

TELEVISION WRITING

The Presidency

The West Wing

A Pre 9-11 Viewpoint

Written by

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THE WEST WING
"The Presidency"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. LOCAL GEORGETOWN WATERING HOLE - EVENING

Behind an expansive bar, several bar-tenders work in complete harmony their cadence is almost electric. They pour, mix and chat at a frenetic pace.

Waitresses speedily move in and out of their stations picking up and delivering drinks to the loyal patrons of this establishment. This crowd is made up of lobbyists, Congressmen and women, Senators, and highly paid lawyers.

JOSH, SAM, TOBY, MANDY and are seated in a booth that offers them a bird's eye view of the entire tavern. They receive occasional waves and gestures of "hello" from the crowd.

Off JOSH's wave back to a rather portly GENTLEMEN dressed in a dark tailored suit.

JOSH
I can't stand that guy.

C.J.
Why?

JOSH
You need to ask. Come on C.J. he guaranteed us his vote on the Red Wood Conservation bill and then at the eleventh hour he changed his mind.

SAM
He ended up the final vote that killed the bill dead in its tracks.

TOBY
Josh, since when do you consider a guarantee from a congressmen a lock on any bill?

MANDY

Josh is a true democrat. He always
sees the good in human nature
before the bad.

They share a giggle.

C.J.

More like a hopeless romantic.

Now there is laughter.

JOSH

You guys will never understand.
There has to be a point when a
man's word is enough.

TOBY

Just exactly what era are you stuck
in?

Before JOSH has the opportunity to answer, a man approaches
their booth. He's tall, dark and handsome. This is JUAN
CARLOS AVANTI. Dressed to the hilt, Armani all the way.

MANDY gets up from the booth. She moves toward Juan.

JUAN CARLOS

(slight Latin accent)

Hello, Mandy. How are you?

They embrace and kiss lightly on the lips.

MANDY

I'm running with the bulls

(motions to her party at the
table)

and I haven't slipped up yet.

JUAN CARLOS

Excellent.

MANDY

(looking in TOBY's direction)

Juan Carlos this is Toby Ziegler,
White House Communications
Director.

Juan Carlos and TOBY shake hands.

TOBY
Pleased to meet you.

MANDY
(looking in C.J.'s direction)
And this is White House Press
Secretary, C.J. Cregg.

C.J. motions to shake his hand, but this Latin Lover turns the tables and gently kisses her hand. C.J. blushes slightly and slowly pulls her hand away.

JUAN CARLOS
It is such a pleasure to meet you,
C.J.

C.J.
The pleasure is all mine.

JOSH puts out his hand. They shake hands.

JOSH
Josh Lyman Deputy Chief of Staff.

JUAN CARLOS
Good to meet you.

SAM puts out his hand. They shake hands.

SAM
(in an lazy-ass manner)
Sam Seaborn.

MANDY
Sam is our Deputy Communications
Director.

JUAN CARLOS
I guess you really are running with
the bulls, Mandy.

MANDY
Well. So everybody Juan Carlos is a
Senator from the Mexican State of
Oaxaca. We met in Graduate School.

C.J.
I'm impressed. So what brings you
to Washington?

JUAN CARLOS

I have several items on the agenda.
Everything from trade to the war on
drogas.

TOBY

Please sit down with us for a
drink, Senator.

JUAN CARLOS

I'll have to take a rain-check on
that. I have some people waiting
for me and I'm already running late
by

(he glances at his watch)
forty five minutes. I hope we do
have the opportunity to get
together in the near future.

MANDY reaches for her purse.

MANDY

Wait just a second, Juan.

MANDY digs into her purse and pulls out her business card
holder. She pulls a card and hands it to JUAN CARLOS.

MANDY

Make sure that you call for that
rain check.

JUAN CARLOS

Oh, I will. You can count on it.

JUAN CARLOS walks off. We follow him to a table at the back
of the bar.

He sits down with three other well dressed LATIN
BUSINESSMEN.

SAM

So Mandy tell us about your friend.

MANDY

Like I said we met in Grad. School.
He was pretty opinionated in the
classroom. He played on the soccer
team. Oh, and he comes from a
powerful and influential family

SAM
That's all great stuff, but I want
to know if you were dating him.

C.J.
Yeah!

MANDY
What is this Sam and C.J.'s
personal security clearance?

JOSH
No actually it's mine. They're
working on my behalf. So spill your
guts babe.

MANDY
Let's just say we were an item at
one time.

C.J.
Details. We need the details.
Please be as colorful as possible.

SAM
And we do mean COLORFUL!

CUT TO:

EXT. LOCAL GEORGETOWN WATERING HOLE - EVENING

A black Lincoln Town car slowly comes to a stop in front of
the bar. It idles momentarily. The windows are tinted to the
MAX. We cannot see in.

The two rear doors pop open and TWO EARLY THIRTIES ASIAN MEN
exit the car.

They walk quickly toward the entrance of the bar. The driver
remains in the car with the engine running.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL GEORGETOWN WATERING HOLE - EVENING

JUAN CARLOS is holding court at his table. A waitress sets
down a Tequila shooter and Juan Carlos downs it in an
instant.

JUAN CARLOS

I hit a monster drive. So I'm lying
one on the longest par four you'll
ever see. I'm about 110 to the
green.

LATIN BUSINESSMAN #1

So you're feeling great now.

JUAN CARLOS

(BEAMING)

Yeah. So the caddie hands me my
sand wedge and he says to me put a
little spin on it and hit as high
as you can. So I say to myself
birdie time and I hit that ball the
sweetest ever.

The two ASIAN'S approach JUAN'S table. They pull out their
guns.

JUAN CARLOS is stunned by this intrusion.

CUT TO:

MANDY has a terrified look on her face. JOSH sees her
expression and he looks over at JUAN'S table.

CUT TO:

ASIAN MAN #1

(in Cantonese)

You don't steal from us.

The two stone cold Asians shoot JUAN CARLOS up as he falls
to the floor like a rag doll.

The patrons dive for cover. We hear screaming as people take
cover under the tables, and over the bar.

The wait staff and bartenders scamper recklessly for any
cover that will protect them from this violent invasion.

CUT TO:

MANDY

(who seems to be in slow
motion,

her words are stuck in her throat)
Noooooooooooo!

JOSH and SAM grab MANDY who's in shock and they pull her under the table. TOBY and C.J. dive for cover.

CUT TO:

The two Asians move like jack rabbits and bolt toward the exit of the saloon. They are tailed by FBI MAN #1.

FBI MAN #1 takes a shot and hits ASIAN MAN #2, in the shoulder. ASIAN MAN #2 stumbles, but he keeps moving.

ASIAN MAN #1 turns and fires back at FBI MAN #1. FBI MAN #1, dives for cover in an unoccupied booth.

EXT. LOCAL GEORGETOWN WATERING HOLE - EVENING

The two Asians exit the bar and make their way to the car. They get in the car.

We hear the engine roar as the car peels away.

FBI MAN #1 runs at the car from the side and begins firing but it's too late as the Lincoln disappears into the night.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

EXT. EST. WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

INT. JOSH'S BULLPEN AREA - MORNING

DONNA and JOSH walk out of JOSH'S office. LEO speeds around the corner.

He looks like he did not have a good night's sleep. His hair is slightly out of place and his suit appears to need a good pressing.

LEO

Josh thank God you guys are all right.

JOSH

I've never been so scared in my life. The way the whole thing went down - I can just remember thinking I was in a dream. Everything was as if it was on auto-pilot.

LEO

How are the rest of them holding up?

JOSH

Mandy's a wreck. She dated the guy who was killed back when she was in college.

LEO

What? This is going to be a P.R. nightmare. I was just briefed by the FBI on this Mexican Senator. He was corrupt as they come. He was working with a Southern California contingent of the Mexican Mafia.

JOSH

What was he into?

LEO

Drug smuggling, illegal immigrant transportation into "The States," - he bled illegals dry, charging fifteen grand on average for entrance into the U.S.

DONNA

I can just see it now. The front page of the POST. White House aide involved in a tumultuous fling with one of the FBI's most wanted international political figures.

JOSH

A bit wordy for a headline, but that's about the crux of it.

LEO

We need a meeting immediately.
Donna get everybody together. My
office, five minutes. I don't want
any of you speaking with the FBI,
until after we discuss this
situation further.

JOSH

There's more going on than just
this. Wall Street is tanking again
for the eighth straight day.

LEO

One fire at a time, Josh. One at a
time.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

BARTLET is seated behind his desk. His chair is faced
backward, all that we see of BARTLET is the back of his
head. He is on the telephone.

CHARLIE stands next to his desk taking notes.

BARTLET

(on the phone)

That's not true Franklin and you
know it. When are you and your boys
going to take some responsibility
for your actions?

There is a pause as BARTLET listens.

BARTLET

(on the phone)

You guys have been driving this
market to stratospheric levels for
the last five years. And all of you
knew that the dot-coms were going
to implode. Now you're taking
everything down with them.

There is a pause as BARTLET listens. CHARLIE listens
intently as he jots down notes.

BARTLET
(on the phone, louder, losing
his patience) Whose holding the
bag, Franklin? Who?

There is a pause as BARTLET listens.

BARTLET
(on the phone)
No Franklin you're wrong. It's the
little guy. The individual investor
with all the hype pumped into day
trading. Come on you know better
than that. Something has to be done
to bring liquidity back to the
market.

There is a pause as BARTLET listens.

BARTLET
(on the phone)
Look I am forming an emergency
advisory board I need to know that
I can count you as a key member.

There is a pause as BARTLET listens.

BARTLET
(on the phone)
No, nothing like that. There will
only be five members. I need you
here tomorrow at 10:00AM.

There is a pause as BARTLET listens.

BARTLET
(on the phone, and
sarcastically)
Thank you, Franklin.

BARTLET hangs up the phone and whips his chair forward.

He looks to CHARLIE who's now seated on the sofa with a
phone in hand.

BARTLET
I need Robby Durden at Goldman
Sachs next.

CHARLIE begins dialing.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - MORNING

MANDY, JOSH, SAM, TOBY, and C.J. surround LEO'S desk.

LEO fidgets in his chair.

LEO

Things have now notched up tenfold
in the last five minutes, ladies
and gentlemen.

TOBY

How?

LEO

Well I thought things were bad
enough dealing with the FBI on
this. But now we have the CIA
wanting to speak with each one of
you. The assassinated Senator was
working very closely with one of
our congressmen from California.

TOBY

In what capacity?

LEO

Drug traffic for starters. The
trail begins in Columbia through
Panama, Mexico and into San Diego.
Same trail new players. But our
congressmen was facilitating cash,

(more)

LEO (continued)

weapons and military training to
the drug lords. Juan Carlos was the
congressmen's liaison to the drug
cartels.

SAM

Who's the congressman?

LEO

Good question. But you know the
CIA, they're not giving up any of
the details. So our first item on
the agenda is Mandy and Juan
Carlos. Mandy tell us about your
involvement with Mr. Avanti.

MANDY
(shaky, holding back the
tears)
We met in Grad School.

C.J.
And?

MANDY
We were attracted to each other and
we started dating.

LEO
For how long?

MANDY
For the rest of the year. We
started to get pretty serious. That
summer I took a trip with him and
his family to Mexico City.

SAM
This was more serious than I
thought.

TOBY
So what happened?

MANDY
During my stay in Mexico City he
left me alone with his family night
after night. I realized his idea of
a relationship was nothing like
mine so... I jumped on a plane and
went home. He tried to patch things
up but I didn't want to have
anything to do with him after that.

LEO
When was the last time you spoke
with or saw him? Prior to last
night.

MANDY
I don't know exactly. At a fund
raiser for NAFTA. I think.

LEO
What do you mean, you don't know?
Please don't tell me you were
involved with him recently.

MANDY

No.

JOSH

We need all of your cooperation now. When was the last time you spoke, saw or met with Juan Carlos Avanti.

MANDY

At a party that followed the NAFTA fund raiser I attended two weeks ago. Look, I never thought he could be involved in anything like this.

SAM

Of course you didn't. But that's not what we need. We have to protect the President from any potential fall-out from your association with an international thug.

MANDY

He was a rich kid who had his share and more of a privileged life. He was an exceptional student and athlete. I was attracted to him several years ago. End of story.

C.J.

The way we play this when it leaks, is to offer up full disclosure. It may not be quite as bad as we assumed.

SAM

And with the FBI and CIA?

C.J.

That's LEO's turf.

LEO

Mandy when they question you - no I should re-phrase that. When they grill you. Your answers are to be yes and no. I don't want you giving up anything that could be misconstrued.

SAM

You'll only slightly cooperate.

LEO

First they'll want to get to the bottom of the assassination. Second they'll want to know if there is any underlying connection between the dead Senator and the White House.

JOSH

If they sense that they can damage the President through your association with Juan Carlos, they will go after you and try to break you any way they see fit.

MANDY

(slightly crying)

God that's the last thing I want to have happen. I had no idea, none. I'll do everything I can to protect the President and this administration.

LEO

Mandy all of us are here to protect you and the President. You're in good hands.

MANDY

Thanks.

C.J.

The key is to be as truthful as you can without elaborating.

JOSH

Keep it short, simple and to the point. Don't give them an ounce more than they ask for.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

PRESIDENT BARTLET sits at the head of the table, he is flanked by ADMIRAL FITZWALLACE, VICE PRESIDENT JOHN HOYNES, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COMMANDER JACK ROLLINS, SECRETARY OF STATE, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, IRAN CONSULTANT PROFESSOR AMHET GUARAND, and the CIA DIRECTOR.

ADMIRAL FITZWALLACE stands up and approaches the map board. The map outlines the Middle East and centers around the Persian Gulf.

Red X markings, and red ship symbols are strategically aligned on the map, along with green X markings and green ship symbols.

LEO, bursts into the room, looking a little bit worse as the day has progressed. His clothes are frumpier, his hair more disheveled and his eyes slightly closing, appearing somewhat smaller.

BARTLET

Leo so glad you could make it.

LEO

Just moving from one disaster to another, sir.

BARTLET

For the love of country, Leo.

FITZWALLACE

(using a pointer zeroed in on the red

Xs)

Right here is where we forecast the eminent threat. As you can see gentlemen the Iranians have significantly increased the number of Subs and Destroyers in their fleet.

ROLLINS

No thanks to the Russians' fire sale of their post cold war military machine.

CIA DIRECTOR

Add to their fleet build up - the Chinese Cruise Missiles that are housed on their Destroyers. These Missiles have over-the-horizon-radar capability giving the Missiles a 65 mile range.

ROLLINS

Opposed to the less expensive 25 mile range Missiles they've used in the past. This now adds a new threat to our Allied Forces throughout the region.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Now Admiral is it just the geographic implications that we should be concerned with? Or is there a larger powder keg that's ready to ignite?

FITZWALLACE

Yes and yes. The primary concern is the stress that their fleet puts on the cohesive flow in and out of the Gulf. If they take out one tanker and disrupt this flow - the effects on the financial markets could be devastating as oil prices go through the roof.

BARTLET

And with the current condition of the markets that's the last thing we need.

HOYNES

Troop movement?

AIR FORCE COMMANDER, JACK ROLLINS, stands up and crosses over to FITZWALLACE.

ROLLINS

Our A-WACS have picked up movement along the three strategic borders that surround Iran.

(he points to the map) (more)

ROLLINS (continued)

Here along the southeastern Iraqi border then here along the northern Kuwaiti border and finally the southwestern Pakistani border. This positioning of ground forces clearly signals aggressive action.

PROF. GUARAND

Iran's justification for these military maneuvers lies in their criticism of the United States order of the USS Nimitz into the Persian Gulf.

LEO

This act of aggression for the U.S. deploying one aircraft carrier into the Gulf?

PROF. GURAND

Mr. McGarry, please take the entire picture into account. The U.S maintains twenty five combat and support ships in the Gulf at all times. Now couple that with the mother of all aircraft carriers entering this already tense environment - it only adds fuel to the fire.

LEO

Professor, with all due respect the order of the Nimitz into the region was not some simple indiscriminate command. It was in response to the Iranian jets that raided two Iraqi bases that supposedly housed the Iranian opposition group the Mujhadeen Khalq. Our order of the Nimitz was to maintain peace in the region.

PROF. GUARAND

The Iranians see this as the U.S. attempting to create a crisis in the region thereby enabling the sale of billions of dollars of U.S. weapons to Arab countries throughout the region.

FITZWALLACE

That's a simplistic deduction.

PROF. GUARAND

Admiral, let me tell you something it's not a deduction. It's reality. I deeply understand the psychology of the Iranian's military device. Their view is that the U.S. wants instability throughout the world which allows for the proliferation of American weapons on a global scale.

BARTLET

So Professor is it your belief that if we move the Nimitz out of the region we have the opportunity to avoid conflict.

PROF. GUARAND

Yes. And while avoiding conflict the United States also brings about the opportunity for the Iranians to pull back their troops from the borders in question.

ROLLINS

That's an extremely optimistic view, Professor. What about their submarines and their Naval occupation of the Gulf?

FITZWALLACE

Professor with their build up, my ship's not budging from the Gulf.

BARTLET throws a look that can kill into FITZWALLACE'S direction.

BARTLET

Admiral, I suggest that you re-phrase that comment immediately.

FITZWALLACE

Sir, it is my firm recommendation that the U.S. escalate their presence in the Gulf effective immediately. We have the resources from our base in Bahrain to deploy several cruisers,

(more)

FITZWALLACE (continued)

destroyers, frigates and ballistic submarines right now. All that I need is your order, sir.

ROLLINS

We cannot afford to allow Iran to gain influence in the region. It is clear that Iran has contingency plans to restrict maritime passage throughout the Gulf for the purpose of intimidating the surrounding countries and the world-oil-importing-community.

FITZWALLACE

Gentlemen, we can not afford to back down at this point. All they are looking for is one sign of weakness.

PROF. GUARAND

If you want to be the President to go down in history for kindling World War III, go ahead and give the order. If you are looking for a way to alleviate a disastrous conflict, then order the Nimitz out of the Persian Gulf and into the Gulf of Oman.

ROLLINS

Sir, that maneuver destroys every iota of our credibility in the region. It dramatically weakens our presence, while putting the lives of our military personnel in harms way.

HOYNES

Just the mere threat, direct or implied by the Iranians labels their attempt to gain power in the Gulf. I agree with Commander Rollins and Admiral Fitzwallace if we waffle at this point, we risk the danger of losing all of our credibility in the region.

BARTLET gets up from his chair, he motions to FITZWALLACE, who hands him the pointer and sits down. BARTLET pointing to the Red Xs on the map.

BARTLET

We know that the Iranians have nuclear capability.

(he points to the Pakistani border)

We know that the Pakistanis have nuclear capability.

(he points the Kuwaiti border)

The oil.

(he points to the Iraqi border)

And this of course this is a no-brainer. So with just these minor items in mind, I don't see it any other way but to move the Nimitz into the Gulf of Oman.

PROF. GUARAND

Gentlemen, the Gulf of Oman will continue as a strategic location for the Nimitz while allowing for an alleviation of a potential spark to a full-fledged war. This is not so hard to understand.

FITZWALLACE

Pardon me Professor, but you have never served in the United States military. And without that experience I don't think you're one hundred percent qualified to suggest how hard or how easy something of this magnitude is to understand. I have thousands of men that are counting on my leadership in a crisis such as this.

BARTLETT

Admiral, I don't see the Gulf of Oman as losing any critical foothold in the region. This is a purely psychological play on our part. By using the Gulf of Oman we don't entirely buckle. We make a gesture that puts the ball in their court. If they so much as move another inch further towards any of these borders or if any maneuvers of their Naval operations appear slightly aggressive - I will order a full occupation of the Gulf like they've never seen before.

FITZWALLACE

Mr. President, I don't feel that I've completely made my case.

BARTLET

Admiral, are you suggesting that I'm unable to decipher your statements regarding this crisis?

FITZWALLACE

No sir. I'm suggesting that I failed to fully explain the damage to morale a maneuver such as this places on the United States military patrolling the Gulf at this time.

BARTLET

I've made my decision.

FITZWALLACE

Sir. To simply acquiesce at this time and pull the carrier out of the Gulf--

BARTLET is fuming. He cannot believe that he is being challenged. He stops FITZWALLACE at mid sentence.

BARTLET

Admiral, I've made my decision. Get that carrier on its way to the Gulf of Oman immediately. Any stalling with my order - will be viewed upon as an act of treason and will be punished to the full extent of the law. Have I made myself entirely clear, Admiral?

FITZWALLACE

(a look of disgust has overtaken his

face)

Entirely clear, sir.

BARTLET

Good. Gentlemen I hope we all pray that the Lord is with us on this one.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT I**ACT II**

FADE IN

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

BARTLET is sitting on the sofa. He is sipping on a coffee, while going over some documents.

CHARLIE is standing. He faces the PRESIDENT with a note pad in hand.

CHARLIE

I'll see to it that Senator Buchanan, and Congresswoman Daniels and their spouses are seated at your table this evening.

BARTLET

Did Abbey mention to you her T.O.A. tonight?

CHARLIE

Her plane arrives at 6:00PM. I expect her at the White House by 6:45PM. She'll have roughly thirty minutes to get ready.

BARTLET

We're expected at 7:45PM for an entrance at 8:00PM?

CHARLIE

That's correct.

LEO enters, he appears wiped out. His suit and hair are further disheveled.

BARTLET

Thank you Charlie.

Charlie exits.

BARTLET

Leo, you look like you've been through the trenches today.

LEO
Thank you, sir. Since we've had
(more)

LEO (continued)
such a productive day, I haven't
had the chance to lay this one on
you.

BARTLET
So lay it on me now.

LEO
Okay. Earlier this morning we were
briefed on the assassination of the
Senator from Mexico?

BARTLET
Yes.

LEO
This Mexican Senator and Mandy had
a relationship several years ago
when they were in college.

BARTLET
Wonderful.

LEO
It gets more complicated. The bar
where this execution took place.
Sam, C.J., Josh, Toby and Mandy -
they were there last night. When
the hit took place.

BARTLET
More and more complicated. Thank
God they're all right.

LEO
At this moment Mandy is being
interrogated by the FBI. They want
to know every detail about her
association with the dirty Senator.

BARTLET
And how it may relate to my
Presidency?

LEO
Precisely, sir.

BARTLET

It's times like this I count my
lucky stars that you're in my
corner, Leo.

LEO

Thank you, sir.

BARTLET

I take it that you've prepped her
for this and that this will go away
by this evening.

LEO not totally sure of himself.

LEO

Yes, sir.

CUT

TO

INT. MURAL ROOM -DAY

The Mural Room has been set up as a make-shift interrogation
room for the FBI'S questioning of, MANDY.

SAM sits to the right of MANDY, on the couch facing FBI
AGENT TED ROCHON, and FBI AGENT SKYLAR DANO. JOSH sits to
the left of MANDY. A video camera faces, SAM, MANDY, and,
JOSH.

MANDY is noticeably restless facing her interrogators.

FBI AGENT ROCHON leans forward into MANDY'S direction. His
hands are firmly folded. He looks deeply into MANDY'S eyes
and locks on with an intimidating stare.

FBI AGENT DANO sits calmly back into the couch with her legs
crossed. She throws a tightlipped smile in MANDY'S
direction.

DANO

Miss Hampton, are you comfortable?

SAM

Please!

JOSH

Sam.

MANDY

I'm fine.

DANO

Good. So let's get started. First we want to reassure you that we're not on a fishing expedition. Our aim to fill in a few gaps.

ROCHON

Our goal is to gain further clarification. So as you know Miss Hampton, Senator Avanti was corrupt?

SAM

Don't answer that Mandy.

DANO

Mr. Seaborn?

JOSH

Right off the bat you're implying that Mandy had prior knowledge to Senator Avanti's illegal activities.

DANO

At this time Miss Hampton, are you aware of Senator Avanti's illegal dealings in Mexico and also within the United States?

MANDY

Yes, but not to-

SAM, cuts her off like a bat out of hell.

SAM

You answered the question.

ROCHON pulls out a large envelope and places it on the coffee table.

DANO

We're perplexed by your connection to the dead Senator. Can you tell us how you came to form a relationship with the man?

MANDY

We came into contact in Graduate School.

ROCHON

At the time the two of you first met - you were working on your Masters or was it your Phd?

MANDY is taken aback by ROCHON'S intimate knowledge of her past. SAM'S face tightens.

MANDY

My Phd.

DANO

How well did you get to know one another?

MANDY

I'm not sure what you're asking.

ROCHON bites in hard.

ROCHON

We're the two of you engaged in a sexual relationship?

SAM

That's irrelevant. Where the hell are you going with this Agent Rochon?

ROCHON

I'll show you where I'm going.

ROCHON abruptly lifts the envelope and pulls a thick stack of (eight and half by eleven) photos out of it. He sets two of the photos on the table.

Photo #1, on a beach, shows MANDY on her stomach without a top on while JUAN CARLOS kisses her neck.

Photo #2, same beach, shows JUAN CARLOS on top of a topless MANDY, the two are engaged in a passionate kiss.

ROCHON

Our curiosity was peaked immensely when you came on as a consultant at the White House.

JOSH

The pictures and your curiosity don't prove a damn thing. The two of you had better get to the point soon or this is over.

DANO

That would be a miscalculation on your part Mr. Lyman. We wouldn't want to be forced to arrest Miss Hampton for obstructing justice.

ROCHON

Our intention today is to find clarification

(he lifts the photos)
on these and a few other minor details.

MANDY

We were involved on and off for about a year.

ROCHON

Did you ever provide strategic political advice to Mr. Avanti?

MANDY

Professionally?

ROCHON

Yes. Professionally. Were you ever paid by him?

MANDY

No!

DANO

Did you ever provide pro-bono strategic political advice to Mr. Avanti?

MANDY

There was never any type of authorized arrangement. I did express my views to him as students do exchange ideas.

ROCHON

A Phd candidate is a far cry from some GEN-X kid earning his B.A. Your views, ideas, and opinions were definitely top quality.

DANO

With that said Miss Hampton, do believe that any of the ideas that you expressed or shared with Mr. Avanti helped to propel his rapid ascent in the political arena of Mexico?

MANDY

No!

ROCHON pulls a leather bound document from a thin, black valise. He hands the document to MANDY.

DANO

Go ahead Miss Hampton read it.

MANDY reads it. A terrified look covers her face. SAM looks over her shoulder and briefly reads some of the first page's contents. SAM clenches his jaw.

SAM

This appears to be a paper that Mandy wrote while she was in college. What's your question?

ROCHON

The topic of the paper and why Mr. Avanti had a copy of it in his possession?

JOSH leans over and reads the document for a moment.

DANO

That paper was a very important look into the power of the Prix Party which has ruled Mexico for decades.

JOSH

Your assumptions are worthless. They don't pass the giggle test.

ROCHON

The paper provided strategic positioning for candidates presenting their platforms while delivering an exhaustive look into how to monopolize the media for political gain.

MANDY

The paper was based on historical data that focused on Mexican politics. It offers nothing that could be viewed as political strategy.

JOSH

We know exactly what you're up to? And if you want a fight on your hands you've got one.

ROCHON

Don't tempt us Mr. Lyman. Miss Hampton is treading in some very serious waters.

JOSH

Mandy Hampton hasn't done anything illegal and you both know it. It's clear that it's the administration you're after. So like I said bring it on or leave the White House immediately.

DANO

We have enough to begin a thorough investigation of Miss Hampton and this entire White House staff. So my advice to Miss Hampton is to come clean now. Thus saving the White House from the embarrassment of another investigation.

SAM

Like Mr. Lyman said, leave the White House now.

ROCHON begins packing up the photos. He reaches for the document that MANDY is holding. She's reluctant for moment, then she releases it.

SAM grabs the photos from ROCHON'S hands. ROCHON is fuming.

He gets in SAM'S face. SAM pushes his chest into ROCHON'S chest. ROCHON is stunned by SAM'S actions.

ROCHON

Those photos are property of the United States Federal Government.

SAM turns away and begins walking out of the room. MANDY and JOSH follow suit.

SAM
Sue me.

CUT TO:

INT. C.J.'S OUTER OFFICE - EVENING

LEO whips around the corner as C.J. scribbles notes on an legal pad.

LEO
C.J., does it look like we're going
to take a hit?

C.J.
Well Leo I'd say the odds are
definitely not in our favor.

LEO
So they've got wind of it?

C.J.
Probably.

LEO
How long can you hold them off?

C.J.
I'm not sure if I can hold them off
at all.

C.J. begins to walk out of the office. CAROL rises from her desk and hands a note to C.J.

CAROL
Good luck.

LEO
Yeah, "break a leg."

C.J. walks down the corridor towards the Press Briefing Room.

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - EVENING

C.J. enters. She approaches the podium with a confident look on her face. The press gaggle is active as we hear their loud whispering.

C.J.
Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

REPORTER #1
The assassination last evening --
can you tell us about the FBI's
visit to the White House regarding
the matter?

C.J.
Unfortunately there were several
(more)

C.J. (continued)
White House staff members that
witnessed the assassination. The
FBI has interviewed all of us as
part of their investigation to the
murder.

REPORTER #2
Is the FBI looking into a White
House connection to the
assassinated Mexican Senator?

C.J.
There may be a staff member who
attended Graduate School at the
same time as the Mexican Senator.

DANNY
Miss Cregg, can you tell us who
this staff member is.

C.J.
Not at this time.

REPORTER #3
What is the connection that the FBI
is interested in?

C.J.
With the FBI in the midst of their
investigation I'm unable to comment
any further on this subject.

REPORTER #3

Isn't that you're more unwilling than unable? There is information floating suggesting that a White House staffer may have served as a political strategist to the Senator. Can you add anything to that?

C.J.

As I previously stated I cannot add anything more to this subject as the FBI has just begun their investigation.

DANNY

With the recent gyrations in the
(more)

DANNY (continued)

stock market, is the Fed. planning another rate hike - is there going to be any intervention by the White House to help prop the market back up?

The REPORTERS are writing.

C.J.

The White House is poised to remain neutral at this point. But there are on going internal and external discussions to bring new light onto this gloomy situation.

REPORTER #4

Is the President going to attend the Democrat's fund raising dinner this evening.

C.J.

He's scheduled to at this time. That'll be about it for tonight. Thank you.

C.J. walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY'S RESIDENCE - EVENING

BARTLET is stationed in front of a long mirror. He is struggling to get his bow tie on correctly.

BARTLET
(to himself)
Damn!

(beat, he looks closely in the mirror)
Am I getting a thick neck?

ABBY has quietly entered the room. She wraps her arms around him from behind.

ABBY
More like a thick head.

BARTLET
You.

BARTLET whisks around and plants a kiss ala Rhett Butler on ABBY'S lips.

BARTLET
God it's great to see you.

ABBY
I know that kiss. What's shakin' around here, Mr. President.

(ABBY grabs the tie from him)
Let me do that.

BARTLET
Thanks.

ABBY is a pro with the tie. It's on perfectly in seconds.

ABBY
So?

BARTLET
So what?

ABBY
What's bothering you?

ABBY slips off her shoes and scoots into the closet.

BARTLET
We've only got a few minutes.

ABBY V.O. from the closet.

ABBY
Don't pull that. Tell me what's
going on.

BARTLET
Oh, I'm just trying to keep this
country from being forced into
World War Three in the Middle East.
Half of my staff was witness to the
assassination of a Mexican Senator
at a Georgetown Bar last evening.
How's that for starters?

ABBY emerges from the closet wrapped in a robe.

ABBY
If you wanted to relieve some of
that tension you'd rip off that
penguin suit and jump into a warm
bubble bath with me. And I don't
want to hear anything about us
being late.

BARTLET doesn't miss a beat. By the time we pan over to him,
his shirt is off and he's moving toward the bathroom.

ABBY has a seductively pleasant smile on her face, as we.

CUT TO:

INT. BALLROOM FOR FUND-RAISER DINNER - EVENING

LEO, JOSH, and SAM, are huddled up by the bar. LEO, is
unfocused, and is eyeing SAM'S drink.

JOSH spots someone he wants to speak with.

JOSH
I'll be right back.

JOSH walks off.

SAM
C.J. handled herself well,
considering what she was up
against.

LEO
Huh!

SAM
(half laughing)
Earth to Leo. Anybody there?

LEO
No, no. She did great. I think she
bought us about a day.

SAM
If we're lucky.

C.J. and MANDY approach.

LEO
Ladies.

MANDY
(uncertain)
How are you Leo?

LEO
Just fine Mandy. And you?

MANDY
I'm hangin' in there.

LEO
All of you listen for a moment.
Tonight we have a number of V.I.P.s
that want access to the President.
What we do - is use discretion and
make sure that the President
doesn't wind up on the front page
of the Post - shaking hands with
anyone who would generate
scandalous fodder.

C.J.
Leo this isn't the first time we've
been with the President at a
fund-raiser.

LEO
(angrily)
C.J. in light of the current goings
on at the White House, we need to
be real careful this evening.

SAM
Leo we've got it.

LEO

Good.

EXT. BALLROOM FOR FUND-RAISER DINNER - EVENING

The PRESIDENT'S MOTORCADE comes to a slow stop. The rear doors to the PRESIDENT'S LIMO are opened by SECRET SERVICE MAN #1.

ABBY steps out and the cameras and flashes begin clicking at warp speed. BARTLET, steps out and puts his arm around ABBY. SECRET SERVICE MAN #1, #2, #3, and #4, flank the PRESIDENT and his WIFE. Both ABBY and BARTLET are glowing as they enter the Hotel.

INT. BALL ROOM FOR FUND RAISER DINNER - EVENING

ABBY and BARTLET enter the ball room. They are now beyond glowing as the crowd begins to applaud their entrance.

Brief montage: -

The PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY proceed to their table as cameras are flashing in rapid succession.

LEO zipping up to the bar. The BARTENDER approaches. LEO hesitates before placing his order. (BEAT) The BARTENDER fixes his drink.

C.J. entering the ballroom. She approaches a TV REPORTER and her THREE MAN CREW. DANNY is on her in a heartbeat. They chat momentarily, then C.J., abruptly turns away and continues with the TV REPORTER. DANNY is perplexed.

TOBY spots LEO at the bar. TOBY makes a beeline for LEO. TOBY, saying nothing, looks deeply into LEO eyes. LEO turns away. TOBY begins to rip into LEO. And LEO comes right back at him.

Now we're in with LEO and TOBY.

LEO

(enraged)

I'm the Chief Of Staff and if I want a drink, I'll have a drink.

TOBY

Damn you to hell Leo McGarry.

LEO

Are you out of your mind?

(BEAT)
It's tonic water.

TOBY'S jaw drops. He can't believe what he's done.

TOBY
I'm so sorry. It's just that --

LEO cuts him off in a millisecond.

LEO
If you ever pull something this
stupid with me again. I'm going to
give you an IRISH BEATING that
you'll never forget.

LEO sternly turns away and walks off. TOBY looks to the
ground in shame.

BARTLET'S table is beginning to fill up. ABBY turns to
CONGRESSWOMAN IVEY DANIELS, and her husband, JASON DANIELS.

ABBY
It looks like playing in the old
boys club is having a great effect
on you. You look fantastic Ivey.

IVEY
You're too kind Abigail.

ABBY
Jason, how about those Warriors?
You think Jordan can turn them
around for next year?

JASON
I'll tell you Abbey, I believe in
him so much that I've already got
my playoff tickets reserved.

BARTLET chimes in.

BARTLET
That's the spirit Jason.

BARTLET hoists his glass in preparation for a toast.

BARTLETT

Ladies and Gentlemen at this time I want to toast to the Congresswoman from California, Ivey Daniels. For her efforts in overcoming insurmountable odds in single-handedly defeating the Republicans efforts to institute a vouchers into the public school system which would have ended free education as we know it in the great state.

(BEAT)

Ivey this one is for you. For your

(more)

BARTLET (continued)

willingness to go to battle and for never giving up.

All of the GUESTS at the table turn to one another and clink their glasses in toasting the good CONGRESSWOMAN'S efforts.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. PRIVATE GEORGETOWN RESIDENCE - MORNING

The front door of this residence opens. CONGRESSWOMAN IVEY DANIELS exits the house, ready to go to work on the hill.

She proceeds to her pearl white Jaguar. She pops the trunk and we hear the alarm chirp. She places her brief case into the trunk. She opens the driver side door and enters the car.

We hear her turn the key and in an instant she's blown off the planet as the car is engulfed in flames.

Pieces of the car fly through the air.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - MORNING

TOBY is seated behind his desk. SAM hovers over him.

TOBY

I don't want to hear that you were strong arming the FBI this early in the morning.

SAM

They're attempt to drive a false confession out of Mandy was abhorrent.

TOBY

You don't have a legal leg to stand on. Your confiscation of the photographs was stupid, Sam.

SAM

I wanted to see exactly what we were up against.

TOBY

(seething)

This is the White House, we proceed on intellect, not emotion. Is your ego so far up your ass that you can't see the ammunition you've added to their arsenal?

SAM

(calm)

I can see how upset you--

JOSH and C.J. burst in.

JOSH

We've got an emergency.

TOBY

What?

C.J.

Congresswoman Daniels was assassinated this morning.

TOBY rises from his desk and advances to the door. C.J., JOSH, and SAM follow.

TOBY

How?

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

JOSH

Word from the bureau is that a highly sophisticated bomb was rigged to her car. When she started her car, she didn't know what hit her.

C.J.

On top of the assassination the Feds didn't mince words in stating that the Congresswoman was involved in the same illegal movements as Senator Avanti.

They move at vigorous pace as they enter another

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

TOBY

She sat at the President's table last night.

SAM

We're going to get creamed if we don't move quick.

LEO approaches them from behind.

C.J.

We need to devise a - -

LEO finishes her thought as he passes them and heads into his office. They all follow him in.

LEO

- -response that allows us to stay the course. If we veer even an inch we may give them what they need to systematically tear down the President.

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - MORNING

TOBY

If we go in with no way out we could get buried.

LEO

(snarls and digs in his heels)
I said a statement will be issued
that we will not budge from. That's
the way we'll proceed.

SAM

Can you step back a moment and hear
Toby out?

LEO

No!

JOSH

Leo there could be another
approach.

LEO rises from his desk.

LEO

I want all of you to listen and to
listen real good. We are moving
forward on my terms and if anyone
of you wants to challenge me on
this you had better be ready to
leave the premises immediately,
because you'll be terminated on the
spot. Are we clear?

SAMSH CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

BARTLET is seated behind his desk. He faces the FIVE MEMBERS of his impromptu WALL STREET ADVISORY BOARD. CHARLIE is seated to the left of BARTLET'S desk, facing the advisory board. He's taking notes at a rapid pace.

FRANKLIN STONE, a svelte and distinguished titan in his 50s, sits directly across from BARTLET.

CAROLINE SOUZA, a twenty-something super trader sits to the right of FRANKLIN.

ROBBIE DURDEN, a mid-sixties captain of industry, sits to the left of FRANKLIN.

JAKE HOBBS, a thirty-something deal-maker from Silicon Valley, sits to the right of CAROLINE.

BARTLET

I've brought all of you here together to brain-storm the dilemmas that the market faces both at home and abroad. Over the last year we've entered into a bear-market that does not appear to be letting up any time soon. The thrust of this advisory board is to get to the root of the problems. So lets just open up the floor to a free flow of ideas and theories.

ROBBIE

Mr. President please accept my frankness as a way to cut to the chase.

(he looks dead on at Jake)

The venture capitalists have become enemy number one on Wall Street.

JAKE

Don't go down that path.

BARTLET

Let him finish.

ROBBIE

The IPO market has become a sham, and the ones behind this sham are the V.C.s who are bringing these so called companies to the public markets five years before they're ready. It's criminal.

JAKE

That's below the belt.

BARTLET

Please!

FRANKLIN

Jake come on, companies are going public based on ten page business plans constructed by pimply faced twenty year olds with dot-com fever.

JAKE

That is not the way my firm brings a company public. We follow a practice that incubates the company as it's starting up. We provide recruitment, office space and CEO structured leadership. We nurture.

BARTLET

This is what I'm after - techniques that can be used as models for the future. Bringing the market back is going to take time and leadership.

CAROLINE

Mr. President we also have to address the fact that fifteen percent of the investors in the market now are day traders. Couple that with the margin that they're carrying and now enter the world of momentum investing.

JAKE

When the margin calls come in the day traders panic - the momentum shifts directions and liquidity vanishes from the market instantly.

FRANKLIN

We need tighter restrictions on margin requirements as a first step in shoring up the market.

BARTLET

Isn't this phenomenon part and parcel of the new economy?

JAKE

You're dead-on Mr. President. Momentum trading is an effect of the electronic market, it's not the cause of the recent bear market.

ROBBIE

Look, I've been through the trenches of the late 60s, the oil crisis in the 70s, the junk bonds of the 80s, the recession of the 90s and now here we are again. It's all evolution, the market does not and will not always go up. Let's get real.

FRANKLIN

The excess trading on margin accounts is a real problem that needs to be addressed.

BARTLET listens on intently.

ROBBIE

You think we can afford to go backward with regulation of something so sophomoric as margin requirements?

FRANKLIN

Sophomoric?

ROBBIE

Franklin I'm trying to instill some reality into this debate. By making the point that we're not going to change investor sentiment through shackling the individual investor with more regulation.

BARTLET

Regulation is not my aim. I'm inclined to insert leadership from the big trading houses that educates the individual investor on the risks associated with margin trading.

FRANKLIN

You believe that the top firms would be willing to take the time to educate their investors?

BARTLET

That's why you're all here. I expect each one of you to assume a leadership position in your area of expertise and find a way to get the word out to your colleagues.

CAROLINE

Mr. President there are only four of us.

LEO bursts into the Oval Office, his look evokes panic. He zero's in on BARTLET.

The room goes silent as LEO leans in on the BARTLET and whispers in his ear. BARTLET'S jaw drops and a sorrowful look takes over his face.

LEO stands up.

BARTLET looks over to CHARLIE.

BARTLET

Charlie can you come here for a moment.

CHARLIE moves toward the PRESIDENT and leans in as the PRESIDENT, whispers in his ear. CHARLIE listens with conviction.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir. Mr. President.

BARTLET

I've just been faced with a national emergency. I'd appreciate your continuing this debate amongst yourselves. Charlie, will escort you to another room.

CHARLIE looks to the ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS.

CHARLIE

Please follow me.

They all stand and follow CHARLIE as he begins walking out of the room.

BARTLET

I'm counting on you to find new strategies that can be worked into our great free market. I ask all of you to reach forward. Thank you.

CHARLIE exits as they follow.

Just as they leave the Oval Office, C.J., JOSH, MANDY, TOBY, SAM, FBI AGENT ROCHON, FBI AGENT DANO, and FBI DIRECTOR ALFRED IGNATIUS enter.

LEO stands in near BARTLET.

C.J., JOSH, MANDY, TOBY, SAM, FBI AGENT ROCHON, FBI AGENT DANO and FBI DIRECTOR IGNATIUS all stand and surround the PRESIDENT'S desk. BARTLET remains seated.

BARTLET

I'm in shock.

IGNATIUS

We're not. There has been an ongoing investigation into Congresswoman Daniel's association with a Southern California faction of the Mexican Mafia.

BARTLET

And as usual with the FBI - the President is the last one to know.

IGNATIUS

It's not any reflection on you sir, but our hands are tied in certain areas of national security.

ROCHON

Further to that point sir, as you're aware a member of your staff had an association with one of the principles in our investigation.

LEO

There's no excuse for the bureau not tipping our hat.

IGNATIUS

We had no choice.

JOSH

Everybody has choices. You set this administration up. You were banking on this creating a cloud of suspicion over the White House.

ROCHON

Your mere suggestion that we hoped for an outcome such as this is reprehensible.

TOBY

Is it?

TOBY eyes ROCHON. ROCHON looks away.

BARTLET

This is extremely hard to swallow. Congresswoman Daniels was more than

(more)

BARTLET (continued)

just a fantastic legislator, she was a friend who delivered time and time again. Alfred, did your investigation of her actually prove anything?

IGNATIUS

Mr. President I understand your quandary, but I can assure you that Congresswoman Daniels was deeply entrenched.

BARTLET

Your assurance is not good enough.

IGNATIUS' expression becomes combative. He slams a dossier down on BARTLET'S desk.

IGNATIUS

Open the file sir. In it you'll find an array of evidence that points to the Congresswoman's guilt.

ROCHON

(confidnetly)

Go ahead Mr. President, we have audio taped and photographed briberies for starters.

LEO is peeved as he stares down,ROCHON.

LEO

Watch your tone junior that's the
President of the United States
you're talking to.

BARTLET picks up the file. He examines the contents for a
moment. LEO, TOBY, C.J., MANDY, SAM, and JOSH look on
intently.

BARTLET

(to Ignatius)

How long can we expect you to keep
this from the press?

IGNATIUS

Mr. President, we're really at a
crossroads here. You see we're
still examining, Mandy Hampton's
association with Senator Avanti.

(more)

IGNATIUS (continued)

With that on-going and the two
assassinations we're forced to hold
a press conference detailing our
findings.

SAM

We need to find a compromise before
you simply sling this
administration through the mud.

DANO

That's what we were attempting
yesterday Mr. Seaborn. We were a
bit shocked by your lack of
cooperation.

TOBY

Yesterday is done with. Let's move
in a direction that allows the FBI
to communicate pertinent
information regarding the case.
While also allowing the White House
to distance itself from the key
players in your investigation.

ROCHON

Eloquent Mr. Ziegler, but I don't see how that can be achieved.

LEO

That's why, Mr. Ziegler, was addressing the Director of the FBI. Learn your Ps and Qs before you speak junior.

(he turns to IGNATIUS)

Mr. Ignatius I'm sure we can find a way to be fair.

IGNATIUS

At this point I'm inclined to proceed with a press conference that outlines our findings.

BARTLET

Does that mean your inclination is to drag me down by placing suspicion on an old romance that one of my consultants had with Avanti? While also adding to the fire my close dealings with Congresswoman Daniels.

LEO, TOBY, C.J., SAM, JOSH, ROCHON, DANO, and, BARTLET zone in on IGNATIUS.

IGNATIUS

That's not my style at all sir. And whether you believe it or not, I'm not out to get you.

TOBY

That's news to us.

IGNATIUS

Toby your cynicism is aggravating.

TOBY

Your numerous assaults on this administration are beyond aggravating.

BARTLET

Toby, not now.

TOBY

I understand, sir.

(beat)
You were saying, Alfred.

IGNATIUS
Right now the investigation into Mandy Hampton is far from complete. So at this point I see no reason to make mention of her in our press briefing. On the condition that Mr. Seaborn return the file he confiscated from the FBI yesterday.

SAM
Done.

IGNATIUS
And as far as your dealings with Congresswoman Daniels, we all know that was part of your job. I have no intention of even mentioning your name other than to say that you were briefed on the assassination and the ongoing investigation.

BARTLET
That's unacceptable.

IGNATIUS
Excuse me.

BARTLET
I want the investigation into Mandy Hampton terminated immediately.

MANDY'S disillusioned posture is invigorated with the PRESIDENT'S remark.

IGNATIUS
I can't do that.

BARTLET
You can and you will.

IGNATIUS
Mr. President with all due respect
--

BARTLET, is done with this discussion.

BARTLET

-- I don't want to hear another word. I want the focus on your investigation to be placed on the murdering bastards that are assassinating political figures in the nation's capital. I want this over Alfred, now.

IGNATIUS

You're asking for a lot.

BARTLET

I know, but right now I have a war to avoid in the middle east, so I need you to end the panic that has taken over this town.

LEO

For all intent and purposes this meeting is over. Thank you for your time.

DANO, IGNATIUS AND ROCHON follow CHARLIE and walk out of the oval office.

TOBY

C.J.'s on in five minutes, Mr. President.

BARTLET looks to C.J., wondering.

BARTLET

C.J., can you get us through this?

C.J.

With your diplomacy in handling the FBI, I have more control of the situation.

CHARLIE escorts an anxious FITZWALLACE and a stern ROLLINS into the oval office.

BARTLET

Admiral.

FITZWALLACE

Sir.

BARTLET

Commander.

ROLLINS

Mr. President.

FITZWALLACE

Sir approximately fifteen minutes ago the Iranian Air Force launched a simultaneous air raid which destroyed multiple oil fields in both Iraq and Kuwait. At the same moment of the air raids an American Airlines 747 en-route to Hawaii went down over the pacific.

BARTLET

My God.

ROLLINS

It doesn't end there sir.

FITZWALLACE

Also at the same moment we have a report from London of a bombing of a pub in the center of Piccadilly Circus.

ROLLINS

As the Iranian bombers and fighters crossed over the 38th and 42nd parallels respectively - a joint strike force made-up of U.S. and British fighters was deployed. Several ensuing dog-fights took place.

BARTLET

Did we lose any aircraft?

ROLLINS

No sir. But three Iranian fighters dive bombed their planes into a densely populated area of Kuwait City.

FITZWALLACE

Sir we need to move into the situation room. My staff has wrangled together the French and the British personnel required to move forward with a quick and decisive response.

C.J.
Wish me luck.

BARTLET
You'll do fine C.J.

CHARLIE
C.J., Carol just informed me that
there is a Pentagon official
waiting in your office to provide
some more detailed information on
this situation.

C.J.
Thanks Charlie.

C.J., exits the oval office, is followed by SAM and TOBY.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT III

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

C.J. is in the midst of a pack of ravenous reporters.
Questions are being fired at her from all directions.

C.J.
(in a melancholy manner)
Ladies and gentlemen I have several
areas to cover this morning so bear
with me.

(C.J. takes a deep breath)
First let me preface this with my
deepest sympathies for all of the
victims of today's violence. Early
this morning, California
Congresswoman Ivey Daniels fell
victim to a car bombing outside her
home. The FBI along with the D.C.
police are conducting a thorough
investigation into her
assassination.

REPORTER #1

Has the FBI disclosed any possible leads as to who may have wanted the Congresswoman dead?

C.J.

No. And as I asked please bear with me before asking any questions. I have a lot to cover,. So please let me make a full statement before we get into it.

We hear the PRESS CORPS whispering to one another.

C.J. (continued)

We've received intelligence reports that indicate simultaneous acts of terrorism were inflicted in key areas around the world today. This morning at 7:10 AM eastern standard time, Iranian fighters entered Kuwaiti and Iraqi airspace and unleashed massive bombing raids on strategic oil fields in each

(more)

C.J. (continued)
country. United States and British fighters were deployed and as a result they were able to successfully knock down two Iranian fighters. Upon the strikes against the two Iranian fighters, three other Iranian fighters were able to divert the allied forces over Kuwaiti airspace where thereupon the three Iranian fighters dive-bombed their airplanes into heavily populated areas of Kuwait City. Also at 7:10 am eastern standard time an American Airlines 747 heading to Honolulu lost radio and radar contact with air traffic control over the pacific. Rescue teams have been ordered to the area in which the plane is believed to have gone down. As of yet there are no reports of survivors. At 7:12 AM a phone call made to the Israeli Embassy here in Washington, stated that Hamas the state run Iranian terrorist group assumed responsibility for the downing of the airliner. Finally at 7:10 AM eastern standard time, a pub in London was bombed. We do not have any reports on any casualties. Hamas claimed responsibility for this bombing as well. Clearly today marks the most aggressive acts of terrorism the world has ever seen. As a result the President and joint chiefs of staff are discussing all options.

DANNY

With the President's withdrawal of the USS Nimitz from the Persian Gulf was the Navy ill prepared to react swiftly to the Iranians attack this morning?

C.J.

No.

DANNY

Could you please elaborate?

C.J.

All that I can add is the fact that the United States maintains a substantial fleet of naval vessels in the Gulf at all times. Which means that the U.S. is prepared to deal with acts of aggression in the region on an on-going basis. Next question.

REPORTER #2

Is the President prepared to declare war on Iran?

C.J.

With these terrorist acts that option has not been ruled out.

PRESS CORPS all are attempting to get a question in, they call out C.J.'s name in close unison.

REPORTER #2

Does the United States have the full support of their European and Middle Eastern allies?

C.J.

As we speak the British, French, Kuwaitis, Saudis, Israelis and Egyptians are working with the U.S. to bring about a joint effort that will swiftly punish the Iranians. My opinion is that several more nations will fall into our fold as information of these terrorist acts spreads throughout the world.

DANNY

Is there any other country or terrorist group that the U.S. believes is involved in today's tragedies?

C.J.

Admiral Fitzwallace will be conducting a Pentagon briefing later this evening at which time questions of this nature can be more accurately answered.

REPORTER #3

Is there a connection between Congresswoman Daniel's assassination and the slaying of the Mexican Senator?

C.J.

The FBI will be conducting their own press briefing regarding the assassinations.

DANNY

So is that a yes?

C.J.

No. That is the FBI will be conducting their own press briefing regarding the assassinations.

DANNY

That's not even mildly evasive.

C.J.

Danny your experience on this beat should give you an upper hand on understanding how situations of this stature are handled. Right now it's a matter of national security. You'll have to wait for the Pentagon's and FBI's briefings. We're done here today ladies and gentlemen.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

PRESIDENT BARTLET, sits at the head of the table, surrounded by LEO, FITZWALLACE, HOYNES, ROLLINS, SECRETARY OF STATE, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, and IRAN CONSULTANT PROFESSOR AMHET GUARAND and the CIA DIRECTOR.

BARTLET

Our options are minimal. So first I want to bring the Nimitz back into the Gulf. Second I want to proceed with full scale escalation of the region. Third I want to unleash 'round the clock sorties on all of their military strongholds and terrorist training camps.

FITZWALLACE

Yes, sir. Mr. President.

BARTLET

I miscalculated their resolve. And now they've gravely mistaken mine.

GUARAND

Sir you are falling right into

(more)

GUARAND (continued)

their tightly woven trap. They're betting on the U.S. committing to ground forces.

BARTLET

I didn't mention anything about ground forces.

GUARRAND

You didn't have to sir. With Bush's failure to invade Baghdad and unseat Saddam Hussein back in 1991 - the Iranians are betting on ground troops. Whereby they can unleash a calculated strike of chemical and biological warfare on our forces.

FITZWALLACE

Professor you make an incredible leap in assuming that we would offhandedly send our boys into harm's way.

ROLLINS

Our intelligence has pinpointed to the centimeter several of the Iranians chemical and biological weapons plants. These locations will be among the first outposts to be destroyed.

PROFESSOR

And what about the ones that you know nothing about?

BARTLET

Professor we thank you for your insight on these issues, but at this time I am going to have to ask you to leave. We're falling off track here.

PROFESSOR

Mr. President I'm just trying to shed some light.

BARTLET

We want to stay on course with our goals in this crisis, so I'm not going to ask you again.

GUARRAND stands up, places his files into his brief case and walks out.

FITZWALLACE

Thank you sir.

CUT TO:

EXT. EST. WATERGATE HOTEL - DAY

INT. WATERGATE HOTEL ELEVATOR - DAY

DANO, ROCHON, FBI MAN #1, FBI MAN #2, FBI MAN #3, DC COP #1, DC COP #2, DC COP #3, DC COP #4, and DC COP #5 who dressed as a waiter and is pushing a room service cart - exit the elevator.

INT. WATERGATE HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They head down the hallway. Their gait is forceful. They slow-up midway down the hall. DC COP #5 rolls the cart up to the door of suite 925.

DANO, ROCHON, FBI MAN #1, FBI MAN #2, FBI MAN #3, DC COP #1, DC COP #2, DC COP #3 and DC COP #4, hide to the sides of door 925.

DC COP #5 wraps his knuckles on the door a few times. He waits patiently.

V.O. from inside the room Yeah?

DC COP #5
Room service.

V.O. from inside the room Hold on.

We hear the door-knob turn as the door opens. ASIAN MAN #1, dressed in a white bathrobe stands at the foot of the door.

ASIAN MAN #1
Bring it in.

DC COP #5
Certainly sir.

ASIAN MAN #1 turns and walks back into the suite. DC COP #5 follows and rolls the cart behind him. In an instant DC COP #5 whips a pistol from his jacket pocket.

INT. SUITE 925 WATERGATE HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

DC COP #5
I want you down on the floor now.

DANO, ROCHON, FBI MAN #1, FBI MAN #2, FBI MAN #3, DC COP #1, DC COP #2, DC COP #3 and DC COP #4 burst into the room with their weapons drawn.

ASIAN MAN #1 turns slowly around from his left side.

ASIAN MAN #1
You're gone.

At break neck speed ASIAN MAN #1 lashes out with a .45 caliber pistol in his right hand, trained on DC COP #5.

DANO pumps him with four shots in a flash. ASIAN MAN #1 crumbles to the floor.

Two ASIAN WHORES, covered only in their bras and thongs, emerge from the bedroom. They're both screaming.

ASIAN WHORE #1 ASIAN WHORE #2

Don't shoot! Don't shoot! Don't Shoot! Don't Shoot!

DC COP #2, DC COP #3 and DC COP #4 scurry the ASIAN WHORES out of the suite.

Dressed in a hotel robe, ASIAN MAN #2 spurts from the living room, donning a small pistol.

DANO
Drop it now!

ASIAN MAN # 2 hesitates.

DANO
(pissed off)
I said drop it.

ASIAN MAN #2 complies and drops the weapon.

DANO, DC COP #3, and DC COP #4 move in on ASIAN MAN #2.

DC COP #5, ROCHON, FBI MAN #1, FBI MAN #2, FBI MAN #3, and DC COP #1 enter the bedroom that the ASIAN WHORES sprang from.

INT. BEDROOM WATERGATE HOTEL SUITE 925 - CONTINUOUS

DC COP #5 moves in quickly on ASIAN MAN #3 who is standing stoically on the bed with his hands in the air.

DC COP #5
Get down on the floor and don't
move.

ASIAN MAN #3 doesn't immediately listen. ROCHON bulls toward ASIAN MAN #3. He grabs him and flings him to the floor.

DC COP 5 quickly handcuffs ASIAN MAN #3.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMUNICATIONS BULLPEN - DAY

SAM leans up against a desk, he's mulling through the latest press wire. TOBY marshals his way toward him.

TOBY
The President just got off the
phone with Ignatius. The FBI has
successfully taken down
Congresswoman Daniel's assassins.

SAM

That's good news, but I'm not sure how much it helps the President.

TOBY

Why?

SAM

The latest CNBC poll shows that five out of every ten Americans feel the President's waffling in the Persian Gulf gave the Iranians the confidence necessary to move forward with such belligerence.

TOBY

There's always a margin of error that can skew out of our favor when the message is not on track. The President has to address the American people and reassure them that he's in total control.

SAM

Have you discussed this with him?

TOBY

Yes and he wants you to begin preparing his speech. The tone has to be brave and conclusive.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESIDENTIAL REISDENCE - NIGHT

BARTLET in his pajamas, is standing at the foot of his bed. He is holding several pieces of paper which he glances toward as he rehearses his speech.

BARTLET

Our efforts to obtain Iran's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council have been nullified with Iran's recent reign of terror. We as a nation that has the power to guide peace throughout the world are faced with a set choices that can --

INT. PRESIDENTIAL REISDENCE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Continue with a V.O. of BARTLET. ABBY, has just arrived. She stands outside the bedroom and listens to her husband as he goes through his toughest speech ever.

BARTLET (continuous)
 -- influence the balance of power
 in the middle east for many years
 to come. In order to make those
 choices we as a nation must unite
 as we commit forces to the region.
 A multinational Maritime
 Interception Force is currently in
 operation. The U.S. Navy is the
 single largest component of the
 Maritime Interception Force, it is
 --

Continue with a V.O. of BARTLET, as ABBY enters the room.

BARTLET (continuous)
 -- augmented by ships, aircraft,
 and other support from England,
 France, Kuwait

BARTLET looks to ABBY.

ABBY
 Hi.

BARTLET
 Hi.

ABBEY
 I've been out here listening.

BARTLET
 So what do you think?

ABBY
 It's not coming from your heart.

BARTLET a little surprised sits down on the bed, and looks to his wife for more.

BARTLET
 Tell me what you mean.

ABBY approaches the bed and sits down next to her husband.

ABBY

Jed the American people are scared they need to be reassured. They don't need to be fed canned statements on the apparatus that makes up the American military.

BARTLET

You as a concerned American want to know that I'm going to make the best decisions to protect this country's freedoms both at home and abroad?

ABBY

Exactly. It has to come from you. The man the American people elected to be President of their country.

BARTLET

So you think I should write this myself?

ABBY

Jed you have to convey a message that will make this country feel safe from foreign aggression without sounding like an old World War II General.

BARTLET

This is the most trying time.

ABBY

No Jed, this is the Presidency.

ABBY reaches over to BARTLET, they embrace and engage in a deep kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - MORNING

BARTLET is seated behind his desk. His fists hold up his head, he looks down and reads the speech that is resting on his desk.

LEO is seated across from him. His expression illustrates a great deal of concern. This is definitely an Oval Office, KODAK MOMENT.

LEO

Are you almost ready sir?

BARTLET looks up. He looks back down quickly.

BARTLET

After spending the last nine hours
with this I'm getting close.

LEO

Sir.

BARTLET looks up again.

BARTLET

Yes, Leo.

LEO

Sir, you and I, we go back a long
way.

BARTLET

Yes we do, Leo.

LEO

I just want you to know that there
is truly nobody that I can think of
not even a single historical
figure,

(more)

LEO (continued)

who I would rather have behind that
desk than you - at this most
critical moment in the journey of
this great nation.

BARTLET is touched by his most trusted friend's comment.

BARTLET

Thank you Leo. I hope the American
people have, but just a fraction of
your sentiments.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - MORNING

C.J. stands at the podium. FITZWALLACE, ROLLINS, and HOYNES
stand to the left of her.

C.J.
Ladies and Gentlemen the President
of the United States of America.

C.J. move to the right of HOYNES.

BARTLET enters the briefing room. He confidently approaches the podium. He pulls his speech from his coat pocket and places it on the podium.

BARTLET
Good morning, my fellow citizens.
Yesterday, February 14, 2000 - a
date that once again will live in
infamy, the world as we know it was
suddenly and deliberately attacked
by terrorist and military forces of
the country of Iran. This combative
strike constitutes an explicit
threat to peace and security
throughout the --

V.O. of BARTLET continuous as we CUT TO:

INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

TOBY and SAM, both stand over TOBY'S desk and look to the television, watching BARTLET deliver his speech.

SAM
He went in a completely different
direction.

TOBY
He did exactly what he needed to
do.

CUT TO:

BARTLET, standing over the podium.

BARTLET (continuous)
-- world. This act also contradicts
the repeated assurances by Iran,
both publicly and privately
delivered, that it was their
intention to move toward peace and
economic expansion throughout the
Persian Gulf. The United States was
at peace with this nation at the
moment of this unprovoked
aggression. The attacks yesterday
in Iraq, Kuwait, on the American
Airlines jet over the Pacific, and
in downtown London, have caused
severe loss of life and have
infringed upon the balance of power
throughout the Middle East. With
Iran undertaking this surprise
offensive in such a synchronized
and masterfully planned fashion,
the facts of yesterday speak for
themselves. I believe that the
people of the United States have --

V.O. of BARTLET continuous as we CUT TO:

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

LEO is seated at his desk watching BARTLET deliver.

He waits on every word with great anticipation.

LEO
(to himself)
You're doing it.

CUT TO:

BARTLET, standing over the podium.

BARTLET (continuous)
 -- already formed their opinions
 and well understand the
 implications to the very life and
 safety of our nation as well as the
 security of the nations of our
 closest allies. As Commander-In-
 Chief of the Army, Navy, Air Force
 and Marines, I have directed that
 all measures be taken for our
 defense of this rogue nation.
 Neither the United States of
 America or the world can tolerate
 deliberate deception and offensive
 strikes on the part of any nation,
 large or small. Always will we
 remember the character of the --

V.O. of BARTLET continuous as we CUT TO:

INT. PRESIDENTIAL REISDENCE - CONTINUOUS

ABBY still in her bathrobe with her arms folded as she
 clenches a cup of coffee.

She stands watching her husband emote from the podium.

C.U. on ABBY as tears flow from her eyes.

BARTLET (continuous)
 -- onslaught against us. No matter
 how long it may take us to overcome
 this premeditated invasion, the
 American people in their righteous
 might will overcome this adversary
 with no less than absolute victory.
 The long-known and the
 long-expected has taken place. The
 forces endeavoring to enslave the
 entire world are now encroaching
 upon this hemisphere. Never before
 has there been a greater challenge
 to life, liberty and civilization,
 with weapons of mass destruction in
 the hands of such murderous leaders
 of nefarious nations. As
 hostilities exist, there can be no
 blinking at the fact that our
 people, our territory and

(more)

BARTLET (continued)
our interests are in grave danger.
Therefore, I ask that the Congress
declare that since the unprovoked
and dastardly attack by Iran
yesterday, a state of war now
exists between the United States of
America and Iran.

FINAL FADE:

END OF SHOW