



Seri es Two

Epi sode Si x

By

Davi d Wol stencroft

EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 0. 1540

FADE IN:

INT. EMBASSY. SECURITY DESK - NIGHT 1. 2000

A guard watches TV behind a desk. From the TV we hear-

GEORGE W. BUSH V.O.

The United States has long maintained the option of preemptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to our national security. The greater the threat, the greater is the risk of inaction.

TV PRESENTER V.O.

The President was speaking in Rio earlier today... We float past the desk, away from the sound of the TV, across the entrance hall, through a pair of open double doors and into the murmur and polite laughter of -

INT. EMBASSY. THE RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT 1. 2001

Where a glitzy black tie 'do' is in progress. TOM's here, flirting with a very chic CHRISTINE as his 'guest'. HARRY's here too, chatting with other guests. ZOE and DANNY are another 'couple'. We finally reach a notice that reads: "ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WELCOMES TRADE DELEGATES".

TOM

Do you think anyone here's a trade delegate... Diane?

CHRISTINE

Are you kidding... Steve?

A fizzy atmosphere exists between these two. Both are enjoying the event and each other's company.

An Italian host arrives - clearly touring the women in the room. He kisses CHRISTINE's hand. They talk for a moment in Italian. TOM smiles at the host, who flashes a brief, disinterested "hi" and is gone. TOM muses on this snub.

TOM

I'm just not pretty enough.

CHRISTINE

I could have told you that.

Suddenly the mood of the room changes. The atmosphere is unsettled. CHRISTINE checks her pager.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)
Back in a minute.

One by one, everyone begins discreetly checking their pagers. With every glance, the smiles are maintained - but excuses are whispered, hands shaken in regret.

TOM checks his own pager and looks for CHRISTINE - but she's already disappeared. ZOE and DANNY arrive-

DANNY
What's going on?

TOM
President Bush.

ZOE
I thought he was in Rio.

TOM
He was. And now he's coming here. Tomorrow morning.

DANNY
Fishing trip?

TOM
High level quickie with the PM. Something major's gone down on the OPEC negotiations and they need to bash heads.

DANNY
There's gonna be a rush on taxis.

TOM
Don't worry. Harry's outside.

EXT. THE EMBASSY - NIGHT 1. 2010

As HARRY literally bulldozes his way to the front of the taxi queue. A FRENCH DELEGATE joins him in his rudeness.

FRENCH DELEGATE
You know why Bush is coming, of course. The real reason.

HARRY
François, what can I say. It's a very special relationship.

FRENCH DELEGATE

The meeting with your PM's a feint. He's here to meet the Libyans.

HARRY
I can't believe that.

FRENCH DELEGATE
You don't have to believe it. Look at this evening's diplomatic crates from Washington.
(knowingly)
We have.

HARRY
"All diplomatic materials are to remain property of the representative government at all times."
U.N. Resolution 3501.

FRENCH DELEGATE
"More than half of modern culture depends on what one shouldn't read." Oscar Wilde.

HARRY
We do not conduct espionage against our closest ally.

FRENCH DELEGATE
They pay us to watch you, as if you didn't know. Come on Harry, we're all Europeans now. Whose side are you on anyway?

HARRY
Ours.

The DELEGATE gets into a cab. HARRY opens another taxi door, as ZOE, DANNY and TOM step inside. As TOM steps up - he sees CHRISTINE getting in to the cab next door.

TOM
You said a minute.

CHRISTINE
Don't believe everything you hear.

EXT. RIO DE JANEIRO. MILITARY RUNWAY(STOCK FOOTAGE). DAY 1

Airforce One roars into the sky. It's daytime there.

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
Tower this is Air Force One we are wheels up and clear.

GEORGE W. BUSH V.O.

The reasons for our actions will be clear, the
force measured, the cause just.

TITLES

EXT. THAMES HOUSE - NIGHT 1. 2100

ESTABLISHER: Lights blaze tonight.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 1. 2100

There's a large screen on a wall that has "PRESIDENTIAL VISIT"
as a title. Underneath it, a schedule - there are "PHASES",
one through six, listed in large letters.

For reference, they are: Phase I: Prep; Phase II: Embassy;
Phase III: Horseguards; Phase IV: Buckingham Palace; Phase V:
Chequers; Phase VI: Wheels Up

CAPTION: "PHASE I: PREP"

Our central team are all still in their cocktail outfits - in
varying states of informality. TOM's mobile rings. He looks at
the number and rejects it.

MIRANDA (Thames House's psychologist, 40s) sits with HARRY in
his office.

ZOE (re: Harry/Miranda)
What would Harry want with the Thames house
counsellor?

DANNY
Shouting practice?

TOM approaches ZOE and DANNY:

TOM
The advance teams land two and a half hours ahead
of Air Force One correct?

ZOE
Two C-5 Galaxy cargo planes into Brize Norton.

DANNY
That's a lot of cargo.

ZOE
Yeah, well. He's got a lot of stuff, hasn't he.
You get a lot of stuff when you're President.

TOM
What are they bringing?

TOM glimpses MIRANDA as she leaves HARRY'S office and leaves the Grid. ZOE sees her too - a flicker of dread.

ZOE (consults schedule)

Bulletproof limousine, stand-by limos, decoy limos, private ambulance, sundry Secret Service vehicles, Marine One plus one other helicopter, and something called a blue goose.

TOM

Presidential podium. So presumably he's planning to transfer to the Embassy by Marine One after touching down at Brize Norton. Any clue on who's meeting him?

ZOE

Nope. But I do know what happens later. Coffee with the US Ambassador, spot of sightseeing, goodwill lunch with the Queen, then to Chequers for talks, before he's back on the runway. Elapsed time, fifteen hours.

DANNY

Bit bloody last minute.

ZOE

Maybe he booked it on the internet.

TOM smiles, heads back to his desk - looking up to see CHRISTINE DALE and a bunch of suits (US Embassy Staffers) approaching through the pods. TOM'S mobile rings again. He checks and rejects again - noticed by DANNY.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - NIGHT 1. 2156

RUTH makes a call - HARRY picks up. Whispered convo:

RUTH

They're sending it here.

HARRY

What?

RUTH

You said tell Customs to open a crate. So I did. And now they've told me they've had a look and there's a problem and they're sending it here.

HARRY

A Libyan problem-?

RUTH

No, another kind of problem-

TOM walks in -

TOM

Ready for you.

HARRY hangs up. A look between RUTH and HARRY.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM. NIGHT 1 - 2200

A huge deal. CHRISTINE is here in power mode, flanked by senior US Embassy Staffers, all men with huge necks and sleek black laptops. Our team have A4 pads and pencils.

We get the feeling that CHRISTINE is making a point by her powerness, delineating her "office" self from the more good-humoured person we met in the Embassy. TOM, DANNY, ZOE, HARRY, RUTH, MALCOLM - all here too. US Embassy Staffers start handing out glossy folders. It's like a conference. The biggest, scariest, child-eating staffer is called TROY.

CHRISTINE

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States arrives in this country in approximately seven hours, and he'll be here until 2000hrs tomorrow. We've outlined our security needs on a minute by minute basis in the folder resources in front of you.

TOM catches HARRY's eye - whose meeting is this again?

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

Clearly FLOTUS and VPOTUS will not be present on this visit.

DANNY looks to ZOE - what? She starts writing subtly. TOM's mobile goes off - loudly - he ends the call. He can't turn the phone off as it's too important.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

POTUS himself requested the diversionary trip at 1800 GMT yesterday. First you heard of it was probably first we heard of it. So let's make this as pleasurable as possible.

A look at TOM. ZOE pushes a note across to DANNY, subtly. The note says: "FLOTUS=FIRST LADY U.S.A."

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

A command post has been established at Grosvenor Square with full communications facilities. The

POTUS advance team will, in conjunction with members of the White House Protective Research Section, survey each site to be visited by the President. From these surveys, the members of the team will determine manpower, equipment, medical and evacuation requirements for all eventualities.

TOM's mobile again - a text message. He silences it.

TOM

We'd actually prefer to do that-

CHRISTINE

Your assistance in all these matters is of course a vital part of our entire security operation and we thank you for coming this evening.

A look between TOM and HARRY. "Thank you for coming?"

TROY (fucking serious)

Bagpipe and the PRS will of course initiate a full complement of POTUS SAls on CP from the Blacktop Unit at Grosvenor by the time we get a wheels down from Cowpuncher at the Basecamp LZ.

TOM

...In English please.

CHRISTINE

A full U.S. Secret Service team will be there to meet the President at Brize Norton once the President touches down. We'd appreciate close protection teams from MI5 for perimeter security for the duration of the visit.

TOM's mobile buzzes across the table. He shoves it in his pocket.

TOM

But not close to the President.

CHRISTINE

Well, no.

TOM

Why not?

CHRISTINE

Because that's our job.

TOM

It's also our job.

CHRISTINE
Not in this case.

TOM
MI5 oversees the protection of the PM. The Queen.
Visiting dignitaries.

CHRISTINE
Not this one.

MALCOLM
Diplomatic protocol states quite clearly that the
host Government provides 95 per cent of the
protection on Presidential visits-

CHRISTINE
Not this President. Not this visit. Vaclev Havel
let us do it our way in Prague and we're doing it
our way now. That means a complete adherence to
U.S. Secret Service close protection protocol.
Every rumour is to be treated as fact until
neutralised. Every target is a potential assassin
until dealt with. We'd like paranoia to be the
norm here until our Commander in Chief is safely
back in the skies. I'm sure you can understand
that in the current climate. After he's gone, any
residual distrust of others will of course be your
own problem.

HARRY
How kind of you to point that out.

Outside, a small crate can be seen being delivered into the
middle of the grid. It's in full view of a lot of people
including, were she to turn a teensy bit to her right,
CHRISTINE DALE.

This is not a good thing, because as HARRY eyes the crate
subtly, he sees what we can see - on the side of the crate,
some words and the US Diplomatic Seal.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 1. 2202

SAM is talking to the man with the crate. His name is TREVOR.

TREVOR
Customs Liaison at Heathrow said to bring it up
here.

SAM
I don't know anything about it.

TREVOR

They're diplomatic crates, right? They come through every day from Washington to the US Embassy. So why we were told to open this one, God only knows.

SAM sees the side of the crate. Then sees CHRISTINE inside the meeting room. And gets it. A silent "oh fuck".

She positions herself in front of the crate just as CHRISTINE turns round in her chair briefly. She's not focused on what's happening outside so it's a near miss -

SAM

This is going bye bye right now. Follow me.

TREVOR lifts the crate as SAM shadows it from the meeting room window. ZOE and DANNY exit the meeting room. DANNY heads towards SAM.

DANNY

Sam, Tom wants us to start police briefings as soon as - wait wait.

(sees crate)

Whoa. Isn't that-?

SAM

Yep. So shut up and help.

DANNY

No problem.

SAM

Sorry about the shut up.

DANNY

No problem.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 1. 2215

A large projection of faces - men and women - flit by. Surveillance shots, mug shots, passport shots ...

CHRISTINE

Every Presidential visit, domestic or foreign, has since the Kennedy assassination involved the assembly of what we call the Trip File. In this file is every contact, every threat, every possible target and concern to the safety of the President in every geographical area he will be passing through. The last official POTUS visit to the UK was nearly two years ago. We've done our best to keep up to speed on all of these individuals, but obviously we're going to need

access to all of your files to confirm our information is up to date and watertight.

TOM

Well, why don't you give us your information and we'll cross reference it.

CHRISTINE

We'll do it ourselves if that's okay.

TOM

So you want unsupervised access to the Registry Files.

CHRISTINE

Yes.

A look between TOM and HARRY-

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

Or perhaps you'd prefer the President to get a bullet in the brain on your watch -

TOM fumes silently at this. Trouble brewing, folks.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID. ZOE'S DESK - NIGHT 1. 2228

MIRANDA talks to ZOE. MIRANDA has an ingratiating manner that is both very affected and incredibly annoying. Her attempts to be reasonable only exacerbate this.

MIRANDA

I understand how you feel, Zoe, I really do, but these interviews are designed for you. They're for you to blow off steam, to contribute -

ZOE

"-constructive criticism of our workflow and office environment." Yes, I read the memo. But we're a little busy right now? Some American bloke's arriving in the country? Apparently lots of people want to kill him?

MIRANDA

Having the sessions under the stress of live operations facilitates greater honesty. And don't worry about time, Zoe, I'm here for you - day or night.

ZOE

Miranda-

MIRANDA

You or Danny, in the reading room. Please. Soon as you can. Be nice to catch up.

DANNY arrives, passes the departing MIRANDA. ZOE sees his face (he's just seen the crate).

ZOE
What's wrong?

DANNY
Tell you later.
(re: Miranda)
It's really happening then?

ZOE nods. Not good news.

DANNY (cont'd)
She knows we all hide from her the rest of the year, right?

ZOE
Right.

DANNY
So why does she do it?

ZOE
Personnel send her out every year in her own little Psychological sniper unit to pick us off one by one. It's guerilla warfare. I don't even go to the fifth floor any more in case someone thinks I'm going to see her.

DANNY
Like anyone's going to voluntarily knock on the door of the MI5 Staff Psychologist and say "I can't hack it."

ZOE retrieves a coin from her pocket.

ZOE
Barry Mitchell did.

DANNY
Who's Barry Mitchell?

ZOE
Exactly.
(beat)
Okay, here we go - call -

She's about to toss the coin when-

DANNY

Wait.

He grabs the coin. Examines both sides. Hands it back.

ZOE

Very trusting. Okay, I'll have heads.

DANNY

I wanted heads-

ZOE

So I'll be tails.

DANNY

Go. Go.

ZOE tosses the coin. Shows DANNY. ZOE smiles. DANNY thumps the desk. He's lost.

DANNY (cont'd)

I knew it.

INT. THE GRID. OUTSIDE MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 1. 2300

TOM opens the door and the Americans (less CHRISTINE) file out, making for the Pods. All very severe. Our team pass out too - it's been a hot and heavy meeting.

HARRY shoots TOM a glance - my office? TOM nods. CHRISTINE passes out in front of TOM. A look to her loitering staffers-

CHRISTINE

I'll see you downstairs in a minute.

TOM turns his mobile back on. It rings immediately. CHRISTINE eyes him as he turns it off again. He tries to clear the air-

TOM

One of your minutes? He'll be there all night.

CHRISTINE (thinks)

Very funny Tom.

TOM

That's me. And tactful, too, you'll find.

The implication here is that she is not.

CHRISTINE

Our two countries have a long tradition of working together and I see no reason why we can't be

standard bearers for that in the next twenty four hours.

TOM

I read the CIA world factbook, Christine. Britain's entry. Written by you. "Slightly smaller than Oregon." I think that was it. That's what we are to you. Slightly smaller than Oregon.

A beat.

TOM (cont'd)

Don't think you can just order us around, okay?
Don't believe that for a second.

CHRISTINE stunned-

CHRISTINE

He's our President.

TOM

It's our country.

TOM makes for HARRY's office as CHRISTINE goes to the Pods. RUTH observes from her corner. Quietly to herself as she stacks some papers-

RUTH

I spy a crush.

The papers slide off the pile - she swears silently.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 1. 2330

DANNY sits in front of MIRANDA. She has a clipboard.

MIRANDA

Just be as open and candid as you like.

Silence. DANNY nods.

MIRANDA (cont'd)

Anything at all. Anything or anyone you feel needs scrutiny. Just let rip. This is your time.

DANNY (thinks)

It's all good, actually.

MIRANDA

Good?

DANNY

Yep. Everything's great. Fantastic.

MIRANDA

Perhaps if I asked you a few specific questions-
(Danny shrugs-okay)
What do you think of the Service's public access
line for example?

DANNY

What's that?

MIRANDA

The freephone number assigned so members of the
public can call in with tipoffs about terrorist
threats.

DANNY

Oh, that. We call it the weirdo line.

MIRANDA's eyebrow raises slightly.

MIRANDA

I see.

And she marks something down on her form. And then something
else. A paragraph is forming, she keeps writing, writing,
writing and DANNY's wondering what the bloody hell she's got
to say... DANNY sweats, strains to have a look -

DANNY

What I mean is-

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 1. 0000

TOM subtly dials a number on the phone, a little wary. It
starts to ring just as HARRY catches his eye - beckoning.
TOM hangs up. Approaches -

TOM

You're not going to give her access to the
Registry? Ministerial vetting files?

HARRY

It's a show of trust on our side. But I'm moving
the juicy stuff out of there until this is all
over. Remember Tom, this visit has become a
symbol. The PM's keen as mustard that we look like
equal partners with the Americans.

TOM

So Christine gets the files, we get some highly
visible close protection duty. No symbolic
victories for either side.

HARRY (nods, looks at watch)
We have a small window of time while the CIA finalise their prep. As we're all going to be in the office for the duration I'm tasking someone to collect changes of clothes - black tie seems a little too formal...

TOM thinks for a second. Moving to the door-

TOM
I'll go myself, if that's okay.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 1. 0030

MIRANDA and DANNY (now sweating a lot). MIRANDA smiles.

MIRANDA
What about Zoe? Do you have any comments about working with her?

DANNY looks at her - what is this meant to achieve?

DANNY
How d'you mean?

MIRANDA
It can mean what you like it to mean.

As DANNY struggles with his morals we cut to:

EXT. THAMES HOUSE - NIGHT 1. 0030

UNKNOWN POV: TOM on the pavement - hailing a cab - the unknown POV hinting that he's being watched. But by whom...?

INT. THAMES HOUSE. FORGERY SUITE - NIGHT 1. 0033

SAM sits next to the crate. She's looking at it as if it contains smallpox. Pulling back we find MALCOLM with another MI5 officer, also staring at it. And a fourth person, TREVOR.

Silence - the kind of heavy silence just after someone's said something truly awful.

SAM
Say that again.

TREVOR
We opened it up.

SAM
Got that.

TREVOR

And started looking through it.

SAM

Still with you.

TREVOR

And we'd just got started, when-

SAM

Someone spilled their tea into it.

That silence again.

TREVOR

That ... is correct.

SAM

Yeah. That was the bit I had some problems with.

They all look to the crate... and the look on SAM's face says it all. This is not funny. This is fucking serious.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT 1. 0045

TOM dials a number as the black cab takes him through the streets of London. Shuts off the driver mic.

VICKY (ON PHONE)

Ah ha. Finally-

TOM

Vicky. What the hell's going on?

EXT. HOSPITAL. AMBULANCE BAY - NIGHT 1. 0045

VICKY is on her mobile. Junior doctors come and go behind her.

VICKY

I've been calling you.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION:

TOM

About fifty times.

VICKY

Maybe if you called me back once or twice I might not have to ring you so much.

TOM

This has to stop.

VICKY

You've already made that very clear.

TOM

The calling, Vicky. It has to stop right now.

VICKY

So clinical, Tom. You'd make a good surgeon, y'know.

TOM

Vicky, I'm warning you-

VICKY

Stop trying to sound angry, Tom. You're not angry. You're guilty. You're ashamed at how you've treated me, and who - sorry, machine man, that should be WHAT - WHAT you've become. Tom the Terminator. Tom the See Through Spook.

TOM

Don't call me again, okay? Just don't.
(she's silent)
Vicky?

A chuckle.

VICKY

I can't wait to see your face when you find out.

TOM - chilled to the very core -

TOM

Find out what?

Vicky hangs up.

TOM (cont'd)

Find OUT WHAT?!

INT. THAMES HOUSE. FORGERY SUITE - NIGHT 1. 0047

TREVOR opens up the crate. Everyone's nervous, like it's the Holy Grail being opened up - they are looking at Forbidden Material and they're going to suffer. TREVOR pulls out an important-looking file.

It's soaked in tea. Removing the papers from the file, we find the tea has permeated throughout the crate.

SAM

How much bloody tea did you spill in here?

TREVOR

It was an Arsenal Centenary mug.
(Sam stares)
So, you know. Quite a lot.

SAM

It wasn't you, was it?

TREVOR

No, I drink coffee.
(looking)
I think it was Earl Grey-

SAM

I don't care what bloody KIND it was-

That silence again. MALCOLM examines the document.

MALCOLM

They can bleach that out. It's either that or replicate the contents of the entire crate.

SAM

Before the Americans notice it's missing.

TREVOR

We've kept a few other crates back so we can say there's been a batch delayed...

SAM

Fine. Just keep tea away from all of them. AND coffee AND sodding Ribena while you're at it. How long have we got til the Americans realise?

MALCOLM

All depends. With the President coming we might be able to get away with eighteen hours. Maybe less.
(a look from Sam)
Maybe more.

TREVOR nods apologetically and leaves. SAM, MALCOLM, all turn back to the crate. Slowly, they look - INSIDE THE CRATE - to find about fifty U.S. Government files and folders, all with U.S. Seals, official-looking paraphernalia. All covered, in varying quantities, with strongly-brewed tea.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Clean and meadow fresh by morning. You have my word.

MALCOLM smiles. But SAM is worried.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 1. 0100

ZOE greets DANNY as he returns to his desk.

ZOE
So how was it?

DANNY
How was what?

ZOE
Your session with Inspector Freud.

She means MIRANDA.

DANNY
Oh, fine.

Zoe's waiting for further details. They're not coming.

ZOE
That's it?

DANNY
You want more?

ZOE
Well, I don't know, was it good, bad, indifferent?
Friendly? Antagonistic? Deeply annoying? Or just
traditionally irritating?

DANNY
Just ... fine.

ZOE eyes him warily.

DANNY (cont'd)
Do you want me to write it all down for you? In
detail?

ZOE
No, no -

DANNY
Cos, you know, I will. If you want.

ZOE
No, no. Really. It's fine.

DANNY
Exactly.

CLOSE ON: STATUS SCREEN

We see the callsign "AF1", a dot on a map of the world, making good progress across the Atlantic.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 1. 0101

A strange MAN can be seen lurking in the bushes, dialling a number on his mobile.

TOM gets out of the cab, tells it to wait. Walks through the shadows towards his front door. Instantly alert, he takes out his keys. Senses something's wrong. About to unlock his door when-

The strange MAN steps out of the darkness about ten feet behind him. Just off the street. TOM senses him, turns. The MAN is seedy-looking. 50s, in a suit that's just a bit too grubby.

SEEDY MAN
Finally.

TOM eyes him silently. Emergency mode equals calm-

TOM
I'm sorry, I don't know you.

SEEDY MAN (duh)
Obviously. But look, time is money and all that.
Are you working or what, Tom?

TOM ("Tom"??)
I'm dialling 999 -

SEEDY MAN
Tom Quinn. It's definitely you, so don't try and deny it.

He holds up a flyer. It's instantly recognisable as one of those sex ads. Like a phonebox card, but bigger. TOM isn't going to take it. But his eyes are drawn to it.

In particular, to the picture -

With a trembling hand, he holds it up to the light. And horror on his face -

INSERT: THE FLYER

It's a picture of TOM. In big letters, "TOM QUINN - On Her Majesty's Sexy Service. A bona fide SPOOK offering all the usual undercover services..."

Below the picture, and much, much more scary:

TOM's address. TOM's phone numbers.

BACK TO SCENE

As TOM takes this in. SEEDY MAN steps forward.

SEEDY MAN (cont'd)
So? Are you working?

TOM grabs the MAN by the lapel and pushes him roughly into the bushes -

SEEDY MAN (cont'd)
Now we're getting somewhere-

But his comment is stopped by TOM's forearm constricting his windpipe. Pain. TOM is murderously quiet-

TOM
Where did you find this?

He releases the MAN's neck enough for a breath-

SEEDY MAN
You're hurting me-

TOM
Where-did-you-find-this?

SEEDY MAN
Usual place-
(pain)
In a bloody phonebox, mate! Where'd you think?

TOM
A phonebox...?

SEEDY MAN
Outside The Fire Island Club. But there's a bunch
in the loos too. Saturation advertising if you ask
me. You're wallpapered around that place.

TOM
Get away from me - go!

The SEEDY MAN runs - confused, angry. TOM's reeling now. Can't bear to look at that flyer again. But he must. Grabs his keys, hands shaking - fuck fuck fuck fuck -

His mobile rings again. He snatches at the phone.

TOM (cont'd)

What?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Hello gorgeous -

TOM hangs up. It rings again. TOM escapes into his house-

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 1. 0105

Where his home phone is ringing off the hook. He answers, hangs up, all in one movement. Leaves it off the hook. Certainty in his eyes. He knows. He dials a number on his mobile. We hear him get VICKY'S answerphone.

He hangs up. His mobile rings again as he climbs the stairs-

TOM
What?

ZOE
Tom? Where are you?

TOM
Zoe-sorry-I'll be back in two seconds. And listen
I need you to do something for me-

EXT. THAMES HOUSE - NIGHT 1. 0120

Night-time. London sleeps. But not here.

INSERT: SCREEN

Air Force One edging ever closer... we hear Comms chatters:

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
Tower this is Air Force One, we're still on
schedule for Brize Norton.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 1. 0140

CLOSE ON TOM as he enters through the Pods. He's in a suit and tie - smart. Everyone's smart, changed. ZOE hands him a new cell, new pager-he's a little distracted.

ZOE
All numbers changed including your home phone.
We've got a guy outside the house too.
(Tom nods in thanks)
What's going on?

TOM
Routine security checkup.

ZOE

At one in the morning?

CHRISTINE approaches-

CHRISTINE

No-one's letting us near the files, Tom-

TOM

You get open access to the Registry, we get a small close protection presence. Six officers working alongside U.S. Secret Service personnel.

CHRISTINE

Four at most.

TOM

Five.

CHRISTINE

Fine. But they'd better wear Secret Service issue lapel pins or there's a good chance they're going to get shot.

A Staffer approaches CHRISTINE, whispers in her ear - she walks off in the direction of the meeting room.

TOM walks over to his locker - under scrutiny. Shoots a glance to SAM. She moves over, trying to be casual -

TOM

You got my page?

SAM (nods)

I'll try my best.

ZOE arrives-

ZOE

Meeting room.

TOM catches HARRY staring - what's going on? TOM hurries towards the Meeting Room...

INT. COMPUTER GEEKS' ROOMS - NIGHT 1. 0145

Shots of computer geeks e-mailing each other.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 1. 0149

CHRISTINE and TROY sit sternly. TOM, HARRY, ZOE, DANNY, RUTH are also here.

HARRY

Someone in Herefordshire has intercepted the Air Force One callsign from Brize Norton.

CHRISTINE

How?

TOM

These blokes are hobbyists, they spend their lives searching known military frequencies. They got lucky.

CHRISTINE

So some guy with a parka and a HAM radio knows that Cowpuncher's in the air, so what?

RUTH

Well what it does is create a ripple effect. Little spoddy man talks to his little spoddy friends who post things on the world wide web. Where everyone can see it. GCHQ's done a scan of UK messageboards. And they've found seven verbal threats to the safety of the President in the last thirty minutes alone.

CHRISTINE

What are they threatening?

RUTH

They're mostly general, wishing harm and so on. But a few are detailed conversations. And the problematic thing is that they all presuppose the President's schedule rather too well.

CHRISTINE

You're saying there's a leak?

TOM

No but they'll all know he's landing at Brize Norton - which means there's a flying visit on the cards - which will mean he's getting to London somehow - and presume it'll be a transfer to your Embassy in Marine One.

ZOE

All seems pretty innocent to me-

HARRY (smoothing)

But we OF COURSE wanted to bring them to your attention as soon as possible.

ZOE shoots TOM a guilty look. CHRISTINE looks to TROY who is deep in serious thought.

TROY (conferring)
We should change the LZ.

NB obviously this is pronounced "el zee".

RUTH (overhearing)
The what?

TROY
The Landing Zone.

CHRISTINE
We don't need to change the LZ, Troy, we need to change the route.

TROY (nodding)
Maybe bounce Nighthawk to Bamboo, groundside.

RUTH
What's the Landing Zone?

TOM
The helipad at the US Embassy.

RUTH
Well why doesn't he just SAY THAT?

The phone rings. DANNY picks up - it's for RUTH. She answers it curtly, listens -

HARRY (deflecting tension)
More coffee anyone?

- but RUTH's going red. Something's up?

RUTH (from phone)
Tea...?

HARRY
Or tea? Where's Sam?

TOM's face betrays his nerves as RUTH hangs up-

TOM
No idea...

RUTH
It's alright, I'll get her-

RUTH pushes back her chair -

CHRISTINE

We're going to have to think about this for a minute.

TOM

Christine, the Landing Zone's totally secure, we've moved a lot of units up there-

CHRISTINE

In private, if you don't mind. The President lands in three hours. In the meantime I need full background checks on motorcade police teams, Palace workers -including butlers- and the serving staff at Chequers.

ZOE

They're already done.

CHRISTINE

Again, please. We all need to be at the Palace by three for the walkthrough.

TOM looks at his watch.

EXT. SOHO/PHONEBOX - NIGHT 1. 0157

SAM walks through the street crowds. Finds a phone box. Enters. A little shocked when she sees TOM's flyer.

INT. SOHO CLUB. GENTS - NIGHT 1. 0200

SAM reaches over a man at the urinals to grab TOM's flyer, that's stuck to the wall.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 1. 0200

ZOE sits with MIRANDA.

MIRANDA

..as open and candid as you like. Don't hold back. We've had useful criticisms already.

ZOE

Really?

MIRANDA

Absolutely. And not just about procedure. You can blow off about your colleagues if you like.

ZOE

Colleagues?

MIRANDA

Danny, for example. I mean he was ...
exceptionally candid about you. For example.

It's clear what the implication is here. And it's not very
nice at all. Off ZOE's reaction -

INT. THAMES HOUSE. FORGERY SUITE - NIGHT 1. 0201

RUTH arrives to see MALCOLM scanning every single document
into a large computer. RUTH's face falls as she realises the
magnitude of what's happened - examining the stains...

RUTH
Tea..?

MALCOLM
Tea.

Ruth watches him for a moment.

RUTH
Bad?

MALCOLM
Bad.

INSERT: SCREEN

The dot marked "AF1" moving slowly over the Bay of Biscay.

EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - NIGHT 1. 0300

Establisher shot of the Palace.

TOM V.O.
Christine. Since news of this visit leaked we have
received...

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE. CORRIDORS - NIGHT 1. 0300

TOM and CHRISTINE walk through the double doors, into the
corridor. They talk as they walk past various rooms. CHRISTINE
is sipping a take-out coffee.

TOM
Two threats to the water supply of Central London
and one to the Buckinghamshire reservoir that
supplies Chequers; five warnings of civil
disobedience along the motorcade routes;
unofficial calls to protest from two Palestinian
groups, three anti-death penalty campaigners, and

four anti-globalisation bodies.
(soldiering on)
Christine, that to me is a little more clear and
present than some HAM RADIO OPERATORS.

CHRISTINE
It's not the operators I'm worried about, it's the
people having conversations about my President's
immediate travel plans.

TOM
You think someone is going to read up on all this
and take a potshot at every Sikorsky Sea King that
flies over Cricklewood?

CHRISTINE
Right now, a lunatic with flight plan details is a
much greater threat to my Commander in Chief than
a protest in Hyde Park. And someone with a
microlight, a glider, a bottle rocket, they could
get that thing right into the path of MX1 and
create a whole lot of hell over North West
London...

They walk into the Reception room.

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE. RECEPTION ROOM - NIGHT 1. 0300

Chairs are being set out, carpets unrolled. Two larger chairs,
with a small table between them, sit like a throne dais at the
far end of the room.

TOM and CHRISTINE walk through as various U.S. Secret Service
and MI5 personnel (DANNY and ZOE included) come to and fro
with ad lib requests and others. Palace workers and MI5 staff
eye CHRISTINE's coffee rather warily - this is a bit of a
liberty!

CHRISTINE (beckoning Troy)
Do you want this? I can't finish it.

TROY takes the coffee - unsure what to do. Leaves.

TOM has stopped and is just watching her now. On closer
inspection we see now the fear behind the front - softly,
privately:

TOM
Why are you being like this?

CHRISTINE makes an attempt to shrug this off-

TOM (cont'd)

You've been going for the jugular ever since this thing kicked off.

CHRISTINE (relenting-softly)

Tom. It's my first big visit in charge. Everything I do is being put under the microscope. These guys are just waiting for me to screw up. I'm not going to give them that pleasure.

Actually, it's true. Everyone is both looking to - and at -
CHRISTINE.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

So it would really help if you could at least appear to be working with me instead of against me. Whaddya say?

TOM softens. Nods - no problem. Loudly:

TOM

I think that sounds an excellent idea.

CHRISTINE smiles, sees this is a favour to her. It is also overheard by TROY as he -

TROY (pointing at Zoe)

Can we get Kittyhawk over here?

MI5 operatives at a loss-

CHRISTINE (to the room)

Once again, Kittyhawk is U.S. Secret Service code for Queen Elizabeth II. Please pay attention.

DANNY (quietly)

What's wrong with "The Queen"?

CHRISTINE turns back to TOM - who has been trying to reach someone (SAM) on his mobile - no joy - he ends the call as:

CHRISTINE

So Tom - are we dealing with this route change or not?

TOM

What do you need?

CHRISTINE

I need a road transfer to Halton, I need a dummy chopper in the air from Brize Norton, I need the President on Marine One at Halton enroute to Blacktop on schedule and free from harm. Can you

help with any of that Tom?

The proximity between these two is heated... It's also, clearly, quite sexy. A breathless pause. Everyone's looking-subtly.

TOM

We'll help in any way we can.

CHRISTINE

Thank you.

(a pause)

Okay. Who's Queen?

ZOE steps forward - a little reluctant.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

And Prez?

DANNY puts his hand up.

TOM

Let's get this over with.

CHRISTINE

You want this done quickly or you want this done right?

ZOE

I want this done quickly.

DANNY and ZOE walk over towards the two chairs. Preparations continue in the b.g. as they walk:

DANNY

How was your interview?

ZOE

Not as good as yours, from what I hear.

DANNY

Oh-she told you then?

ZOE

So it's true?

DANNY

Well she sort of surprised me with the question and it just sort of came out.

They sit in the chairs. ZOE's face betrays her outrage.

DANNY (cont'd)

What, you want me to lie?

ZOE

Well, course not Danny, God forbid.

DANNY

She asked me a question, I answered it honestly,
that's all-

ZOE (bristling)

Yeah well and I did the same.

DANNY (bristling back)

Yeah well there you go then.

A spirit of total mistrust now, between them.

CHRISTINE

Okay-twelve twenty one, motorcade arrives at away
point one... Twelve twenty five-

TOM (helping-quietly)

The Queen usually meets guests in the courtyard-

CHRISTINE

So what're they doing over there?

ZOE

You just put us here-

CHRISTINE (to Danny and Zoe)

OK, George, outside-and you, QE2!

TOM tries not to laugh. His phone rings. Everyone looks. He
sees the caller-answers-

TOM

Yep.

SAM (V.O)

Got all I could. Shredded and burnt.

He ends the call. CHRISTINE eyes him sceptically.

EXT. THAMES HOUSE. ESTABLISHING - DAY 2. 0459

Sun has risen. Somewhere, a plane flies.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 2. 0500

A bit like a cross between the BBC Media Monitor department
and a call centre. TVs and translators. Surveillance feeds and

telephone headsets. An OPERATOR is consulting his screen - we hear:

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
Tower this is Air Force One, we are wheels down
and clear.

TOWER VOICE (V.O.)
Roger Air Force One. Welcome to the United
Kingdom.

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
Cowpuncher is wheels down, repeat Cowpuncher is
wheels down.

OPERATOR
Standby ground teams.

CAPTION: "PHASE II: EMBASSY"

TOM V.O.
No. No. Absolutely NOT.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 0501

CHRISTINE and TROY pursue TOM towards HARRY's office -

CHRISTINE
I don't see why this is a problem.

TOM
We gave you a rundown of police vetting. You
cannot demand additional vetting checks against
individual police officers.

CHRISTINE
Why not?

TOM
Because you can't.

TROY
We're just concerned about his background.
He hands over a sheet of paper. TOM reads it, aghast.

TOM
He's a Muslim.

Staffer shrugs. A look from TOM.

CHRISTINE
It's not anything we used to worry about of course

but we now have a policy of stringent background checks on everyone within twenty yards of the President.

TOM

Not this one. You start checking up on Muslim police officers, you risk alienating a lot of people.

CHRISTINE

If it's Federal Immigration Policy, which it is, then it's Secret Service vetting policy.

(beat)

Which it is.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 2. 0722

We see one TV is on, where British news shows Air Force One taxi to a halt on a runway.

NEWSREADER V.O.

The President has come to London on a brief visit that many believe is a rallying call to consolidate international opinion on U.S. preemptive strike policy-

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 2. 0806

On the big screen, six photos with names. One of the names is Dmitri Bubka. Our team are here, less the Americans (TOM, ZOE, DANNY and HARRY) - croissants and coffee on the table.

TOM

Aside from individual quests for glory from Richard Reid shoe bomber types, our information tells us the CIA trip list has six glaring omissions. It all comes down to how we define a threat.

ZOE

What do the CIA want us to do?

TOM

Nothing. To be honest. Most of this lot are either in the UK permanently, planning arms deals or tooling up for private wars in Eastern Europe. No history of high level political assassinations, no personal belief systems that suggest a grudge against US or UK policy...

HARRY

Then all would appear shipshape.

TOM

I was hoping we could at least action some low-grade surveillance on them. Even if Christine doesn't think they warrant attention, I do.

HARRY

Fine. I'll pass this list on to Ruth.

TOM

I'll be with Christine at Horseguards.

HARRY

Why?

TOM

We're doing a walkthrough of the close protection on the sightseeing phase.

ZOE

If this trip's so important...

(beat)

Why's the President spending the morning sightseeing?

A look amongst the team - that's a really good point.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 0810

RUTH is at her station. HARRY appears, post-meeting - under the cover of handing her TOM's list of suspects:

HARRY

I presume whatever "problem" existed with the crate has disappeared? Please say yes.

RUTH

Yes.

TOM arrives, takes HARRY aside-

TOM

I just got a call from the Met. I can't believe you've agreed.

HARRY

It's either that or remove DC Khan from active service-the U.S. Ambassador took this to the Home Office himself.

TOM

Yeah, well. Either way it won't be him picking up the pieces if this gets out.

HARRY

These visits are always more about diplomacy than security, Tom. And diplomacy's a tricky business.

TOM

That's why I didn't join the bloody Foreign Office.

HARRY

When are you two walking through the Horseguards section?

TOM

Hour and a half.

(beat-bee in his bonnet)

First she stirs up a race relations snafu then she starts messing with royal protocol. She's going to drive us up the wall, Harry.

CHRISTINE has appeared - ready to go -

CHRISTINE

Who is?

TOM spies MIRANDA. Glances in her direction to give CHRISTINE the impression MIRANDA is driving him nuts.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

Oh, appraisal time huh?

(little too loud)

Who's getting the boot?

RUTH hears this.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. FORGERY SUITE - DAY 2. 0817

MALCOLM is looking at another piece of paper from the crate. It's surprising to him.

MALCOLM

Oh my.

EXT. THAMES HOUSE - DAY 2. 0900

UNKNOWN POV: TOM and CHRISTINE leave, watched from this unknown position. They get into a waiting car.

The car moves off - as do we -

And we realise that we're in a car too. Following.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 2. 0901

MI5 OPERATOR fresh as a daisy despite the early hour.

AMERICAN VOICE TWO (V.O.)

Thamesider this is Blacktop. Stagecoach will be on the move in thirty. Tracer and Halfback in position.

OPERATOR (getting into the spirit)

Roger that. Phase Two in motion. Prepping Phase Three, ETA at Brenda's Place 1205. Standing by for Horseguards walkthrough-

AMERICAN VOICE TWO (V.O.)

Brenda's Place?

OPERATOR

Buckingham Palace.

The surveillance camera shows the exterior of a van-

EXT. HORSEGUARDS PARADE - DAY 2. 1000

We see a parade of livered guards walk past... But we're interested in the van parked a little way off...

CHRISTINE V.O.

I'm not worried about snipers, it's a closed limo.

TOM V.O.

So let's free up Blue team.

CHRISTINE V.O.

I still want rooftop detail covering all the chutes out of there.

INT. MI5 SURVEILLANCE VAN - DAY 2. 1000

TOM and CHRISTINE hunker down. It's a close proximity thing in here and there's tension. We hear a continual background noise of Secret Service earpiece chatter.

CAPTION: "PHASE III: HORSEGUARDS"

TOM

Anyone so much as throws a turnip, they'll be put in the cage.

CHRISTINE

And the phone calls?

TOM

What phone calls?

CHRISTINE

The ones you've been getting on your cellphone for
the last twelve hours.

TOM

They're none of your business.

CHRISTINE

You changed your number in the middle of a live
project, Tom. That's called interference. And if
something's interfering with the smooth running of
my operation, it's my business.

TOM

There's no interference.

(beat)

And it's not your operation.

A burst of chatter in their ears -

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 2. 1007

RUTH and MALCOLM stand in front of HARRY.

RUTH

There are two issues here. One. We're getting a
lot of chatter at the Libyan embassy.

HARRY

What kind of chatter?

RUTH

A lot of euphemisms for America being bandied
around. Several vehicles trying very hard to lose
their tails. There's not been anything on this
scale since '84.

HARRY

Any indication of concrete plans?

RUTH

It's all disguised as everyday diplomatic traffic,
Harry. But I don't like it one bit. Which brings
us to two.

MALCOLM produces a document - it's covered in tea. The one he
reacted to.

RUTH (cont'd)

A deal memo - in the rough, of course - between
the US and Libya.

MALCOLM

They accept responsibility for Lockerbie and pay seven billion dollars in reparations, the US end unilateral sanctions and help remove them from the Axis of Evil, amongst other things.

HARRY glowers at the document.

HARRY

No mention of reparations for UK victims?

RUTH

None at all.

HARRY (thinks)

What do we have on the Libyans at the moment?

RUTH

I'll ask Sam to fish it out.

MIRANDA arrives. RUTH looks up at her - annoyed.

INT. SEWER - DAY 2. 1028

Secret Service and ATU OFFICERS are down here, walking, patrolling underground. One is checking a seal on a manhole cover -

SPLIT SCREEN HORIZONTALLY

And up on top, in step with the officers-

EXT. HORSEGUARDS PARADE - DAY 2. 1030

CHRISTINE and TOM walk from the van...

CHRISTINE

Walkthrough time. Come on, Sparky.

A line of POLICE are here, plus plain clothes and the ubiquitous Secret Service men. Underneath, the patrols continue.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

I understand my "vetting" request on the Muslim officer caused some ripples. That right?

TOM

It certainly did.

CHRISTINE

I'm sorry about that Tom. I'm just protecting my

President.

TOM
Of course you are.

CHRISTINE
By the way. Any idea who's following us?

TOM turns back - to be confronted with a very angry VICKY:

VICKY
I knew it-I KNEW IT!

Heads are turning-

VICKY (cont'd)
I sodding well knew you were two-timing me. Who
the hell are you, witch face?

CHRISTINE
Excuse me-?

VICKY
Well I'm your worst nightmare sweetie, an ex-
girlfriend with bigger tits than you.

TOM (goes to Vicky)
You are putting yourself and others in a lot of
danger right now, unless you get the hell out of
here.

VICKY
Oh, what, it's some big spy bonanza is it?
(some bystanders look)
He's a spy you know. Tom Quinn is a SPOOK! So what
if you ask me, it's no great shakes. I should
know!

TOM pulls her close-

TOM
The flyers, Vicky - how many are there?

VICKY (smiling)
The look on your face-

TOM makes himself scarce-

CHRISTINE (loudly, obviously)
Hey lady I don't know who you are but Bob and I
have been happily married for six years and if
you're on some kind of bad drug trip I suggest you
look into rehab right away -

VICKY

No-one dumps ME like a sack of shit and gets away
without PAYING FOR IT!

CHRISTINE

Someone call an ambulance for this woman, she's
not well-

CHRISTINE now departs, leaving a few plain clothes Secret
Service agents to move in and gently nudge her back the way
she came. VICKY regards the Met Police for a moment - realises
this is a good time to walk away. And she does.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2. 1033

RUTH sits in front of MIRANDA.

MIRANDA

Anything at all. Anything or anyone you feel needs
scrutiny. Just let rip. This is your time.

RUTH

What's everyone else been saying?

MIRANDA

Lots of interesting things.

SAM knocks, enters - papers in hand -

SAM

Sorry - Ruth, GCHQ said you'd better look at this

-

MIRANDA

We're in the middle -

RUTH

Yes, Miranda, we bloody well are in the middle -

RUTH leaves, grabbing the papers. MIRANDA tut tuts, starts
making notes on her clipboard.

EXT. ST. JAMES'S PARK - DAY 2. 1040

A quiet oasis, TOM with his thoughts. CHRISTINE standing with
him.

CHRISTINE

Ex-girlfriend, huh?

(Tom nods)

Wanna talk about it?

TOM shakes his head. CHRISTINE shrugs.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)
You must be a great lay.

TOM checks his watch.

TOM
We better get back.

CHRISTINE
You better start telling me exactly what's going
on.

We hold on the look between them -

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 1100

RUTH, HARRY, DANNY. HARRY has a report in his hand. ZOE is out of earshot but visible at her desk on the other side of the Grid -

RUTH
We're getting a fix on at least fifteen security threats and planning raids on ten. We have phone taps going haywire within a two mile radius of every checkpoint...

HARRY
Get as much background as you can.

HARRY departs.

RUTH
It's these Americans, I'm telling you. Infecting this whole place. Hypochondriacs the lot of them.
(to Danny)
So did you hear?

DANNY
What?

RUTH
Someone's getting the sack.

DANNY's reaction.

EXT. ST. JAMES'S PARK - DAY 2. 1100

TOM and CHRISTINE. CHRISTINE is looking at TOM's copy of the flyer.

TOM

It's all under control.

She turns back to TOM - sceptical. But it soon changes to the concerned look of a friend.

CHRISTINE

It's a career defining moment, Tom. If the wrong kind of someone's seen those pictures of you - you'll never go out in the field again, that's for sure. Jesus, Tom. You could lose your job.

TOM nods - he knows that. And it hurts, deeply.

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (beat)

Okay. Who else knows?

TOM

No-one.

CHRISTINE

You just tore them all down yourself, did you?

TOM

I had some help but that's all. One person.

CHRISTINE thinks. Looks at her watch.

CHRISTINE

Well. Now you've got two.

TOM

Christine-I don't know...

CHRISTINE

I'm not letting you deal with this on your own.
Come on.

TOM is at a loss-CHRISTINE starts to harden. The individual slowly replaced by the corporate-

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

Whatcha gonna do? Wait around til she does it again?

TOM (resolved)

I have to clear it with Harry before I do anything-

CHRISTINE

Are you kidding? You've seen what she's capable of.

The seriousness of this is finally hitting TOM - and CHRISTINE now fully on a CIA official statement:

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

No reason why she's going to stop now. We have to act now before she does it again.

TOM

Wait a second-

CHRISTINE

That woman is jeopardising the security of this operation. This is now a CIA matter. And we will not hesitate to act alone.

Off TOM's reaction - his phone rings -

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 1149

ZOE, DANNY. ZOE's under a dark cloud, reading a document-

ZOE

You could have stood up for me.

DANNY

When?

ZOE

Back at Brenda's.

DANNY

Where?

ZOE

The palace.

DANNY

You were Queen, you could stand up for yourself-

ZOE

I wasn't the Queen, I was the QE2, apparently.

DANNY

Then you should have sounded your horn.

ZOE

This isn't funny, you know.

DANNY

Tell me about it.

Danny's hinting at something else here.

Beat.

ZOE

You are being so strange ...

DANNY

Can you blame me? Can you blame anyone? I don't see how we're expected to work with all this hanging over our heads.

ZOE

How d'you mean?

DANNY

Haven't you heard?

ZOE

Heard what?

DANNY

Are you telling me you haven't heard?

ZOE

Yes. I am. HEARD WHAT?

SAM

Danny-

HARRY arrives as DANNY leaves. ZOE, tortured not to know what 'what' is... hands HARRY a report-

ZOE

Latest threat assessment-

HARRY (takes it)

Thank you. And I'd appreciate it if you didn't bad mouth Security Service projects in office time - the people who commissioned them in the first place might get upset.

ZOE is momentarily phased-

ZOE

Sorry, Harry?

HARRY

Please don't whitewash. Danny's told me all about it. The wierdo line?

ZOE doesn't have a clue what he is talking about.

HARRY (cont'd)

I would have expected more from you.

HARRY leaves. ZOE flushes - stares daggers at DANNY across the Grid. TOM arrives behind him.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 2. 1215

OPERATOR watching screen. (Remember US PRON. is "enn rowt")

CAPTION: "PHASE IV: BUCKINGHAM PALACE"

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
Tracer now en route to Kittyhawk.

OPERATOR
Still have forty minutes in this phase, over. Say again.

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
Tracer in motion. Schedule change. Now enroute here to Blacktop.

OPERATOR
Since when is that on the schedule?
(beat)
Blacktop this is Thamesider, since when is that on the schedule over?
(beat)
This is an unauthorized change in the schedule. Please advise immediately!

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 1230

RUTH sits a little nervous. ZOE comes up to her.

ZOE
How long's Sam been in there?

RUTH consults her watch.

RUTH
Too bloody long.

ZOE
Did she say anything to you?

RUTH
No.
(beat)
Why, did she say anything to you?

ZOE
Well, no.

Silence between them.

ZOE (cont'd)
Can I ask you something?

RUTH
Depends.

ZOE
What the hell is going on? Harry just gave me the
third degree.

RUTH
Someone's getting the sack.

OVER WITH DANNY

As he watches ZOE and RUTH talking. They both look over at him
in a disapproving way. DANNY clearly takes this hard.

INT. CIA CAR - DAY 2. 1245

CHRISTINE is being driven by a suit. CHRISTINE accesses her
PDA, crossing things off a list. A thought occurs-

CHRISTINE
(on mobile)
I'll see you there.
(She hangs up. To driver)
I just need to make a quick stop. You got a
minute?

INT. THAMES HOUSE. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 2. 1247

MIRANDA sits with SAM.

SAM
And the water cooler's too hot. And the pod doors
open too slow. I'm not sure there's a lot of
usefulness in the way the Grid's designed either,
I have to say, when you're at the photocopy island
and you need to scan it in for a quickmail-

MIRANDA is scribbling madly, trying to keep up. There are
screeds of pages being written.

MIRANDA
Can you just ... slow down ... a second ...

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 2. 1300

HARRY and TOM.

TOM

I always presumed any new Lockerbie deal would be in consultation with us.

HARRY

It's still theory as far as we know, it could be an innocent hypothetical.

TOM

The President's going off schedule. We're in Phase III and he's in Phase IV. There has to be a subterfuge here.

HARRY

There might be a perfectly logical explanation.

TOM

Well there's a perfectly illogical woman who could clarify that. Unless she's off schedule too -

He starts dialling.

EXT. HOSPITAL. AMBULANCE BAY - DAY 2. 1305

VICKY tends to a patient as he is brought out of an ambulance.

A car pulls up nearby, and two men get out. Two large men in suits.

With the thickest necks you've ever seen. TRENT and Brent.

It takes VICKY a second to realise - a second too late as she's grabbed and held against the wall by TRENT/Brent.

VICKY
Help!

A large suit hoves in to her ear.

SUIT
Ssh.

They start to move her away -

Colleagues stand and stare... VICKY looks pleadingly-they turn away. All been briefed.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 2. 1321

HARRY with TOM, ZOE, DANNY, RUTH.

HARRY

This visit was last minute. If there was an

arrangement to meet the Libyans it would have been a hasty one.

DANNY

Unless it's been the goal all along.

HARRY

The French insinuated there was a Libyan meeting on the cards.

ZOE

It does explain why the Americans scheduled in that sightseeing tour.

TOM

As cover for the meeting preparations, over Libyan chatter-

ZOE

So what if he has the meeting or not?

MALCOLM

The seven major state sponsors of terrorism are Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Cuba, Libya.

HARRY

Who wants their name off that list most of all?

MALCOLM

Libya.

HARRY

Who wants out of the Arab League?

MALCOLM

Libya.

HARRY

And who cannot be seen officially negotiating with the diplomatic office of an Axis of Evil nation?

MALCOLM

The United States of America.

HARRY

But what are they going to be talking about?

TOM

Lockerbie.

RUTH

They could close the deal without even including us.

HARRY

We all know how well you know the American mind, Tom. But there's only one person who can tell us for sure.

TOM nods. To ZOE:

TOM

Try her again.

INT. VICKY'S APARTMENT - DAY 2. 1336

VICKY walks in, trembling. The suits follow.

VICKY

You need a warrant for this and you KNOW IT-

And she looks up to see a new face. CHRISTINE. Standing in the doorway. Her mobile rings. She holds up a finger. Wait while I take this-

CHRISTINE (bright and shiny)

Oh - hi! I'm just in the middle of something, can I call you back?

She ends the call before TOM can answer-

VICKY

Who are you?

VICKY goes to her - a large hand on her shoulder stops her. She sits down heavily. Starts to cry.

VICKY (cont'd)

Please-please stop!

The suits are waiting for something. CHRISTINE looks at them - hard as fucking nails -

CHRISTINE

Tear this place apart.

VICKY stares - why? The place looks completely fine. But things start unravelling pretty quickly-

Drawers are opened. Drugs are found. A pro-Taliban leaflet. A paperback book "Why do People Hate America?". (All planted, of course, from the Suits' pockets).

A SUIT rounds on VICKY - holds the book up:

SUIT
You like this book?

VICKY
That's not mine-

SUIT (flicking pages)
Make good reading, does it?

VICKY
Stop it!

Another suit removes prescription drugs from a bureau.
Examines them - shows them to the SUIT.

SUIT
Did you know writing false prescriptions will get
you struck off the doctor's register?

And all the time, CHRISTINE is there, the puppetmaster.
Finally she approaches VICKY.

CHRISTINE
You're in a lot of trouble.

VICKY
This is all ... a mistake-

CHRISTINE
You are putting the security of the President of
the United States of America at risk and we intend
to stop that.

VICKY
What?? Me?

CHRISTINE
You have already put the operational security of
this man in serious danger -

She pulls out a copy of TOM'S flyer -

VICKY
I'm a doctor. I save lives. I have nothing to do
with this-

CHRISTINE
If you want to continue saving lives - including
your own - I suggest you leave this man alone. Do
you understand?

Suddenly there's something in VICKY - she's looking at CHRISTINE - maybe divining the sexual subtext here. Even CHRISTINE hasn't realised there IS a subtext, but perhaps in this look she does now... these two are fighting because of a man.

VICKY
I understand.

CHRISTINE gets close to VICKY. Menace.

CHRISTINE
You're on vacation for a few days. Leave town. If you contact this man or even mention him in conversation, we will find out. And all this will come tumbling down on your head.

VICKY smooths her hair - trying not to cry. But it's hard.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)
Have a nice day.

And she's gone.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 1342

Danny sits at his desk as SAM walks by. It's clear she's just come out of session with Miranda. Danny looks at his watch.

DANNY
Quite a session.

SAM
Sorry?

DANNY
I was just saying - you were in there for ages.

SAM
Was I?
(looks at watch)
Guess I was.

She's nearby enough that he can SCOOT his chair across to her.

DANNY
Everything alright?

SAM
In what sense?

DANNY
In there.

SAM

Oh - oh, yeah, totally fine. She's lovely actually. A great listener. Got a lot of stuff off my chest. I think it's a brilliant idea don't you?

DANNY (hmmm)

Yeah. Absolutely. Brilliant.

SAM

Exactly. Finally getting a chance to say what you really think about things.

DANNY

So ... what were your things?

SAM

What did I talk to her about d'you mean?

DANNY

Just - generally...

Zoe's coming over.

SAM

Generally what things?

DANNY

Doesn't matter.

Zoe's nearly there.

SAM

You've confused me now.

DANNY

No, honestly, don't worry about it.

ZOE

Just heard -

She senses that their conversation has stopped because of her presence.

ZOE (cont'd)

- sorry have I interrupted something?

DANNY

No, no - what's up?

Sam, sensing it's better if she just steps back and gets on with things, does so. Glances at Danny, which Zoe picks up. Danny sets off - causing Zoe to follow.

ZOE

- the President's gone walkabout.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 2. 1345

TOM, HARRY, DANNY, ZOE. CHRISTINE on the speakerphone.

HARRY

We have surveillance telling us the Libyan Embassy lines are going mad just around the time your President decides to go off piste. We're trying to keep abreast of threats here, we'd appreciate a little honesty from you-

INT. CHRISTINE'S FLAT - DAY 2. 1346

CHRISTINE on the phone-

CHRISTINE

Today is Ashley's fifteenth birthday. Ashley is the US Ambassador's daughter. And the President, who knows this, had the idea at Horseguards of getting a birthday present for her and delivering it in person.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION:

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

So he cut the tour short and sent someone shopping for a video game. Harrods I believe. The President was then invited to try the game out for himself, which he was only too pleased to do. This is why he made the detour. And that is why we are currently a mere fifteen minutes behind schedule.

HARRY

Keeping her Majesty waiting.

CHRISTINE

I thought she had a Lady to do that for her.

(beat)

By the way Tom, met a friend of yours earlier. She's leaving the country for a while. I thought you might like to know. Bye.

TOM knows exactly what this means, on both levels. A) VICKY's no longer a problem, and B) YOU OWE ME.

CHRISTINE hangs up. DANNY and ZOE leave. TOM moves to go.

HARRY

You can stay, Tom.

DANNY shoots him a look as she shuts the door.

TOM
So she's lying.

HARRY
Excuse me while I fall over from surprise.

But HARRY's not here to talk about CHRISTINE-

HARRY (cont'd)
At one p.m. today two agents from the U.S. Secret Service marched into one of London's busiest A and E units and kidnapped one of its medical registrars.

TOM thinks about saying something - decides against it.

HARRY (cont'd)
I'm presuming there was a very good reason for this, correct?
(Tom nods)
An immediate need to remove a liability from our respective orbits?

Another nod. Here it comes-

HARRY (cont'd)
Operationally, I give you free rein. I've done so in the past and I do so willingly. But you consult with ME before acting preemptively like this on a personal matter.

TOM
It stopped being a personal matter-

HARRY
We're in the final phase now. The President's on the move again at 1600, we have a pointless Personnel person interfering with our staff morale and a viper's nest of paranoia on the Grid. I need your 100% focus is that understood?

TOM nods.

HARRY (cont'd)
Good luck at Chequers.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 2. 1400

MI5 OPERATOR on the cans.

CAPTION: "PHASE V: CHEQUERS"

OPERATOR

Roger that, Stagecoach returning to Blacktop.
Marine One airborne in ten.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DAY 2. 1428

FILMED INSERT: Protestors with placards, anti-Bush, etc.

NEWSREADER

Climate change and the world economy will also be on the agenda in the talks this afternoon, in addition to the main agenda of Mr Bush's controversial military policy of preemptive strikes. These protestors started gathering a few minutes ago. Official sources have denied that Chequers is even on the President's itinerary but the security surrounding this high level visit is the strongest in living memory...

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 1430

HARRY watches the footage with TOM, ZOE and DANNY.

HARRY

Double perimeter security and brief local forces to take orders from Chequers Control direct.
(to Danny)

Danny, join Tom up at Chequers will you? What's outstanding on the Trip List?

TOM

Reservoir security's been doubled but we still need a team watching incoming pipes. We're a clean sweep on vetting, both Chequers staff and medical teams. Protestors are under control... All foreign agents are locked down on ABC close quarter... And we've got five of our own Close Protection officers in full view of the cameras -

DANNY

With their lapel badges - ?

TOM

With lapel badges.

HARRY

The PM will be pleased. Security teams are meeting the President on the South Lawn I take it?

TOM (yep)

Local plods are keeping the crowds behind the far perimeter. Press are being limited to a hundred metres.

ZOE sits there - what about me?

ZOE
Should I stay here?

HARRY
For now.

ZOE chastened. What does that mean? The sack??

SAM arrives with a huge and weighty number of folders and box files. It teeters as she places it in front of HARRY.

HARRY (cont'd)
What's that?

SAM
What we have over the Libyans.

EXT. SKY - DAY 2. 1450

STOCK FOOTAGE: Marine One's rotors scythe through the air.

MARINE ONE (V.O.)
RAF Halton, this is Marine One, wheels down on south field ETA forty minutes over.

HALTON VOICE (V.O.)
Roger that Marine One. Looking forward to seeing you again.

EXT. CHEQUERS - DAY 2. 1530

The beautiful house. A U.S. Secret Service suit wanders past in standard issue sunglasses. Earpiece blaring.

INT. CHEQUERS. CORRIDORS TO CONTROL ROOM - DAY 2. 1532

Walking through the ornate corridors - CHRISTINE walks with TOM. TOM talks to DANNY, who is in the kitchen, on his mobile. INTERCUT between corridors and the kitchen.

TOM
Sitrep Danny..?

DANNY
Floors one and two are cleared, all teams in place.

TOM
What about the roof?

DANNY
It's covered. Snipers have 270 sight on all
compass points.

TOM
What's that noise?

DANNY
I'm just checking the kitchen.

TOM
Don't try and cook anything, Danny - leave that to
the chefs.

DANNY
Don't worry. I won't.

CHRISTINE (into radio)
All details, this is Blacktop Control, we have a
wheels down in ten, I need sitreps NOW.

They enter a high tech control room - it's a field office but
still covered in technology. Large screens broadcast shots of
the stately home and other gadgetry hums. TOM draws the
curtains.

INT. CHEQUERS. KITCHENS - DAY 2. 1600

DANNY walks through the busy kitchens, checking that all
security teams are in place.

INT. CHEQUERS. BEDROOM - DAY 2. 1600

CIA man walking through bedrooms doing final checks.

CIA MAN (into radio)
All floors now clear. Helipad prepared, and armed
protection standing by.

EXT. CHEQUERS. ROOF - DAY 2. 1608

Rooftop counter-sniper teams survey the horizon. One of them
taps his colleague - they focus on something...

INT. CHEQUERS. CONTROL ROOM - DAY 2. 1616

CHRISTINE and TOM in here again. TOM finishes a call.

TOM
That was Danny. All teams are in place.

RAF HALTON (V.O.)

Control this is Hawkeye... We've got an unidentified songbird coming into restricted space on the radar...

CHRISTINE
Please clarify.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 2. 1631

HARRY sits. ZOE arrives -

ZOE
You should see this.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID. ZOE'S DESK - DAY 2. 1632

ZOE, RUTH, HARRY - looking over surveillance photos. A collection of men in suits, and a harder-looking man. We should recognise this photo from the MI5 Trip List suspects in an earlier scene.

ZOE
Dmitri Bubka was on our housekeeping surveillance. Ex Moscow Mafia, now living here. One of our own Trip List longshots. The other suits are arms dealers. We think some of them have been hawking medical equipment.

HARRY
I understand this is a matter for research, Zoe, but -

ZOE
This was taken yesterday. Ten miles from Chequers.

RUTH
What equipment?

ZOE
Radiotherapy machines.

RUTH
Radiotherapy machines hold enough Cobalt 60 to take out Oxford Street on a sunny day. If you can get at it.

HARRY
Your implication here is-

RUTH
Dirty bomb.

EXT. CHEQUERS. ROOF - DAY 2. 1634

Snipers on the roof keep watch on the horizon. Suddenly one of them spots something...

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 2. 1635

ZOE, HARRY, RUTH around the speaker.

TOM V.O.

We have a microlight on a direct routing to Chequers.

HARRY

Have you got a visual?

TOM V.O.

Snipers have just picked it out from the roof.

HARRY

How far away is it?

TOM V.O.

Three, four miles-it's a small fixed wing.

RUTH

What are the local aerodromes?

TOM V.O.

Chiltern Park and Horwood.

HARRY

Does it have a radio?

TOM V.O.

Some do, some don't. Aerodrome say he's not responding.

HARRY

Tell them to keep trying!

Colour draining from their faces now -

INT. CHEQUERS. CONTROL ROOM - DAY 2. 1636

CHRISTINE grabs the phone from TOM.

CHRISTINE

I need air cover NOW.

HARRY (D)

There are two Tornados on standby at Cottesmore -

CHRISTINE

Well get Master Control on the line and tell them
to launch the Qs-
(hands phone back - into radio)
Sniper detail, can you get a shot?

SNIPER VOICE (V.O.)

We can get a shot in ten.

CHRISTINE (into radio)

Be ready to engage on my signal.

TOM (to Christine)

You speak to me. Then I speak to him. That is how
it's going to work.

CHRISTINE

You want this on your head?

TOM

It's a microlight.

CHRISTINE

Yeah, Tom. Like I said. A microlight.

EXT. RAF CRAWFORD (STOCK FOOTAGE) - DAY 2. 1640

A Tornado roars into the sky - and then another -

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM/INT.CHEQUERS. CONTROL ROOM DAY
2. 1644

Things are getting heated.

USING SPLITSCREEN -

We weave in and out between control room & meeting room

The key acting note here is increasing paranoia -

RUTH

Not if he's carrying nuclear material-

TOM

Who ever said anything about nuclear material??

CHRISTINE hears this, heads over-

HARRY

We have nothing credible on that score - however -

CHRISTINE

What goddamn nuclear material?

RUTH

We cannot discount it completely - a known hitman,
sourcing the raw material for a dirty bomb -

ZOE

We're putting two and two together to make
thirteen! It's ludicrous!

RUTH

No more ludicrous than crashing a plane into a
building. Ask anyone about how ludicrous that
sounded on September 10th 2001...

TOM

Check with the Met Office on local wind
conditions, he could just be being blown across-

CHRISTINE

WHAT NUCLEAR MATERIAL?

HARRY

We have a source who claims there may be
radioactive material near the Chequers site -

CHRISTINE

What, on its own, in a restaurant?

RUTH

A UK-based hitman was seen attempting to acquire
some in London-

HARRY

Attempting being the operative word!

CHRISTINE

Oh, great -

SAM comes back into the Meeting Room -

SAM

They're still trying to verify the I.D. of the
microlight pilot.

MASTER CONTROL NORWICH

Qs are airborne, passing control to CAOC D.C. High Wycombe...

TORNADO PILOT (V.O.)

D.C. this is Q One we are now approaching
Chequers- are we
authorised to engage over?

TOM
No-!

DUTY CONTROLLER (V.O.)
Affirmative Q One, engage on visual. Front
controller, do you have a position?

TOM
Do not engage target until we have confirmed -
over.

DUTY CONTROLLER (V.O.)
Cut the chatter -

TOM
Who called this in?

CHRISTINE
The Protective Research Section of the U.S. Secret
Service, the CIA and the executive power of the
U.S. Federal Government has advised the Royal Air
Force to engage the target.

TOM
You shoot that thing out of the sky with a
sidewinder missile and you're not just killing
someone-You're raining down hot metal and rocket
fuel on hundreds of people-

RUTH
We need more information!

HARRY
This is all we have.

CHRISTINE
There is a small fixed wing aircraft on a
collision course with this building. This building
houses the President of the United States and the
Prime Minister of Great Britain. I am not going to
allow it to get any closer!

TOM
You went over our heads -

CHRISTINE
We shoot it now, it disperses over there, we
mobilise chem-bio units-

SAM runs in -

SAM

Met Office say there's a strong following wind
that could be blowing him in-

DUTY CONTROLLER (V.O.)

Front controller, do you have a visual over?

SNIPER VOICE (V.O.)

Songbird is turning. Repeat, target is turning.

Silence.

WITH TOM and CHRISTINE

CHRISTINE

Is he turning?

HARRY

Is he turning?

SNIPER VOICE (V.O.)

Oh yeah, he's turning.

DUTY CONTROL (V.O.)

I repeat do you have a visual?

CHRISTINE (beat)

Tom?

TOM glares at CHRISTINE - takes radio.

TOM

Negative. Will confirm with Air Defence Control.
Target is no longer a threat.

The fighters roar away - a moment of silence.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 2. 1655

A moment of silence. The room looks at each other. Realises
the insanity that just took place.

ZOE

Like she said. Paranoia.

Everyone's phones all ring at once -

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - NIGHT 2. 2000

OPERATOR on the earphones.

CAPTION: "PHASE VI: WHEELS UP"

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)

Tower this is Air Force One we are wheels up.

OPERATOR

Air Force One has cleared the tower.

He's pleased with himself saying that. No-one's around to witness it.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 2. 2003

Everyone is here. Dazed.

TOM

Microlight pilot was a Mr. Smith. Strayed into restricted space with a defective radio.

DANNY

And a defective head.

ZOE

Dmitri?

TOM

Customs are on to that one.

HARRY

A project for tomorrow perhaps.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 2. 2015

TOM sits at his desk, exhausted. CHRISTINE starts to walk towards him, but DANNY is also walking. CHRISTINE knows when to hang back - and does so.

DANNY

Am I getting the sack?

TOM

Danny?

DANNY

Tom. Please tell me. Cos I'd prefer to hear it to my face, now...

TOM

What the hell is this? Of course not-

DANNY

You would tell me, wouldn't you? I mean, I'd hope you and I-

TOM

Danny you're not getting the bloody sack, alright?

DANNY

Great. Great.

But ZOE has overheard.

DANNY (cont'd)

Only Ruth said - she overheard Harry - they were talking of losing someone-

ZOE

And Harry was saying-

TOM

Danny is not getting the sack!

ZOE nods. Hurt.

ZOE

So it's me.

TOM

NO-ONE IS GETTING THE SACK!

ZOE and DANNY look at TOM - everyone so so tired. DANNY and ZOE nod, head back to their desks.

DANNY

Sorry.

ZOE

And me.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 2. 2029

SAM works. TOM approaches.

TOM

Thank you. For everything.

SAM

No problem.

SAM looks up as CHRISTINE arrives - ready to go -

CHRISTINE

You haven't thanked me yet.

TOM

I was just about to.

CHRISTINE

I did you a big favour, you know.

TOM

Consider it known.

CHRISTINE

So now you can do one for me.

TOM

And what's that?

CHRISTINE leans close to TOM. Uncomfortably close... a whisper. TOM's face - nervous.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. FORGERY SUITE - NIGHT 2. 2037

MALCOLM closes up the crate. A set of documents covered in tea lie piled on the desk.

TOM arrives - followed by CHRISTINE. Horror -

TOM

We've been waiting for someone to come and collect it.

CHRISTINE

Admin error huh? It happens.

(beat)

The French tipped us off that you were were looking through U.S. diplomatic material. Which made us suspicious because the French never ever do us any favours. So we could only presume that the reason they were doing it was to drive a wedge between the UK and the USA.

TOM

That could never happen.

CHRISTINE

Absolutely.

TOM

So that rumour must be false, then.

CHRISTINE

What rumour?

TOM

That nasty, Libyan sort of rumour.

CHRISTINE

Tell you what. If there's anything going on with us and the Libyans in the UK, you'll be the first to know.

TOM

And the same to you. Of course.

A phone rings. MALCOLM answers. A look at TOM-

MALCOLM

Miranda for you?

INT. THAMES HOUSE. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 2. 2050

TOM sits opposite MIRANDA.

MIRANDA

I have a litany of comments here. Many directed at you.

TOM

Brilliant.

MIRANDA

Doesn't it worry you that most of the staff on this floor are overworked and paranoid?

TOM

No. This was meant to be a steam valve exercise. And that's what that is - steam. And anyway I'm not the one who should be worried.

MIRANDA

Is that right?

TOM

Oh yes. Because whatever everyone's said about me, it's NOTHING compared to what they've been saying about YOU.

MIRANDA is taken aback.

TOM (cont'd)

This was a shocking exercise. I'm appalled these mind games were condoned during such a stressful time.

MIRANDA

Personnel wanted a psychological topography of the department. They wanted to know who in the Section could be classed as a theoretical weak link.

TOM (beat)
And what were your findings?

MIRANDA
There aren't any.

TOM
I beg to differ. I think I'm looking at the
weakest link right now.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - NIGHT 2. 2055

CHRISTINE walks to the pods. Smiles goodbye as her phone rings. Enters the pod -

CHRISTINE
Hi. I need a car - has Brent finished his report?
Good. On my desk PDQ.

As she passes through the pod

We switch to CCTV on the other side. The Pod doors shut-

CHRISTINE (cont'd)
Oh - and tell the Libyans to tighten up security
on our little project. We almost got busted today.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT 2. 2100

HARRY sits on his own in front of a monitor. It's a hidden camera sound and vision record of Americans talking to Libyans. HARRY picks up the phone.

HARRY
Tell the Libyans thank you very much - the sound
quality is superb.

He turns up the volume. We hear:

AMERICAN VOICE (V.O.)
The British? Since when were the British part of
OUR Lockerbie deal?

LIBYAN VOICE
Since we decided they were.

The Libyan glances up at the camera. HARRY chuckles in delight - he's won. Again.

INT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT 2. 2138

TOM sits on the sofa. Turns on his TV, zombie-like. On television, footage of Air Force One leaving:

NEWSREADER V.O.

The President left on Air Force One at eight o'clock this evening after his short visit to Britain. Despite many threats to his security, the visit passed without incident...

Without incident? TOM chuckles to himself as his phone rings. He's nervous. He answers-without speaking-

CHRISTINE (V.O.)

So here's my question. Whatever happened to the "nee naw" sound? It was cute. Quaint. Sort of urgent. Then it's like one day you just replaced all your emergency service sirens with American ones. It's a shame. Before you know it you'll have guns for sale in Marks & Spencer.

TOM

Thank you for your concern.

CHRISTINE (V.O.)

You're still up.

TOM

So are you.

CHRISTINE

I can never sleep after an operation.

TOM

Me neither.

CHRISTINE

You wanna come over and meet my friend Jim?

TOM considers this for a second.

INT. CHRISTINE'S FLAT - NIGHT 2. 2200

CHRISTINE's place is... pretty damn cool. Not soulless Tessa cool, but - just funky. Like her.

TOM and CHRISTINE have drunk some JIM BEAM and it's suiting them just fine. TV's on with news analysis of the trip (leave for v/o cover a la Drop The Dead Donkey).

TOM

You were heavy handed.

CHRISTINE

She put your life in danger, Tom. She put the

President's life in danger.

(beat)

I'm empty.

She dangles her glass. TOM takes the cue and walks over to her drinks cabinet.

Something in CHRISTINE's eyes show worry. We see what she sees - a US Government folder on the drinks cabinet. She forgot to tidy it away.

CHRISTINE gets up to join TOM before he sees the document. But he's seen it. And it says "LIBYA".

That's all he needs to know. He reaches for it - but CHRISTINE grabs it-

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

Don't make me wrestle you for it. I don't want to embarrass you.

TOM stands - for a moment we think there might be a tussle. Let's be honest... We all want a tussle. But TOM sits back down, heavily. A little drunk, very tired.

TOM

So you lied.

CHRISTINE

What else did you expect? The truth?

(eyes him)

Is this a loss of faith Tom?

TOM

Of course not.

CHRISTINE

Dostoevski. Russian writer guy. Wrote a book about a man who told the truth all the time. Know what he called it? The Idiot.

TOM chuckles hard. CHRISTINE enjoys making him laugh.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

You didn't wrestle me for it very much did you?

TOM shrugs.

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

What do you know that I don't?

Hello. Something's occurred here. Between them.

TOM
Lots of things.

We hold on the look. We hear the voice of the PM from the TV. As he speaks, CHRISTINE and TOM move closer together.

TONY BLAIR V.O.
My talks with the President were, as ever,
constructive, enlightening, and to my mind,
indicative of the ever-closer bonds between our
two countries...

Both wait for the other to make a play. Someone is going to have to make the first move. A pre-emptive strike...

TONY BLAIR V.O. (cont'd)
...and the Special Relationship that exists
between them.

CHRISTINE sighs, grabs TOM's shirt and pulls him to her -

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE