

THE WEST WING

"7A WF 83429"

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THE WEST WING

"7A WF 83429"

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THE WEST WING

"7A WF 83429"

CAST LIST

PRESIDENT JOSIAH BARTLET  
LEO MCGARRY  
JOSH LYMAN  
TOBY ZIEGLER  
C.J. CREGG  
CHARLIE YOUNG  
DONNA MOSS  
ABIGAIL BARTLET  
WILL BAILEY  
DEBORAH FIDERER

GINGER  
MARGARET  
GLENALLEN WALKEN  
CAROL  
KATIE  
LYLE  
STEVE

\*

DANNY CONCANON  
NANCY MCNALLY  
FITWALLACE

\*

ELLIE BARTLET  
ED  
LARRY  
MIKE CASPER \*  
SLATTERY \*

REPORTER  
REPORTER 2  
REPORTER 3  
REPORTER 4

\*

\*

WINSTON

\*

STEVE ATWOOD  
DOUG WESTIN  
ELIZABETH BARTLET WESTIN  
ROBERT ROSATO \*  
SHELIA FIELDS  
RICHARDSON

THE WEST WING

"7A WF 83429"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

WHITE HOUSE

Communications Bullpen  
Toby's Office  
Donna's Office/Bullpen  
Hallways  
Fiderer's Office  
Oval Office  
Residence/Living Room  
Outside Press Briefing  
Press Briefing Room  
Roosevelt Room  
Situation Room  
Residence/Hallway  
Leo's Office  
C.J.'s Office  
\*  
Residence/Kitchen  
Josh's Office  
Lobby

SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH

EXTERIORS

WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT

WHITE HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - MORNING

SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH - NIGHT

WHITE HOUSE/SIDEWALK - NIGHT

"7A WF 83429"

TEASER

FADE IN:

On an indistinct BABBLE of competing voices floating over darkness as the title card --

"7A WF 83429"

Appears and then slowly disappears.

REPORTER (OS)

...White House officials are refusing to speculate on who may be responsible but sources...

FADE UP ON:

1 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - NIGHT (5:30 AM) 1

We're GLIDING through a line up of correspondents, sun guns blazing, microphones held to exhausted faces.

REPORTER 2

...in a stunning demonstration of the continuity of Constitutional democracy, President Josiah Edward Bartlet resigned his office...

\*  
\*

We MOVE THROUGH cameras mounted on tripods, field producers, cameramen, an unbelievable tangle of wires.

REPORTER 3

...Speaker Walken is huddled with the nation's military and law enforcement advisors having been awakened from his sleep only three hours ago...

\*  
\*

One reporter blends into the next, indistinguishable as we --

REPORTER 4

...in a solemn, hastily arranged ceremony Speaker --

CUT TO:

2 INT. WEST WING COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - NIGHT 2

Our CAMERA is MOVING, FLOATING through the oddly still offices. It's not empty, staffers huddle around televisions in shock, wear last night's clothes.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

REPORTER 4 (ON TV)

...Glenallen Walken was sworn in early this morning as President of the United States. Walken, a bachelor, is an eight term Congressman from Liberty, Missouri...

\*  
\*

We pass from one television group to the next as --

"Hour Seven"

Appears and then slowly disappears from our screen.

REPORTER 4 (CONT'D)

...who ascended to the Speaker's Office five years ago with the retirement of Speaker Jim Hohner. A staunch...

\*  
\*  
\*

We finally slip into --

3 INT. TOBY'S OFFICE

3

Where TOBY, WILL, JOSH, and DONNA watch. Toby's on the phone, GINGER comes in and out with messages throughout the scene.

\*  
\*

REPORTER 4 (ON TV)

...supporter of the military and of veterans, he's been a strong proponent of sound fiscal policy --

JOSH

"Sound fiscal policy"? Cutting drug benefits for the elderly?

REPORTER 4 (ON TV)

...and an advocate of faith based governmental initiatives. A lifelong hunter and outdoor enthusiast, he has frequently defended the rights of gun owners.

Josh is incensed. Everyone else watches sullenly.

JOSH

He's opposed to waiting periods on grenade launchers.

(yelling at the screen)

He's Satan!

\*

Toby is trying hard to ignore him. They all are.

\*

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Where's he going to sleep? The Bartlets aren't moving out of the White House are they?

WILL

There are thirteen bedrooms in the residence.

DONNA

So he's going to be in what, a guest room? \*

Toby's had enough. \*

TOBY

Don't you people have airless, cramped cubicles of your own to loiter in? \*

JOSH

I think mine's now an FBI command center. \*

The image on the television has shifted to a news conference in the Press room. Bartlet at the podium, Walken beside him. Toby and Josh are there, C.J. The banner at the bottom of the screen indicates it was recorded earlier. We can't hear much. \*

DONNA

Does he get a portrait? Every President gets one, right? \*

GINGER

Even if he's only President for a few days?

WILL

I don't think there's a minimum occupancy requirement.

DONNA

What about a Presidential Library, does he get a library?

Toby lashes out in frustration, but it comes out sharper and shriller than he expected. It surprises even him.

TOBY

He won't be here that long.

On the TV screen, Walken supplants Bartlet at the podium as Bartlet steps respectfully back, taking Abbey's hand, slowly receding into the background, dwarfed by the large man now answering questions at the microphone. Quietly:

(CONTINUED)

JOSH  
He looks small doesn't he? \*

CUT TO:

4 INT. DONNA'S OFFICE AND BULLPEN - NIGHT 4

It's been commandeered for a temporary FBI command center. Men in suits with guns lean in doorways, sit on the edges of desks. The Special Agent in Charge is a tightly coiled FBI lifer named Casper. \*

LEO  
Anything more from the kidnappers? \*

CASPER  
No. \*

LEO  
And the note still hasn't shown up on Al Jazeera or Sahafa? \*

C.J.  
Not yet. \*

LEO  
It will. \*

C.J.  
Do we release the ransom note? \*

CASPER  
If we don't they will. \*

LEO  
State has been talking to Islamabad about the prisoners named in the ransom note. They've pledged their full support. \*

Another agent, forties, Black, chimes in. \*

WINSTON  
We're requesting the President's approval to issue a BOLO on the Bahji sleeper cell we lost track of yesterday. \*

C.J.  
A manhunt? \*

WINSTON  
We release their names and photos, maybe someone spots them.

(CONTINUED)



An FBI staffer enters, passes a note to Casper. \*

C.J.

If we prematurely connect them with Zoey's kidnapping we deputize every nut with a gun rack.

WINSTON

They disappeared 24 hours before her kidnapping, it's not premature. \*

C.J.

You want vigilantes with baseball bats assaulting Arab Americans? \*

WINSTON

I want Zoey Bartlet back.

C.J. looks to Leo for help, she doesn't get it.

LEO

I'll take it to him.

Casper hands Leo the note. \*

CASPER

The French kid's awake. \*

LEO

Is he answering questions? \*

CASPER

No, he's asking them.

(then)

He wants immunity. \*

CUT TO:

5 INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

5

Leo exits the makeshift FBI command center, finds Margaret waiting in the hall for him with messages.

MARGARET

The French Premier, Russian Prime Minister, the Presidents of Brazil, Mexico, the Israelis. \*

They pass anxious staffers who watch them as they pass. \*

LEO

What are all these people doing here? \*

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET  
They work here.

LEO  
It's five-thirty in the morning. \*

MARGARET  
I'll make sure they know.  
(then)  
The Democratic Leadership wants to come  
over. \*

LEO  
All of them? \*

They're passing Toby's jammed office, Josh sees them, leaps  
up, folds in after them, asks Margaret:

JOSH  
You tell him the Leadership wants to come  
over? \*

LEO  
Who called? \*

JOSH  
House Minority Leader, Minority Whip,  
Senate Minority leader, Whip, McLean,  
Wyznee, Franklin, the Caucus Chair... \*

LEO  
I'm gonna need a bigger office.

Leo turns into --

6 INT. FIDERER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

6

Finds FIDERER at her desk.

LEO  
Is he still here Debbie or has he gone to  
the residence?

Fiderer is already up from her desk, heading for the door.

FIDERER  
Here.

Leo turns back to Josh and Margaret.

LEO  
Tell them it's going to be awhile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSH

They're not going to be happy.

- LEO

When are they ever? \*

FIDERER

Leo?

Leo starts in, knows Josh wants to come, it's awkward.

LEO

I'll be right back.

Follows Fiderer into --

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

FIDERER

Mr. McGarry. \*

We don't see him at first, Leo steps deeper into the room.

LEO

Mr. President?

Over by the desk, four men are huddled. They turn to reveal: \*

WALKEN

Come on in, Leo.

Glenallen Walken. President of the United States. \*

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 INT. WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCE - DAWN (6:15AM) 8

It's early, the room is darkened, only a few scattered table lamps are on. Outside, the first grey light of dawn glows in an overcast eastern sky. We MOVE slowly through the quiet space, searching. Pass the television replaying coverage of the earlier Bartlet/Walken news conference, the volume low.

WE CONTINUE ON, finally find him lost in the large arched window, staring off into the darkness of the South Lawn. JOSIAH BARTLET, absolutely still, exhausted. We study him for a long moment. Wondering, worrying about him as --

"Hour Eight"

Appears and then disappears on the screen.

ABBEY

Jed?

ABBEY is in the bedroom doorway, she still wears her much rumpled clothing from last night.

BARTLET

I thought you were sleeping. \*

ABBEY

Anything? \*

(he shakes "no")

What time is it?

BARTLET

Almost six-thirty.

ABBEY

They gave me something.

BARTLET

Yeah, I know. I'm sorry.

ABBEY

Are the girls coming?

BARTLET

They'll be here in a few hours. \*

She stands beside him, both numb, emotionally spent.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (CONT'D)

You want me to call down for some coffee? \*

ABBEY

No.

They stand like that, side by side.

ABBEY (CONT'D)

I had a dream. I was in Zoey's bedroom back home. Not the way it is now, but the way it was when she was small. With the child's bed from my Grandmother. You remember that carved pine bed?

BARTLET

Of course I do.

ABBEY

She was little again, maybe five or six and I was holding her. \*

He doesn't know what to say. Reaches over, takes her hand in his. She takes a deep breath, trying to fight back her emotions, exhales as we --

CUT TO:

9 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE BRIEFING ROOM - DAWN 9 \*

C.J. makes her way to the doors, behind her are FBI faces we recognize from earlier; Casper, McKenzie and Winston. CAROL tries to straighten C.J.'s wilting suit jacket. \*

C.J.

How do I look?

CAROL

Like you slept in your clothes.

She pushes through the door into --

10 INT. WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ROOM - DAWN 10 \*

CHAOS as everyone leaps to their feet, SCREAMING for her attention. She steps to the podium, quiets it down.

C.J.

Good morning. I have with me members of the FBI team who have assumed the lead role in this investigation. The FBI has opened a "7A". \*

(CONTINUED)

The reporters write furiously, DANNY among them.

C.J. (CONT'D)

That's a missing persons file, and has assigned Zoey Patricia Bartlet a control number "7A WF 83429". The WF stands for Washington Field Office. I'll take a few questions before turning it over to Agent Casper...

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Every hand shoots up, it's bedlam.

C.J. (CONT'D)

Lyle...

\*

LYLE

How long will Speaker Walken be President?

C.J.

He'll serve until President Bartlet sends a second letter to Congress indicating he's prepared to resume his duties.

\*  
\*

(and)

Steve...

STEVE

CNN is reporting the Fifth Fleet has been ordered into the Persian Gulf. Is there any reason to believe this was the work of a foreign government?

\*

C.J.

We're still in the early stages of this. It's too soon to speculate on who's involved. Katie...

\*  
\*  
\*

KATIE

Paramedics on the scene have indicated drugs were involved. Does Zoey Bartlet have a drug problem and did she have any reason to disappear?

\*

C.J. takes a moment to register her displeasure.

\*

C.J.

There's a Secret Service Agent with a bullet in her head, I think the FBI feels pretty comfortable calling it a kidnapping.

\*  
\*  
\*

KATIE

C.J....!

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

C.J.

And no, Katie, Zoey Bartlet doesn't have a drug problem.

(gesturing him forward)

Agent Casper.

She steps away from the podium, Casper steps up.

CASPER

At 3:17 AM we received what we believe to be an authentic communication from Ms. Bartlet's kidnappers demanding the release of three convicted terrorists being held by Pakistan and the removal of all American military personnel from Qumar and Saudi Arabia.

Questions are shouted out, but Casper continues over it.

CASPER (CONT'D)

We're also issuing a BOLO for five individuals last seen in the Portland area who are wanted for questioning in connection with possible terrorist activities.

C.J. stands at the back of the stage, silent. Out in the audience, Danny stares at her, she doesn't meet his gaze.

CASPER (CONT'D)

They are Yemeni nationals Faruk Salam and Ammat Badir...

CUT TO:

11 OMITTED (INCORPORATED INTO SC. 12) 11

12 INT. THE ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY 12

Where Josh is watching the FBI press conference continue on a set that's been brought in.

CASPER (ON TV)

...Tanji Nassaliw, and Masood Shiek Kadallah, both Saudis...

He turns away from the set, makes his way over to where Will and Toby are working at one end of the table.

JOSH

I'm guessing Burka sales are gonna take a little dip this afternoon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOSH (CONT'D)

(as he sits)

What are you working on? \*

WILL

Remarks.

JOSH

For what? \*

WILL

Walken's address to the nation. \*

JOSH

He's addressing the nation?

WILL

No, but he'll have to.

Donna comes in carrying miscellaneous items of breakfast food on a tray. A yogurt, a muffin, an overripe banana.

DONNA

They didn't have much. \*

JOSH

Oatmeal carrot granola?

She ignores him, wasn't happy about being asked to make the food run in the first place. Turns to Toby: \*

DONNA

Ginger find you? Your Mother called, she's worried about you. \*

Toby continues to work through this, not really looking up.

JOSH

What did she say about the twins? \*

TOBY

I haven't told her yet.

JOSH

You haven't told your mother?

TOBY

Something came up. \*

Donna has unwrapped something starts to eat it. \*

WILL

What is that? \*

(CONTINUED)



DONNA  
Eggwich. \*

WILL  
I'm sorry. \*

DONNA  
Me too. \*

Josh looks off, he's tired, they all are. But that's not it:

JOSH  
I think we made a mistake.

DONNA  
What?

JOSH  
Letting the President step aside. \*

WILL  
Have you been watching CNN, MSNBC? Even  
Fox is treating it as a seminar on the  
resiliency of the Constitution.

JOSH  
They're just laying off because the  
President's daughter is probably tied up  
in the back of a gas station. We have no  
idea how it's really playing. \*

He's not being callous, just realistic. \*

WILL  
He showed he's a leader, nobly embracing  
his own flawed humanity.

JOSH  
Lincoln and Kennedy had children who  
died. If he can't lead us through this  
how can he ever lead us again? \*

TOBY  
Who's been calling?

JOSH  
(after a beat)  
...Congressional leadership.

TOBY  
Lincoln never got a ransom note from  
Jefferson Davis. \*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Presidents don't get to take leaves of  
absence 'cause the job gets too personal.

It's really starting to heat up now.

TOBY

He put the country before his family. He  
didn't cling to power so that he could  
threaten Mecca with carpet bombing to get  
his daughter back.

JOSH

What if they like Walken better?

That quiets everyone down.

JOSH (CONT'D)

What if he seems more Presidential. What  
if the voters want Walken to stay?

WILL

In a few days President Bartlet turns the  
second letter over to Congress.

JOSH

What if it doesn't take a few days, what  
if it takes a few weeks or a few months?  
What if she's never found?

There's a long moment. No one says anything.

JOSH (CONT'D)

It was a mistake.

CUT TO:

13 INT. WEST WING HALLWAY - DAY

13

An irritated C.J. walks toward her office, Carol follows.

C.J.

Only eight hours and we're already  
blaming the victim? What's next, her  
skirt was too short?

CAROL

I sent one of the kids over to your  
apartment for clothes.

They turn into her offices. Danny waits in the outer office.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

C.J....

C.J.

Not today Danny, please.

DANNY

Yes, today.

C.J.

Carol?

(she comes back in)

A donut maybe, or some toast.

Carol goes again as C.J. begins leafing through the huge pile of Sunday papers that have shown up on her desk.

DANNY

Pulling out of Qumar, the release of Bahji prisoners. I have to ask.

C.J.

No, actually, you don't.

DANNY

Is there a connection between the assassination of Abdul Shareef and the kidnapping of Zoey Bartlet?

C.J.

We have a deal.

DANNY

That was before the President's daughter was --

C.J.

A deal, Danny. Three days.

DANNY

In exchange for an exclusive on five Bahji sleepers the FBI just outed to every news outlet in the known universe.

She stares at him, he doesn't back down.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Is there a connection between the assassination of Abdul Shareef and the kidnapping of Zoey Bartlet?

C.J.

It's only been a few hours...

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Is there a connection between the assassination of Abdul Shareef and the kidnapping of Zoey Bartlet?

C.J.

Christ Danny, I have no idea! What do you want from me?

DANNY

I'm filing the story today.

C.J.

It'll get buried.

DANNY

No. It won't.  
(then)

Does the White House wish to comment on accusations that President Bartlet ordered the assassination of a senior official of a friendly government?

She takes a long moment.

C.J.

I don't know.

DANNY

Well, find out. You've got two hours before I post it online. \*

And Danny leaves, off C.J. we --

CUT TO:

14 INT. THE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

14

Leo, FITZWALLACE, NANCY, Casper from the FBI, Slattery from the State Department, other military and civilian staffers. \*

NANCY

The Pakistanis are prepared to stage a release of the Bahji prisoners. We film it, put it on CNN, send it to Al Jazeera. \*

LEO

What does it get us? \*

CASPER

A little more time. \*

(CONTINUED)

FITZWALLACE

You don't think these guys have cell phones? What happens when they don't get a call from their Pakistani terrorist buddies saying they're safe and sound eating falafel in Karachi?

A junior officer by the door stands, announcing the arrival. All the others do the same. "MR. PRESIDENT", "GOOD MORNING, SIR". Walken makes his way to the head of the table, sits.

WALKEN

Stand down, everybody.  
(they do)  
Where are we?

FITZWALLACE

The Washington Carrier group will be in position in three hours.

WALKEN

We've had no further communication from the kidnapers?

CASPER

No. But the license used to rent the mini-van in Dover led us to an apartment complex in Baltimore rented to the same Shahab Kaleel. Neighbors say two other Arab men were living with Kaleel. No one's seen them for three days.

LEO

What about the apartment?

CASPER

Mail, photographs, numerous fingerprints, even a passport.

WALKEN

They didn't try to cover their tracks?

CASPER

No, sir. They don't care if we know who they are. They don't plan on being alive in a few days.

Christ. That knocks the air out of the room.

WALKEN

What do you want to hit Admiral?

(CONTINUED)

FITZWALLACE  
Kazir training camps.

\*  
\*

NANCY  
The Qumaris say they're religious schools.

\*

FITZWALLACE  
They're terrorist training camps masquerading as religious schools. We traced Kaleel to Zachari Faruk, leader of the camps.

\*  
\*  
\*

WALKEN  
They close to anything?

NANCY  
Villages, hospitals, a food distribution center.

FITZWALLACE  
We're suggesting AGM-88 HARMs, we'll hit what we're aiming for.

\*

NANCY  
This is a long term ally in a highly volatile region.

\*

FITZWALLACE  
Bombing Tripoli shut up Qaddafi.

\*

NANCY  
It's more likely to strengthen the resolve of the terrorists and topple a moderate Islamic regime.

\*

LEO  
If we bomb the camps don't the kidnappers murder Zoey Bartlet?

That stops debate. Everybody looks at their shoes, no one wants to meet Leo's gaze. After a moment:

WALKEN  
Or it sends a message, kill her or don't kill her, the United States doesn't negotiate with terrorists.

(to Leo)

We give any indication we're willing to negotiate and the Mayor of Omaha's nephew won't be safe from gangbangers trying to spring the local crack king from county lockup.

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

Nancy and Leo share a concerned look.

SLATTERY

Our European allies are going to go  
crazy. They have billions tied up in oil  
and natural gas pipelines in Qumar. \*

WALKEN

Screw the Europeans. They've had years  
to convince the Qumaris to get their  
house in order. \*

(to Casper)

What are the chances Zoey Bartlet is  
still alive? \*

CASPER

Hard to say, but I think, yes, she  
probably is. They'll want to milk this  
for all it's worth. \*

Walken doesn't think about it for long, knows what he wants to  
do and he's going to do it.

WALKEN

Get your people in place, Admiral. We  
don't go today unless we're provoked. \*

(to Casper)

Find her and find her fast. \*

(to the group)

But if Zoey Bartlet turns up dead, I'm  
going to blow the hell out of something  
and then God only knows what happens  
next. \*

Walken stands, goes. Everyone else stands too. Walken exits.  
Off Leo, watching his concern we --

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. THE RESIDENCE HALLWAY - MORNING (9:00AM) 15

The elevator doors open quietly, Leo steps out, passes Secret Service agents posted in the long hallway. On screen: \*

"Hour Nine"

Appears and then disappears. Leo walks heavily, he hasn't slept for almost thirty hours and it's begun to take it's toll. Sees someone sitting quietly halfway down the hall -- \*

CHARLIE. Like everyone he wears yesterday's clothes, hasn't slept. Charlie sees him coming but doesn't rise. And Leo doesn't stop, merely nods an acknowledgement as he passes and announces himself to the agent at the door. \*

LEO  
He's expecting me.

CUT TO:

16 INT. RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM - MORNING 16

Leo sits across from Bartlet and Abbey. There's no formality here, just old friends trying to weather a terrible crisis.

BARTLET  
The kid's asking for immunity?  
(Leo nods)  
Give me a tire iron, I'll go beat the name out of him myself.

He's not joking, he would. The ever present TV is on low in the background, all news, all the time.

LEO  
We gave it to him. Dealer's an Algerian friend of his from Paris. They haven't found him yet. Jean Paul thought he was spiking her drink with Ecstasy, not GHB. \*

And that makes it better? Bartlet looks off, trying to contain his anger. \*

ABBEY  
Anything else from the kidnappers? \*

(CONTINUED)



LEO

Not yet. But the FBI traced the drivers license to an apartment in Baltimore. They have names and descriptions of two additional suspects and a wealth of new information to work off of.

Leo's holding back but the Bartlets don't realize. They sit there, holding hands, it's touching and harrowing. Parents, terrified for their daughter. The phone begins to RING. \*

BARTLET

We need to stall, give the FBI more time. What about the Pakistanis?

LEO

Yeah.

BARTLET

You're already doing it? \*

Leo nods. The phone is INSISTENT. Abbey goes to answer it. \*

ABBEY

Excuse me.

BARTLET

She's been on the phone for hours, people never know what to say, she just ends up consoling them. \*

Bartlet and Leo watch her for a moment. We don't hear it, but it's clearly emotional, and hard to watch. \*

LEO

Everyone's calling; Presidents, Prime Ministers, the Vatican... \*

BARTLET

I'm sure no one's excited about the idea of our children being in play now. \*

They sit there for a moment, Bartlet watching his wife on the phone, brushing away tears as she listens to an old friend, offering support and consolation. \*

BARTLET (CONT'D) \*

They gave her a number, Leo. I saw it on CNN. My little girl's a case number now. Five digits.

(after a moment)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (CONT'D)

You think they've had eighty thousand kids disappear in the DC area? Is that how they got up to a number that high?

Bartlet is lost. The room thick with anxiety and grief.

LEO

Danny Concanon is going to run the Shareef story.

BARTLET

(he wasn't listening)  
...what?

LEO

The Shareef story. Danny's running it, asked if we wanted to comment.

That's bad news, but it so pales in comparison to everything else that's going on it's hard to register real concern.

BARTLET

...No...no comment.  
(and then)  
So what's he going to do, cry Havoc and let slip the dogs of war? \*

He's asking if the man he handed over power to is preparing to sign his daughter's death warrant. Leo takes a moment:

LEO

I'm really not at liberty to discuss that with you, sir.

BARTLET

Right, no. I'm sorry, of course.

Honestly, he really didn't want to know. After a beat:

LEO

I should get back. \*

Leo looks to Abbey, still on the phone. Isn't sure if he should say goodbye, but she's lost in her conversation.

LEO (CONT'D) \*

Charlie is out in the hall.

BARTLET

What? I sent him home hours ago.

LEO

He didn't go.

(CONTINUED)

They step out into --

17 INT. WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCE HALLWAY - MORNING 17

Leo starts back for the elevator, passing Charlie. Bartlet takes a moment by the door, then walks down to Charlie.

BARTLET

I thought I sent you home.

Charlie looks, didn't know the President was there. Stands --

CHARLIE

You need something, sir?

BARTLET

No, we're good. Sit, sit...

Charlie does, Bartlet sits beside him.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Jean Paul gave the FBI the name of his dealer.

Charlie looks off, his rage is palpable.

BARTLET (CONT'D)

Yeah, I want to kill him too.

(Charlie nods)

You really should go home.

(Charlie doesn't answer)

You work for the President, he's going to need you down there.

\*  
\*

CHARLIE

I work for you, sir. Somebody else can show him where the Xerox paper is.

\*

BARTLET

You do a lot more than that, Charlie.

\*

CHARLIE

Thank you, sir. But I'd prefer to stay here with you.

\*

Off Charlie and Bartlet, sitting vigil we --

\*

CUT TO:

18 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - MORNING

18

We're CLOSE on the Post, a huge picture above the fold, Walken in command at the press room podium, Bartlet tiny behind him, dejected and bereaved. The kind of photo you win a Pulitzer for. The headline blares "IN CHARGE".

It's shuffled aside as WE PULL BACK to find Margaret standing in front of Leo, watching him pick through the pile of papers and memos on his desk, irritated.

MARGARET

It's under the...

LEO

I know where it is.

But he clearly doesn't, keeps looking on the left. She points to the right side of his desk.

MARGARET

Right by the...

LEO

I had it with the NEC ween-ahead... \*

She reaches across, careful not to get in his way, pulls out a folder. Hands it across, he stares at it.

LEO (CONT'D)

Did you move it? \*

C.J.

Excuse me, Leo? \*

C.J.'s in the door. She's had a shower, a change of clothes. \*

C.J. (CONT'D)

Danny's filing in an hour, have you had a chance to take it to the President? \*

Leo is distracted, reading the newly found memo.

LEO

I was just up in the residence. The answer is no, we don't comment.

C.J.

The residence?

LEO

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.  
(carefully)  
I meant President Walken.

Leo stops. Looks up at her, hard. After a beat:

LEO  
Margaret?

It's oddly awkward between them while they wait for Margaret to appear in the doorway. When she does:

LEO (CONT'D)  
Everybody ready to go?

MARGARET  
They're gathering.

LEO  
(to C.J.)  
Bring it up with Walken at the meeting. \*

Leo heads out into --

19 INT. WEST WING HALLWAY

19

C.J. follows, they pick up Josh, Will and finally Toby.

JOSH  
You see this?

The "IN CHARGE" issue of the Post.

LEO  
Yeah. Any word on a new Speaker? \*

JOSH  
It's gonna be Mitchell or Haffley. I'm betting Haffley. \*

WILL  
Oh man, Haffley? \*

JOSH  
It'll be Mitchell. Even Republicans think Haffley's a fascist. I'm also hearing rumors that Walken plans to appoint a Vice President. \*

LEO  
He won't. \*

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

JOSH

He can.

They turn into --

20 INT. FIDERER'S OFFICE - DAY

20

LEO

He won't.

Fiderer is behind her desk. The place is full of other unfamiliar faces, Walken's House staff, squatting.

FIDERER

Everybody here?

LEO

Yeah. How's he doing?

FIDERER

(quietly)

He has a dog.

She clearly doesn't approve, KNOCKS, leads them into --

21 INT. THE OVAL OFFICE

21

Josh looks behind him as several of the Walken staffers come in behind him. Who the hell are these guys?

WALKEN

Come on in.

It's a strangely disorienting experience, they've been in here a thousand times, but now it's somehow different.

WALKEN (CONT'D)

Don't worry folks, I haven't reupholstered the furniture yet.

On the sofa, a young, tightly wound package of good schools, great tailoring and too much ambition, STEVE ATWOOD.

WALKEN (CONT'D)

You all know Steve from my office.

Josh offers a thin smile. These two despise each other. \*

WALKEN (CONT'D)

Phil Bradley, Anne Peterson, Tim Safford.  
Everybody, sit.

(CONTINUED)

The minions lounge around like they own the joint. Toby stands in front of the ten year old staffer sitting in his usual spot. Walken notices.

WALKEN (CONT'D)  
You all have assigned seats?

TOBY  
A... no sir.

Toby goes to the wall, grabs a chair as C.J. stares down a slobbery pug, glowering up at her from the only open spot on the end of the other sofa.

WALKEN  
That's Shelly, just shoo her off a there. \*  
Get down Shel... Down!

The dog takes a final contemptuous look at C.J., saunters off. Walken takes his spot in Bartlet's usual chair. His choice isn't coincidental. There's an uncomfortable moment before:

WALKEN (CONT'D)  
So how does this usually go, Leo?

LEO  
Treasury and Commerce are coming at one \*  
to discuss whether we should close the \*  
markets tomorrow.

STEVE  
That's not a bad idea. \*

TOBY  
We close them, the terrorists win. \*

STEVE  
The last thing people need to see Monday \*  
morning is the Dow down six hundred and \*  
the dollar tanking. \*

TOBY  
Closing the market only hurts the dollar. \*

Well, we're not off to a good start. After a beat:

WALKEN  
They're coming over at one? \*  
(Leo nods)  
Where are we on a VP?

Josh sneaks a look to Leo. Evasively:

(CONTINUED)

JOSH  
We're still vetting candidates.

- WALKEN  
In case you boys haven't noticed, I'm one Prime Rib dinner away from sudden cardiac arrest. I don't want the Secretary of Agriculture sworn in as the next President of the United States. \*

WILL  
Senate Pro Tem.  
(they stare at him)  
...The Senate Pro Tem is next in the line of succession.

WALKEN  
The Republican Leadership is giving me their ideas, you might want to round up a few names of your own. If I'm still here Tuesday we're going to get into this. \*

Wow, you could hear a pin drop. Shelly is over by the Portico door, scratching on the glass to get out.

WALKEN (CONT'D)  
Shelly, knock it off.  
(now the dog BARKS)  
Shelly!  
(back to the group)  
What else?

But the dog keeps BARKING and scratching, it's distracting. \*

C.J.  
Danny Concanon is doing a story alleging we assassinated Abdul Shareef. \*

C.J. is very uncomfortable bringing this up in front of Walken's guys, but Walken turns his attentions immediately to Leo. \*

WALKEN  
How are his sources? \*

LEO  
He's got it.

It's very quiet in the room, the other Republicans didn't know, exchange looks. But Shelly's still going at the door.

C.J.  
He's looking for a comment.

(CONTINUED)



WALKEN

I suppose throwing him into leg-irons and locking him up in the Capital basement is out of the question? \*

(the dog's still BARKING)

Dammit Shelly! Tim, take her out for a pee, would you? The leash is over there hanging on my chair.

The aide looks like he'd rather be shot. Pulled out of an Oval Office meeting to walk the boss' dog. But he goes.

WALKEN (CONT'D)

Where were we?

LEO

Shareef. We shouldn't comment sir, not while Zoey Bartlet is missing. \*

STEVE

We need to get out in front of it. Release it before it breaks in the Post. \*

TOBY

Release what, that we violated the Neutrality Act to covertly assassinate an official of a friendly government?

STEVE

Must not have been too friendly if you guys decided to shoot him.

WILL

Sir, acknowledging the assassination destroys a century's worth of progress towards international law. \*

STEVE

You guys didn't think of that before you did it? \*

JOSH

We didn't expect it to become public. \*

STEVE

Yeah, well, you've tried that before, how did it work out on MS?

Well now, this has gone to hell in handbag. A beat, then Walken renders his decision.

(CONTINUED)

WALKEN

Release it before Concanon has a chance  
to run his story.

C.J.

Sir, we convinced Danny to hold the story  
several days ago, undercutting him would  
be going back on our agreement. \*

Walken levels her with a look.

WALKEN

Your agreement. Release it.

CUT TO:

22 **EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE DRIVEWAY - MORNING**

22

Bartlet and Abbey wait in the shelter of the entrance,  
surrounded by Secret Service agents as two limos pull up.

The rear door of the first one opens and ELLIE BARTLET steps  
out, Abbey moves toward her. They embrace emotionally. \*  
Bartlet watches as the second limo slows behind the first.

Another door opens and a man climbs out, handsome, late  
thirties, DOUG WESTIN. He turns back to the limo, helps a  
woman out. Attractive, intelligent, tired. ELIZABETH BARTLET  
WESTIN, their oldest daughter. She smiles weakly at her  
father, goes immediately to join her mother and younger sister  
in an emotional embrace.

A fourteen year old girl, ANNIE, climbs out behind her  
parents, helps her six year old brother, GEORGE, out. \*

DOUG

Hello, Jed. \*

Doug offers his hand to his father-in-law, then a hug. \*

DOUG (CONT'D) \*

How are you holding up?

Bartlet doesn't answer, smiles. It was a stupid, vaguely  
vacuous question asked when you don't know what to say.

DOUG (CONT'D)

...yeah...

Doug heads back for his kids, leaving Bartlet standing there,  
watching his wife and daughters holding each other.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Ellie peeks over her mother's shoulder, sees him standing there. As Bartlet moves to his grandchildren we --

\*  
\*

CUT TO:

23 INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - MORNING

23

C.J. stares at her computer for a long moment, then:

C.J.

Carol...

(she appears)

Call the Oval, see if he has a moment to go over a draft of the press release we were discussing a few minutes ago.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Carol goes. C.J. noodles over it on her computer for a moment longer. Danny appears in the open door.

DANNY

You looking for me?

C.J.

The White House doesn't want to comment for your story.

\*

DANNY

Okay.

Danny starts to go.

C.J.

Danny.

(he steps back in)

Post the story now. Right now.

\*

He watches her for a moment, then realizes. Nods.

DANNY

Thanks.

Goes in a hurry. Off C.J. we --

\*

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

24 INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - DAY (1:30PM)

24

Josh makes his way down the hall with a marked up legal pad, has to sidestep movers carrying settees and end tables.

"Hour Thirteen"

Appears and disappears. Sticks his head into Toby's office.

JOSH

What's with Bekins?

TOBY

The Visigoths laid siege to the Mural Room. \*

JOSH

Atwood and his guys? \*

(Toby nods) \*

I guess we should be happy they didn't evict us from our office. \*

TOBY

I'm sure it was discussed. You still homeless? \*

JOSH

No, FBI moved over to the OEOB. \*

Josh steps over to Will's window, the blinds are closed.

JOSH (CONT'D) \*

Will working in there?

TOBY

Sleeping I think.

Josh RAPS hard on the window. Nothing. RAPS again.

JOSH

Walken scheduled a press conference?

TOBY

He has to respond to Danny's story.

JOSH

What's he going to say?

Nothing from Will's office. Josh RAPS again, louder.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

I have no idea. \*

Will's face appears in a corner of the blinds. Josh motions. \*

JOSH

I've narrowed it down to about fifty names.

TOBY

That's what, everyone over thirty-five with a pulse? \*

JOSH

Bachman. \*

TOBY

Too liberal. We're talking Norman Thomas with a necktie. \*

JOSH

Okay, I'm pretty sure Norman Thomas wore a necktie, but scratch Bachman... \*

Will appears in the door, he was definitely sleeping. \*

JOSH (CONT'D) \*

I've got some VP names.

WILL

...great...

Will's hair is kinda standing straight up. Josh points...

JOSH

Your...a...

Will tries to straighten it halfheartedly, it doesn't help.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hayes. \*

TOBY

Fair Labor Standards Act?

JOSH

Oh yeah. Graham?

WILL

No support in the Northeast. Plus he rides that scooter which is a little... \*

(gestures) \*

Who hoo... \*

(CONTINUED)

JOSH  
Sheats?

TOBY  
Too...

JOSH  
...Yeah. Aahhhh...

Josh puts the pad down, rubs his face. It's hard to focus on this with what's going on, hard to stay focused period.

WILL  
You getting lots of calls?

JOSH  
Only a couple hundred. They all start by saying how sorry they are about Zoey then spend ten minutes trying to work their name and the vice presidency into the same sentence. You were sleeping?  
(Will nods)  
How's that feel?

WILL  
Good. It felt good. I see why people do it from time to time. \*

Donna knocks on the open door, is carrying Josh's jacket. \*

DONNA  
Leo's looking for you.

Josh tries to straighten his tie. Donna smiles at Toby. \*

DONNA (CONT'D) \*

Are they going home today?

TOBY  
Who?

Josh isn't getting his tie right, Donna steps in.

DONNA \*

The twins.

JOSH \*

I was gonna ask about the twins. \*

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

They go home tomorrow. With twins they try to give the mother an extra few hours to rest up for the years of suicidal chaos that lay ahead.

\*

JOSH

Anybody else coming along for the Auto Da Fe?

TOBY

Sadly, we weren't invited.

Josh goes. Donna looks at Will's hair oddly.

WILL

What...?

CUT TO:

25 INT. THE ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY (FORMERLY LEO'S OFFICE) 25

\*

The meeting's already in swing, the room full of Congressional Democratic Lions. The most important of them, SHEILA FIELDS and ROBERT ROSATO (House and Senate minority leaders) sit closest to Leo. Others sit or stand.

\*

\*

\*

LEO

President Walken has assured me that he has no intention of pushing any partisan agenda --

ROSATO

Walken can spend his entire Presidency channel surfing in the Lincoln Bedroom, you've said to the country Democrats can't handle national security! If you want to save a spotted owl, vote Democratic. If you want your kids safe, sorry, we'll be doing the crossword puzzle.

\*

\*

\*

Josh's enters quietly, finds a spot to lean on the wall.

LEO

President Bartlet is protecting kids by ensuring that decisions are being made based on relevant intel, not on a distraught father's clouded emotions.

\*

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

FIELDS

If any emotions are clouded, it's yours, Leo. Let's face it, you've always been too close to Bartlet. \*

Whoa, the gloves are really coming off now. A new voice in the back. RICHARDSON, from the caucus.

RICHARDSON

It's your job to buck him up, to help him make the tough decisions. The Presidency isn't a vanity exercise. \*

Now Leo's getting angry.

LEO

Who's doing electoral math on the back of a napkin in the middle of a national crisis? \*

FIELDS

You've single-handedly ended the Imperial Presidency. \*

JOSH

Actually, the fall of the Berlin Wall did that.

The leadership looks back at Josh, unhappy he's intruded.

ROSATO

You've elevated Walken and the Republican chairman, made them into true players on the world stage. \*

LEO

I didn't elevate them, the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 did. And I'm not prepared to think about politics while we're under terrorist attack. The Republic comes first. That's why Truman wanted the Speaker third in line.

RICHARDSON

Truman wanted the Speaker third in line because he used to drink Bourbon with Sam Rayburn.

LEO

The only thing I find extraordinary about that is a member of the executive branch actually wanted to share a drink with a member of the Congressional leadership.

(CONTINUED)



Leo stands, signalling the meeting is over.

LEO (CONT'D)  
Thank you for coming by to share your  
concerns. I'll be sure to pass them on  
to President Bartlet.

Leo heads out into --

25A INT. THE HALLWAY - DAY

25A

Josh follows.

JOSH  
Those guys are on our side?  
(Leo doesn't answer)  
They're not wrong you know. We have to  
start thinking about the political  
ramifications.  
(then)  
We should be polling on this.

LEO  
No.

JOSH  
The Republicans will.

LEO  
No.

He's emphatic, doesn't even look up at Josh. After a beat:

JOSH  
...Okay....

And Josh backs out. We stay with Leo as he stands at his  
desk, trying not to let it affect him, but then:

LEO  
Margaret?  
(she appears)  
Get me Bruno Gianelli.

CUT TO:

26 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE PRESS ROOM - DAY

26

C.J. makes her way toward the Press Room. Carol follows.

C.J.  
So we have no idea what's going to be in  
his statement?

(CONTINUED)

CAROL

He had his staff print it up.

C.J.

Great. Hopefully we're not declaring war on Uruguay.

CAROL

What's all over your butt?

C.J.

What?

C.J. swats at her own bottom.

CAROL

Looks like cat hairs or something.

C.J.

Oh for godsake...

Short, white, coarse animal hair is all over the backside of her Navy Blue skirt. She swats but it's not coming off easily. Carol tries to help.

\*  
\*  
\*

CAROL

Did you get a pet?

C.J.

No... It's President Walken.

CAROL

He's molting?

\*

She's patting at her backside with increasing frustration.

\*

WALKEN

Back home you have to pay extra for that at the Kit Kat Club.

Walken's arrived with minions in tow. C.J. stops, humiliated.

C.J.

I... I, got something on my skirt.

WALKEN

They ready for us?

C.J.

Ah, yes sir.

CAROL

I'll go settle the room.

(CONTINUED)

Carol disappears. There's an uncomfortable pause.

WALKEN  
My tie straight?

It's not really. She isn't sure what to do.

C.J.  
No. Would you like me to...?

WALKEN  
Thanks...

She leans in to his tie. It's uncomfortably intimate.

WALKEN (CONT'D)  
Remarkable how the Post story hit the  
wires right before our release.  
(then)  
Bad luck for us, I guess.

He's on to her. But oddly, he doesn't seem to be angry. \*

C.J.  
There you go.

WALKEN  
You know, I'm not the enemy. The things  
that unite us are far greater than the  
things that divide us. We both believe  
in democracy, the preservation of our  
American values and ideals, protecting  
our citizens and children from a  
sometimes hostile world...

He's charming in a straightforward way, she smiles.

C.J.  
Life, liberty and the pursuit of  
happiness, Mr. President?

WALKEN  
Exactly.

C.J.  
That what's in your statement?

WALKEN  
Something like that.

Carol sticks her head back out, signals that they're ready. \*

(CONTINUED)

C.J.

Then you should do fine.

As they head into the Press Room we --

TIME CUT TO:

27 INT. ~~COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN~~ - DAY

27

Josh, Toby, Will and Donna sit on desks, lean against the walls, watching the press conference in progress on the set. Walken's at the podium, answering questions authoritatively. C.J. stands behind him to the side.

LYLE (OS ON TV)

Doesn't the murder of a foreign official undercut our moral authority to condemn human rights violations in China and Africa?

WALKEN (ON TV)

We live in the real world. Our moral value system only works if everybody plays by the same rules.

27A INT. WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCE - DAY

27A

The news conference continues, Abbey watches it. Ellie by her side. Elizabeth stands to the other side. All are stunned.

LYLE (ON TV)

But didn't it violate the 1948 Neutrality Act protecting the citizens of friendly nations from prosecution?

WALKEN (ON TV)

Terrorists aren't nations and the Neutrality Act doesn't give a free pass to people who support the murder of women and children.

27B INT. ~~COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN~~ - DAY

27B

Toby, Josh, Will and Donna. They're mesmerized, as if it were the last, painful moments in a close ballgame.

WILL

Damn. Good answer.

KATIE (ON TV)

You stated that as Speaker you knew of and supported the assassination. Do you now regret that support?

(CONTINUED)

WALKEN (ON TV)

My only regret is we only got to kill the  
bastard once. \*

Ohhhh.... A bases loaded home run by the opposing team, a  
three pointer at the buzzer. They all groan. \*

WILL

The UN is going to go crazy.

DONNA

I'm sorry, but he seems, I don't know... \*

JOSH

Presidential? \*

27C INT. THE WHITE HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY 27C \*

Bartlet watches from his chair. Alone, the remote hanging  
limply in his hand. \*

STEVE (ON TV) \*

If something were to happen to you the  
Presidency would fall to Senate Pro Tem  
Sam Furman who is ninety. Are you going  
to appoint a Vice-President? \*

WALKEN (ON TV) \*

Insuring an orderly succession is  
important but right now all of us here  
are just focused on getting Zoey Bartlet  
back for her parents and for the nation.  
Thank you ladies and gentlemen. \*

27D INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - DAY 27D \*

Wow. Game, set, match. As the press corp shouts other  
questions, Walken exits and C.J. moves to the podium. \*

C.J. (ON TV) \*

Our next scheduled briefing is with... \*

TOBY

Hell, if an election were held tomorrow,  
I might vote for him. \*

Off the four of them, dejected, we --

CUT TO:

28 INT. THE WHITE HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY (FORMERLY BEDROOM) 28 \*

Bartlet still sits in front of the TV watching the last moments of the press conference breaking up. Finally hits the OFF button on his remote and the set goes dark. \*

He sits for a long moment. Unmoving, numb. There's a KNOCK at the closed door. He doesn't seem to hear it. \*

ELIZABETH

Dad...

Elizabeth steps farther into the room. \*

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Dad? \*

He looks to her. She stands there, quiet, accusing. Whatever is between these two, it hasn't been helped by recent events. \*

ELIZABETH (CONT'D) \*

You ordered a man assassinated? \*

(he doesn't answer)

Did mom know? \*

CUT TO:

29 INT. RESIDENCE PRIVATE FAMILY KITCHEN - DAY 29 \*

Abbey and Ellie are silently making sandwiches in a room we've never seen before, the private family kitchen the Bartlet's had constructed for their own use in the residence. It hovers somewhere between a Yankee suburban Architectural Digest ad and institutional. \*

Bartlet steps into the door. Watches them for a moment before Abbey sees him standing there, keeps working. \*

BARTLET

Ellie, can you give us a minute?

ABBEY

We're making lunch. \*

It's edgy, declarative. Ellie is uncomfortable, stuck.

BARTLET

Why don't I call downstairs, get them to send something up -- \*

ABBEY

I don't want more people in here, there are already too many people in our lives. \*

(CONTINUED)

She's angry. Angry and overwhelmed and confused. Elizabeth enters from behind her father. \*

ELIZABETH  
The kids' noodles ready? \*

ELLIE  
Yeah, and I cut up some fruit. \*

He knows Abbey well, waits. Finally, a plea: \*

ABBEY  
It isn't true, is it? \*  
(he doesn't answer) \*  
Tell me it isn't true. \*

He looks away. Up until that moment, she'd been hoping desperately it wasn't. After a long beat, quietly: \*

BARTLET  
I'm sorry you had to hear about it on television. \*

ABBEY  
(darkly) \*  
Why should today be any different? \*

Elizabeth has the kids' plates, pushes past her father to go. \*

ELIZABETH  
Excuse me... \*

BARTLET  
Abdul Shareef had nothing to do with what's happened to Zoey. \*

ABBEY  
You don't know that! \*

BARTLET  
(defending himself) \*  
It was a difficult decision, debated and discussed and agonized over for weeks -- \*

ABBEY  
By you, not us. \*

BARTLET  
I did what I thought was necessary. \*

But she's not buying, grabs two plates, starts out --

(CONTINUED)

ABBEY

Your decisions, Jed, not ours. \*

And then she's gone. He doesn't follow, just stands there, \*  
defeated. Ellie watches him, unsure what to say, to do.  
After a moment, she grabs a couple of other plates, starts out \*  
after her mother.

But then stops beside him and surprisingly, leans her head \*  
lovingly against his shoulder. Closes her eyes.

He's shocked by the gesture, it's something he hasn't seen or \*  
felt from her since she was a child. Places his hand gently \*  
on her head, brings her a little closer to him, kisses her \*  
hair as a tear escapes down her face.

Then he lets her go, and with that, she follows her mother.  
Off a devastated Bartlet, left alone in the kitchen we --

FADE OUT:

END ACT THREE



ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

30 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON (5:00 PM) 30

It's darkened. The curtains drawn. Margaret KNOCKS gently as she pushes into the room, carries a mug of coffee for him.

MARGARET

Leo...?

He's on the couch, curled up, his back away from us. Asleep. \*

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Leo?

He wakes with a start, sits up quickly. \*

"Hour Seventeen"

Appears and then disappears from the screen. \*

LEO \*

What time is it? \*

MARGARET \*

Almost five. \*

LEO

I told you to wake me at four.

MARGARET

You needed the rest.

LEO

What are you now, my mother? \*

She goes to the desk, turns on the lamp. \*

MARGARET

The Secretary of State called. \*

LEO

I bet he did.

MARGARET

He's getting some pretty irate calls on the Shareef thing. \*

(then)

And Josh wants you, last quarter's economic numbers are in.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

...And?  
(she doesn't answer)  
Great. Just great...

\*

CUT TO:

31 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

31

Will stands in front of Josh's desk. ED and LARRY are there.

WILL

How bad?

ED

Consumer confidence numbers tanked. New housing sales dropped 1.2%, non-residential construction was down 2.6%. And out of nowhere, the ISM index fell below 50.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

LARRY

Some of the forecasters are starting to freak at the jump in unemployment.

\*  
\*

WILL

I thought they said it was just a blip?

\*

LARRY

Last week it looked like a blip, now it looks like a pattern.

\*  
\*  
\*

Josh looks like he wants so blow his brains out.

\*

JOSH

But duct tape and box cutter futures are up, right?

\*  
\*

ED

Actually, commerce doesn't really break it down by...

\*  
\*

Josh and Will stare at him.

WILL

He was joking, Ed.

JOSH

Where's Toby?

WILL

He went over to the hospital to check on Andy and the twins.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WILL (CONT'D)

(then)

At least the numbers won't get much play  
in the press right now.

LARRY

If the economy is headed into a  
recession, the Fed --

JOSH

No, no, no, NO... We don't EVER use that  
word around here.

ED

What word? Reces --

JOSH

No!

WILL

If we say it we give it credence. \*

LARRY

So what should we call it?

JOSH

I don't care, call it a boat show or a  
beer garden or... a bagel. \*  
\*

Larry and Ed look at each other uncomfortably.

ED

So if it is a... bagel. The Fed thinks  
it's going to be a mild bagel. \*

WILL

That'll be comforting to the millions of  
Americans who are gonna lose their jobs. \*  
\*

Donna sticks her head in.

DONNA

Take the Haffley photos off the dart  
boards boys, Elvis is in the building. \*

Josh leaps up, grabs his jacket.

JOSH

Come on.

Will grabs his jacket, the two head out.

ED

Who's in the building?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA  
The Republican Leadership.

CUT TO:

32 INT. WEST WING LOBBY

32

Josh in the lead, Will and Donna, Ed and Larry.

JOSH  
Who we got?

\*

DONNA  
Haffley, Connelly and Mitchell.

JOSH  
The unholy Trinity.

LARRY  
What're they doing over here?

WILL  
Picking a new Speaker we think.

\*

They duck into the Communications Bullpen where they try to discreetly pretend they're working and sneak looks into the Roosevelt Room. We don't see the gathering men clearly, only good tailoring and greying haircuts.

JOSH  
Who else is in there, Duke?

\*

\*

DONNA  
Yeah.

JOSH  
Uuhhh...please don't let it be Duke, he hates me.

\*

WILL  
Tomlinson.

JOSH  
He hates me, too.

ED  
Jeff Arkin.

\*

JOSH  
Arkin really hates me.

\*

DONNA  
Are you detecting a pattern here?

\*

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
Hello, Josh. Everybody.

Oh shit. It's Steve Atwood, standing in the side hallway, he's caught them sneaking around.

JOSH  
Hey Steve, how's it going?

STEVE  
Good. You all want to come in for a second, say hello?

It's a remarkably insincere suggestion.

JOSH  
No, that's okay. Thanks.

Atwood starts to go.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Hey, Steve?  
(then)  
Don't get too comfortable in there, you guys won't be back for three or four more terms.

Atwood smiles, he doesn't have to respond, he's the one going into the power room. As he goes:

LARRY  
Hey guys...

Larry is staring at the TV in the corner, Josh doesn't notice.

JOSH  
Do we have hidden cameras or microphones or something in there?

WILL  
Not since the mid '70s.

DONNA  
Josh.

Her face is stricken, Josh and Will join Donna, Ed and Larry staring up at the set. We can't tell exactly what it is, something indistinct that's been blown up, men in foreign emergency uniforms running around, a reporter.

CUT TO:

33 INT. THE SITUATION ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

33

Walken sits at the head of the table. Leo, Fitzwallace, Nancy, Casper from the FBI, Slattery, other officers and support staff. The mood is tense, phones RING discreetly.

\*

SLATTERY

Istanbul is reporting a truck loaded with TNT drove into the lobby of the Thalasso Center Cinema in Antalya.

\*

\*

\*

\*

LEO

How many dead?

SLATTERY

At least fourteen Americans, a group of Italian tourists and sixty Turks.

\*

\*

\*

WALKEN

How many of the Americans were military personnel?

FITZWALLACE

All of them, Mr. President. The theater is popular with our NATO troops on weekend leave from Konya.

\*

\*

\*

WALKEN

Anyone claiming responsibility?

NANCY

Al Jazeera is saying they received a fax from the Bahji.

\*

It's quiet for a long moment. Walken exhales:

WALKEN

Still nothing from the kidnappers?

CASPER

No sir, but we're making progress on the three suspects in Baltimore.

\*

\*

WALKEN

Why haven't we heard from them?

CASPER

We don't know, sir. It's probably time for us to publicly encourage them again to make contact and provide us with additional proof that she's alive. We need them to clarify their intentions.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

FITZWALLACE

Maybe they just did.

He means the silent TV coverage of the night time devastation in Indonesia playing on the wall mounted screens are them.

WALKEN

What about the five sleepers? \*

CASPER \*

No sir.

SLATTERY \*

We're hearing a lot of displeasure from the Middle East over the Shareef assassination. \*

WALKEN

Well, if the Arabs are mad at us we must be doing something right.

Leo and Nancy are oddly quiet, they know where this is going. \*

WALKEN (CONT'D)

Dr. McNally?

NANCY

Sir, this would be the first time in our history we have violated the sovereign soil of an ally.

WALKEN

Admiral?

FITZWALLACE

Our people are at Defcon Alpha awaiting your go.

WALKEN

What would be involved?

FITZWALLACE

Twelve F-14B Tomcats and eight F/A-18C Super Hornets off the George Washington. Then the Marine 3/7 will drop 1,100 Special Ops forces in to clean it up. \*

NANCY

So bombing and an invasion? \*

FITZWALLACE

We'll be in and out in three days. \*

(CONTINUED)

WALKEN

Leo?

LEO

We bomb Qumar and they kill her.

It's heartfelt, real. Everyone in this room understands that Leo has known Zoey since she was an infant. Then, quietly:

WALKEN

They're going to kill her anyway. \*

Leo doesn't argue, just stares at his shoes. After a beat:

WALKEN (CONT'D)

When do you want to go, Admiral?

FITZWALLACE

It'll take Special Ops nine hours to get into position. On your order we'll be over the targets in ten, 06:30 our time tomorrow morning. \*  
\*  
\*

WALKEN

Do you want to tell the President, Leo, or should I?

LEO

Thank you sir, but I'll do it.

WALKEN

Get the Qumari Ambassador over here. We need to let him know we're going to bomb his country. \*

Walken stands, goes. Off Leo we -- \*

CUT TO:

34 INT. THE RESIDENCE HALLWAY - MORNING

34

The elevator doors open quietly, Leo steps out, again passing Secret Service agents posted in the long hallway. The weight of the world now resting heavily on his shoulders.

Charlie's no longer in the hall. As Leo makes the long walk to the residence door we --

CUT TO:



35 INT. RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

35

It's getting dark outside, only a faint glow is left in the greying sky. Bartlet and Leo sit by the large arched window. \*

BARTLET

Josh must be going nuts. \*

LEO

No, he's fine. Where is everybody? \*

BARTLET

Getting dressed, we're going to St. Joseph's, Father Hughes offered to celebrate a private mass for the family. \*

LEO

Secret Service is letting you go? \*

BARTLET

I still have a little pull around here. Ellie came too, did I tell you? \*

LEO

No. That's great. \*

They smile but it's fleeting. After a beat: \*

BARTLET

We started this, Leo. \*

LEO

No, we didn't. \*

BARTLET

Sure we did. \*

LEO

Abdul Shareef ordered the slaughter of innocents by religious fanatics. He was a cold blooded murderer. \*

BARTLET

Fourteen American soldiers dead? \*

LEO

That doesn't make you angry? \*

BARTLET

Of course it makes me angry! \*

There's a KNOCK at the door. Charlie sticks his head in. \*

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Excuse me, sir, the cars are ready.

And Charlie goes. Bartlet takes a moment, then recites:

BARTLET

The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral. Returning violence for violence only multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.

LEO

(quietly)

Dr. King?

BARTLET

I'm part of that darkness now, Leo. When did that happen?

LEO

The world isn't a simple place anymore. Religious fanaticism, ethnic slaughter, nationalistic genocide. Dr. King wasn't wrong, he just didn't have your job.

Bartlet doesn't answer. Stares off into the distance, then:

BARTLET

He's going to bomb, isn't he?

LEO

Yes, sir. He is.

Bartlet looks away, then slowly, hangs his head in despair. Leo places a comforting hand on his old friends knee as we --

CUT TO:

36 INT. C.J.'S OFFICE SUITE - EVENING

36

C.J. is staring at her computer screen.

DANNY

Thanks for earlier.

Danny stands in the open door.

DANNY (CONT'D)

A bunch of us are ordering out, Chinese.

C.J.

I'm good.

(CONTINUED)

She's not giving him much of anything. After a beat:

DANNY

Well, I just wanted to say thanks.

He starts back out.

C.J.

Danny. Did you ever really like me? \*

DANNY

Yeah, I did.

C.J.

I liked you, too.

He smiles, stuffs his hands into his pockets, and goes. Off  
C.J.'s smile we --

CUT TO:

37 **EXT. A SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH - NIGHT** 37

It's beautiful, stone, Gothic, it's been raining as the  
Presidential convoy pulls into the long drive, make their way  
to the church entrance. Secret Service climb out. It's very  
serious, quiet. No media. The limo doors open. \*

Abbey, Elizabeth and Doug, Annie and George. Bartlet, Ellie  
and Charlie.

Abbey picks up George to shield herself from her husband.  
Starts up the steps, Elizabeth, Doug and Annie follow.

Bartlet stands there a moment, watching them go. Then Ellie  
steps in, takes her father's hand. As they make their way  
into the church we --

CUT TO:

38 **INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT** 38

Toby is working at his desk. Leo appears in his open doorway,  
watches the ever present terrorist news coverage on CNN. Toby  
finally notices him.

TOBY

Leo?

LEO

They were just boys. Oldest was only  
twenty-four. \*

(CONTINUED)

Through the window we see Will notice Leo standing in Toby's office. Will stands, starts in.

TOBY

Are we going to respond?

Leo just looks at him, he can't answer and Toby knows it.

WILL

Any word on Zoey?

LEO

I need you to start two speeches. \*

TOBY

I already started noodling around with the first one today.

LEO

Go home tonight. Get some rest, come back fresh in the morning.

(to Will)

Both of you. I need you at your best tomorrow.

TOBY

You going too?

LEO

Yeah, absolutely. I'm beat.

Leo leaves. Will is confused. Toby goes for his coat.

WILL

Why two?

TOBY

One if they find her alive, the other if they don't. \*

Toby leaves, off Will we --

CUT TO:

39 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

39

Donna is turning off the lights in her work area. Sees Josh still sitting at his desk inside.

DONNA

I thought Leo told you to go home?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Yeah. \*

DONNA

Come on, get your coat.

JOSH

I have a few things I want to finish up.  
You go ahead though.

She watches him for a long beat. Then:

DONNA

Carol says people have been leaving stuff  
for Zoey by the fence all day long. I  
thought I might walk by on my way home,  
check it out. \*

He thinks a moment, unsure.

DONNA (CONT'D)

...Come on...

CUT TO:

40 INT. SMALL CATHOLIC CHURCH - NIGHT

40

A beautiful old stone parish church, simply dressed and lit.  
Only a few flowers from the earlier services on the alter and  
steps, candles burning. Nothing ostentatious or pretentious.

The Bartlets are in the second pew. Charlie sits one row  
behind by himself. Otherwise the church is completely empty  
but for the Secret Service discreetly posted at the doors.

The Bartlets are kneeling as the single priest celebrates a  
private mass. Abbey sits away from her husband, intentionally  
separated by her daughters and grandchildren. \*

We GLIDE along the tearful and praying Bartlet faces as we --

DISSOLVE TO:

41 INT. THE SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

41

Where Fitzwallace and his officers monitor the ongoing  
operation. The computer projected progress on the screens  
above, the simple, dramatic discipline of it all.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

WE MOVE QUIETLY through the controlled bustle until WE FIND Leo McGarry, sitting in his seat near the end of the long table, his eyes deadened by exhaustion and responsibility. \*

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE SIDEWALK - NIGHT

42

Josh and Donna come down the drive, step past the Secret Service guard stand and out onto the sidewalk. Look down toward Pennsylvania Avenue along the park. Quietly:

DONNA

Oh my god...

The sidewalk ahead is covered with thousands of bouquets, teddy bears and photographs of Zoey, cards drawn by young children hoping for her safe return. Candles have been set up everywhere on the concrete walkway. Thousands of yellow ribbons have been tied to the fence along with handmade signs. \*

Out in the street, hundreds of people stand silently, holding candles, facing the White House. It's a beautiful and humbling sight. As Josh and Donna join them we --

DISSOLVE TO:

43 INT. THE CHURCH - NIGHT

43

The Bartlets step to the communion rail, kneel one by one. With each person who kneels the faces grow closer and closer to CAMERA. \*

Charlie first, then Doug, Abbey and George, Annie, Elizabeth and Ellie, and finally BARTLET.

He fills the frame in profile. Lifts his face for the communion wafer, eyes closed, tears streaking down his cheeks and as the slim white disc touches his tongue and he ducks his head back down in prayer we slowly --

FADE TO BLACK:

THE END