

# M-O-N-Y

Pilot Episode:

"His Honor"

written by  
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EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS

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CAST

JOE CAPANELLI  
FRANCINE TYSON  
MARCIE COHEN  
ATES KILIÇLIOGLU

KENDALL HOLT

ROY CORDIERO  
THERESA CYWIN  
JASPER DICKERSON  
HAMID DURRANI  
SHARON FABERT  
TEX GOODWIN [DHS]  
BOB HANLON [OPS]  
PHIL HARRIS  
DAVIS KIM  
MILTON MITCHELL [SAM]  
GARRY PUDENZ [FBI]  
SYDNEY STEWART [NYPD]

ANABELLA CAPANELLI  
DOLORES CAPANELLI  
ROCCO CAPANELLI  
SARAH HOLT  
WILLEM TYSON

CHUCK SCARBOROUGH  
BOB SHEPPARD (v.o.)  
REPORTER #1  
REPORTER #2  
REPORTER #3  
AIDE  
ASSISTANT  
CABBIE  
COP  
DRIVER  
FUND-RAISER  
MUSLIM  
OWNER

SETS

INTERIORS

Al-Shazzar's Apartment  
Ambulance  
City Hall  
    Bullpen  
    Briefing Room  
    Conference Room  
    Deputy Mayor's Office  
    Hallway  
    The Office of the Mayor  
CTC  
    Main Room  
    SCIF  
Dodge Stratus  
Dolores' Home  
    Living Room  
Durrani Home  
    Living Room  
Grand Central Station  
Helicopter  
Limousine  
Masjid Aqsa Mosque  
Our Lady Of Mercy  
    Suite  
    Waiting Area  
Police Car  
Taxicab  
Truck  
Yankee Stadium  
    Locker Room

EXTERIORS

Alley  
Avenue B  
    Apartment Building  
Brooklyn  
    Sterling Place  
City Hall  
Ferry Pier  
Fifth Avenue  
First Avenue  
Governor's Island  
    Castle Williams  
    Fort Jay  
Intersection  
John Street  
Manhattan  
New York City  
Our Lady Of Mercy  
Water Street  
West Thirteenth Street  
Yankee Stadium

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FIFTH AVENUE - DAY 1

A red Fire Engine blasts its way through mid-day traffic, SIREN blaring.

2 INT. DODGE STRATUS - DAY 2

JOE CAPANELLI, somewhere deep in his thirties, pulls over to avoid being steam-rolled by the Fire Engine.

JOE is the Public Advocate of the City of New York. (More on that later.) With tousled hair and wrinkled shirts, he's the antithesis of today's polyester politician. He is passionate, optimistic and handsome, though his face, on the local news, comes off as perpetually weary.

Sitting beside JOE is his Chief of Staff, ATES KILIÇLIOĞLU, early twenties. ATES is Turkish by heritage, American by birth and a practicing Muslim. He's young and idealistic or naive and inexperienced, depending on whom you talk to. ATES is devoted to JOE, but not afraid to call his boss on his bullshit.

Oh, and JOE is driving with a speech propped up onto the steering wheel.

ATES  
Could you please not do that?

JOE  
Do what?

ATES  
Read while you're driving. It's dangerous, illegal. How would it play on the six o'clock news if the Public Advocate caused a five car pile up?

JOE  
I drove cross country once, from Queens to Costa Mesa, playing Tetris, listening to Pink Floyd, with a bottle of tequila between my legs -- never had an accident.

ATES  
You're a regular Safety Council poster boy.

ATES snatches the speech off the steering wheel.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

JOE  
Ates, I have to study the speech.

ATES  
Speech? All you do is introduce the Mayor. Twenty-eight words. My grandmother could do this.

JOE  
Is she available?  
(takes speech back)  
You know how crappy I am at public speaking.

ATES  
Alright, you're not great at it.

TIME CUT TO:

3 EXT. FERRY PIER - DAY

3

JOE and ATES exit the Car and walk onto a Ferry.

JOE  
I only got elected Public Advocate because I forced the city to reopen the petting zoo in Central Park. But Mary Tyler Moore and Bernadette Peters did all the talking. I was off-stage, passing out petitions.

ATES  
You're a one-on-one guy. As a contractor --

JOE  
I didn't hafta talk to crowds. A plumber here, a carpenter there, an architect. Now, I stare out at the audience, that ocean of expectant faces, and the tsunami hits: I forget what I've memorized, I sweat profusely and stutter like Elmer Fudd.

ATES  
You've accomplished a lot in nine short months --

JOE  
But not by making speeches.

ATES  
Don't forget, you need to confront the Mayor about the situation in Soundview. This may be your only face-to-face with the old cretin.

(CONTINUED)

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3 CONTINUED:

3

JOE  
Yeah, but, first, I hafta get past  
the Dragon Lady.

As the Ferry departs,

CUT TO:

WORDS APPEAR, as if on a computer screen (or maybe with a  
VOICEOVER): "The Public Advocate is the second highest ranking  
elected official in the City of New York -- after the Mayor."

CUT TO:

4 EXT. CASTLE WILLIAMS/GOVERNOR'S ISLAND - DAY

4

The dynamo that is Mayor KENDALL HOLT pumps hands. Late  
fifties, powerful, tough, KENDALL possesses the kind of  
political savvy which our boy Joe does not.

Beside him is Deputy Mayor FRANCINE TYSON, a cross between  
Sigourney Weaver and Scarlett Johansson. She says she's in  
her early thirties, but her birth certificate mysteriously  
disappeared from the City Records Office the day she was  
sworn in. Beautiful and intelligent, FRANCINE is a Virgo,  
which means she is also organized and single-minded. Someday  
she will be Mayor. Or President. Or Empress.

FRANCINE  
We're still nowhere with the police  
union over the new contract.

KENDALL  
Tell McKenzie if he and his cronies  
walk out, I'll have them arrested,  
fined and castrated.  
(to CITIZEN)  
Thanks for coming.

As KENDALL presses the flesh, JOE approaches FRANCINE.

JOE  
Deputy Mayor --

FRANCINE  
Joe. Wow. You're on time.

JOE  
Has Holt read my letter about the  
need for more bank branches in  
Soundview?

FRANCINE  
That's not an issue the Mayor feels  
comfortable inserting himself in --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

JOE

Why not? The people in Soundview are his constituents, as much as mine. I have a stack of e-mails and phone messages and --

FRANCINE

This administration does not tell banks where to put branches.

JOE

But, there's only one branch of one bank in the whole area and it serves twenty-four thousand people. Some folks have to travel three miles on two buses just to make a deposit. I have a plan to --

FRANCINE's cell RINGS.

FRANCINE

Excuse me...

She answers phone, as they step up onto the platform. Red, white and blue bunting. DONORS take their seats.

KENDALL

Hello, Joe. Where have you been hiding yourself?

JOE

Pittsburgh, trade conference. Mister Mayor, I wrote you a letter --

KENDALL

So, who's gonna win the subway series?

JOE

The Mets. I'm hoping Rivera's arm falls off. About this banking thing. I don't wanna hafta go to the press --

FRANCINE touches KENDALL's elbow.

FRANCINE

I'm sorry, sir, but it's important.

She takes him off to the side, whispers in his ear. JOE looks at ATES.

JOE

He always makes me feel like my shirttail's hanging out.

ATES

It is.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

Tucking in his shirttail, JOE watches as KENDALL follows POLICEMAN off. FRANCINE approaches.

FRANCINE  
Something's come up. The Mayor had  
to go. You'll do the dedication.

JOE  
What? Wait. I'm doing the intro --

FRANCINE  
You're doing the dedication.

JOE  
No. N-O.

FRANCINE  
What's the big deal? It's a lousy  
ten minute speech.

JOE  
I memorized the intro. "Ladies and  
gentlemune... men --"

FRANCINE takes speech from briefcase.

FRANCINE  
Here's what the Mayor had prepared.  
You might want to skip the joke about  
you Democrats.

She heads off, leaving JOE open-mouthed, sputtering.

ATES  
Oh geez.

FUND-RAISER  
(approaching)  
We need to begin.

On JOE, frantically studying the Mayor's speech,

CUT TO:

WORDS APPEAR: "The Public Advocate's job is to keep City  
Hall and all it's various agencies in line..." "Good luck."

CUT TO:

5 INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

5

Airborne. KENDALL, on phone.

KENDALL  
Yes, Bob, I'm five minutes out.  
What's the status?

(CONTINUED)

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5 CONTINUED:

5

As he listens, concern riddling his brow,

CUT TO:

6 EXT. CASTLE WILLIAMS/GOVERNOR'S ISLAND - DAY

6

FUND-RAISER stands at podium.

FUND-RAISER  
...The Public Advocate of the City  
of New York, Mister Joseph Capanelli.

Tepid applause, as JOE goes to podium, shakes FUND-RAISER's  
hand. JOE stares out. As he struggles to breathe,

CUT TO:

7 EXT. FORT JAY/GOVERNOR'S ISLAND - DAY

7

FRANCINE, on cell, walks to another helicopter.

FRANCINE  
Marcie, cancel all the Mayor's  
appointments... Yes, everything...  
Him, too... No, I'll do that one...

As she climbs on board,

CUT TO:

8 EXT. CASTLE WILLIAMS/GOVERNOR'S ISLAND - DAY

8

JOE is, in theatre parlance, laying an egg, as he reads:

JOE  
"...Adds a lumin -- luminous jewel  
to New York's historical landscape..."  
(turns the page)  
"-- Disney and Rocky Graziano..."  
(looks up)  
I think I'm missing a page...

He reshuffles the papers. On the AUDIENCE, fidgeting,

CUT TO:

9 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

9

KENDALL looks at watch, calls to DRIVER.

KENDALL  
Mike, can't we go any faster?

DRIVER walkies an unmarked Police Car.

DRIVER  
Mony wants speed.

(CONTINUED)

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9 CONTINUED: 9  
Hear CRACKLE of walkie.

10 INT. POLICE CAR - DAY 10  
POLICEMAN, on walkie, accelerates.

11 EXT. JOHN STREET - DAY 11  
The Police Car and the Limo rocket, SIREN WAILING.

12 EXT. WATER STREET - DAY 12  
A large Container Truck barrels toward an intersection. The side of the Truck reads "Animal Menagerie, Inc."

13 INT. TRUCK - DAY 13  
The TEAMSTER wears headset, volume on max, struggling to stay awake.

14 EXT. JOHN STREET - DAY 14  
The Police Car and the Limo tear through traffic, heading for the same intersection.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. CASTLE WILLIAMS/GOVERNOR'S ISLAND - DAY 15  
JOE, at podium, still plugging along:

JOE  
"We celebrate the..."  
(exhales)  
"...in-can-des-cent beauty of this..."

He looks at the next word, has no idea how to say it. Or what it means.

JOE (cont.)  
Oh, hell.  
(gives up on speech)  
Have you looked around this place?  
It's amazing.

As JOE stares up at the fortress,

CUT TO:

16 EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY 16  
Truck reaches the intersection, the light is green.  
The Mayor's entourage reaches the intersection, the light is red. But that doesn't stop them. The Police Car roars through -- and SMASHES INTO THE TRUCK, spinning backwards towards the Limo.

17 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY 17

KENDALL  
What the f--

18 EXT. INTERSECTION - DAY 18

The Limo, in order to avoid hitting the Police Car, swerves violently and SLAMS into the truck, which tips over.

The Limo is crushed.

A beat, as the dust settles. The back door of the truck swings open, by its own weight. A PENGUIN pops out of the truck. Then another PENGUIN comes out. Then another. On a gaggle of PENGUINS waddling around the wreckage,

CUT TO:

WORDS APPEAR: "If the Mayor becomes incapacitated or dies, the Public Advocate succeeds him..."

CUT TO:

19 EXT. CASTLE WILLIAMS/GOVERNOR'S ISLAND - DAY 19

JOE, unaware of the sudden turn his life has just taken, smiles at the surroundings.

JOE  
Absolutely amazing...

As the CAMERA RISES, revealing a dazzling panorama of the skyline of New York,

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

20 EXT. FIRST AVENUE - DAY 20

Ambulance rips through traffic, escorted by police.

21 INT. AMBULANCE - DAY 21

PARAMEDICS work feverishly on KENDALL, who lies on gurney unconscious and bloody.

22 EXT. OUR LADY OF MERCY - DAY 22

As the ambulance pulls into the hospital's E.R.,

CUT TO:

23 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - DAY 23

Quiet for a moment, then MARCIE COHEN, thirties, the Mayor's private secretary, enters. A civil servant, she's been around since the Giuliani administration. She knows everything that's happening everywhere in the building.

She leads JOE inside. There is an odd tension between them.

JOE

Marcie, what's this about? Why all the hush-hush?

MARCIE

You'll see.  
(starts to exit)  
Don't touch anything.

She goes, closes door. JOE looks around the room, at the portraits of former Mayors: Fiorello La Guardia, DeWitt Clinton, Cadwallader D. Colden. There is also a portrait of Holt with the Lubavitcher Rebbe. JOE goes to an ornate desk, picks up crystal paperweight embedded with the city seal.

FRANCINE (o.c.)

I gave that to him -- Election night.

JOE drops paperweight on the desk with a THUD. FRANCINE closes door, all business.

FRANCINE (cont.)

Sit down, we need to talk.

JOE, obediently, sits, as she crosses to behind the desk. She does not sit.

FRANCINE (cont.)

The Mayor's been in a car accident.  
He's in a coma.

JOE

God.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

FRANCINE

Relax, he'll recover, we just don't have a timetable yet. So, as of now, according to the city charter, you are the Mayor, the Acting Mayor.

JOE closes his eyes, "oh, right," remembering.

FRANCINE (cont.)

I'll handle the day-to-day running of the government, but there are some official duties you are required to do... Mayor Holt was on the way to an emergency meeting at the Counter Terrorism Center.

JOE

Why? What's wrong?

FRANCINE

(calls out:)  
Lieutenant.

NYPD Lieutenant ROY CORDIERO, forties, Latino, comes to door; tall, strong, you wouldn't want to fuck with him.

FRANCINE (cont.)

Roy Cordiero, NYPD. He'll be coordinating your security detail.

ROY

Mister Capanelli.

JOE

Call me Joe.

As they shake hands, FRANCINE heads out.

FRANCINE

The key to the next few days is to keep our citizens calm --

ROY follows, then JOE.

24 INT. HALLWAY/CITY HALL - DAY

24

JOE and FRANCINE trek along, trailed by ROY.

FRANCINE (cont.)

They need to know that the city will continue to function as it has. No speed bumps or potholes.

DAVIS KIM, twenty-five, Chinese-American, the Mayor's Press Secretary, joins the trek.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

DAVIS  
Mister Capanelli, remember me? Davis  
Kim, the Mayor's Press Secretary.

JOE  
Oh, right, yeah, hi.

DAVIS  
We've issued an initial report on  
Mayor Holt's condition. And the  
perp walk's all set.

JOE  
The perp walk?

DAVIS  
Our little press office joke. It's  
the distance between the front door  
and the car. The media is out there,  
firing a million questions. You  
keep walking, yell out a non-sequitur.  
If you don't want to answer, cup  
your ear like Reagan, like you can't  
hear over the noise --

FRANCINE  
Just don't stop walking.

JOE  
Look, this isn't the first time I've  
talked to reporters, okay?

FRANCINE  
Once we're in the limo, we'll make  
the switch.

JOE  
What switch?

FRANCINE  
We can't let the media -- or anyone  
else -- know that we're headed to  
the CTC, so we've announced that  
you're going to visit the Mayor in  
the hospital. Our limo will pull  
away and a matching limo will head  
to Our Lady of Mercy --

JOE  
Yeah, but, what happens when the  
matching limo reaches the hospital  
and I'm not in it?

DAVIS  
I've told the press that you don't  
want to exploit the situation as a  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

DAVIS (cont.)  
photo op so you're going in, sight  
unseen, through the underground  
parking garage.

JOE  
Okay. So, why exactly are we going  
to the Counter Terrorism Center?

FRANCINE ignores him and exits to:

25 EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

25

Media madness. JOE rushes out between FRANCINE and ROY toward  
Limo. DAVIS brings up the rear.

REPORTER #1  
You and the Mayor have clashed quite  
often since the election, do you  
intend to change any of his policies?

JOE  
No. Not at this time.

REPORTER #2  
Meaning, if the Mayor's condition  
doesn't improve, you will?

JOE stops at open door of Limo.

JOE  
Look, a terrible thing has happened.  
We need to come together, not --

FRANCINE shoves JOE forward, into:

26 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

26

JOE tumbles into backseat as ROY climbs behind steering wheel.  
FRANCINE slides in beside JOE.

JOE (cont.)  
I had a nun like you in second grade.  
She was constantly shoving me. On a  
school trip to the top of the Empire  
State Building, I shoved back.

FRANCINE  
(takes out files)  
Let's go, Roy.

The Limo drives off. She dials cell.

FRANCINE (cont.)  
Rebbe Englestein, please... Francine  
Tyson, returning his call.

JOE takes out cell.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

FRANCINE (cont.)  
Who are you calling?

JOE  
Ates, to tell him to meet us at the  
Counter Terrorism Center.

FRANCINE  
No. He can't come.

JOE  
He's my Chief of Staff --

FRANCINE  
He doesn't have clearance. He can't  
know what's going on.

JOE  
(sarcastic)  
How 'bout me? Can I know?

FRANCINE  
(into phone)  
Rebbe?

As FRANCINE starts chatting with the Rebbe,

SMASH CUT TO:

27 INT. MAIN ROOM/CTC - DAY

27

New York's security nerve center. JOE enters, dumbfounded  
by the high-tech bells and whistles. It's "Minority Report"  
to the max. FRANCINE leads JOE to a group of MEN, various  
ages, various sizes; all very WASPY.

FRANCINE  
Gentlemen, I'm not sure if you've  
met Joe Capanelli -- Sydney Stewart,  
Police Commissioner; Bob Hanlon,  
NYPD Special Ops. Over here, we  
have Milton Mitchell, Special  
Assistant to the Mayor; Garry Pudenz,  
FBI Joint Terrorist Task Force.

JOE  
Look, I hope we'll all get to be  
great friends, but what's the crisis?

FRANCINE nods to BOB [OPS].

BOB [OPS]  
Let's start with --

He pushes button, ARAB MALE's face appears, stats alongside.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

BOB [OPS] (cont.)  
This man -- Abdul al-Shazzar, the  
leader of an Al Qaeda cell --

ASSISTANT approaches.

ASSISTANT  
We have surveillance.

BOB [OPS]  
Excellent.

Monitor pops on: the exterior of an apartment building in  
lower Manhattan. BOB turns back to JOE.

BOB [OPS] (cont.)  
An Al Qaeda cell which intends to  
blow up Grand Central Station at  
rush hour today.

JOE  
Sweet Jesus.

BOB [OPS]  
There are three other members of the  
cell: Aziz al-Faisal, al-Shazzar's  
cousin; Mashoor al-Ghamdi and  
Moataz Bin Rahman, fellow worshippers  
at the Masjid Aqsa Mosque.

SYDNEY [NYPD]  
Two weeks ago, an informant leaked  
the details of their plot --

GARRY [FBI]  
Since then, we've been monitoring  
chat rooms, intercepting documents,  
tracing purchases, tapping calls --

MILTON [SAM] hands transcript to JOE.

MILTON [SAM]  
They've been using a code, referring  
to the attack as a "poker game" --

BOB [OPS]  
Certain phrases correlate with bomb  
making materials. "Pretzels" means  
ammonium nitrate. "Root beer," fuel  
oil and so on.

JOE squints at the transcript, as TEX GOODWIN [DHS] enters.

SYDNEY [NYPD]  
Ugh, what's he doing here?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

TEX [DHS]

There's a buzz in the stratosphere,  
something nasty's about to go down.

(to JOE)

Tex Goodwin, Homeland Security.  
They never invite me to their party.

SYDNEY [NYPD]

I sent you an e-mail.

TEX [DHS]

Funny, I didn't get it. Fourth time  
that's happened.

FRANCINE

Fellas -- Focus.

SYDNEY [NYPD] snarls at TEX [DHS], then faces JOE, pointing  
to surveillance screen and computerized map.

SYDNEY [NYPD]

We've surrounded the home of al-  
Shazzar -- here -- and we're prepped  
for an all-out assault.

JOE

What's that mean, "all-out"?

SYDNEY [NYPD]

The Joint Terrorism Task Force --  
two hundred men, with orders to  
apprehend, disarm and, if necessary,  
shoot to kill.

FRANCINE

We've been preparing for this  
contingency since nine/eleven. The  
plan's at ready. As Acting Mayor,  
you simply need to give the thumbs  
up.

JOE

Oh. Huh.  
(to BOB [OPS])  
Are you absolutely sure this is the  
right house? I mean, remember that  
incident in London, where they thought --

BOB [OPS]

It's the right house... Sir...

JOE

And the threat is definitely for  
today?

GARRY [FBI]

That's what the chatter indicates.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

JOE

How come you waited 'til the last minute?

MILTON [SAM]

We didn't know the date and time until about an hour ago.

TEX [DHS]

So, let's kick some Islamic ass.

BOB [OPS]

Tex, only three of them are in the apartment right now. Plus, al-Shazzar's wife and six year old son. We should hold off 'til al-Shazzar he returns.

JOE

And I haven't said yes, yet.

A moment of confusion, exchanged looks, "Is this guy serious?"

JOE (cont.)

I'd like to go over the information you've collected.

FRANCINE

There isn't time.

JOE

Well, we're waiting for the leader, so we have some time.

FRANCINE

The data is complex. You don't have the expertise to interpret it.

JOE

True, but I clocked alotta hours in that neighborhood, campaigning. It's easy to misunderstand certain words, customs --

TEX [DHS]

Are you soft on terrorism?

JOE

No. God, no. I want terrorism gone. I wanna stop looking over my shoulder. I want my kids to be safe. But, before we turn the lower east side into Sadr City, I want answers to a couple questions. Like who else lives in that building? How much danger are we putting them in?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (4)

27

BOB [OPS]  
Every precaution is being taken.

JOE  
How big is al-Shazzar's apartment?

BOB [OPS]  
It's a studio. Maybe four hundred square feet.

JOE  
Yet, we're sending in two hundred men. In my experience, as a contractor, too many guys on a job is worse than not enough guys. They start stepping on each other's --

FRANCINE  
Mayor Holt would've said yes.

JOE  
We don't know that for certain. Besides, what he would've done doesn't matter, it's my decision now.

FRANCINE  
You've been in the job all of twenty minutes, you think you know more than the experts?

JOE  
Look, the experts, especially when it comes to this terrorist stuff, have had their heads up their asses --  
(to the OTHERS)  
No offense.

FRANCINE signals MILTON [SAM], who walks off, gets on cell phone. BOB [OPS] faces JOE.

BOB [OPS]  
Mister Capanelli, New York City has the finest security operation in the world. It's better than the federal government's --

TEX [DHS]  
Hey, I wouldn't say that --

BOB [OPS]  
The city has better undercover agents overseas, better trained translators. And that's with the Feds cutting our funding by forty percent --

SYDNEY [NYPD]  
Which they did because some lummoX at DHS decided the Statue of Liberty isn't a national landmark --

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (5)

27

TEX [DHS]

Now, hold on, that was due to a clerical error on your part --

SYDNEY [NYPD]

You sent the money to Paducha, Wyoming, where I'm sure Osama is plotting to blow up a herd of cows --

JOE

Guys, there's a child in al-Shazar's apartment. There's probably twenty families in the building. Just tell me no innocent people will be hurt.

BOB [OPS]

We can't guarantee that --

JOE

Then --

FRANCINE

If we don't take this chance, a lot of other innocent people -- at Grand Central -- will be hurt, killed. A hundred thousand, maybe.

JOE hears this, bites his lower lip.

JOE

This job sucks...

MILTON [SAM] returns, gives FRANCINE slight nod.

FRANCINE

If you need time to think, Joe, there's a secure office over here.

She indicates "Secure Compartmented Information Facility". JOE enters. FRANCINE signals MILTON [SAM], who goes into:

28 INT. SCIF/CTC - DAY

28

JOE paces. MILTON [SAM] enters.

MILTON [SAM]

Mister Capanelli, my title is Special Assistant to the Mayor, but I'm going to reveal something to you that only the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Police Commissioner know. I'm CIA.

(off JOE)

Although this decision is yours, there are others who have an interest...

PHONE RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

MILTON [SAM] (cont.)  
That's the White House.

MILTON [SAM] goes. JOE, hesitates, then lifts phone.

JOE  
Hullo?... Sure, I'll hold... Mister  
President... Yes, we're all praying  
for his recovery. More'n'more as  
each moment passes... Yeah, it's a  
tough call... Well, I'd just like to  
know that it's the right house, the  
right people. I'd like to minimize  
the loss of life and -- You do?  
Well, I appreciate that, sir... Uh  
huh...

JOE listens and paces.

29 INT. MAIN ROOM/CTC - DAY

29

FRANCINE and the OTHERS wait.

FRANCINE  
He'll do it. He doesn't have the  
balls not to.

JOE emerges, faces the OTHERS.

JOE  
The President agrees with me... We  
share the same concerns... But he  
feels we should move forward. That  
in moments of crisis all the branches  
of government -- federal, state,  
city -- need to act as one. So --  
(to FRANCINE)  
How do I do this? Do I sign  
something?

FRANCINE  
For now, just say it.

JOE  
Okay. When this al-Shazzar guy shows  
up, move in... Shoot to kill.

As the CTC kicks into high gear,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

30 INT. MAIN ROOM/CTC - DAY 30

CU on surveillance screen: the entrance to the apartment building. Normal street activity -- children, dogs.

ASSISTANT (o.c.)  
The Deputy Mayor's on the phone.  
She wants an update.

BOB [OPS] (o.c.)  
Tell her that we're still holding.

CROSS FADE TO:

31 INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY HALL - DAY 31

CU on TV screen: REPORTER #1 reports story on the Mayor, from outside Our Lady of Mercy Hospital.

REPORTER #1  
...So, for now, the people of New York will have to watch, wait and pray... Lenore Jackson, WNBC, at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital. Chuck?

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL six TV screens, all on different stations; news of the Mayor: Kendall smiling, the scene of the accident, the penguins. FRANCINE, at her desk, on phone:

FRANCINE  
No sign of al-Shazzar, huh? Okay.

She hangs up, focuses on TV.

CHUCK SCARBOROUGH  
While the Mayor recuperates, the city's Public Advocate has taken over the reins of government. But who is Joseph Capanelli? Nell Smith gives us "A Closer Look" --

FRANCINE rises and exits, as clips of JOE appear on TV.

32 INT. BULLPEN/CITY HALL - DAY 32

Given the Mayor's condition and the terrorist threat, the room is even more hyper than usual. AIDES on phones, on computers, rushing around. FRANCINE addresses her secretary, THERESA CYWIN, twenty, spunky.

FRANCINE  
Theresa, get me Sharon Fabert fast.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

THERESA  
Labor Relations wants a pre-lim on  
today's PBA negotiations.

FRANCINE  
Squeeze them in.

As THERESA reaches for the phone, DAVIS approaches.

DAVIS  
You ready for this? There were eleven  
penguins on that truck. One of them  
is still missing.

FRANCINE  
So? Have the police put out an APB.  
How hard can it be to find a penguin  
in Manhattan?

DAVIS  
It gets worse: the owner is suing  
the city. Six million dollars.  
Emotional distress. Not his emotional  
distress, the penguins.

FRANCINE  
Why're you telling me this now?

DAVIS  
That little, lost penguin is going  
to be a public relations nightmare.

AIDE approaches.

AIDE  
Rebbe Englestein's on the phone again.

DAVIS  
They're too damn cute.  
(goes)

AIDE  
Englestein says Hamid Durrani made  
anti-Semitic remarks at a Border's  
book signing in the Bronx.

FRANCINE  
Tell the Rebbe that I'll contact  
Durrani and get a clarification.

AIDE  
Englestein wants a meeting with the  
Acting Mayor.

FRANCINE  
No way. Capanelli's on ice. He  
talks to no one.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2) 32

MARCIE crosses by, with coffee mug.

MARCIE  
Francine, the MLB is wondering, since Holt was going to throw out the first pitch at tomorrow's Yankee/Mets game, if Capanelli's doing it instead.

FRANCINE  
We'll get back to them.

Leaving the bustle, MARCIE exits into:

33 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - DAY 33

In contrast to the Bullpen: absolute quiet, to the point of inertia. ROY stands at door. JOE paces, as MARCIE enters.

MARCIE  
Here y'go, piping hot --

JOE  
Did you send for Ates?

MARCIE  
Yep.

JOE  
And where's that file on the members of the cell?

MARCIE  
CTC says it's on its way. They're simplifying the data.

JOE  
Is this stuff that hard to grasp?  
Or do they think I'm an idiot?

MARCIE  
Both.  
(off JOE)  
Well, you asked.

MARCIE goes. JOE turns to ROY:

JOE  
You can sit if you want.

ROY  
No, thank you, sir.

JOE sips coffee -- it's too hot. He puts cup down, exhales, frustrated.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

JOE

The whole world is spinning twice as fast as usual and I'm in here playing pocket pool.

JOE eyes the liquor at a small, mahogany bar, then --

JOE (cont.)

So, Roy, what's your story? You married?

ROY

No, sir.

JOE

Good looking guy like you, what're you gay?

ROY

Yes, sir.

JOE

Yes? Oh. So much for "Don't ask, don't tell," huh?

ROY says nothing. JOE gets rocks glass from bar.

JOE (cont.)

I'm divorced. Married my high school sweetheart -- Dolores, which means "sorrow" and, boy, was she.

ROY says nothing. JOE pours bourbon into glass.

JOE (cont.)

Can't complain though, I got two great kids: Rocco, he's eighteen and --  
(about to sip, stops)

Hell. Anabella.

(takes out cell, speed dials)

She uses Grand Central coming home. I gotta warn her --

ROY

Mister Capanelli, you can't. If the public finds out about the threat, there'll be mass panic --

JOE

This is my daughter, Roy.

(listens)

Voice-mail's full.

(texts her)

Her phone bill every month, it's catastrophic.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

JOE (cont.)  
She has more friends than Bill Clinton --  
(looks at screen)  
Her text messages are full?

JOE speed dials again, waits impatiently, then --

JOE (cont.)  
Rocco?

INTERCUT WITH:

34 EXT. WEST THIRTEENTH STREET - DAY

34

ROCCO CAPANELLI, eighteen, walks along, on cell.

ROCCO  
Yo, Dad, I called your office when I  
heard about the Mayor's accident.  
You okay?

JOE  
Uh, sure. This whole thing is only  
temporary. Hey, have you talked to  
your sister?

ROCCO  
Not since yesterday, the bitch.

JOE  
If you do talk to her... tell her --  
(eyes ROY)  
I'm gonna have someone pick her up  
at school, okay?

ROCCO  
Dad, I know that tone in your voice,  
something humongous is wrong.  
(excited)  
Someone trying to assassinate you?

JOE  
No, no, life's peachy. You're not  
going to mid-town, are you?

ROCCO  
I wasn't planning to...

JOE  
Good. Don't. Love you. Bye.

They hang up.

JOE (cont.)  
Roy, send one of your guys to get  
her --

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

JOE reaches for his wallet, pulls out several items, including a Tom Seaver baseball card.

JOE (cont.)  
Tom Seaver baseball card, autographed  
by the man himself.  
(finds a photo)  
Here's a picture of my daughter.

He holds out a photo of Anabella, but she's ten years old.

JOE (cont.)  
She's sixteen now. She looks a little  
more, y'know, sixteen...

ROY  
(takes photo)  
Where does she go to school?

JOE  
Performing Arts on Amsterdam.  
(looks at watch)  
Classes are over. But she's usually  
in rehearsal.

ROY  
Okay, I... I just have to get the  
Deputy Mayor to sign off on this.  
(off JOE)  
There's a policy --

JOE curses under his breath, heads out. As ROY follows,

CUT TO:

35 INT. MAIN ROOM/CTC - DAY

35

ASSISTANT monitors surveillance camera. On screen: an ARAB MALE walks to front of building, lights a cigarette. ASSISTANT taps BOB [OPS], who studies screen.

BOB [OPS]  
That's not him.

On ASSISTANT, nervous,

CUT TO:

36 INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY HALL - DAY

36

FRANCINE sits with Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs, SHARON FABERT, sixty, who holds a copy of the city charter.

FRANCINE  
Sharon, cut to the chase. How do we  
get rid of Capanelli?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

SHARON

(reads)

"...If the vacancy occurs prior to September twentieth in any year, it is filled at the general election of that year. If the vacancy occurs on or after September twentieth in any year, it is filled at the general election held the following calendar year..."

(looks up)

Today is October fourteenth.

FRANCINE

So, depending how long it takes for the Mayor to improve, we could be stuck with Capanelli for a year and change.

(off SHARON's nod)

Any loopholes?

SHARON

Well, if he resigns, the Comptroller becomes Mayor. But other than that, we are, as the British say, fogged.

JOE enters. ROY is behind him.

JOE

I'm told --  
(sees SHARON)  
Hi, Sharon.

SHARON

Joe.

JOE

(to FRANCINE)

I'm told that I hafta get you to okay me sending a cop to pick up my daughter at school.

FRANCINE

You know the rules: City employees are not permitted to use city vehicles for personal reasons.

JOE

Anabella takes the train home from Grand Central.

FRANCINE

I see...

JOE

Do you?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

FRANCINE

For your information, Joe, as we speak, my husband's on the Metro-North coming back from a business meeting in Stamford. He just called, wants us to have dinner at Michael Jordan's -- when he gets off the train -- at Grand Central.

JOE

You told him about the threat --

FRANCINE

No... How could I? Because of my position, because I know about the danger, I should warn my husband? And, afterwards, what do I say to the wives and husbands, the parents and children of all the men and women who are killed? "My husband's life was worth more"?

She stares at picture of Willem, then says to ROY:

FRANCINE (cont.)

Track his daughter down.

ROY exits. As JOE stares at FRANCINE for a beat, then goes,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

37 EXT. WALL STREET - DAY 37

As a lone PENGUIN waddles between two STOCKBROKERS, who are too busy arguing over a cab to take notice,

CUT TO:

38 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - DAY 38

As JOE paces, ROY talks on cell. On TV screen: REPORTER #3.

REPORTER #3

The SPCA is concerned that the penguin, whose name is Pepe, cannot survive an urban jungle filled with rats, stray dogs and taxis --

JOE

The media's obsessing about this stupid penguin. If they only knew the real danger.

(turns off TV)

No word on my daughter, huh?

ROY

She left school right after class. A friend said she was meeting someone.

(looks at notes)

"Brad Phillips"?

JOE

Brad Phillips? Who the hell is... Is she, uh, dating this guy?

ROY shrugs.

JOE (cont.)

Ates will know.

He exits into:

39 INT. BULLPEN/CITY HALL - DAY 39

MARCIE sits at desk outside Mayor's office, as JOE enters.

JOE (cont.)

Yo, Marcie, where's Ates? I sent for him eons ago.

MARCIE

Y'want the official version or the truth?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

JOE

Uh, the truth?

MARCIE

Francine left orders that he wasn't to be allowed on this floor.

JOE

Oh, she did, huh? Because of the terrorist threat? Because he's Muslim?

MARCIE

No. Because of politics, bobblehead. She's compelled by law to have you here. But she doesn't want your staff getting too comfy or hearing things she doesn't want them to hear.

JOE

"Bobblehead"?

MARCIE

I could call you worse.

JOE

(pause)

Look... About that night...

MARCIE

It's been six months, any regret is past the expiration date.

JOE

Still, I want you to know how much I --

MARCIE

If you say another word, I'll punch you in the head.

FRANCINE walks by, surrounded by AIDES.

JOE

Francine, I'm still waiting for that file from CTC.

FRANCINE

It's coming. By the way, how would you like to throw the first pitch at the Yankees/Mets game tomorrow night?

JOE

I'd love to. I'm a huge Mets fan.

FRANCINE

I know.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

She starts to go.

JOE

When can I expect the CTC file?

FRANCINE

Soon. Geesh. Why're you so hopped-up to get it?

JOE

In my neighborhood, when someone wants to whack ya, there's a reason. To you and me, blowing up Grand Central is crazy. But not to al-Shazzar and his pals. I'm one of those people who likes to know how my enemies think --

FRANCINE, fully aware that he means her, glares at him, continues on her way.

MARCIE

Subtle, but effective.

JOE

What's the latest on the Mayor's condition?

MARCIE

They say that he's stable, whatever that means to a guy in a coma.

JOE

You talked to his doctors?

MARCIE

No, only Francine has. On her orders.

JOE

Huh... When I was on the phone with my son, he asked what was wrong, I lied and said nothing.

MARCIE

That's what parents do to protect their kids.

JOE

Yeah, maybe not just parents... As Acting Mayor, Francine Tyson works for me, right?

MARCIE

Hypothetically. But Holt appointed her, so you'll have to use a tire iron to pry her loose.

(CONTINUED)

M-O-N-Y  
22 December 2006

31.

39 CONTINUED: (3)

39

JOE  
No, I mean, does my pair trump hers?  
Y'know in terms of who can be on  
which floor?

MARCIE  
Sure. Short of leaping tall  
buildings, you now possess all the  
powers of the Mayor of New York.

JOE slaps the door frame.

JOE  
Get Ates up here. And get me what's-  
his-name, Hanlon at Counter Terrorism.

As MARCIE looks at JOE, pleased that he's taking control,

CUT TO:

40 INT. MAIN ROOM/CTC - DAY

40

BOB [OPS] monitors surveillance, ASSISTANT approaches.

ASSISTANT  
Capanelli's on line seven.

As BOB [OPS] lifts receiver,

CUT TO:

41 INT. BULLPEN/CITY HALL - DAY

41

FRANCINE walks along, with AIDES, as JASPER DICKERSON,  
fifties, Office of Labor Relations, comes out of elevator.  
He is a small man, perpetually nervous.

FRANCINE  
Jasper, tell me that you and the  
Patrolman's Benevolent Association  
have reached a fair and equitable  
labor contract, that peace and joy  
reigns between the city government  
and New York's finest.

JASPER  
On the contrary. Those turdballs  
rejected our latest offer.

As they turn a corner, FRANCINE sees ATES, talking to MARCIE,  
then entering the Mayor's Office.

JASPER (cont.)  
The union thinks because of what's  
happened to Holt, we're going to  
cave.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

FRANCINE

We're not going to cave. Bring McKenzie back to the table and keep negotiating until you either have a contract or you die of old age.

As she heads towards Mayor's Office,

CUT TO:

42 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - DAY

42

ROY stands by door, talking on cell. JOE, on landline, sits behind desk.

JOE

Thanks, Bob. I'll be there shortly --  
(hangs up, to ATEs)  
Call the hospital, get me a complete report of the Mayor's condition, every cut and scratch. I got a feeling Francine's not being straight with the public -- or us...

FRANCINE enters without knocking.

JOE (cont.)

Deputy Mayor. Evidently, the CTC file I've been waiting for has been sitting on your desk for an hour. I'll pick it up on my way out.

FRANCINE

Out? Where are you --

JOE

I'm happy to report Ates now has clearance.

(rises)

We're heading over to the CTC.

FRANCINE

To serve what purpose?

JOE

Terrorism is a high priority for the Mayor of New York, right? Bob Hanlon's gonna walk me through the whole operation.

FRANCINE

Fine. Just don't get in the way.

He takes the slap without comment, exits, followed by ATEs and ROY. She goes to phone, dials.

(CONTINUED)

M-O-N-Y  
22 December 2006

33.

42 CONTINUED:

42

FRANCINE (cont.)  
Phil? I want everything you have on  
Joe Capanelli... Meet in the  
carport... Yes, now.

She hangs up. As FRANCINE stares at the desk, then runs her  
hand over the surface,

CUT TO:

43 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

43

ROY drives, as ATES and JOE sit in back, reading CTC file.

JOE  
Aziz al-Faisal got engaged last  
Saturday. So, he's gonna detonate  
himself to avoid the wedding?

On JOE, confused,

CUT TO:

44 EXT. WATER STREET - DAY

44

PEPE THE PENGUIN stands on corner, as another Limo drives  
through traffic, led by Police Car.

45 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

45

FRANCINE sits with PHIL HARRIS, twenties, African-American,  
Republican party operative. She's reading a file.

FRANCINE  
This is the entire dossier on  
Capanelli?

PHIL  
Well, if you'll remember, the Public  
Advocate race was not a high priority  
for the party. We thought Jolley  
would kick Capanelli's can. Jolley  
had everything, verve, humor, he was  
a high school basketball coach,  
rippling with family values --

FRANCINE  
Until he started showering with his  
players.

FRANCINE's cell RINGS.

FRANCINE (cont.)  
Tyson... I'm pulling up right now.

The Limo stops. As FRANCINE scrambles out, she says to PHIL:

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

FRANCINE (cont.)  
Find me something on Capanelli.  
Some dirt, some mud.

She heads into:

46 INT. MAIN ROOM/CTC - DAY

46

CU on surveillance screen: an ARAB MAN, carrying groceries enters the building. PULL BACK TO REVEAL JOE, ATES, et al.

BOB [OPS]  
Positive I.D. That's al-Shazzar --

JOE  
(studying the screen)  
Lemme ask ya: if he's about to die  
for Allah, why is he carrying a week's  
worth of groceries?

TEX [DHS]  
For his kid, maybe? Who knows with  
these people...  
(eyefucks ATES)  
I say we deploy now.

FRANCINE (o.c.)  
Not yet, give al-Shazzar a few minutes  
to get settled.

They turn to see FRANCINE enter. They all look at JOE, who hesitates, then nods. Like a break on a pool table, the MEN shoot off in different directions. FRANCINE faux smiles at ATES, crosses away. ROY approaches.

ROY  
Still no sign of your daughter, sir.  
But we do know that Brad Phillips is  
a student at Performing Arts, he  
plays the cello.

JOE  
My daughter's dating a cellist?

ATES  
This is news to me.

ROY  
We've tried his home and blackberry.  
So far, no luck.

JOE  
We're running out of breathing space.  
(exhales)  
Okay, I'm gonna have to do something  
I really don't want to --

(CONTINUED)

M-O-N-Y  
22 December 2006

35.

46 CONTINUED: 46

He dials phone.

INTERCUT WITH:

47 INT. LIVING ROOM/DOLORES' HOME - DAY 47

DOLORES CAPANELLI, thirties, is your average American housewife. With a vengeance. She lifts receiver.

DOLORES  
Hello?

JOE  
Do you know where Anabella is?

DOLORES  
Who's this?

JOE  
"Who's this?" You know who this is.

DOLORES  
It's only polite when calling someone to identify yourself first.

JOE  
Dolores, I don't have time for --

DOLORES  
It's simply good manners.

JOE  
Answer my question -- do you know where our daughter is?

DOLORES  
She's due home in the next hour --

JOE  
I need to talk to her now --

DOLORES  
Try her cell --

JOE  
I tried her cell. Five times. Who's Brad Phillips?

DOLORES  
I dunno, who is he?

JOE  
Never mind. If Anabella calls, tell her not to take the train home --

DOLORES  
Why?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

JOE  
I can't tell you.

DOLORES  
You can't tell me. You never told  
me. That was the problem.

JOE  
Will you do what I ask, please?

DOLORES  
Yes.

JOE  
Good-bye, Dolores.

DOLORES  
Joe, wait, one more thing --

JOE  
What's that?

She SLAMS the phone down, hanging up on him. JOE, pissed,  
replaces receiver on cradle.

JOE (cont.)  
And to think I used to fondle that  
woman.

BOB [OPS]  
(approaches)  
We're ready, sir, on your signal.

JOE breathes, nods. BOB talks into mic.

BOB [OPS] (cont.)  
Go.

On screens; INTERCUT WITH:

48 EXT. AVENUE B - DAY

48

Two hundred SPECIAL OPS appear out of nowhere, ten are wearing  
protective chemical suits, the rest are in combat gear with  
gas masks. They rush the apartment building.

JOE (v.o.)  
"Twenty-eight minutes ago..."

Helicopters hover above, the THRUM of the rotary blades.

JOE (v.o.) (cont.)  
"The FBI/NYPD Joint Terrorism Task  
Force..."

Wearing cameras on their helmets, the OPS go into the lobby,  
then up the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

JOE (v.o.) (cont.)  
"In conjunction with the Department  
of Homeland Security... um..."

They reach front door of apartment and SMASH it in.

JOE (v.o.) (cont.)  
"Successfully stooped, I mean, stopped  
a major terrorist threat..."

GUNFIRE.

SMASH CUT TO:

49 INT. BRIEFING ROOM/CITY HALL - DAY

49

The PRESS listens, as JOE stands at a podium, reading speech.  
FRANCINE, DAVIS, BOB [OPS], SYDNEY [NYPD] and the FEDS are  
behind him. ATEs hangs to the side.

JOE  
"...On Grand Central Stazion.  
Station..."  
(looks up, then back  
down)  
"...Three members of the cell were,  
captured. Its leader, Abdul al-  
Shazzar, was killed in a gunboat,  
gun battle, lasting three minutes..."  
(looks up, then back  
down)  
Oh, wait, I skipped the part where  
the location of the, um, cell was.  
Seven-two-three Avenue B.  
(looks up, then back  
down)  
So, where was I?  
(reads)  
Ah. "...lasting three minutes. The  
JTTF had the cell under investigation  
for two weeks, but the decision to  
move was predee -- predicated by a  
sudden ax -- acceleration by the  
terrorists to strike at rush hour  
today. The city, in collaboration  
with federal agencies, is doing all  
we can to protect our citizens.  
Thank you. Ask for questions."  
(realizes)  
Oh. Um, any questions?

REPORTERS yell, raise hands. JOE points to REPORTER #1.

REPORTER #1  
Sir, as Public Advocate, had you  
been kept abreast of these  
investigations?

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

JOE  
Well, to be honest, no. Like with  
allota things, I've been kept outta  
the loop.

FRANCINE frowns.

REPORTER #1  
But you're "in the loop" now?

JOE  
Oh, yeah. God help us.

REPORTERS yell. JOE points to REPORTER #2.

REPORTER #2  
Do we know if there are any more  
members of this particular cell?

JOE  
Uh, we do. There aren't. Uh. We  
don't think.

REPORTER #2  
You're not sure?

JOE  
Sure we're sure. Well, as sure as  
you can be given the fact that we  
can't be sure of anything these days.

FRANCINE steps next to him.

FRANCINE  
To the best of our knowledge, the  
four people identified are the only  
members of this particular cell.

REPORTER #1  
Are there other cells?

JOE  
You'd --

FRANCINE  
Not that we know of, but we are being  
diligent in our attempts to monitor  
all such activity.

More questions from REPORTERS. She signals DAVIS.

DAVIS  
That's all we have time for. We'll  
be issuing a report on Mayor Holt's  
status in forty-five. Thank you.

FRANCINE heads off, followed by JOE and the OTHERS.

50 INT. HALLWAY/CITY HALL - DAY

50

JOE steps out of Briefing Room, exhales, as ATES meets him.

ATES

All in all, that went pretty well.

FRANCINE hears this, turns, her frustration exploding.

FRANCINE

Are you nuts? He said he's been kept out of the loop.

ATES

He has been.

FRANCINE

People don't want to hear that. They want to believe that the city government is one big harmonious hayride. He was supposed to be projecting the cool eye of calm, not the squint of indecision --

ATES

So, screw the truth?

FRANCINE

If the "truth" is: "we can't be sure of what we're sure of," yes.

JOE

That's not what I said --

FRANCINE

You are totally useless. Why don't you just go to the Central Park Zoo and pet a llama.

BOB [OPS]

(approaches)

Listen --

JOE

(to FRANCINE)

I'll admit it took me a minute or two to get my sea legs --

FRANCINE

Sea legs? You were sliding like you were on the Titanic -

BOB [OPS]

I have news.

FRANCINE and JOE both stop, turn to him.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

BOB [OPS] (cont.)  
We searched the entire building,  
brick by brick, didn't find any bombs.  
Not even the whiff of one.

FRANCINE  
How's that possible? If they were  
minutes away from activating -- Did  
they have 'em hidden somewhere else?

BOB [OPS]  
We'll keep looking, but... We also  
now believe that the man who was  
killed has no ties to al Qaeda.

JOE  
What?

BOB [OPS]  
None of the men in the apartment do.  
They were there to play poker.

JOE  
We murdered an innocent man?

BOB [OPS]  
I'm afraid so, sir.

JOE looks at FRANCINE, then at the floor. His cell RINGS.

FRANCINE  
I want everyone in the Conference  
Room, immediately.

FRANCINE and BOB [OPS] rush off. JOE answers his phone.

JOE  
Hello?... Anabella, hi... Yeah, yeah,  
My being Mayor is only temporary...  
I can't talk now. Glad you're safe.  
Love you.

He closes cell, then, in the heat of anger, heaves it against  
a wall.

JOE (cont.)  
This job sucks.

JOE walks off. On ATES, picking up the cell,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

51 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL - DAY 51

ATES, DAVIS, SHARON, BOB [OPS], SYDNEY [NYPD] and MARCIE wait, as FRANCINE barrels through the door.

FRANCINE  
Where are Milton, Garry and Tex?

MARCIE  
According to their offices -- on planes to Washington.

SYDNEY [NYPD]  
Those assholes are going to try and dump the blame on us.

FRANCINE  
Where's Capanelli?

ATES  
I don't know.

FRANCINE  
You don't know?

On ATES shrugging,

FLASH CUT TO:

52 EXT. PARK ROW - DAY 52

With City Hall in the b.g., JOE stands on curb, hailing a taxi. As one pulls up,

CUT BACK TO:

53 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL - DAY 53

MARCIE  
Lieutenant Cordiero is searching the building.

FLASH CUT TO:

54 INT. TAXICAB - DAY 54

CABBIE peers into rearview mirror at JOE.

CABBIE  
Y'look familiar... Were you on "Deal, No Deal"?

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

JOE  
Uh uh, I just have that kinda face.

CUT BACK TO:

55 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL - DAY

55

FRANCINE  
Well, we can't wait for Capanelli,  
we have to figure out what we can do  
to contain the political damage.

SHARON  
First, we announce that the rules of  
engagement are under review.

BOB [OPS]  
No. I think we have to reinforce  
the idea that the intelligence we  
had was significant.

ATES  
Significant?

BOB [OPS]  
Okay, "potentially" significant.  
Our informant told us that al-Shazzar,  
after the fall of Iraq, became steeped  
in Islam, obsessive even. He was  
interacting with young people at the  
local mosque. He grew his beard.

ATES  
High crimes.

FRANCINE  
Ates, you're not helping.

ATES  
I'd like to know who this "informant"  
is. Did he have personal reasons  
for lying about Abdul al-Shazzar?

BOB [OPS]  
His identity has to remain secret.

ATES  
What a crock --

FLASH CUT TO:

56 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING/AVENUE B - DAY

56

JOE gets out of cab, approaches the yellow plastic tape of a  
crime scene, ducks underneath. A COP gets in his face.

COP  
Hey, buddy, step back behind the  
tape, now.

(CONTINUED)

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56 CONTINUED:

56

JOE  
(with authority)  
I'm the Mayor.

COP reacts, "Holy Shit", recognizes JOE.

JOE (cont.)  
At least for today.

As COP retreats,

CUT BACK TO:

57 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL - DAY

57

SYDNEY [NYPD]  
The problem is the Muslim community  
will turn al-Shazzar into a saint.

ATES  
We Muslims don't have saints.

FRANCINE  
Ates.

SYDNEY [NYPD]  
You know what I mean, "He's a  
respected member of the community, a  
good husband, father" -- All the  
usual snot. We have to counter that.  
(takes out file)  
I have an arrest warrant for al-  
Shazzar from nineteen ninety eight,  
pornography.

ATES  
Why not just drag his naked body  
through the streets, his ankles tied  
to the bumper of a truck.

FRANCINE  
Ates, shut up.

ATES glares at FRANCINE, then walks out.

DAVIS  
If we're going to make the next news  
cycle, we have about fifteen minutes  
to get a statement prepared.

FRANCINE  
Press conference, top of the hour.  
All of you, be there.

As they disperse,

FLASH CUT TO:

58 INT. AL-SHAZZAR'S APARTMENT - DAY

58

JOE walks through the studio apartment, surrounded by the aftermath of chaos and death: chairs are toppled, a door is busted, broken glass. JOE stops to examine several bullet holes in the wall, fingering one hole as he flinches. He continues on, steps on something -- a boy's baseball mitt. As he picks the mitt up, the full horror of what occurred in front of the boy overwhelms him.

VOICE (o.c.)  
Everyone's looking for you.

JOE turns to see MARCIE, standing in the doorway.

JOE  
How did you know I'd be here? I mean, I guess that sez a lot about our relationship --

MARCIE  
Actually, this was my third choice... Roy's outside. You ready to go back?

JOE puts the baseball mitt on a table. His face reflects a new resolve, a new fire.

JOE  
Yeah.

As JOE exits, followed by MARCIE,

CUT TO:

59 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING/AVENUE B - DAY

59

As JOE and MARCIE emerge, they are engulfed by the MEDIA. JOE pushes through the crowd, without speaking, heading to ROY, who holds car door open. On him and MARCIE getting into car,

TIME CUT TO:

60 INT. BULLPEN/CITY HALL - DAY

60

JOE walks with FRANCINE.

JOE  
An innocent man is dead. Why?

FRANCINE  
Bad intelligence.

JOE  
Oh, well, that should comfort his six year old.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

FRANCINE

We did the best we could with so little time --

JOE

Bull. We have to do better. We have to make sure a mistake like this never happens again.

FRANCINE

It will happen again. Get used to life post-nine/eleven. If we had failed to take action and bombs had gone off at Grand Central, you'd be feeling plenty worse -- Believe me, I buried a lot of firefighters in two thousand one.

JOE takes a beat, then turns to MARCIE, who's at her desk.

JOE

Do you have a list of the leaders of the Muslim and Arab communities?

MARCIE

Sure.

FRANCINE

(to JOE)

What do you want the list for?

JOE

I'm gonna call 'em, each one --

FRANCINE

We do that after the press conference.

JOE

I'm gonna invite them down, talk this through --

FRANCINE

Of course, but we need to co-ordinate your response with the --

JOE

How do I know what my response is before I hear what they have to say?

FRANCINE

We know exactly what they're going to say. Just because you've never heard it, doesn't make it new.

JOE

Okay. But I don't need your team to give me talking points.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (2)

60

FRANCINE

No, you'll spew out the first thing  
that comes into your head.

JOE

Uh uh. What I'm gonna do is  
apologize, make it clear to the Muslim  
community that we aren't targeting  
them, that our methods were too  
extreme --

FRANCINE

Geez, that'll play great over Al-  
Jazeera.

JOE

So, your genius idea is, to what?  
Ignore community concerns --

FRANCINE

Do you ever listen to any other voice  
than your own? We have to balance  
security and safety -- the security  
of the city and the safety of the  
individual.

JOE

Balance. Right. Which is why,  
because of Abdul al-Shazzar's death,  
we should think, for maybe a second,  
about what we can do differently.

FRANCINE

Look, John Q may feel badly that the  
wrong man is dead. But he doesn't  
want us, as a result of this mishap,  
to stop protecting his wife and  
children.

JOE

"Mishap"?  
(to MARCIE)  
Place the first call.

FRANCINE glares at him, as MARCIE answers ringing phone.

MARCIE

Mayor's Office...

AIDE approaches FRANCINE.

AIDE

Rebbe Englestein's on the horn.  
Again. Wants the whole story on the  
shooting.

FRANCINE exhales, goes. MARCIE faces JOE:

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED: (3)

60

MARCIE  
I have the White House on four.

JOE also exhales, goes into:

61 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - DAY

61

JOE picks up phone, as ATES stares out window.

JOE  
Hullo... Sure, I'll hold... Mister  
President... Yes, a terrible  
tragedy... Well, sir, I appreciate  
you saying that, but at a time like  
this, me being right doesn't mean  
much... No, sir... Uh huh, I will...  
No, thank you for calling.

(hangs up)  
I have an open invitation to sleep  
in the Lincoln bedroom.

(rises)  
He wanted to know if I was gonna  
announce to the press that I was  
against the assault...

ATES  
Maybe you should. That'd be the  
smart move.

JOE  
I've never been known for my smarts...  
(eyes the liquor)  
What kinda crazy, practical joke is  
God playing? Making a jamoke like  
me Mayor of New York...

JOE senses ATES' mood.

JOE (cont.)  
You okay?

ATES  
I don't know. How would you feel if  
they shot a guy simply because he  
was Catholic? You know what it's  
been like for me, my family since  
September eleventh, the stares,  
suspicions, insults, threats --  
(off JOE's nod)  
I grew up watching "Miami Vice" and  
"Family Ties" same as everybody else.  
In Brooklyn, not Baghdad.

On JOE, exhaling,

CUT TO:

62 INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY HALL - NIGHT

62

FRANCINE, on phone. TV is on, SOUND MUTED.

FRANCINE

Rebbe, we have no intelligence connecting Hamid Durrani with the Grand Central plot... No... No, I don't think that's a good idea... Other facts have emerged since the press conference... I can't discuss them at this moment, but I'll give you a full briefing in...

(looks at clock)

About forty minutes... Yes, shalom.

She hangs up. PHIL enters.

PHIL

You wanted mud, I've got the beginnings of an avalanche.

(offers file)

A DUI, when Capanelli was sixteen. He hit an old lady.

FRANCINE

(opens file)

Did she die?

PHIL

No, damnit.

FRANCINE

This is a good start, Phil, but it's not enough to bury him. Keep digging.

(looks at clock)

I have to get to the press conference.

PHIL

Uh oh.

He points. ON TV: Penguins. FRANCINE unmutes sound.

REPORTER #3

...As the hunt for Pepe the Penguin goes on, school children are organizing search parties...

FRANCINE

How is it possible we can't find a penguin wandering the streets of Manhattan?

PHIL

Well, there are eight million people out there --

(CONTINUED)

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62 CONTINUED: 62

FRANCINE  
But only one penguin.

As she rises,

CUT TO:

63 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT 63

As PEPE THE PENGUIN hangs with a couple of HOMELESS MEN,

CUT TO:

64 INT. BRIEFING ROOM/CITY HALL - NIGHT 64

JOE stands reading speech before the MEDIA; FRANCINE, SHARON,  
BOB [OPS], SYDNEY [NYPD] and DAVIS behind him.

JOE

"...In response to the intelligence  
which had been gathered, we, we, um,  
had no choice but to take action.  
To do otherwise would have been  
failing in our doody... Duty to the  
people of New York."

(looks up)

The folks behind me and the folks  
who work with them take their jobs  
very seriously. In this instance,  
they did the best they could -- and  
screwed up. The President, um...  
No. I blew it. I made the final  
decision. And a man is dead. I  
apologize to his family, to his  
community, to every New Yorker...

He's about to say more, then --

JOE (cont.)

Deputy Mayor Tyson will handle any  
questions --

JOE walks off the stage. As FRANCINE steps to the podium  
and REPORTERS yell,

CUT TO:

65 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - NIGHT 65

JOE stands, glass of bourbon in hand, staring at a portrait  
of Mayor Colden, as ATES works.

JOE

Who the hell is Cadwallader D. Colden,  
anyway? I mean, what did he do as  
Mayor that he rates a spot in here?

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

ATES  
I think he inaugurated voter fraud.

MARCIE enters.

MARCIE  
I have confirmations on all of the Arab and Muslim leaders you invited, except Hamid Durrani. They'll be here tomorrow at nine am... And the White House is on six.

JOE  
Tell 'em I'm taking a crap.

She picks up phone on Mayor's desk, says:

MARCIE  
Sorry, he's indisposed... Yes, I will.

She hangs up as JOE sips bourbon.

JOE  
I think I'm gonna stop drinking.

MARCIE  
Yeah?

JOE  
Yeah. I don't like getting up in the morning with that thing in my head.

ATES  
It's called a hangover.

JOE stares at ATES for a beat.

JOE  
You make me sound like a drunk.

ATES says nothing, this is a discussion they've had before.

JOE (cont.)  
I'm not a drunk.

ATES  
I didn't say you were.

JOE  
You implied it by not saying anything. Lemme tell ya: after a day like today, with all the grief and gradue and Francine Tyson's attitude, a true alkie would've had gin pouring out of his earlobes.

(CONTINUED)

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65 CONTINUED: (2)

65

ATES  
You should go home.

JOE  
I'm going but not home. I wanna see  
my kids.

As JOE exits,

CUT TO:

66 INT. GRAND CENTRAL STATION - NIGHT

66

Michael Jordan's restaurant. FRANCINE and WILLEM TYSON are  
devouring a juicy porterhouse for two. WILLEM, thirties,  
could've been a Calvin Klein model. Instead, he's a tycoon.

WILLEM  
So, this fellow Capanelli, he's going  
to be a pain in your keister?

FRANCINE  
Yeah. At the press conference, he  
took full responsibility. I knew he  
would. He's the type who leads with  
his gut, not his brain.

WILLEM  
And God knows the Virgo in you hates  
that.

She looks at him for a beat, then --

FRANCINE  
That's true, isn't it, Willem? I  
spend so much time anticipating the  
next move, assessing the outcome...  
Willem, have I... Am I...

WILLEM  
You are perfect, my darling, in every  
way.

FRANCINE  
(takes his hand)  
I love you for the liar you are.

They kiss.

FRANCINE (cont.)  
Let's have a baby.

WILLEM  
After you run for Mayor.

(CONTINUED)

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66 CONTINUED:

66

He smiles. She smiles. They are the ideal match. As her cell phone rings, and she answers it,

CUT TO:

67 INT. LIVING ROOM/DOLORES' HOME - NIGHT

67

ROCCO watches TV: the Mets battle the Yankees. ANABELLA, sixteen, leans in from kitchen.

ANABELLA

You're supposed to be helping me with the dishes, y'know.

ROCCO

Suck off.

DOORBELL RINGS.

ROCCO (cont.)

Mom, someone's at the door.

DOLORES enters.

DOLORES

I didn't know about the horse accident --

ROCCO

What horse accident?

DOLORES

(goes to door)

Where you got paralyzed.

She opens door to reveal JOE.

DOLORES (cont.)

You son-of-a-bitch.

JOE

Lovely, as always, Dolores.

He enters, passing her. ROCCO stands. They hug.

DOLORES

You knew that some crazed terrorist was gonna blow up Grand Central and y'didn't tell me.

JOE

It was a secret. And we all know how good you are at keeping secrets.

(calls:)

Anabella?

(to ROCCO)

Who's winning?

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

ROCCO  
The Mets, three zip.

JOE  
Sweet. They asked me to throw out  
the first pitch at tomorrow's game.

ROCCO  
Cool. Do we get free seats?

ANABELLA comes in from kitchen. He hugs her.

JOE  
Who's this cellist?

ANABELLA  
Daaad.

JOE  
If you're gonna date a musician, at  
least let it be a horn player.  
(to DOLORES)  
Can I stay and watch the game?

DOLORES  
As my ex, no. As my mayor, yes.  
I'll make popcorn.

DOLORES exits into Kitchen.

ANABELLA  
Dad, did they find Pepe yet?

JOE  
Pepe? Oh. Uh, no.

ANABELLA  
He's so cute. You gotta save him.

JOE  
(to ROCCO)  
I blame this all on that cartoon.  
(off ROCCO)  
You know, whatchacallit, "Happy Feet".

ROCCO laughs. ANABELLA tsks. KNOCK on front door.

ROCCO  
Mom, someone's at the --

JOE  
Stop.

He goes to door -- it's ROY.

ROY  
Sorry to disturb you, sir.

(CONTINUED)

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67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

He hands JOE cell phone.

JOE

Hullo?... Yes... Okay, be right there... Marcie, let's move tomorrow's meeting to now... Yeah, start calling. Especially Hamid Durrani. Tell Ates I'll pick him up on the way.

He hands cell back to ROY, faces his KIDS:

JOE (cont.)

I gotta go --

Whines from ROCCO and ANABELLA.

JOE (cont.)

I love you both. Tell your Mom, I --  
Never mind.

He exits. On TV screen: BREAKING NEWS.

CHUCK SCARBOROUGH

We interrupt this program, for a  
breaking news story.

Picture switches to protests outside City Hall. Live.

CHUCK SCARBOROUGH (cont.)

Hundreds of demonstrators have descended on City Hall in response to the death of Abdul al-Shazzar, who was killed earlier today in a botched raid. Police are struggling to hold the protesters back as they march on the Mayor's Office...

On ROCCO, exhaling,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

68 EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT 68

Two hundred Arab and Muslim PROTESTERS yell, as POLICE stand between them and the building. Limo slows down.

69 INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT 69

ROY drives, as ATES sits with JOE. Angry FACES in window.

JOE

Don't worry. We are going to get through this.

ATES

What do you mean "we," white man?

As JOE laughs and ATES smiles,

CUT TO:

70 INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY HALL - NIGHT 70

FRANCINE sits with SYDNEY [NYPD].

FRANCINE

Is the Riot Squad ready?

SYDNEY [NYPD]

Yep. All we need is Capanelli's okay.

THERESA

(enters)

Rebbe Englestein, on seven-three. He wants a meeting. Tonight.

As FRANCINE sighs and lifts receiver,

CUT TO:

71 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - NIGHT 71

JOE enters, followed by ATES and MARCIE.

MARCIE

All of the Arab and Muslim leaders you asked to participate have arrived, except Hamid Durrani.

JOE

Hell. More than anyone, we need his co-operation.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

ATES

The quagmire is: he'll lose face with his people just for being in the same room with you. The hard-liners say there's been too much talking -- it's time for action.

JOE

That's why we gotta do something on our end right away.

FRANCINE (o.c.)

First things first.

She stands in doorway with SYDNEY [NYPD]. MARCIE goes.

FRANCINE (cont.)

We need your go-ahead to move the Riot Squad in place downstairs.

JOE

Uh, that'd be a "no" --

SYDNEY [NYPD]

It's standard procedure --

JOE

For a riot. What I saw out there was no riot, it was a peaceful -- angry -- demonstration. No violence, no laws being broken.

SYDNEY [NYPD]

If we don't nip this, tonight, the disturbances will spread.

JOE

Yeah and if the Riot Squad starts cracking heads, we'll be knee-deep in blood by breakfast. The folks out there are not criminals. They have a legitimate grievance. And a right to assemble.

FRANCINE

So does the Jewish community. I'm about to have a meeting with my pal Rebbe Englestein. And I'm willing to bet every Republican vote in Staten Island that he's organizing a counter-demonstration for tomorrow, in support of the Joint Terrorist Task Force.

JOE

Oh man, that's exactly what we don't need, gasoline on an open fire --

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: (2)

71

FRANCINE

So, what do you suggest I do? Tell him he can't?

JOE

No. I'll talk to him.

FRANCINE

And say what? For that matter, what're you going to say to the Arabs and Muslims? Regale them with your adventures as a contractor? The two-by-four as a metaphor of the conflict between Israel and Palestine? A few folksy words to settle a sixty year old, a six thousand year old hatred?

JOE

I'll tell you what I won't do -- I won't give them the same condescending crap you shovel at me. If you're not careful, lady, I will fire you, right here, right now.

FRANCINE

You can't fire me, because, one, if you do, it'll look like you're making me the scapegoat for everything that's gone wrong. And two, when Kendall Holt is back, he will fry your ass --

JOE

Kendall Holt is not coming back. You know that as well as I do.

She does, but keeps her game face --

FRANCINE

You should resign. Manny Stein will become Mayor --

JOE

And let you run my city? No chance.

FRANCINE picks up paperweight, embedded with the city seal, from the Mayor's desk.

FRANCINE

New York is like this piece of Steuben glass, beautiful, fragile. Sometimes, the Mayor has to throw it like a football, all the way across the field... And then catch it.

(places it in JOE's palm)

I don't think you've got the hands.

(CONTINUED)

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71 CONTINUED: (3)

71

JOE heads to door.

FRANCINE (cont.)

A word of caution: when Durrani thinks  
he's winning, he gets a big, fat,  
self-satisfied smile on his face.

JOE and ATES exit into:

72 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/CITY HALL - NIGHT

72

Eight MUSLIM and ARAB LEADERS sit around the table, as JOE  
and ATES enter.

JOE

Okay, let's get started.

MUSLIM

But Hamid Durrani isn't here yet.

JOE

I don't think we should wait --

ATES leans into JOE's ear.

ATES

They're not going to make a move  
without him.

JOE

Okay.  
(then --)  
Let's go.

MUSLIM

Go? Go where?

JOE

If he's not coming to us, we're going  
to him. This way, guys.

As JOE ushers the others out,

CUT TO:

73 EXT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

73

PROTESTERS SCREAM at POLICE. JOE, ATES and the OTHERS climb  
into limos, cars and vans. As a POLICE ESCORT leads the way  
through the streets of Manhattan,

CUT TO:

74 INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE/CITY HALL - NIGHT

74

FRANCINE types on computer, as DAVIS knocks on open door.

DAVIS

I just got off the phone with the  
Times, they're doing an Op-Ed piece  
in the a.m. lambasting Capanelli for  
al-Shazzar's death.

FRANCINE

(no emotion)

Huh.

DAVIS

I thought you'd be thrilled.

FRANCINE

I am.

DAVIS

Oh, and some Korean couple found the  
damn penguin. Alive and waddling.

DAVIS goes. FRANCINE shuts down computer, then stares at  
photo of her and the Mayor on election night. THERESA enters.

THERESA

Englestein is here.

FRANCINE

How's my lipstick? Too much?

THERESA shakes her head, no.

FRANCINE (cont.)

Send him in.

As FRANCINE steels herself,

CUT TO:

75 EXT. STERLING PLACE/BROOKLYN - NIGHT

75

The caravan of police cars, motorcycles, limos and vans pull  
in front of a middle-class house. JOE emerges from limo,  
goes to door, RINGS BELL. As the OTHERS pile out of the  
vehicles, HAMID DURRANI, fifties, fierce, opens the door.

JOE

Mister Durrani, Joe Capanelli, we  
need to talk.

As HAMID watches the horde of people climb up his steps,

TIME CUT TO:

76 INT. LIVING ROOM/DURRANI HOME - NIGHT

76

JOE and ATES sit with the ARABS and MUSLIMS, including DURRANI.

JOE

...These days, it feels like there are madmen hiding in every corner, every shadow. Which is why people like us -- reasonable men and women -- need to come together, need to find a common ground --

HAMID

Words, that's all I'm hearing. Empty words. The murder of Abdul al-Shazzar is an outrage. To bring peace, we must go to our communities with assurances, with deeds.

JOE

Yes, of course. There'll be compensation for al-Shazzar's family. An independent inquiry with some of you on the panel. Recruitment of more Muslims and Arabs in the police department. I've asked Ates to present the details and get your feedback. This is the start of a dialogue, not the end of one.

HAMID sits back, with a big, fat, self-satisfied smile. Francine was right. The hair on the back of JOE's neck rises.

JOE (cont.)

Lemme just add one more thing: I wanna make this right, but I will not tolerate anyone -- and I mean anyone -- using this tragedy for their own advantage.

HAMID

Mister Capanelli, City Hall is only about taking the advantage.

ATES, seeing that JOE is about to lose it, stands.

ATES

Joe would also like to meet Mister al-Shazzar's family.

On HAMID, nodding,

TIME CUT TO:

77 INT. MASJID AQSA MOSQUE - NIGHT

77

A room in the community center. JOE stands in doorway with AL-SHAZZAR'S WIFE, holding her hand and comforting her. She nods, indicates her son, AMAL, six years old. JOE steps into the room, approaches the boy.

JOE  
Hiya, my name's Joe.

No response.

JOE (cont.)  
I'm sorry about your dad.

No response.

JOE (cont.)  
So, you like baseball, huh?

No response.

JOE (cont.)  
Me too. The Mets. Gotta root for  
the underdogs, right?

JOE reaches into his wallet, pulls out baseball card.

JOE (cont.)  
Do you know who this guy is? Tom  
Seaver?

AMAL shakes head no.

JOE (cont.)  
He's like Roger Clemens, only he had  
even better control. He's the only  
pitcher to ever strike out ten guys  
in a row.

AMAL nods, beginning to understand.

JOE (cont.)  
When I was about your age, Tom Seaver  
was the man. My hero. I kept hoping  
and hoping I'd meet him. When I  
finally did and he autographed this --  
(points)  
Right there -- I was the happiest  
kid on planet Earth. I keep it with  
me to remind myself, no matter how  
bad things get, there is always hope.  
(hands card to AMAL)  
I want you to have it. And if you  
need anything, ever, you send it to  
me and I'll come running, okay?

(CONTINUED)

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77 CONTINUED: 77  
AMAL nods. On JOE, squeezing the BOY's shoulder,

CUT TO:

78 INT. BULLPEN/CITY HALL - NIGHT 78  
REBBE ENGLESTEIN gets on elevator. FRANCINE turns to THERESA.

FRANCINE  
Capanelli back yet?

THERESA  
Nope.

FRANCINE  
Well, I'm leaving. Turning off my  
cell. And my cerebral cortex.

THERESA  
What if he asks where to reach you?

FRANCINE  
Tell him he's not the only one who  
can disappear.

On FRANCINE, exhausted,

CUT TO:

79 INT. THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/CITY HALL - NIGHT 79  
JOE enters, alone. He goes to get a drink.

MARCIE (o.c.)  
How'bout a cappuccino?

He turns to see MARCIE at the door.

JOE  
Is that what Kendall Holt would do --  
fire up the cappuccino machine and  
call it a night?

MARCIE  
Part of my job is never to reveal  
what the Mayor does in private.

JOE  
Are you allowed to offer advice?

MARCIE  
Fire away.

JOE  
I gave Durrani and those guys a load  
about "finding common ground" -- but  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

79 CONTINUED:

79

JOE (cont.)

I can't even find a small patch of  
astroturf to share with Francine  
Tyson.

MARCIE

That's because you're only seeing  
the part of her you want to see or  
that she wants you to see -- Super  
Career Woman. But, Joe, she loves  
the Mayor. He's not only her boss,  
he's her mentor, her friend. He's  
been like a dad since her dad died.  
She's torn up about the car accident,  
the coma. Blames herself. This  
isn't all just cold, calculated  
politics. The woman's in pain.

JOE considers her words, nods. He realizes he's holding the  
Steuben paperweight.

JOE

Tell Roy I wanna take a drive...

JOE tosses the paperweight in the air and catches it.

MARCIE

That night... I'm not pissed off  
about what happened... But what didn't  
happen.

As MARCIE plants a big kiss on JOE's lips,

CUT TO:

80 EXT. MANHATTAN - NIGHT 80

The Limo rides along. The city in all its nighttime splendor.

81 EXT. OUR LADY OF MERCY - NIGHT 81

Limo pulls up. JOE gets out, waves off the MEDIA.

82 INT. WAITING AREA/OUR LADY OF MERCY - NIGHT 82

JOE talks to SARAH HOLT, the Mayor's wife, and their FIVE  
ADULT CHILDREN.

SARAH

We've decided to remove him from  
life support.

JOE

I'm so sorry, Sarah. If there's  
anything you need...

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

82

SARAH

Thank you... Mister Mayor...

JOE reacts, she's the first person to call him that -- her generosity moves him deeply.

JOE

Can I see him?

SARAH

He's only supposed to have one visitor at a time. Francine's in there now.

(off JOE)

I guess it won't matter. Go ahead.

He squeezes her hand, heads around corner to:

83 INT. SUITE/OUR LADY OF MERCY - NIGHT

83

A glass window.

JOE's POV -- FRANCINE, by the bed, praying. When she finishes her prayer, she takes KENDALL's hand, eyes full of tears.

RESUME JOE, who enters.

She sees him, struggles to compose herself.

FRANCINE

I spoke to Englestein, convinced him to hold off on the counter-demonstration. For now.

JOE

Durrani's satisfied. For now.

A beat, then --

FRANCINE

The New York Times is going to cream you tomorrow. We need to come up with a response.

JOE

Don't worry about it.

FRANCINE

I do worry about it. Especially since I'm the one who maneuvered you into approving the assault.

JOE puts his index finger to his lips, gently shushing her.

FRANCINE (cont.)

Why haven't you said "I told you so," you bastard?

(CONTINUED)

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83 CONTINUED: 83

She cries. He says nothing, crosses behind her. As JOE puts his hands on her shoulders, comforting her,

CUT TO:

84 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT 84

An aerial shot that PANS from City Hall, Manhattan to Yankee Stadium, The Bronx. It's the World Series.

85 INT. LOCKER ROOM/YANKEE STADIUM - NIGHT 85

CU on PEPE THE PENGUIN.

JOE (o.c.)

You want me to walk out there into the middle of Yankee Stadium, in front of twenty-five point four million people, with a penguin?

CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL JOE, FRANCINE and ATEES off to the side, as PEPE stands with his OWNER.

JOE (cont.)

No. N-O. I came to throw out the first pitch, that's it -- no speeches, no penguins.

FRANCINE

What're you, protecting your image? I hate to be the one to tell you, bud, but you don't have one. Your approval rating is a minus six.

JOE

Well, I have nowhere to go but up.

FRANCINE

And your rehabilitation starts with that penguin. NYC loves Pepe. From Wall Street to Riverdale, he's more popular than you are.

JOE

(to ATEES)

What'd'you think?

ATES

The owner wants a photo of you and Pepe for Pepe's website. If not, we're looking at a six million dollar lawsuit, that would tie up our legal department for months, years --

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

FRANCINE

When they could be doing something  
constructive, something for the  
people.

JOE

You're saying that me humiliating  
myself will help the city?

FRANCINE

When you're Mayor of New York, you  
do what you have to do. LaGuardia  
read the comics over the radio during  
the Depression. Koch'd stand at the  
Brooklyn Bridge, asking "How am I  
doin'?" Rudy Giuliani --

JOE

Look, I see what you're up to, trying  
to "maneuver" me again...

FRANCINE

Is it working?

JOE exhales, crosses over to PEPE and the OWNER.

JOE

Hiya.

OWNER

Hello. Pepe, say hello.

PEPE cackles, as PHOTOGRAPHER starts snapping away. HEAR  
"NEW YORK, NEW YORK" (the Leonard Bernstein version) on the  
mighty Hammond.

86 EXT. YANKEE STADIUM - NIGHT

86

A jammed packed CROWD.

BOB SHEPPARD (o.c.)

Before we begin this second game of  
the subway series between the Yankees  
and the Mets, we have two special  
guests -- Hizzoner Joe Capanelli --

HEAR BOOS.

BOB SHEPPARD (o.c.) (cont.)

And Pepe the penguin.

CHEERS. JOE emerges from the dugout with PEPE. The FANS go  
NUTS, chanting "Pepe! Pepe!" JOE looks into the stands,  
sees ROCCO and his FRIENDS, waves.

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

JOE  
I gotta tell ya, Pepe, this is pretty cool.

JOE shakes PEPE's fin. More CHEERS. JOE beams. FRANCINE, in the dugout, turns to an AIDE.

FRANCINE  
Bring Capanelli a microphone.

ATES  
He said no speeches.

FRANCINE  
Look at his face. He's dying to talk, he's a born politician.

ATES winces. AIDE runs mic to JOE, who takes it.

JOE  
On behalf of Pepe, thanks. We're all glad that the little guy's safe. And why is he safe? Because of two people like you, Kevin and Amy Teng --

He indicates the TENGS, in the stands, who bow to APPLAUSE.

JOE (cont.)  
They found him, protected him. They cared... Like this game today. Some people root for the Yankees.

ROAR of Yankee fans.

JOE (cont.)  
Some, the Mets.

ROAR of Mets fans, including ROCCO.

JOE (cont.)  
We may disagree about who's a better shortstop: Jeter or Reyes, but we all love baseball. And we all love the city, even though it's too noisy, too frantic, we're piled on top of each other and we don't get along. That is, until we need to get along. Because what we are together is better than what we are apart... Man, I sound like a Hallmark card. New York, greatest city in the world. Doesn't wanna be, just is.  
(to Pepe)  
Whaddayasay, Pepe, let's play ball.

PEPE cackles. CROWD cheers. JOE holds up ball, as JORGE POSADA squats behind the plate. JOE cracks his neck, then winds up -- and throws. The ball falls short. DEAFENING BOOS from both YANKEE and METS FANS. JOE puts his face in his hands, as PHOTOGRAPHER snaps away. FRANCINE, to ATES:

FRANCINE  
How many people did he say are watching?

ATES  
Twenty-five point four million.

FRANCINE  
(chuckles)  
Nice.

JOE mumbles to PEPE, under his breath.

JOE  
This job sucks.

As he and the penguin walk off the field,

FADE OUT.

THE END