

**\*\*\*CONFIDENTIAL\*\*\***

**24**

**FIRST LIGHT**

**EPISODE #1**

"12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M."

Written By:

Manny Coto

and

Evan Katz

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ACT ONE

BLACK:

Then the iconic 24 LOGO POPS and FRITZES to life:

CARTER'S VOICE

The following takes place between  
12:00 PM and 1:00 PM.

REBECCA'S VOICE

Events occur in real time.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - VIRGINIA

What should be an average American home is now a charnel house.

**A SERIES OF BOXES:**

-- A WOMAN'S BODY, face down in a thickening pool of blood --

-- Her TEENAGE DAUGHTER nearby, battered, dead. Her bloody handprint on the wall --

-- Furniture overturned, books, clothes hurled about --

-- In the debris are COMBAT MEDALS, also a GROUP PHOTO of a six-man ARMY RANGER SQUAD. This is a military home.

**END BOXES AND GO FULL SCREEN:**

A MAN tied to a chair. He's one of the Army Rangers in the group photo. It's his house we're in, and his family that lies dead on the floor. He's been brutally tortured, his skin slashed, eyes burned away by chemicals, barely alive.

His torturer looms over him. A cold fanatic, RASHID presses the barrel of a .45 to the Ranger's forehead. The Ranger grimaces, almost welcomes what's coming.

RASHID

For Sheik Bin-Khalid.

Rashid PULLS THE TRIGGER. The BLAST TOPPLES the Ranger back over in his chair, and he CRASHES to the floor. Rashid digs out a cell phone. Dials.

RASHID (CONT'D)

(into cell)

We're finished here. He didn't have it.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. UTILITY VAN - WASHINGTON D.C. - MOVING

MALIK is in the rear, holding a copy of the same Army Ranger group photo we saw in the trashed home.

MALIK  
(into cell)  
You're sure?

Rashid glances at the Ranger's murdered wife and daughter. Their wounds suggest they were also tortured.

RASHID  
He would've told us.

Malik draws a SLASH MARK through the Ranger that Rashid just executed. Of the six Rangers in the squad, four have slashes.

RASHID (CONT'D)  
Have you located Marcus Grimes?

Malik eyes one of the photo's two unslashed Rangers: MARCUS GRIMES.

MALIK  
He wasn't in his apartment. But we have a lead. We'll get him soon.

Malik looks from Marcus to the other remaining Ranger in the photo. African-American, glowing with a sense of mission, we'll come to know him as ERIC CARTER.

MALIK (CONT'D)  
You should move to your final target. Carter. He was the squad leader.

RASHID  
We're leaving now. We'll be at his house in ten minutes.

Rashid hangs up, turns to two other JIHADIS. All three men are dressed as UTILITY REPAIRMEN.

RASHID (CONT'D)  
(subtitled Arabic)  
*Let's go --*

As the men exit, HOLD ON the GROUP PHOTO of the Ranger squad, and their next target, Eric Carter. Off his image:

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CARTER HOME - BEDROOM - VIRGINIA

ERIC CARTER making love to his wife, NICOLE. A young couple in their late 20's, early 30's, having uncommonly good lunch hour sex.

Finally, they collapse together, spent, and Carter rolls onto his back. They lie there breathing, sweaty. Happy. With no idea what's headed their way.

NICOLE

Wow... that was a mistake.

CARTER

How was that in any way a mistake?

NICOLE

I have to be at work in an hour, and I'm ready to go back to sleep. Least I can skip the gym today.

CARTER

Sure that's a good idea?

NICOLE

(slaps him playfully)  
Watch it.

He laughs. A youthful, handsome face on a muscled frame. She glances at the clock.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Gotta go.

CARTER

You know, my shift doesn't start 'til 1:00. Why don't you call in sick?

NICOLE

I just got this job. Not gonna risk losing it.

She shrugs on a T-shirt, heads into the --

BATHROOM

Nicole fills a glass of water, takes out a blister pack of birth control pills from the medicine cabinet. She punches out the day's dosage, downs the pill, then turns to see Carter in the doorway.

CARTER

I thought you stopped taking those.

Caught, she sets the glass down.

NICOLE

I did. For a couple of weeks.

CARTER

So what's going on? You said you were ready.

NICOLE

I know...

CARTER

It's been six months, Nicole. I get it hasn't been easy. Living in hiding, changing your name --

NICOLE

Eric, I'm fine. I'm just worried you're not.

He shakes his head, knows what she's talking about.

CARTER

Come on, the guy almost sideswiped us.

NICOLE

I thought you were going to run him off the road. Scared the hell out of me.

CARTER

I overreacted. I told you I was sorry.

NICOLE

It's not just that. You're barely eating, or sleeping. You're in the garage punching that bag at three in the morning --

CARTER

What do you want from me? What do I have to say?

NICOLE

I think you still need time. You gotta get past what happened over there.

CARTER

I'm fine, Nicole. All this stuff you're talking about, it's just normal stress.

NICOLE

Normal stress. Really?

CARTER

If I was so screwed up, would I be getting a promotion next month?

NICOLE

You're changing the subject.

CARTER

And you won't admit that things are good. We have a future here. It's about time we start acting like it.

Off Nicole, hearing him but her concern undimmed...

CUT TO:

INT. TOWN CAR - MOVING

REBECCA INGRAM, 40's, blazing smart with a confident energy, rides in the back, dressed for an event, on her cell phone.

As she talks, she applies a well-known hack for minimizing the pain of high heels -- taping her third and fourth toes together. She does this on both feet while:

REBECCA

(into cell)

-- And pull hard copies of everything we put together on the Haddads. Including ground recon going back six months --

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - BULLPEN - WASHINGTON D.C.

A monument to high tech. Analysts' stations are arranged in orbit around a 360 degree hub of large touchscreen displays. Everywhere, people hustling, alert and on the move.

Young comm analyst ANDY CHOU -- Asian, high strung, high achiever -- is on the phone with Rebecca.

ANDY

(into cell)

Six months?

REBECCA

Take a breath, Andy. The backups are still in my old account. You have the codes.

ANDY

I'm not stressing, it's just a lot, you know?

(checks his watch)

And aren't you supposed to be getting an award now?

REBECCA

I'm just pulling up. And on second thought -- for the ground recon, make it twelve months.

ANDY

Okay, now I'm stressing.

REBECCA

Gotta go --

She ends the call, quickly slips her shoes back on as...

EXT. U.S. CAPITOL - SOUTH ENTRANCE

The town car pulls up and a MARINE GUARD throws open the rear door. Rebecca exits and sprints up the front steps into...

INT. U.S. CAPITOL - SOUTH ENTRANCE / CORRIDOR

Waiting for her is her husband, SENATOR JOHN DONOVAN. Early 50's, easy on the eyes, a politician on the rise. They've been married ten years -- a prominent D.C. power couple.

DONOVAN

For a second I thought this was going to happen without you.

REBECCA

Sorry. I was pulling case files, lost track of time.

DONOVAN

Only you could lose track of time on a day like today.

She takes his hand, pulls him into a kiss. CYNTHIA steps up. She's Donovan's campaign director, attractive, 30's.

CYNTHIA

Senator Donovan, Ms. Ingram. They're ready for you.

They follow Cynthia down the corridor.

REBECCA

I'll need to meet you at the fundraiser.

DONOVAN

Why?

REBECCA

I have a meeting with Mullins.  
(off his look)  
Don't worry, I'll be there.

DONOVAN

I'm not worried... but you've been spending a lot of time at CTU.

REBECCA

John, these transition meetings are only for another week.

DONOVAN

Look, if you're having second thoughts about leaving --

REBECCA

I'm not having second thoughts.

As if to allay his lingering doubt, she stops to adjust his tie.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Honestly -- after hunting terrorists for fifteen years, the idea of being First Lady sounds pretty damn good.

DONOVAN

We're not in the White House yet.

REBECCA

You saw the polls this morning. You're in striking distance with likely voters. And this --

They enter --

INT. U.S. CAPITOL - EMANCIPATION HALL

A large gathering of SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN and high-ranking members of the INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. The MEDIA is also out in full force.

REBECCA

-- This could put you over the top.  
(beat)  
By the way, did the Haliwells RSVP?

DONOVAN

Not yet. Thinking of phoning in a reminder.

REBECCA

Couldn't hurt. If they're at the fundraiser, other deep pockets will take notice. People with that kind of money, they move in herds.

A CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER steps up to escort Rebecca.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

(to Donovan)  
C'mon --

DONOVAN

No. This is your moment, and I want it to stay that way.

Before she can protest --

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

Go. I love you.

She sees he isn't going to bend on this, turns and allows herself to be led to the dais. The SENATE MAJORITY LEADER shakes her hand, then takes the podium.

MAJORITY LEADER

Good morning. Six months ago, U.S. Special Forces launched an assault on the compound of Ibrahim Bin-Khalid, killing him and eight members of his terrorist group --

Under this, **SPLIT OFF INTO BOXES:**

INT. UTILITY VAN - MOVING

One of the Jihadis is driving, Rashid sitting passenger.

In the back, Jihadi 2 is fiddling with something that looks like a router with extra antennae -- a CELL PHONE JAMMER.

Rashid checks the clip in his .45. On the GPS, the van's icon closes in on its destination --

**END BOXES ON:**

MAJORITY LEADER

-- It's my distinct privilege to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to the woman whose tireless efforts made that possible. Former National Director of CTU, Rebecca Ingram...

APPLAUSE as the Majority Leader hands Rebecca the award. She locks eyes with Donovan, who smiles, filled with pride. Rebecca takes the podium, waits for the APPLAUSE to die down.

REBECCA (ON TV)

Thank you, Senator. This is extraordinary, and so humbling. I'd like to acknowledge the many dedicated people at CTU whose hard work made the Bin-Khalid operation a success.  
(beat)

Most of all I'd like to recognize the Army Rangers who risked their lives to carry out this mission, and who are still in hiding, living under

(MORE)

REBECCA (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
 the threat of retaliation. They're  
 the true heroes of this day --

Off this...

CUT TO:

INT. CARTER HOME - BEDROOM

Carter, one of the heroes Rebecca just referred to, finishes throwing on his work shirt, dons a SECURITY GUARD jacket.

Carter checks himself in the mirror. For a moment, his determined optimism drops away, allowing us to see a man who expected something better for his life. He girds himself for the day and heads out, to --

INT. CARTER HOME - KITCHEN

Nicole's at the counter, also dressed for work in her nurse's scrubs. She's pouring herself a cup of coffee as Carter enters. He moves to her, his tone conciliatory.

CARTER  
 You know, my boss said he'd let us  
 use his cabin in River Woods. Maybe  
 we should go up this weekend. Take  
 time for ourselves.

NICOLE  
 You hate the woods.

CARTER  
 Guess we'll have to spend most of  
 the time indoors.

She smiles in spite of herself.

NICOLE  
 Never much liked the woods either.

Though behind her smile we sense her concerns aren't going away. Now, Carter's CELL BUZZES. He checks the caller ID, answers.

CARTER  
 (into cell)  
 Carter --

**ADD IN A BOX:**

EXT. DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON D.C. - STREET CORNER

MARCUS GRIMES, the other Army Ranger who Malik is searching for, is at a payphone. Eyes darting, disheveled, Marcus has had a tough night. Right now, you'd take him for a street person.

MARCUS  
 (into phone)  
 It's me. Can you talk?

CARTER  
 Yeah, Marcus. What is it? You okay?

Nicole frowns, doesn't think much of Marcus.

MARCUS  
 No. I'm not okay. Bin-Khalid's people found us, Eric. They found us. I kept saying they would and I was right. Dammit --

CARTER  
 Whoa -- slow down. Where are you?

MARCUS  
 Just listen to me -- two men came to my building, asked the manager if he'd seen me, said they were police --

CARTER  
 Any chance they were police?

MARCUS  
 They asked for me by name, Eric. *My new name.*

This stops Carter short.

CARTER  
 You sure?

MARCUS  
 I'm not making this up. Those guys broke into my apartment and tore the place apart.  
 (looks around, paranoid)  
 You gotta call CTU, get them on this before these bastards find me --

CARTER  
 Marcus, you need to calm down. Get somewhere safe, and I'll deal with this --

MARCUS  
 Don't jerk me around. This is happening.

CARTER  
 Where are you? How can I reach you?

MARCUS  
 You can't --

CARTER  
Marcus, wait --

But Marcus has hung up. Carter lowers his cell, troubled.

NICOLE  
What is it now?

CARTER  
He says Bin-Khalid's people found  
him.

NICOLE  
Again?

Carter taps an APP on his phone. As he enters codes --

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

CARTER  
Signaling the squad.

NICOLE  
Tell me you're not taking Marcus  
seriously. How many times has he  
made this call?

CARTER  
I'm just being safe. The guys'll  
text back that they're okay. Then  
I'll find Marcus and get him cleaned  
up.

NICOLE  
You're not his squad leader anymore,  
Eric.

But Carter doesn't answer. He's staring at his phone.

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
What?

CARTER  
No one's responding.

NICOLE  
You just sent it out.

CARTER  
They just have to tap the screen to  
confirm.

NICOLE  
Maybe they're not near their phones.

CARTER

All of them?

Hard to argue with this. She watches, growing anxious as Carter gets up and goes to the window.

CARTER'S POV - THE STREET

A GREY UTILITY VAN is parked down the block.

BACK TO SCENE

Carter HEARS a SOUND to his left. He cranes his head against the window to see TWO MEN already at the front door. Carter backs away from the window.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(to Nicole)

Get to the attic --

NICOLE

What is it?

CARTER

Do it --

Carter whips out his cell and dials 911 -- DIGITAL WHITE NOISE is all he hears.

CARTER (CONT'D)

They're jamming the signal.

He grabs Nicole by the arm and hauls her into the --

HALLWAY

At the end of the hall, a SHADOW appears on the back door window. Only seconds to move, Carter pulls Nicole into a --

SPARE BEDROOM

And yanks on the cord to a CEILING ATTIC LADDER. He unfolds the stairs.

NICOLE

Eric --

CARTER

Go -- go --

Nicole scrambles up.

CARTER (CONT'D)

No matter what happens, no matter what you hear, stay up there -- don't make a sound.

Carter quickly folds the stairs and shuts the attic door as --

THE FRONT DOOR -- is KICKED OPEN. Rashid and Jihadi 1 burst in, weapons ready --

SPARE BEDROOM -- Carter spins to a bookshelf, sweeps the books aside, revealing a GUN SAFE.

HALLWAY

WHAM -- the back door FLIES OPEN. Jihadi 2 charges in, spots Carter punching a CODE into the safe and FIRES --

-- A TASER SLAMS into Carter. He tries to fight it, but SPASMS, ultimately collapses onto the floor --

INT. CARTER HOME - ATTIC

Nicole curls in a corner, the sounds from below are horrifying.

HALLWAY

Carter still convulsing as he's dragged into the hall. Rashid trains a .45 on him.

RASHID

(subtitled in Arabic)

*I'll secure him. Search the house --*

As the two Jihadis spread out --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - WASHINGTON D.C.

This sleek facility governs CTU field offices throughout the country. Note: this marks the first appearance of National CTU Headquarters in the series.

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - LOBBY

Rebecca clears security, passes a PLAQUE memorializing CTU's fallen. *Keen-eyed fans might pick out GEORGE MASON, MICHELLE DESSLER, EDGAR STILES -- the list goes on.* Rebecca enters --

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - BULLPEN

People who notice Rebecca offer congratulations and casual applause. She smiles, says hellos as she approaches ANDY.

ANDY

I put the files in Mullins office.  
And congratulations, your speech was  
great. We watched it on C-SPAN.

REBECCA

Thanks, Andy.  
(looks around)  
Where's Bashir?

ANDY

Mullins let him go Friday, brought  
in someone new.  
(lowers voice)  
Who is so *not* as qualified. We're  
talking two-year college.

REBECCA

Why would he do that?

ANDY

I don't know. I mean -- you were  
tough -- honestly sometimes I wanted  
to bitch slap you.  
(off her smile)  
But you always had our backs. Since  
Mullins got your job... I think my  
days are numbered.

This as CTU Director KEITH MULLINS approaches. A decade younger than Rebecca, smart, still getting used to the crown.

MULLINS

Rebecca, congratulations. Part of me  
thought you'd cancel, be off  
celebrating.

REBECCA

Sorry to disappoint you.

She smiles. Their relationship is easy and familiar, they've known each other a long time.

MULLINS

You know how much I appreciate your help with the transition. How's John?

REBECCA

Going 24/7, I don't know how he does it.

(looks at time)

I've gotta make a fundraiser, we should get started.

As they move off, GIA STILES -- Andy's neighbor at the next station -- rolls up in her chair. Real people Brooklyn. Rough around the edges, baseball cap, doesn't give a shit. Working class, in contrast to Andy's obvious privilege.

GIA

I'm "so not qualified"? Really?

(off his embarrassment)

For your information, not everyone needs to go to Stanford.

ANDY

That -- was a private conversation. And how do you even know I went to Stanford?

GIA

You told me two minutes after we met. And you know -- my cousin was Edgar Stiles.

ANDY

And I should know who that is?

GIA

Damn right. He worked at CTU, was one of the best. Taught me more than you ever learned at Stanford.

Unimpressed, he looks at her baseball cap and jeans.

ANDY

Except for the dress code.

She smiles, the gauntlet thrown down. A beat, then --

ANDY (CONT'D)

You get the hourlies from NSA yet?

GIA

Just now. No chatter indicating an active threat. So far, it's quiet out there.

CUT TO:

INT. CARTER HOME - ATTIC

Nicole crouched up here, truly terrified. Knows she needs a clear head, steadies her breathing. Checks her phone again, still no bars. Her mind races, looking for a move, any move.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM

Jihadi 1 ransacks the place -- sweeps things off shelves, slices cushions open. Searching for something. Rashid finishes securing an unconscious Carter to a chair. Pops smelling salts under Carter's nose. Carter coughs, awakens.

RASHID

Where's your wife?

Carter's eyes sweep the room, taking stock.

CARTER

At work.

RASHID

Her car's in the driveway.

CARTER

A friend picked her up.

Rashid suspicious. Trying to move him off this --

CARTER (CONT'D)

I know why you're here. Just do what you have to do.

RASHID

Where's the strongbox?

A sudden shift, which takes Carter by surprise --

CARTER

What?

Rashid BACKHANDS Carter. Presses his gun to Carter's head --

RASHID

Where is it?!

CARTER

I don't know what you're talking about!

RASHID

Sheik Bin-Khalid stored his valuables in a strongbox. It was taken from his compound the night your squad came and killed him.

CARTER

Never saw anything like that.

RASHID

Your men -- Murdoch, Jackson, Geddes, and Nichols -- they didn't take it.

(off Carter's look)

That's right. We killed your friends. And their families.

Carter tries to lunge out of the chair, seething. Wants nothing more than to get his hands around Rashid's throat.

RASHID (CONT'D)

Which leaves you and Grimes. And you're going to tell me which one of you has the strongbox.

Rashid begins methodically BEATING THE SHIT out of Carter.

INT. CARTER HOME - ATTIC

Nicole tries to shut out the sound of her husband being beaten as she unscrews the bolts that secure an AIR DUCT to a vent in the floor. She pulls the ducting off, looks down into --

NICOLE'S POV - SPARE ROOM

Through the small vent, Nicole can see the GUN SAFE Carter was trying to get to. Unfortunately JIHADI 2 is in the room, vigorously searching. Blocking her access.

RESUME - ATTIC

Nicole moves away from the vent. Mind racing... she begins looking through the BOXES stored in the attic.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM

Rashid takes a break from hitting Carter, mops sweat from his brow. Blood drips down Carter's face.

RASHID

Where is it?

Carter SPITS a mouthful of his own blood into Rashid's face. Rashid backs away, wipes it off. Jihadi 1 has been searching the room in the b.g. -- Tells Rashid --

JIHADI 1

(subtitled Arabic)

*Finish it. He doesn't have it.*

RASHID  
 (subtitled Arabic)  
*And if you're wrong? We have to find  
 it, or the attack can't happen...*

Carter has been watching, LISTENING, following the Arabic. Rashid SMACKS Carter in the head with the gun, dazing him. Rashid digs in his bag. Pulls out a bottle of DRAIN CLEANER.

INT. CARTER HOME - ATTIC

Nicole lifts a VASE from one of the boxes. Moves across the attic, works at pulling the ducting from ANOTHER VENT.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM

Carter still dazed as Rashid unscrews the top of the drain cleaner. He pries one of Carter's eyes open with his dirty, callused fingers.

RASHID  
 Where is it?

Carter manages to focus on Rashid. Has no answer for him. Struggles futilely as --

RASHID brings the drain cleaner toward Carter's eye.

INT. CARTER HOME - ATTIC

Nicole gives up on the bolts, uses brute strength to tear the ducting off the vent. Looks down. No one in the master bedroom. She lifts the vent open and pushes the VASE out into the bedroom below, where it SHATTERS.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM

Rashid heard that, looks up with a start. Shouts --

RASHID  
 (subtitled Arabic)  
*The bedroom! Go!*

Jihadi 1 rushes out of the room. Carter's heart races. Will they find Nicole? Desperately looking for a way out...

INT. CARTER HOME - SPARE ROOM

Jihadi 2 also heard Rashid's command, is drawn out of the room, as Nicole intended. FOLLOW HIM into --

INT. CARTER HOME - MASTER BEDROOM

Jihadis 1 and 2 meet in the bedroom, see the VASE broken on the floor. Look around, wondering as --

INT. CARTER HOME - ATTIC

Nicole moves quickly across the attic, to the access hatch to the spare room. TRIPS, goes down on one knee for a moment.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM

Rashid's eyes shoot to the ceiling -- he heard that!

RASHID  
(subtitled Arabic)  
*There's someone in the attic! Get up there!*

ON CARTER - *shit.*

**IN MULTIPLE BOXES:**

-- SPARE ROOM - Nicole clambers down from the access hatch. The problem is --

-- HALLWAY - Jihadis 1 and 2 move toward the spare room as --

-- SPARE ROOM - Nicole gets to the gun safe. Punches in the code, hands shaking. Gets it wrong. Tries again, as the Jihadis get closer and --

-- CARTER waits for his moment.

-- SPARE ROOM - Nicole gets the safe open. Grabs Carter's DESERT EAGLE, flicks the safety and brings it up as --

JIHADI 2 steps into the doorway! She FIRES! Is knocked off balance by the recoil from the 50 caliber round, but the shot hits Jihadi 2 in the leg. He goes down on one knee, raises his gun to fire back. Nicole recovers, fires and KEEPS FIRING, until she's out of ammo. Her aim adrenalized and wild, but one shot *kills the Jihadi.*

**FULL SCREEN:**

INT. CARTER HOME - FIRST FLOOR

Rashid distracted by the shots, backs away to just the distance Carter needs --

CARTER PUSHES OFF THE FLOOR, HARD -- the chair tilts back, the legs catch Rashid under the chin, knock him back.

The wooden chair hits the floor hard, the back breaks apart.

Carter's hands are now free, but his legs are still secured to the chair legs. Rashid gets to his feet as --

INT. CARTER HOME - SPARE ROOM

Nicole realizes she's out of ammo. There's a box of ammo in the gun safe, but she has no idea how to load the magazine.

JIHADI 1 is crouched in the hallway, out of the line of fire. Hears her ejecting the magazine. Pumps his SHOTGUN, closes in on the spare room.

INT. CARTER HOME - LIVING ROOM

Carter reaches behind him to the fireplace, THROWS THE POKER with everything he has. It hits Rashid in the face. He stumbles, blood pouring from a gash in his forehead, as --

Carter breaks the chair bottom apart, freeing his legs. He grabs the gun Rashid dropped. Rashid LUNGES at Carter, who SHOTS AND KILLS Rashid without pausing, as he races toward the back of the house.

INT. CARTER HOME - SPARE ROOM

Jihadi 1 steps into the doorway, raises the SHOTGUN toward a helpless Nicole, pulls the trigger as --

CARTER appears behind him, FIRES!

Jihadi 1 SPINS as the shotgun goes off, so his shot is off center. Carter fires again, killing him with a head shot, rushes forward, into the spare room --

NICOLE's arm is bleeding, but the rest of the shotgun blast hit the wall next to her.

CARTER

Nicole!

He grabs her -- sees her only wound is the one on her arm.

CARTER (CONT'D)

You hit anywhere else?

She manages to shake her head no. Trembling, in shock --

NICOLE

How did they find us... how?

CARTER

Listen to me. You did good, you saved our lives. Now we have to get out of here.

She stands there, still in shock. Carter urges her --

CARTER (CONT'D)

We have to go. Now.

She nods. He grabs ammo for the Desert Eagle. Reloads as we FOLLOW THEM through the ransacked house out to --

EXT. CARTER HOME

Carter edges out of the front door, gun up, in battle mode. He scans the area. Checks Rashid's VAN is empty.

CARTER  
It's clear, let's go!

Nicole sprints out of the house. They get into their car, and Carter SPEEDS AWAY as we --

CUT TO:

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - MULLINS' OFFICE

Rebecca reviewing CASE FILES with Mullins. She's relentless, and you get the sense she's trying his patience. Opening the next file --

REBECCA  
Onto the Haddad Network...

MULLINS  
I'm actually up to speed on the Haddads. From the point the CIA said they'd gone inactive and deserted their compound --

REBECCA  
(cuts him off)  
-- Which didn't make sense to me, so I requested a ground recon. It turns out they were active, they just found a way to avoid our satellite passes.

MULLINS  
And that's... what I was about to say.

REBECCA  
Sorry. I just want to make sure nothing's overlooked.

MULLINS  
I understand. I'm on it, Rebecca.

She takes a beat, then --

REBECCA  
I also noticed you made some personnel changes.

MULLINS  
Where I thought better choices were available.

REBECCA

Better than Bashir? He's *the* expert  
on extremist social media --

MULLINS

Rebecca --

(gently)

You're the one who chose me as your  
replacement. You need to trust me  
to do the job.

Rebecca realizes he's right --

REBECCA

You're right. Running CTU... it's  
like a drug. Not easy to come down  
from.

He nods, gets it. Still --

MULLINS

Or maybe you're not ready to let go  
yet. If not, maybe you want to talk  
about it.

Rebecca is grateful for his sincere concern. There's real  
intimacy and affection between these long-time colleagues.

REBECCA

I'm fine, Keith. Really.

As he takes a measure of her sincerity --

REBECCA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Did I ever tell you the party tried  
getting John to run four years ago?

MULLINS

No.

REBECCA

The only reason he said no was because  
of me. He knew I couldn't track Bin-  
Khalid and work on his campaign at  
the same time. So I promised him,  
once we got Bin-Khalid, it would be  
his turn.

MULLINS

John's lucky to have you.

REBECCA

We're lucky to have each other.

MULLINS

He'll make a great President.

REBECCA

And you'll make a great Director.

Rebecca's phone RINGS. She frowns at the CODE NAME on the caller ID --

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Sorry, I need to take this.

MULLINS

No worries, I'll catch up on calls.

Rebecca exits Mullins' office into --

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY

Once out of earshot, Rebecca answers --

REBECCA

(into phone)

Carter?

**ADD IN A BOX:**

EXT. VIRGINIA ROADS / INT. CARTER'S CAR - MOVING

Carter driving fast, running an anti-surveillance routine, checking his mirrors. Talking fast, adrenalized:

CARTER

(into phone)

We're blown -- the whole squad.

REBECCA

*What?*

CARTER

Bin-Khalid's people know who we are -- our new names. Three of them just broke into our house.

REBECCA

My God...

CARTER

They're dead. But they said they'd killed Murdoch, Jackson, Geddes, and Nichols. And their families --

A beat as Carter controls his emotions. Nicole, up front in the car with Carter, also registers this.

CARTER (CONT'D)

-- I tried to reach them, no one responded... I think it all just happened. Marcus and I are the only ones left.

A beat, Rebecca's mind racing.

REBECCA  
Your wife, is she okay?

CARTER  
Yes -- but you need to know -- this  
isn't about revenge.

REBECCA  
What do you mean?

CARTER  
They're looking for a strongbox they  
think one of us stole from Bin-  
Khalid's compound.  
(beat)  
And I overheard them say -- if they  
don't find it, an attack can't happen.

Rebecca reacts, mind racing --

REBECCA  
What kind of attack?

CARTER  
That's all they said. But the answer's  
in that strongbox. And Marcus has to  
be the one who took it.

REBECCA  
Why would he do that?

Carter hesitates, then --

CARTER  
The war was really messing up his  
head. I thought I could pull him  
through... told myself he'd be okay  
on the Bin-Khalid op, long as I had  
his back...  
(realizing the enormity)  
I was wrong.

REBECCA  
Do you know where he is?

CARTER  
No. He's paranoid, lives off the  
grid. But I'll send you the payphone  
he called me from. CTU can find him  
that way.

She looks each way, then --

REBECCA  
I can't use CTU for this...

CARTER

Why not?

REBECCA

Besides me, only three people had access to your squad's new identities. The Directors of CIA and NSA...

She LOOKS AT MULLINS through the glass wall of his office.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

And as of three weeks ago, Keith Mullins. He was my number two, now he's Director of CTU.

CARTER

You think he gave us up?

Rebecca shakes her head, mourning the thought --

REBECCA

It would explain the timing -- why this is happening now. But I hope to God it's not him.

CARTER

But you can't take the chance if it is.

REBECCA

No... So if I find Marcus, I'll need someone to bring him in... and everyone here reports to Mullins now.

(beat)

Carter, you're the only one I can trust.

Carter sees Nicole looking at him, following his side of this.

CARTER

I'll do it. But first I need to get Nicole somewhere safe.

Relieved, Rebecca tells him --

REBECCA

I wish I could help. But the police and FBI -- the safe houses -- everything's on the same network Bin-Khalid's people compromised. If Nicole shows up anywhere in the system, they can get to her.

Which gives Carter pause for a moment. Then --

CARTER

Call me when you find Marcus. And I'll bring him in.

**FULL SCREEN:**

Carter ends the call. Sees Nicole looking at him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I'm just going to get Marcus. And hopefully this strongbox.

NICOLE

While the people who came to kill us are trying to do exactly the same thing. This isn't your job.

CARTER

Nicole, there may be an attack. I have to do what I can.

Said as a deep truth, a creed. Then he checks his mirrors and busts a U-TURN.

NICOLE

Where are we going?

CARTER

I'm taking you to a safe house.  
(beat)  
Rebecca arranged it.

As we wonder why Carter lied...

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - MULLINS' OFFICE

Rebecca steps back into Mullins' office. He's just finished a call.

MULLINS

Everything okay?

Looking at him with new eyes --

REBECCA

Something came up. With John's campaign. Is there an office I can use to make calls?

MULLINS

There's still that empty one in operations.

REBECCA

Thanks.

Off Mullins, watching her go --

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM

A dozen CTU analysts in a meeting led by an ALPHA NERD.

ALPHA NERD

Instead of letting NSA pre-parse the data, I want us to begin analyzing the raw streams.

Andy is furiously taking notes. Looks over to Gia, sees she's taking no notes, looks vaguely bored. He shakes his head to himself. His phone vibrates, he steps away to answer:

ANDY

(whispers into phone)  
Rebecca?

**BOX WITH:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY

Rebecca making her way to the office Mullins mentioned.

REBECCA

(into phone)  
I need to see you right away. But no one else can know.

He wonders at the urgency in Rebecca's voice.

ANDY

I'm in a meeting, if I leave now, people are going to ask why. What's going on?

REBECCA

Just get out of there as soon as you can. I need your help finding someone.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN D.C. - RAILWAY

An unused railway right-of-way. Marcus looks around, nerves fed by paranoia and substances. Pulls up on a chain that dangles down into a DRAIN.

At the end of the chain is a **DINGED AND DIRTY STRONGBOX**. Marcus quickly checks the contents: foreign cash, a baggie with two or three DIAMONDS, and who knows what else. He slides it into his backpack. Then climbs up and out of the right-of-way as --

INT. STRIP CLUB - STAGE

A bass-heavy song ends as a stripper, JENNIFER, slides down the pole one last time. Her body is oiled and taut, her face is lined from drugs and hard living.

She moves to an area right off the stage. Is reaching for a robe when she hears her PHONE RINGING in the pocket. As she answers it, she sees she's missed multiple calls.

JENNIFER  
 (into phone)  
 Hello?

**ADD IN A BOX:**

EXT. DOWNTOWN D.C. STREET

Marcus at a payphone near the railway right-of-way, the BACKPACK with the strongbox slung over his shoulder. Coiled and tense, but relieved she picked up.

MARCUS  
 (into phone)  
 Where've you been? You know how many times I've called?

She's used to having to calm him --

JENNIFER  
 I told you, I'm working the lunch shift today --

MARCUS  
 -- We need to get out of town.

JENNIFER  
 (sighs)  
 Why this time?

MARCUS  
 Jen, this is real -- they found me -- talked to Pete at the apartment. If we don't leave, we're *dead*.

JENNIFER  
 Marcus, come on...

MARCUS  
 I just got the box, I'll meet you at Union Station. Downstairs, in the old waiting room. Train to Chicago leaves in forty.

Off her hesitation --

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
 Jen, I'm leaving. And I want you to be with me. Please, just be there, okay?

JENNIFER  
 Okay...

STAY WITH MARCUS

As he hangs up, relieved she agreed. Looks around. Then puts his head down and walks quickly away. Then, GO BACK TO:

BACKSTAGE AT THE STRIP CLUB

Jennifer throws on a jacket. She heads for the employee entrance, passing the MANAGER.

MANAGER

Where do you think you're going?

JENNIFER

Something came up.

MANAGER

There's three hours left on your shift.

She ignores him, pushes the door open and exits into --

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND STRIP CLUB

She walks quickly toward her car. Fishes for her keys...

THEN -- A HAND CLAMPS OVER HER MOUTH, and one of Malik's men drags her, struggling, into --

INT. UTILITY VAN

Malik slides the van door closed. Gets in her face.

MALIK

Where's your boyfriend? *Where's Grimes?*

Off Jennifer's terror...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - BULLPEN

Andy exits his meeting, crosses CTU. Looking each way as he approaches --

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca at her desk, working at her laptop.

ON HER LAPTOP SCREEN -- A LOCAL NEWSCAST LIVE STREAM. POLICE VEHICLES clustered at a SUBURBAN HOUSE (the home of the Ranger we saw Rashid execute in the opening of Act One).

Rebecca looks up as Andy walks in. Worried as always --

ANDY

What did I do, am I in trouble?

REBECCA

Close the door. What I'm going to tell you can't leave this room.

Andy shuts the door behind him.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

There's been an attack against the Army Rangers who killed Bin-Khalid. I just confirmed that four of them are dead. Their families, too.

It's a moment before Andy can respond.

ANDY

Does Mullins know?

REBECCA

Only Director-level personnel had access to the squad's identities. Including me -- and Keith.

ANDY

Wait -- are you saying...? What are you saying?

REBECCA

I'm saying it's possible Keith gave up the Rangers. So we need to do this in secret.

ANDY

Do what in secret?

REBECCA

I need dedicated satellite and traffic camera recon. Independent and undetectable by anyone in CTU, and ready to work in ten minutes. Can you do that?

ANDY

Yeah. But --

REBECCA

What?

ANDY

What if you're wrong about this?

REBECCA

I'm not. And what happened to those Rangers, it's just the start of something worse. There's some kind of attack coming --

CUT TO:

INSIDE A HALLWAY LOCKER

-- As it's opened to REVEAL high school junior AMIRA DUDAYEV. Sexy, a couple of tattoos and piercings. She shoves a couple of books into her locker and shuts it.

INT. MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Between periods. KIDS moving up and down the hall. Amira turns to see DREW PHELPS approaching. He's the last person she wants to engage with.

DREW

Did you get my texts?

AMIRA

All sixteen of them, yes.

DREW

You need to talk to me. I'm worried about you --

AMIRA

I told you to leave me alone. Stop calling me, stop texting me and stop following me.

She starts to move past him, but he blocks her way.

DREW

Amira -- wait --

AMIRA

Get out of my way --

She tries to get around him, but he grabs her arm and yanks her back --

AMIRA (CONT'D)

Let me go!

HARRIS (O.S.)

That's enough!

Drew turns to see MR. HARRIS, a paunchy mid-thirties chemistry teacher, standing in a classroom doorway. Amira hurries off down the hall. Drew watches after her, frustrated. Starts after her --

HARRIS (CONT'D)

Hang on, Drew. In here.

Harris motions Drew into the empty classroom. Drew doesn't move.

HARRIS (CONT'D)

Now.

Drew reluctantly obeys.

INT. MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM

Harris shuts the door.

HARRIS

I don't care what's going on, you don't get physical. Understand?

Drew nods, sullen.

HARRIS (CONT'D)

Now talk to me.

DREW

It's between us.

HARRIS

Not after what I just saw.

(beat)

Drew?

Drew hesitates --

DREW

It's... I saw something on her texts.

HARRIS

You looked at her texts? Why?

DREW

I just... I was upset.

(MORE)

DREW (CONT'D)

I asked her if she ever wanted to be, you know, more than just a study partner... and she said no...

HARRIS

And you wanted to see if she was with someone else.

DREW

Yeah. But it's not that...

HARRIS

Then what?

DREW

The things she was texting... It was like, terrorist stuff.

Harris reacts.

HARRIS

Terrorist?

DREW

She was talking to someone about the Koran, about how America's evil, how the people around her are evil, and how she's ready to prove herself.

HARRIS

Prove herself how?

DREW

It sounded like she was planning to do something violent. Here. At school.

Harris is silent. These are things that always happen somewhere else.

DREW (CONT'D)

I think it's why she came here from Chechnya, with her brother. To do this.

HARRIS

Drew -- do you understand how serious this is, what you're telling me?

DREW

Of course, that's why I was trying to talk to her.

Harris thinks for a moment.

HARRIS

Just stay away from her, okay? Don't contact her in any way.

DREW

What are you gonna do?

HARRIS

I have to follow policy. I'm going to talk to the principal.

DREW

Amira will know I told you.

HARRIS

There's nothing I can do about that. If you're right about her, someone has to intervene, now.

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. OUTSKIRTS

Carter speeds through a neighborhood crushed by poverty, scores of chain link fences and boarded-up windows.

INT. CARTER'S CAR - MOVING

Nicole checks the bandage on her wound, begins taking notice where they are.

NICOLE

Where are we going?

CARTER

Need to make a stop.

Carter turns into the driveway of --

EXT. ISAAC'S COMPOUND - COUNT HOUSE

A neighborhood house turned into a stronghold. Thick bars on the windows, mounted SECURITY CAMERAS.

Two GANGBANGERS guard the front gate. Massive, muscled men with prison tats, clearly carrying. As Carter drives up, their hands flash to their sides, ready for business.

IN THE CAR

Nicole realizes exactly where they are now.

NICOLE

Eric -- ?

Carter gestures for her to wait, then rolls down the window. The Gangbanger sees Eric. With stunned recognition:

GANGBANGER

*Damn.*

CARTER

Troy. I'm here to see my brother.

The Gangbanger glances at the house with dread. Then to Carter:

GANGBANGER  
You sure about that?

CARTER  
Open the gate. Tell him I'm here.

The Gangbanger reluctantly signals to the other one, then gets on his WALKIE. As the second Gangbanger starts rolling back the gate --

NICOLE  
Eric, what are you doing?

CARTER  
Getting you safe.

NICOLE  
You said Rebecca was arranging something.

CARTER  
I know what I said.

With the gate open, Carter starts to pull forward.

NICOLE  
Hell no, Eric -- stop the car --

Nicole starts to open the car door, but Carter grabs her by the arm and holds her.

CARTER  
Nicole --

But she wrenches free and scrambles out of the car --

EXT. ISAAC'S COUNT HOUSE

Nicole heads for the gate. Carter climbs out, circles around and intercepts her.

CARTER  
Listen to me, I can't take you to the police or the FBI, Bin-Khalid's people are in their systems --

NICOLE  
-- You lied to me --

CARTER  
-- I knew this is how you'd react.

NICOLE  
Because it's crazy!  
(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)  
 (to the Gangbanger)  
 Troy, open the gate --

The Gangbanger doesn't move. Carter grabs her shoulders.

CARTER  
 This is the only thing that makes sense. Isaac's not on anyone's books. He's got guns. He's got men. He can protect you, Nicole. You'll be safe.

NICOLE  
 And what about you? What's Isaac going to do when he sees you?

He's about to respond when they HEAR a DOOR OPEN and SHUT. Carter turns to see his older brother ISAAC standing on the front stoop, gazing at Carter in amazement. The clear leader of this crew, Isaac is flanked by two other GANGBANGERS.

Carter signals Nicole to stay put. Steps toward Isaac, who doesn't move. These two haven't seen each other in a long time. Carter stops before his older brother. A silent standoff.

CARTER  
 Isaac.

His expression cold, Isaac takes in the dried blood on Carter's face and clothes. Glances over at Nicole, sees her bandaged arm.

ISAAC  
 Someone's had a rough morning. The hell you doing here?

CARTER  
 I need your help.

ISAAC  
 My help.

CARTER  
 What I did in the service, it's coming back around. People are trying to kill me.

ISAAC  
 What's that gotta do with me?

CARTER  
 I have to try and stop them. But not unless Nicole is safe. I need you to protect her.

ISAAC  
 So go ask your government.

CARTER

I can't.

ISAAC

Why not?

CARTER

Because someone in the government's  
working with the terrorists.

Isaac laughs.

ISAAC

I've been telling you your whole  
life, you can only trust your own.  
Look at you now.

CARTER

Are you going to take care of Nicole  
or not?

Isaac descends the stoop, gets in Carter's face.

ISAAC

You show up like this? After you  
stole my girl and went off to play  
Boy Scout? What I should do -- bury  
your ass right here and now.

Carter holds Isaac's look.

CARTER

If you won't do it for me, do it for  
Nicole.

Isaac glances over to Nicole, who has been watching their  
exchange. There's a history between them. To Carter:

ISAAC

I can get behind that.

CARTER

No one can know where she is. These  
people after me, they're serious.

ISAAC

So am I. You won't need to worry  
about her.

Carter's cell phone BUZZES. He steps away, answers --

CARTER

(into cell)

Carter --

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca on her cell.

REBECCA

(into cell)

Marcus called you from a payphone in downtown D.C., corner of Church and Newberry. We're going to try and track him forward from there.

ON REBECCA'S LAPTOP: a SATELLITE VIEW of Marcus making his earlier call on the payphone.

**ADD IN ANOTHER BOX:**

Andy at his station, his monitor mirroring Rebecca's. Gia works nearby, unaware of what Andy's up to.

CARTER

Got it. I'll head toward the city.

REBECCA

I'll contact you as soon as we catch up with Marcus.

STAY WITH CARTER as he hangs up. He moves to Nicole.

CARTER

Nicole --

NICOLE

I know. You need to do this.

She's looking at him, as if seeing him for the first time. Then pulls him into an embrace.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Be careful, Eric.

CARTER

I will. I love you.

They separate. After a nod to Isaac, Carter moves to the car and climbs in. The gate is pulled aside, and Carter backs the car out.

OFF CARTER'S POV --

Nicole watching him, strangely resolved. As the gate closes on her...

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - ANDY'S STATION

Andy at his station, tracking Grimes' progress via satellite.

ANDY

(whispers into headset)  
D.C. has overlapping satellite  
coverage -- so I can reconstruct  
Grimes' route in 4-D.

Andy clicks, and the image of MARCUS BECOMES THREE DIMENSIONAL. He's able to ROTATE AROUND MARCUS to view him from other angles. As he steps through frames, following Grimes...

ANDY (CONT'D)

Grimes boarded the number 13 bus  
about five minutes ago. Heading east,  
toward Union Station.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca follows this on her screen, MIRRORED with Andy's.

REBECCA

And you're sure no one here can detect  
what we're doing?

ANDY

Of course. I wrote the countermeasure  
myself.

Rebecca is on headset with Andy, and on her cell with Carter --

REBECCA

(into phone)  
He just got on a bus headed for Union  
Station. How far are you?

INT. CARTER'S CAR - MOVING

Carter driving, Downtown D.C. in the approaching distance.

CARTER

Less than fifteen.

Hold on Carter, intense and focused, then --

**FULL SCREEN:** with Rebecca, as she checks her watch, realizes what she has to do. Dials her cell.

REBECCA

Hi. It's me.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. LIMOUSINE - MOVING

Donovan in the back of a limo, sitting opposite Cynthia.

DONOVAN

Hi, hon. We're heading over now.  
Cynthia just got a last-minute  
confirmation from the Haliwells.

REBECCA

John, listen --

(beat)

I'm sorry, but there's a situation  
at CTU. I can't make the fundraiser.

He frowns --

DONOVAN

Why? What's going on?

REBECCA

I can't explain now. But when I can,  
I promise you'll understand.

He absorbs this as she shifts into problem solving mode --

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I know you built your speech around  
me getting the medal, but you can  
use the Boston speech instead. "Give  
into fear, and we give into our  
enemies..."

DONOVAN

I'm not worried about my speech, I'm  
worried about you.

REBECCA

I'm okay. I love you. I'll call later.

**FULL SCREEN:**

Resume with Donovan as the call ends. He looks up, sees  
Cynthia has followed all of this.

CYNTHIA

I'll let the staffers know.

(beat)

But some of the donors are going to  
be very disappointed.

DONOVAN

Then I'll have to be even more charming than usual.

Donovan trying to make light of this, but to Cynthia, the calculus is clear.

CYNTHIA

I'm saying, it may affect their contributions. We need every dollar if we're going to pull off Iowa.

DONOVAN

If Rebecca can't make it, it's for a good reason.

Which ends the conversation. But it's clear from his expression he's worried, too.

INT. MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB

A LIBRARIAN lectures Mr. Harris' class -- who sit in front of computers. Mr. Harris watches, off to the side.

LIBRARIAN

Google doesn't qualify as research. The internet is full of as much bad information as good...

Amira in the back row, gets a TEXT, the message simply, "Now." She checks no one's looking, then slides out of her chair.

LIBRARY AISLES

Amira turns this way and that, heading deeper into the aisles of books, until she reaches a darkened nook and faces --

HARRIS

Who must have slipped away, too.

AMIRA

What's going on?

HARRIS

I pulled Drew aside after what happened.

(beat)

Amira, he read our texts.

AMIRA

*What?*

HARRIS

He knows you're planning an attack at the school with someone -- doesn't know it's me.

AMIRA

So what did you tell him?

HARRIS

That I'd take it to the principal,  
to buy us time... But the point is  
he *knows*...

Harris worried, nervous. But Amira is calm, her mind already working on a solution.

AMIRA

Okay... I'm going to see him next  
period... I'll tell him I want to  
talk. Somewhere away from school,  
alone.

HARRIS

And then what?

AMIRA

We'll deal with it.

The reality of what she's saying hits Harris hard.

HARRIS

Amira, I don't know...

AMIRA

If you can't, my brother will. But  
I'd rather he didn't know about it.

She sees Harris is still anxious. Puts her hand on his arm,  
keeps her eyes fixed on his.

AMIRA (CONT'D)

David... it's just Drew. If you're  
having trouble with that...

HARRIS

I just -- hadn't prepared myself.

She moves closer, kisses him tenderly, working her power  
over him. Quietly, their faces inches apart --

AMIRA

I need to know when the time comes,  
I can count on you.

He looks into her eyes --

HARRIS

I won't disappoint you.

She smiles, presses herself against him. This time the kiss  
is passionate. Off Harris, thoroughly fallen...

CUT TO:

INT. ISAAC'S COUNT HOUSE - MAIN ROOM

Currency counting machines, ingredients to cut drugs. Smoke hangs in the air, ARMED MEN watch a game in the next room while others count and shrink wrap stacks of cash. Isaac walks through this, on the phone --

ISAAC

(into phone)

Tell him he does business here, he tows the line -- my line. That he gets one mistake, and he just made it.

Isaac ends the call. Enters --

INT. ISAAC'S COUNT HOUSE - SPARE ROOM

Nicole has been set up in a sparsely furnished room -- bed, bathroom, TV. She looks up as Isaac enters.

ISAAC

(re: her bandaged arm)

That hurt? Want something for it?

NICOLE

Nothing you have here, Isaac.

ISAAC

I meant *Tylenol*. But okay.

He's about to leave, she stops him --

NICOLE

I'm sorry. I appreciate you taking me in.

ISAAC

Even though this is the last place you want to be.

NICOLE

It's not that...

ISAAC

Then what?

NICOLE

Trust me, you don't want to hear it.

The way she says that, he realizes --

ISAAC

Cause it's about you and Eric.

(off her nod)

Nicole -- it's okay. You and me, that's water under the bridge.

Which surprises her. Skeptical --

NICOLE

Really?

ISAAC

I say what I mean.

She hesitates... but her need to talk wins out.

NICOLE

Eric... hasn't been right since he got back. I thought it was because of what he went through over there, like some kind of PTSD.

A beat.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

But when he killed those men who came after us... I understood. It's not PTSD. He *misses* it. What he did this morning, what he's doing now... It's what he *needs*.

(beat)

The life he says he wants with me, it'll never be enough for him.

A woman facing the end of her marriage. Isaac not comfortable with all this emotion. The best he can do is --

ISAAC

All I can tell you is -- Eric was fine here, working for me. He took off cause of you. Cause he wanted you to have something better.

(beat)

And that part I get.

He says that with his eyes on Nicole, and you realize his feelings for her are still there. But then, his blinged-out girlfriend AISHA appears in the doorway.

AISHA

Royo's men called. They're on their way.

Aisha's talking to Isaac, but she stares at Nicole. Who stares right back. Bad blood here.

ISAAC

(to Nicole)

Check on you later.

Isaac exits --

INT. ISAAC'S COUNT HOUSE - MAIN ROOM

Isaac moves toward the main room with Aisha. Before she can say anything --

ISAAC

Eric asked me to keep her safe.

AISHA

Bet he didn't have to ask you twice.

ISAAC

Aisha -- she's my brother's wife.

AISHA

Like that would stop you starting up with her again.

ISAAC

Don't get crazy.

AISHA

Don't get *distracted*. The buy with Royo -- it doesn't go down right, you're out of business. Might as well put the bullet in your own head.

ISAAC

Just get the money ready. And you don't tell anyone about her being here. Understand?

AISHA

Who am I going to tell?

Said with attitude. He grabs her arm, gets right in her face, and for the first time, true menace in his eyes.

ISAAC

She's under my protection, Aisha. Tell me you understand.

AISHA

I understand.

Off Aisha, a testament to displeasure --

CUT TO:

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - ANDY'S STATION

Andy rotates the 4-D imagery of Marcus. Whispers into his headset --

ANDY

Grimes just got off the bus, he's headed into Union Station.

(MORE)

ANDY (CONT'D)  
He really does seem paranoid. Keeps  
looking around.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca follows this on her screen --

REBECCA  
(into headset)  
Except he actually *is* being watched.  
(into cell)  
Carter, he just entered Union Station.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. CARTER'S CAR - MOVING

Carter makes a turn, altering his route.

CARTER  
I'm two blocks away. Can you track  
him inside?

REBECCA  
We'll hack their cameras.

**RESUME FULL SCREEN:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - ANDY'S STATION

Andy sees Gia coming his way. He stands and turns to face  
her, his body blocking his screen.

GIA  
Check it out -- this is crazy.

ANDY  
What?

GIA  
Rebecca Ingram is running a classified  
stream through the office she's using.

Andy tries really hard not to react.

ANDY  
Really? How -- would you know that?

GIA  
She's trying to conceal it. But  
she's using a countermeasure that's  
real grade school.

ANDY  
Grade school?

GIA  
Yeah, I'm running my own sigma code,  
that saw right through it. She's  
accessing intel she doesn't have  
clearance for.

Andy doesn't know if he's more panicked, or insulted. She misreads his reaction.

GIA (CONT'D)  
Who's qualified now? Score one for  
Brooklyn College. Better call  
Mullins.

ANDY  
Hold on -- I'm sure there's an  
explanation.

GIA  
She can tell it to Mullins.

As she moves away to make the call, Andy sits and whispers into his headset --

ANDY  
Rebecca, you get all that? I have  
to pull the plug.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca looking at the mirror of Andy's screen -- which now shows a dozen surveillance cam views of Union Station.

REBECCA  
Not until we locate Grimes.

Andy sees Mullins, troubled, move toward Rebecca's office.

ANDY  
Here comes Mullins.

REBECCA  
Just find him.  
(into phone)  
Carter?

**ADD IN A BOX:**

EXT. / INT. UNION STATION

Carter runs into the station, phone to his ear. He moves through the main area, looking around. It's a big place, with dozens of hallways and trackways.

CARTER  
I'm here. You have anything?

REBECCA  
We're still looking. I'll call you  
as soon as I have him --

**FULL SCREEN** as she ends the call, shuts down her screens as:

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Mullins enters and doesn't waste any time.

MULLINS  
Rebecca, I just got a report you're  
on our system.

Rebecca hesitates, then confesses --

REBECCA  
It was an emergency -- I needed to  
crunch polling data for John.

MULLINS  
Polling data.

REBECCA  
Analyzing public databases -- nothing  
classified -- for an ad buy. That I  
needed to get done right away.

It doesn't work --

MULLINS  
Rebecca, please. My analyst says  
you're accessing Metro-area  
satellites. What are you doing,  
running some kind of op?  
(off her silence)  
Rebecca, talk to me.

A beat, then --

REBECCA  
I can't. But I have to finish this.  
Please, just leave this alone.

Mullins shakes his head, baffled at this --

MULLINS  
I can't, you don't have clearance  
anymore. I have to shut you down.  
You'd do the same.

He turns to lift the phone from the wall. Rebecca takes a  
STUN GUN out of her bag and jams it into Mullins' neck.

He spasms, drops the phone -- stumbles back into her, grabs her blouse -- this is messy -- she keeps the stun gun pressed into him until he goes down, unconscious.

She takes a breath. Sees Mullins ripped her blouse on the way down, but that's the least of her problems. Off Rebecca, mind racing.

INT. UNION STATION

A beat of Carter moving, searching. Frustrated he's not finding Grimes, when his cell rings --

CARTER

Yeah?

REBECCA

Has her screens back up, delivers what she must have just got from Andy --

REBECCA

Marcus took the northwest stairs down to the lower level. No cameras down there.

CARTER

On it.

Carter ends the call and makes his way to the stairs...

INT. UNION STATION - STAIRWAY / LOWER LEVEL

Carter comes down into a little-used, not renovated level of the old station. He doesn't know who or what he'll be facing, holds his Desert Eagle at his side, calls out --

CARTER

Marcus, it's Carter. I know you're here. We have to talk.

No answer. Carter moves forward, searching.

EXT. UNION STATION

Malik's utility van pulls up across from the station.

INT. UTILITY VAN

Malik and his two men arm up with machine pistols. Jennifer's body is wrapped in a tarp in back. Malik getting bad news from some kind of off screen handler --

MALIK

(into cell)

Yes, I understand... We're at the station now. We'll get it done.

Malik ends the call, tells his men --

MALIK (CONT'D)

Rashid is dead, and Carter is missing.  
We have to assume we've been  
compromised.

His men nod, sobered. But know what's at stake. Malik slides the van door open. Sees a PATROLMAN talking to a PARKING CONTROL OFFICER. Motions for his men to wait, as we --

INT. UNION STATION - LOWER LEVEL

Carter nudges open the men's room door, calls inside --

CARTER

Marcus. Come on, man.

Carter hears something behind him, spins, gun up. Sees MARCUS at the other end of the hallway.

MARCUS

What are you doing here? How'd you  
find me?

Moving toward Marcus --

CARTER

Where is it?

MARCUS

What?

CARTER

The strongbox you stole the night of  
the raid!

MARCUS

What are you talking about?

Carter reaches Marcus, who has backed up into the wall.

CARTER

You know what I'm talking about. The  
rest of the squad's dead -- their  
wives and kids, too. Bin-Khalid's  
people killed them looking for it.

MARCUS

No...

CARTER

Tell me where it is.

Marcus won't meet Carter's eyes... but knows he has no choice:

MARCUS

In my backpack! There was money and some diamonds, but there's hardly anything left. It was Bin-Khalid's stash.

CARTER

And you decided it belonged to you?

MARCUS

You know what that war did to me. I was *owed*.

CARTER

You were owed? Marcus, you taking that, it's why everyone's dead!

MARCUS

What?

Carter controls his anger --

CARTER

There's something in there. That Bin-Khalid's people need for an attack. Give it to me. Now.

Carter grabs the backpack from Marcus. Pulls out his cell.

MARCUS

Who are you calling?

CARTER

Ingram -- we need to get this to her as soon as --

When Carter tries to make the call, he hears DIGITAL WHITE NOISE, like when his phone was jammed earlier. He realizes --

CARTER (CONT'D)

They're here. Come on --

Carter grabs a stunned Marcus. They run as Malik and his two Jihadis appear at the end of the hallway. They fire MACHINE PISTOLS as Carter dives with Marcus around a corner. AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE chews the walls. Malik realizes --

MALIK

He's with Carter...

AROUND THE CORNER

Carter hands the backpack to Marcus, freeing his hands to fire around the corner, trying to buy time.

CARTER

Who knew you were here?

MARCUS

Just Jennifer -- my girlfriend.

You see Grimes realize what must have happened to her. The hallway ends at a locked door. Carter shoots the lock, drags Marcus in with him, as Malik and his men fire.

INT. UNION STATION - STAIRWAY / UTILITY TUNNEL

A stairway leads down to a UTILITY TUNNEL. TRAINS RUMBLE nearby. Carter sees the FAINT GLOW OF SUNLIGHT in the distance. Running toward the light --

CARTER

Come on!

They run -- Marcus breathless, the tunnel curving. MALIK AND HIS MEN burst out into the tunnel, see Carter and Marcus disappear around the curve. They pursue as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca opens the door to let Andy in --

ANDY

I can't get away for long. What do you need, what happened with --

He sees Mullins lying unconscious, arms and legs restrained with electrical cords. Andy is rendered speechless.

REBECCA

He was going to detain me and stop what we're doing. I couldn't let that happen.

Andy's eyes go big, he's freaking out --

ANDY

I'm going to spend the rest of my life in supermax.

REBECCA

Stop, that's not going to happen.

ANDY

Why *not*?

REBECCA

As soon as Carter gets his hands on Marcus Grimes and the strongbox, we'll have what we need to prove our case.

(beat)

If Mullins isn't the leak, he'll understand. If he is, he's the one going to supermax.

Andy doesn't know what to say.

ANDY

People will start wondering where he is.

REBECCA

Then we better hurry. I managed to tie him up. But I need your help dragging him into the closet.

ANDY

Oh God.

REBECCA

Come on, before he wakes up.

Off this --

INT. UNION STATION - UTILITY TUNNEL

Carter and Marcus reach the end of the utility tunnel, and run out into --

EXT. H STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The H STREET SPUR UNDER CONSTRUCTION. The road is below grade, in a cut -- the construction site is a pit with high sloping walls. No easy way out and no cover, except for a --

STACK OF CONCRETE PIPES

Enormous 15-foot diameter concrete pipe segments, piled high. Carter shouts to Marcus --

CARTER  
Break left, I'll cover you!

They run for the stack of concrete segments. Marcus takes cover behind the stack as --

CARTER hits the dirt in *front* of the stack. Checks his mag -- SIX ROUNDS LEFT -- then eases himself up on his elbows. Lines up -- then FIRES as Malik and his two men burst out of the tunnel into the sunlight.

Carter hits one Jihadi CENTER MASS. The man staggers but is protected by his body armor. Which forces Carter to fire again. A head shot puts the man down.

Malik and his remaining Jihadi, fall back as Carter crawls --

BEHIND THE STACK OF CONCRETE PIPES

Carter joins Marcus, tells him --

CARTER (CONT'D)  
I nailed one of them, but I've only got three rounds left.

Mind racing, Carter gestures INSIDE A CONCRETE PIPE.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Get in there -- and try not to get shot.

MARCUS  
I didn't know any of this was going to happen.

CARTER  
*Get in.*

Marcus crawls into the pipe in the other stack. Carter tosses in a wedge of brush, which Marcus uses to cover himself.

Then Carter turns to the stack of pipes that's giving them cover. Wedges a foot between two pipes, and CLIMBS. Gets to the top of the stack and risks a look over --

MALIK AND THE REMAINING JIHADI

Are moving forward, warily. Have covered half the distance toward the pipes. They SPRAY FIRE at Carter when he appears.

Carter ducks back down. Aims his Desert Eagle at one of the METAL CABLES that holds the stack together at each end. He FIRES at one of the cables, cutting it in two.

He fires at the cable securing the other end of the stack. Has to expend another bullet to sever it. The PIPE jostles a little, now precariously balanced at the top of the stack.

Carter puts his back against the pipe and SHOVES. Keeps SHOVING until the TOP PIPE starts to roll forward and --

THE CONCRETE PIPE ROLLS OFF THE STACK

And hits the ground. The 15-FOOT WIDE AND THIRTY-FOOT LONG pipe segment rolls toward --

MALIK AND THE REMAINING JIHADI -- Reverse course but continue to fire as --

CARTER jumps down from the stack, and runs behind the rolling pipe, using it as cover to get closer to them.

The JIHADI TRIPS. The pipe catches up and rolls over him. Crushes him with a sickly CRUNCH, as --

THE PIPE ROLLS TO A STOP

Malik is distracted by this long enough for Carter to swing around the side of the pipe and levels his gun --

CARTER

Throw down your weapon.

Carter has Malik lined up in his sights. Would rather take him alive -- but Malik has no intention of that. Malik swings his machine pistol at Carter, who has no choice. FIRES his last shot, hitting Malik square in the forehead.

ON CARTER

As he lowers his gun. And now we see Nicole was right. He's no longer a man with an unrewarding job, staring at himself in a mirror. He's a warrior, not rejoicing in his victory, but completed by it. It's what he lives for.

Dusty and spent, he makes his way over to --

MARCUS' HIDING PLACE

Carter pulls the brush out of the pipe where he hid Marcus --

CARTER (CONT'D)  
They're all down. Come on, let's --

*Marcus is gone. Along with the backpack.*

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Marcus?

He turns, looking in all directions -- eyes settling on footprints in one of the sloping dirt walls. Marcus must have used all the distraction to climb out. As Carter SHOUTS IN UTTER FRUSTRATION --

CARTER (CONT'D)  
MARCUS!!!!!!

No answer. Carter digs out his cell, dials.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Rebecca. We've got a problem.

### **SHRINK TO BOXES**

EXT. D.C. STREET

Grimes moving under the cover of trees, making sure no one can track him from above. Spots a CAB and hails it.

INT. MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB

Drew is at a workstation when a nearby STUDENT passes him a folded note. Drew opens it: "TALK AT LUNCH?" Drew sees Amira sitting across the room. She offers him a conciliatory smile. He smiles back.

INT. MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR

Harris moves down a school corridor, a messenger bag over his shoulder. He checks to see no one's watching. Then heads down a flight of stairs.

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Rebecca and Andy drag the unconscious Mullins over to the storage closet.

INT. LIMOUSINE

Donovan on his way to the fundraiser. Looks out the window, concerned.

INT. ISAAC'S COUNT HOUSE - SPARE ROOM

Nicole lies back on the bed. Thinking about her future with Carter... or if there is one.

EXT. H STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Carter climbs out of the construction site to the street. Looks each way for Grimes, but he's nowhere to be seen. As --

**FULL SCREEN:**

INT. CAB - MOVING

Grimes in the back seat, opens the strongbox on his lap, so the DRIVER can't see. Searches for what he now knows must be hidden.

He pushes aside the stacks of foreign currency, notices a SEAM on the bottom of the box. Pries away a FALSE BOTTOM of sheet metal.

***And under it, finds a MICRO SD card.***

Grimes spots the driver's cell phone lying on the dash.

MARCUS  
I'll buy your phone from you.

CAB DRIVER  
What? It's not for sale.

MARCUS  
Thousand dollars.

Grimes pushes the money through the slot to the cab driver, who examines the money, then passes the phone back to Grimes.

Grimes opens the back of the phone, slides the Micro SD card into an expansion slot. As he opens the file on the card.

INT. CTU HEADQUARTERS - REBECCA'S TEMPORARY OFFICE

Andy is back looking for Grimes as Rebecca reports --

REBECCA  
(into cell)  
We're still going through camera feeds. But so far, there's no sign of Grimes.

INTERCUT:

EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. STREET

Carter on the other end of the call.

CARTER  
Son of a bitch.

Carter hangs up. Is about to resume what we know is a futile search when his CELL RINGS.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
 (into cell)  
 Carter.

**ADD IN A BOX:**

EXT. TRAFFIC UNDERPASS

Grimes is out of the cab and now taking cover below an underpass. On the phone he bought from the cab driver --

MARCUS  
 I found what was in the strongbox.

CARTER  
 Marcus, where are you?

MARCUS  
 It's a list of sleeper cells. Names and numbers, codes to activate them. Bin-Khalid recruited them -- can't believe how many. Lot of 'em are Americans. They're in place, Eric, ready to strike, targets all over the country. These codes go out, they all launch their attacks. Waves of them, with no way to stop it. People will die. A lot of people.

CARTER  
 Tell me where you are. Now.

MARCUS  
 The government wants this list, they're going to have to pay.

CARTER  
 The longer that list is out there, the better the chance Bin-Khalid's people will get their hands on it.

MARCUS  
 Just talk to Rebecca Ingram. Get me what I need.

CARTER  
 Marcus, wait -- I'm your friend, always looked out for you. Please, don't do this --

But Marcus hangs up. Off Carter, SLAMMED by the call --

INT. MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL - BASEMENT / UTILITY ROOM

Harris unlocks an old, unused UTILITY ROOM. In the back of the room, Harris slides back a tarp from the bottom shelf, REVEALING a WEAPONS CACHE: KALASHNIKOVs, an M-4 RIFLE, two REPEATER GUNS, 30 BORE PISTOLS...

Harris removes a pair of HOMEMADE PIPE BOMBS from his messenger bag. Gingerly adds them to the cache.

**SHRINK DOWN TO A BOX and OTHER BOXES appear alongside...**

**OTHER AMERICANS.** All throughout the country, from all walks of life. Some LONE WOLVES, some with their families or co-workers, all ready to strike when the code is given.

**THE BOXES MULTIPLY** until they fill the screen, the most boxes ever seen on 24, **BOXES UPON BOXES**, until we can't count them all, and they're too small to make out.

OFF this chilling tableau...

END OF SHOW