CALHOUN  
What do you want to do?

Homelander considers. *Good fucking question.*

And we REVEAL -- they're in the room with CRYO-FROZEN SOLDIER BOY. As we PUSH IN on his masked, unconscious face, we...

**BLACKOUT.**

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

**NOTE: ADDITIONAL POCKET DIALOGUE ON FOLLOWING PAGES**