

The Messiah Project

"Pilot"

by

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FADE IN:

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's dark. Alarm clock reads 3:40am, but the bed is empty. The decor is baby room meets Marine barracks. An airplane mobile dangles over an empty crib.

SUPER: **Alexandria, Virginia.**

KELLY LENNOX, 31 and eight months pregnant, wears flannel pajamas and sits at a desk bathed in the blue glow of a VIDEO PHONE. Athletic with short brown hair, Kelly radiates intensity and intelligence. She chews on a pencil as her video phone dials and RINGS.

INT. RAMADI POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

SUPER: **Police Headquarters. Ramadi, Iraq.**

An exhausted, but handsome soldier, MAJOR BENJAMIN LENNOX, 35, sits in front of his portable SATELLITE VIDEO PHONE, the most advanced piece of equipment in the primitive office. He's decked out in camouflage fatigues and flak jacket. He gives Kelly a warm smile through the video phone.

BENJAMIN

Hey sweetie. Where's my birthday present?

INTERCUT KELLY/BENJAMIN

Kelly lifts up her shirt to reveal her round, PREGNANT BELLY.

KELLY

He's still cooking.

BENJAMIN

God, you're beautiful... hold still.

Benjamin hits PRINT SCREEN on the video phone and a small color photograph of Kelly rolls out of the printer.

KELLY

Now you show me yours.

Benjamin smiles, opens his flak jacket and lifts up his shirt, revealing his rock hard abs.

KELLY

I can't wait to see you.

BENJAMIN

Three more weeks and I'm all yours... hey, how's your project coming along?

KELLY

We're getting so close, Ben. If this works, it could save more lives than the discovery of vaccines--

An EXPLOSION ROCK the police building, SHATTERING WINDOWS. Ben covers his head as dust billows into Police Headquarters. The video phone CUTS OUT.

KELLY

Ben? BEN!

Dust settles. No structural damage to the building, but glass is everywhere and Benjamin has small, bloody cuts on his head and arms. The video phone is dead.

In adrenaline overdrive, Benjamin shoves the photograph into his flak vest pocket and slaps on his helmet. He grabs a FIRST AID KIT and bolts out of the building.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN IRAQ - DAY

The SMOKE makes it look like a dream. Benjamin sprints out of the building, but stops when he sees the surreal carnage.

BLOODY and MOANING IRAQI POLICE and CIVILIANS lie everywhere.

Benjamin looks down and sees a young IRAQI WOMAN covered with blood. Benjamin cradles her head. She gasps to get her wind back, desperate to say something.

BENJAMIN

Relax, okay.

Benjamin rips opens the her shirt and sees UNEXPLODED C4 PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES wrapped around her stomach -- the Iraqi Woman is a SUICIDE BOMBER.

Terrified, Benjamin locks eyes with her. She finally catches her breath to say:

IRAQI WOMAN

Allah, hu Akbar...

Benjamin turns away as the bomb EXPLODES, THROWING HIM. His body lands with a sick thud.

A few feet away, the photograph of Kelly burns to ash.

Groggy, Benjamin reaches for the photo until he sees he no longer has a forearm, just a bloody stump.

As he dies, he SCREAMS an unearthly howl.

SFX: Benjamin's scream MERGES into Kelly's SCREAM

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kelly jerks awake from her nightmare, cutting off her scream. She isn't pregnant anymore. Dark circles and tears under her eyes mask her beauty.

Inside a nearby bassinet, a six-month-old baby boy, SEAN, bawls red-faced after being startled awake.

Kelly looks around the darkened room, disoriented, but pulls herself together fast. She lifts her baby from the crib and rocks him in her arms.

KELLY

Shhhh. It's okay. Shhhh.

Her eyes go to a framed picture on the wall catching the moonlight: Benjamin, wearing his dress uniform. Below it, her alarm clock reads 3:43.

Kelly's MOM, 55, opens her door and turns on the lights.

KELLY

Sean's fine, Mom. Go back to sleep.

MOM

Another nightmare? Maybe you should take something. You're not sleeping enough.

KELLY

It's called single parenthood.

For a second, Kelly's strong facade softens and she looks as soul-crushed as she really is.

MOM

You have me... and the community at Saint Mary's--

KELLY

Just... don't.

Kelly's cellphone RINGS and she goes military rigid. Mom knows the drill: she takes the baby as Kelly takes the call.

KELLY

Go for Major Lennox... I'll be there in ten.

Kelly hangs up, but she doesn't need to look at her Mom to know she disapproves. So she doesn't.

Her Mom sighs heavily and takes the baby out of the room.

Kelly opens her closet, sees her pressed Army uniform, but catches her weary reflection in the mirror. Staring at herself, she exhales, closes her eyes. When she opens them, she sees only steely determination.

She snatches her uniform out of the closet.

INT. SUBTERRANEAN ARMY BASE LOBBY - DAY

Bright white and sterilized clean. There's no activity whatsoever, just two ARMED GUARDS standing at the entrance.

SUPER: Army Behavioral Research Institute. Alexandria, VA.

In her highly decorated Major's uniform, Kelly steps into an ILLUMINATED CIRCLE on the floor.

A laser scans her entire body. The elaborate biometric security system displays her physical outline down to the minutest detail, including thermal imaging and bone weight. One of the Armed Guards glances to the monitor to get a better look at her shapely thermal image.

The vault-like AIRLOCKED DOOR opens. Kelly walks in and the door seals shut.

INT. LAB - DAY

Glass and stainless steel, the lab looks like NASA merged with a veterinarian's office. A few sedated animals squat in cages. To the right is a single-lane SHOOTING RANGE.

Kelly dons her lab coat and sees DEFENSE SECRETARY RICHARD GRADY, 52, a dignified former marine, staring somberly at a monkey in a cage.

Lab Assistant CORPORAL BRUCE DUNHAM, 25, smiles when he sees Kelly. More scientist, than soldier, Kelly gestures to him and Bruce buttons up his lab coat. He sidles up to Kelly.

BRUCE
SecDef's been here twenty minutes.
Hasn't said one word.

KELLY
Relax... and get the gun.

Bruce nods.

INT. JAMES'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Simple Army housing, nothing on the walls. The lights are on.

MASTER SERGEANT JAMES GRAHAM, 26, slides into a pair of camouflage pants. He's handsome, lean, thoughtful. Numerous BATTLE SCARS mark his body. He quickly slips on an olive green T-shirt.

James REMOVES HIS DOG TAGS and places them on his dresser, next to a PHOTO of him and his pretty bride, GABY. He removes his wedding ring, places it next to the photo. He checks his military issue watch: 4:22.

He notices a slight tremor in his hand. He stares at his hand like it betrayed him. He punches the sheetrock wall, cracking it. GABY, 23, stirs under the bed covers.

GABY

Dude!

JAMES

Sorry babe.

Gaby puts a pillow over her head. James crawls on the bed to her, peels part of the pillow away to expose her cheek and kisses it.

JAMES

I'm leaving.

GABY

(half-asleep)

Love you... don't come home until you kick his ass.

JAMES

Roger that.

James stares at her for a moment longer. Then he stands, grabs his army issued cap and slips out of the room.

INT. LAB - DAY

Bruce carefully loads HOLLOW-TIPPED bullets into an M9 Beretta pistol, nods to Kelly. She walks over to Defense Secretary Grady, who still watches the monkey in the cage.

KELLY

Mr. Secretary? We're ready.

Defense Secretary Grady eyeballs Bruce.

SECRETARY GRADY
Not much of a staff.

KELLY
Budget cuts.

SECRETARY GRADY
That might change if you have some
good news for me.

Kelly nods to Bruce, who carefully rolls a cage holding a GOLDEN RETRIEVER to the shooting range. A tag on the cage reads: **K73-ZEUS**. The dog, ZEUS, whimpers.

Bruce aims the M9 Beretta pistol at the dog. Zeus BARKS in a frenzy. Kelly looks away as Bruce FIRES three times at Zeus. The dog HOWLS woefully, then stops.

Secretary Grady watches incredulously as THE DOG'S WOUNDS EXPEL THE BULLETS and they CLINK to the bottom of the cage. The dog's wounds HEAL COMPLETELY. Exhausted and traumatized, Zeus hunkers down in the cage, his eyes fixed on Bruce.

SECRETARY GRADY
I'll be damned. How long does it
last?

KELLY
Unknown. The nanotechnology we're
using is still experimental, but Zeus
has been this way for months.

SECRETARY GRADY
And you can reverse it?

KELLY
We have an anti-serum.

SECRETARY GRADY
Excellent work, Major.

KELLY
Thank you, sir.

Defense Secretary Grady pulls out his cell phone and walks to a corner for privacy. Bruce looks at Kelly.

BRUCE
My phone doesn't even get a signal in
the lobby.

Kelly cracks a smile, but she never takes her eyes off Secretary Grady.

EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - NIGHT

SUPER: **Fort Campbell, Kentucky**

James walks up to a round building guarded by a SOLDIER. They lock eyes. The Soldier recognizes him and salutes.

JAMES
Not here, soldier.

SOLDIER
(dropping the salute)
Right. Sorry, sir. We're good to go.

James nods, marches into the barracks.

INT. LAB - DAY

Kelly strokes Zeus's fur through the cage, soothing the weary dog. Bruce comes near and Zeus GROWLS at him. Bruce steps away. Secretary Grady hangs up his phone. He faces Kelly.

SECRETARY GRADY
This goes into the field today.

BRUCE
That's not happening. We're still--

Kelly silences Bruce with a glance.

KELLY
Sir, it took us years to get the dosage right for the dog, with multiple fatalities. There's no possible way--

SECRETARY GRADY
We've located Ahmed Qusar.

Kelly stiffens -- the name means something to her. Bruce looks at her, concerned.

KELLY
No one wants Qusar more than me, but we're not ready for human trials.

SECRETARY GRADY
This isn't a discussion. We've been waiting for this intel for years. The architect of the San Diego bombings will be brought to justice.

KELLY
What about--

SECRETARY GRADY

--Drone strikes would cause heavy civilian casualties. Your serum is the only way to make sure our men aren't walking into a bloodbath. I want two squads ready to go by 0800.

KELLY

Even if we had mass quantities, and we don't, we have no idea what psychological effect--

SECRETARY GRADY

This comes straight from the President. Handle it, or your replacements will.

Kelly's torn. She knows Secretary Grady isn't posturing.

KELLY

We can equip six people, if we work through the night.

BRUCE

This is a huge mistake.

SECRETARY GRADY

We're out of time. If this doesn't work, there is no more project.

The Defense Secretary heads for the exit. With Defense Secretary Grady gone, Bruce turns to Kelly.

BRUCE

You saw the trials. You KNOW how those dogs died.

KELLY

You need to think before you speak.

BRUCE

So what if he pulls us? Maybe someone else SHOULD be making this decision. The moment he said Qusar, you--

KELLY

This isn't about Ben!

Bruce is skeptical. Kelly puts her hand on his shoulder.

KELLY

You know these soldiers' best shot of survival is in OUR hands... I'm thinking we should vary the dosage.

BRUCE

We'll have no consistency... but at least some of them might survive.

KELLY

I want them ALL to make it.

INT. ARMY BARRACKS - NIGHT

The place is crowded with SOLDIERS, none in rank identifying uniform, just gym clothes. The Crowd is transfixed on the boxing ring in the middle of the room.

TWO FIGHTERS wearing only boxer briefs, brawl using mixed martial arts. Fighter #1 delivers a THIGH KICK to Fighter #2. He does it again, but Fighter #2 grabs his kicking leg and sweeps Fighter #1 to the ground. Fighter #2 SLAMS a fist into his rib cage.

A referee with no uniform, African-American SERGEANT PETE JACOBS, 25, watches the brutal action carefully. Pete sports a shaved head, a TATTOO on his neck of a SERPENT EATING ITSELF, and exhibits a calm confidence in everything he does.

Fighter #1 gets wobbled by a liver shot. Pete quickly stops the match, before Fighter #2 can do more damage. Pete raises the hand of Fighter #2 in victory. The Crowd CHEERS as a few SOLDIERS exchange money.

James makes his way through the Crowd to ringside. He stands next to a cocky, buzzed-cut brick of a man, CORPORAL JOSEPH MACKY, 23. Macky sees James and lifts him in a bear hug.

MACKY

Sergeant, oh my Sergeant!

JAMES

Put me down, freak.

Macky puts James down and claps his back, enthused. Macky stands almost a foot taller than James.

MACKY

I was afraid you'd chicken out.

JAMES

You're really looking for a beat down. Still mad about Kabul?

MACKY

(cracking his knuckles)
You're about to find out.

JAMES

Where's Delang?

MACKY
He'll be here.

JAMES
And Zameer?

MACKY
He won't.

INT. ZAMEER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CORPORAL ZAMEER REHAN, 24, lies awake in bed, staring at the ceiling. He's wiry and taut. A copy of the Koran is on his bedside table.

A woman's hand caresses his chest. He smiles and turns to face his wife, EILEEN, 28, and seven months pregnant.

EILEEN
Can't sleep?

ZAMEER
Soon, neither of us will.

EILEEN
Aren't you scared?

ZAMEER
Why would I be scared? You're going to be a good baby, aren't you?

Zameer kisses her belly. When he looks up, he see tears in her eyes. He gently wipes them away.

EILEEN
I just wish you weren't going back.

ZAMEER
Who does a better job than me?

EILEEN
No one.

ZAMEER
That's right. Allah has my back.

EILEEN
You're gonna make a believer out of me yet.

Zameer kisses her tenderly. She kisses him back.

INT. WOMAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

An attractive REDHEAD, 20's, moans as she climaxes. On top of her is blond haired, blue-eyed CORPORAL MIKE DELANG, 22. He's a golden boy and he knows it. He kisses her hard.

REDHEAD

You keep this up and I might just have to learn your name.

DELANG

It's Delang.

REDHEAD

Delang?

DELANG

My first name is Mike, but that seems... too intimate.

The Redhead bursts out laughing and Delang grins... until his watch BEEPS. He gets off of her and slips his pants on.

REDHEAD

That's a first. Never seen a guy not finish.

DELANG

I'm never finished.

Delang grabs a garbage bag from her kitchen.

REDHEAD

What are you doing?

DELANG

Taking your garbage out.

Delang leans in and kisses her. And before she can say another word, he's gone.

INT. ARMY BARRACKS - NIGHT

The canvas is bloodied from the previous match. Macky stands in the ring in his boxer-briefs, stretching his neck.

Across the ring in his briefs, James bounces on his toes. At 175 pounds, he's easily forty pounds lighter than Macky.

Delang comes up ringside, taps fist with James.

JAMES

You're late.

DELANG

I wouldn't miss this for anything. Go easy on Macky. He's a delicate flower.

Macky stretches in the corner, looking like a beast. Pete comes over to James.

PETE

How you feeling, boss?

JAMES

Ready.

Pete smiles, waves James and Macky over to the center of the ring. Macky grins at James.

PETE

No equipment, no rank, no rules except one: no strikes above the neck. Fight until I stop one of you.

MACKY

I'll make it fast.

Macky smirks and sticks his fist out. James taps it, then crouches into a fighting stance.

PETE

Fight!

James circles Macky and tests the waters with a few leg KICKS to Macky's shins. Macky is a straight-up striker, bouncing and weaving, waiting to land a punch. He takes a big SWING and just barely misses James.

James delivers a LEG KICK with a loud THUD and spins a ROUND HOUSE KICK that thuds into Macky's right side, a liver shot. Macky drops to his knees, grimacing in pain.

James leaps in to go for a take down, but Macky delivers an UPPERCUT to James's CROTCH. The Crowd GROANS as James crumples to the canvas.

Macky plays up to the Crowd, waving them on. James is still down on the ground, struggling to catch his breath.

PETE

Keep fighting.

MACKY

With pleasure.

Macky runs and jumps to stomp on James's chest. James rolls away at the last second, as Macky SMACKS DOWN on the canvas. James grabs Macky's ankles and twists, crashing Macky down.

James leaps on top of Macky and puts him in a TRIANGLE CHOKE HOLD, cutting off the blood flow to his head.

Macky's face turns DARK RED. Pete pulls James off of Macky before he passes out. Pete raises James's hand in victory.

Macky sits up to catch his breath. Delang climbs into the ring to help him. James staggers to his corner.

JAMES

(to Pete)

Why didn't you stop the fight when I was down?

PETE

I have faith in you... and I also bet two grand on you to win.

JAMES

Even I wouldn't take that bet.

(to a groggy Macky)

You okay, big boy?

MACKY

You got lucky.

Suddenly, Delang, James and Pete's cell phones BUZZ. Macky looks at his pile of clothes ringside and sees his phone BLINKING. The guys share a look as James checks his phone.

JAMES

We're on. 0800.

MACKY, DELANG AND PETE

Sir, yes sir!

INT. FOCUS GROUP ROOM - DAY

One entire wall is a large LCD illuminating a deluge of MAPS and logistical information. James, Pete, Zameer, Delang and Macky sit at a long table in the middle of the room, looking over their mission briefs.

James looks up and sees Pete giving a suspicious look to the LCD wall. James notices something strange about the LCD, too.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Kelly, Bruce, and Secretary Grady look over the Squad standing behind the ONE WAY TRANSPARENT LCD.

KELLY

What can you tell me, Captain?

Kelly looks over to CAPTAIN CORVADO, 27, shaved head and dead-eyes, who stands behind them. He steps forward, all business.

CAPTAIN CORVADO

My second is Master Sergeant James Graham. Excellent on and off the field, he'll have his own squad soon. And don't let the New Age tats on Sergeant Pete Jacobs fool you. He's Mensa smart. Multilingual Corporal Zameer Rehan handles communications and medical, Corporal Joseph Macky runs demo, and our sniper is Corporal Mike Delang. They're prepped, except for the target.

KELLY

Did you mention the serum?

SECRETARY GRADY

Leave the disclosures to the Captain.

Kelly reluctantly nods. She grabs a steel briefcase and opens the door for Captain Corvado to walk in first.

INT. FOCUS GROUP ROOM - DAY

James sees Captain Corvado and Kelly enter the room.

JAMES

ATTENTION!

The five soldiers stand at attention.

CAPTAIN CORVADO

At ease. We will be inserted near the Syrian-Iraqi border at 0500 hours.

(gesturing to Kelly)

Major Lennox will run the mission stateside. I believe everyone here is familiar with the target.

Captain Corvado shows a photograph of a BEARDED MAN WITH A BLUE TURBAN and a nasty scar on his neck. The Squad exchanges eager looks. Macky bumps fists with Delang.

CAPTAIN CORVADO

Keep him recognizable. He and his followers hide among civilians so make sure your targets are hostile. And there's one other thing... Major?

Kelly opens the briefcase: it has SIX SYRINGES filled with amber liquid. She approaches James with a needle.

JAMES
(pointing at the syringe)
What is that?

KELLY
This is--

CAPTAIN CORVADO
It'll give you an edge in combat.

JAMES
A word, Captain?

Captain Corvado looks annoyed. He motions his head to a far corner. Kelly follows them without being asked.

JAMES
We are NOT guinea pigs.

CAPTAIN CORVADO
We all signed the release, soldier.
If you want in, you're getting it.
Otherwise, you're out and Pete's in charge.

KELLY
(loud enough for the whole
squad to hear)
It's a rapid healing serum.

This gets EVERYONE's attention.

PETE
How rapid are we talking? Is this
like Pixie Dust or--

KELLY
Results vary from seconds to minutes.

A video of Bruce shooting the dog and Zeus healing PLAYS On the LCD wall behind her. Delang whistles, impressed.

ZAMEER
Holy shit!

JAMES
Are there any side effects?

KELLY
None that we know of, but this will
be the first human trials.
(MORE)

KELLY (CON'T)

And if any of you want to opt out because of that, there's no shame in it.

James stares at his squad, looks at Captain Corvado, who gives him a subtle nod. James is on the fence. Kelly looks right at him.

KELLY

My husband was Delta. The last thing I would do is put you and your men in more jeopardy. This serum will safeguard you while taking down the number one terrorist. So... are you going to show me your ass or what?

James cracks a smile and an unspoken pact is made: he trusts her. He nods to the Squad. They unbuckle their pants. Captain Corvado keeps his pants buckled.

Kelly injects the serum into James's backside. She keeps a calm demeanor as she waits to see if he has any immediate side effects. She smiles when he has no reaction.

KELLY

Feel anything?

JAMES

No, Major.

KELLY

Good.

She administers the serum to Zameer, Delang, and Pete. When she pulls down Macky's underwear, she sees a huge swelling BRUISE on his ass. She injects Macky's other cheek.

MACKY

Tastes delicious.

KELLY

Captain, it's your turn and time is of the essence.

Captain Corvado rolls up his sleeve.

CAPTAIN CORVADO

I'll take it in the arm.

KELLY

It metabolizes slower in the glute, which is... preferred.

Aggravated, Captain Corvado unbuckles his belt and pulls down on his waistband, revealing his hip and a large SCAR that runs down his backside. She injects him. Captain Corvado sucks in a deep breath and shudders.

JAMES

You okay, Captain?

CAPTAIN CORVADO

I'm fine.

Corvado pitches forward to the floor, and CONVULSES. The soldiers go into medic mode: James restrains his arms, Pete and Macky grabs the Captain's legs. Zameer checks his vitals.

ZAMEER

Captain, can you hear me? Captain!

Kelly crouches down to get close to Captain Corvado.

JAMES

(to Zameer)

Give the Major some room.

Kelly flashes a penlight into the Captain's eyes -- they're fixed and dilated black circles.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Angry, Bruce zips the serene-looking CORPSE of Captain Corvado up in a black BODYBAG and wheels him out of the room.

Kelly's distraught, but contains her emotions. Secretary Grady stares at the unaware Squad in the next room through the one way transparent LCD. He shakes his head.

SECRETARY GRADY

His sacrifice won't be forgotten.

KELLY

It doesn't make sense. He had the smallest amount of serum.

SECRETARY GRADY

We'll take that into account moving forward... inform Graham he's in charge.

KELLY

I think given his previous insubordination, we should hold off--

SECRETARY GRADY

He's ready. And Major? Don't tell the Squad the Captain is deceased.

KELLY

Sir, I am NOT on board with that.

SECRETARY GRADY

They've already been injected. If they start second guessing you and the serum, their chances of success diminish. And I want them to have every advantage they can get.

Not happy about it, Kelly exhales, gives a curt nod.

INT. FOCUS GROUP ROOM - DAY

The five remaining members of the Squad sit at the table.

MACKY

How long we gotta wait here?

ZAMEER

Dude, we just lost the Captain.

JAMES

We don't know that. Anybody feel odd?

They shake their heads. James looks at Pete.

JAMES

You don't feel anything?

PETE

Maybe I got a placebo.

JAMES

There's no control group here.

Kelly opens the door. The Squad snaps to attention. Kelly chooses her words carefully.

KELLY

The Captain is in stable condition.

James exhales, relieved. The Squad nods, taps fists.

KELLY

But he's been scrubbed from the mission. Sergeant, you're in charge.

JAMES

Yes, ma'am.

KELLY

Keep this with you at all times.

She hands the men a special insignia patch that depicts an OPEN PALM OF A HAND.

KELLY

These insignias not only track your movements, but relay your vital signs by communicating with the nanotechnology in the serum.

The men stick the patch to a Velcro spot on their shirts.

KELLY

Good hunting, gentlemen.

THE SQUAD

HOO-AHHH!

The Squad files out of the room. James holds back with Kelly.

JAMES

Requesting permission to be kept informed on Captain Corvado's status.

KELLY

(hesitates)

Of course, Sergeant.

INT. C-17 MILITARY CARGO JET - NIGHT

Cruising at 45,000 feet, the Squad checks their gear, except Pete, who reads an ebook on his phone: The Theory of Nothing. Delang reads over his shoulder, points at it.

DELANG

Shouldn't those pages be blank?

PETE

They might be. Listen to this:
"The reality we see is but one of an infinite "library" of alternate realities, the sum of which--"

DELANG

I'd still check my chute. You wouldn't want one of those realities to be you splatting on the ground.

Pete laughs, checks his chute. The CO-PILOT looks at James, holds up two fingers.

JAMES

Two minutes til Halo.

Zameer looks at a picture of his pregnant wife. He kisses it, puts it inside his HALO helmet. He straps on the helmet, adjusts the SIDE-MOUNTED CAMERA on it.

ZAMEER

Test your coms. Call signs only.

The Squad tests their communication links.

MACKY

Check, Snake. Snake, check.

PETE

You're good, MacAttack.

ZAMEER

You copy me, Rabbit?

DELANG

Roger that, Nomad.

(to James)

How much resistance can we expect?

JAMES

Let's go find out. You got A/V on us, Command?

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Kelly looks at Delang's helmet CAMERA FEED which shows James. She speaks into her headset.

KELLY

Roger that, JayHawk.

Defense Secretary Grady stands next to her, tracking the Squad on a satellite feed. Next to him, Bruce gnaws on his fingernail as he monitors the men's heart rates on a screen.

INTERCUT CONTROL ROOM/CARGO JET

Out the window, the sky is DEEP PURPLE as dawn begins to break. Delang looks at James and taps his watch, worried.

JAMES

(into headset)

Command, daylight is approaching.

KELLY

You're almost in position.

BRUCE

Captain Corvado's death put us behind schedule. The whole purpose of a High Altitude Low Open drop is stealth--

SECRETARY GRADY

Qusar is constantly on the move. This is our one shot. The serum will work, or it won't... we are not postponing.

Bruce rubs his face nervously. Kelly checks the plane's position on the radar, checks the clock.

The Squad stands ready for the dive. Macky looks out the window. DEEP PURPLE SKIES morph into DARK BLUE as the sky becomes a shade brighter.

MACKY

They'll see us coming for miles.

Pete shoots James a concerned look. James checks his watch, frustrated.

ZAMEER

We're not supposed to be going in hot, right?

DELANG

Seriously, I'm too good-looking to die because of some screw up--

JAMES

Button it!

Macky takes out his knife and SLICES THE PALM OF HIS HAND. He holds out his hand, dripping blood all over.

JAMES

What the hell--

James stops when he sees Macky's WOUND CLOSE. Macky licks the blood off his hand, showing the Squad it's completely healed.

MACKY

Not to worry boys! I think we're gonna be all right.

The men nod, relieved. The SIGNAL LIGHT FLASHES YELLOW.

JAMES

Saki time!

James places a small OXYGEN BREATHING in his mouth. The Squad follows suit and gathers at the back of the plane. The YELLOW LIGHT turns GREEN and the back of the plane opens up.

James signals and one by one, they dive into the morning sky.

EXT. SKY - DAWN

The five squad members FREE FALL in rough formation. It takes a few moments before they reach the cloud ceiling and ZIP through it like bullets trailing smoke.

The ground gets closer, buildings and shacks in the village can be made out. James checks his altimeter: 2000 feet. He signals his men. They spit out their oxygen tubes and pull their rip cords.

Their black parachutes open. The Squad readies their weapons. The sky GLOWS RED with the sunrise.

EXT. SYRIAN VILLAGE - DAWN

The village, or what's left of it, is a war-ravaged hot zone.

A dozen crouching INSURGENTS track the Squad with their rifles as they float downward.

SUPER: **Abu Kamal, Syria**

In his blue turban, the scarred, bearded target of the Squad, AHMED QUSAR, watches the soldiers gliding down. His stoic face a mixture of resolve and apathy, he waits, then gives a single nod to his Men. One of them lets out a WAR CRY and they OPEN FIRE on the soldiers.

EXT. SKY - DAWN

Five hundred feet below, James can see the MUZZLE FLASHES of the Insurgents firing on him. BULLETS ZIP past his head as he floats downward.

JAMES
(into com link)
Taking heavy fire. Requesting cover
fire.

A BULLET punches into James's forearm. He stifles his SCREAM.

He pulls the sleeve down and checks the wound. It's bad. An artery sprays BLOOD as James tries to stop the bleeding with his hand. He looks out and sees Delang take a bullet straight to the chest. Delang goes limp in his parachute.

JAMES
(into com link)
Command, we need medical evac
immediately--

ZAMEER (V.O. HEADSET)
--I'm hit! I'm hit bad!

James looks around to find Zameer. Instead, he sees Pete DRILLED with rapid gunfire. He slumps in his harness, his rifle falls from his hand.

JAMES
 (into com link)
 Command, do you copy? We're being
 wiped out! We need medical evac now!

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - DAY

FIVE CAMERA FEEDS from the Squad's helmets show the entire fiasco. The Squad's SCREAMS unnerve Kelly as she tries to maintain composure. Doleful, Secretary Grady watches the Squad's bio-monitors SKYROCKET as they take fire.

SECRETARY GRADY
 It's not working.

BRUCE
 They won't heal as fast as Zeus. He's
 been doing this a lot longer.

SECRETARY GRADY
 They heal faster the more they're
 injured?

BRUCE
 We don't know for sure. That's how it
 worked with the Dog.

KELLY
 (into her com)
 Jayhawk, the first time is the
 hardest. Focus on the mission--

JAMES (V.O. COM LINK)
 What are you talking about? Get us
 the hell out of here ASAP!

EXT. SKY - DAWN

James looks down and sees the Insurgents dragging Macky's kicking body through the streets. Several grinning Insurgents turn their rifles to James. He knows this is the end.

JAMES
 Goddamn suicide--

POP! POP! POP! POP! POP! BULLETS pierce James as he nears the ground. GUNFIRE RIPS his parachute to shreds and he plummets the last 100 feet. He lands with a BONE CRUSHING THUD.

James coughs up BLOOD, struggling to take another breath.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Four camera feeds go to STATIC. The lone working camera feed shows the POV of Zameer being DRAGGED THROUGH THE STREETS.

KELLY

Jayhawk, can you read me?

Only unintelligible ARABIC is heard. On the bio-monitors, the heart rates for the men are off the charts.

EXT. SYRIAN VILLAGE - DAY

The Insurgents stomp on James.

His eyelids are closing, his HEARTBEAT racing, escalating faster until... SILENCE.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - DAY

James's heart rate FLATLINES.

SECRETARY GRADY

(points to the monitor)

Did your dog ever flatline?

Looking sick, Kelly shakes her head. Zameer's heart monitor flatlines. Seconds later, THE ENTIRE SQUAD IS FLATLINING.

INTERCUT CONTROL ROOM/SYRIAN VILLAGE

James lies limp on the ground until a group of six Insurgents grab him by his parachute cords.

They pull him into AN OBSCENE PARADE, joining the other jubilant, filthy Insurgents dragging the DEAD SOLDIERS through the streets like rag dolls.

The SATELLITE FEEDS show various MOBS dragging the dead soldiers. Five FLATLINES harmonize their verdict on the bio-monitors. Tense, Kelly waits for any signs of life.

KELLY

(into her com link)

Jayhawk? Take a breath. Just breathe.

Secretary Grady watches Kelly. He turns to the bio-monitor, looking for any signs of life. Kelly yells into her com.

KELLY

(into her com)

Come on, soldier! I know you can hear me... breathe!

SECRETARY GRADY
Breathe, Goddammit!

Determined, Kelly focuses all her attention on the monitor.

KELLY
(under her breath)
Come on... Come on!

Secretary Grady cannot hide his disappointment. He pulls out his cell phone, but hesitates on making the call. He presses one key, when a single TICK registers on James's heart monitor. Kelly perks up. It BEEPS again. And again.

BRUCE
He's coming back! Look! They're all
coming back!

Stunned, Secretary Grady closes his phone and smiles as he looks at the monitors. The Squad is alive, but their heart rates are SLOW.

Kelly exhales, a huge, relieved grin on her face.

James's head bangs against the road as he's pulled through the streets feet first. BOTTLES AND ROCKS smash around him.

Suddenly, his chest HEAVES and he HOWLS in agony. The Mob drops James in the street, too stupefied to run away. They stare at James screaming as a bullet wound in his cheek PUSHES A BULLET OUT AND CLOSES.

A few Insurgents SCREAM and run away. The rest are rooted to the spot, hypnotized by the spectacle. James lifts his mangled arm and watches it heal, terrified and confused.

JAMES
WHAT THE FUCK IS HAPPENING!?

KELLY (V.O.)
You're all right, Jayhawk. Just
breathe and get your bearings.

Ahmed Qusar watches James as the Insurgents flee. He strides up to James and SHOOTS him in the throat with an assault rifle. James collapses back to the ground. Qusar empties his clip into James. This time, making sure he's dead.

The Insurgents erupt in a celebratory ROAR, but it's short-lived: James sits up. The Insurgents stare in disbelief as James staggers to his feet covered in blood. He screams in pure RAGE.

Frozen in disbelief, Ahmed Qusar watches as James walks toward him, a bloody mess full of fury. James stops, inches away from Qusar's dumbfounded face.

In a lightning fast movement, James GRABS AND SPINS Qusar's rifle so that he now holds it. James pulls the trigger, hitting Qusar in the chest and killing him on the spot.

The remaining Insurgents PANIC and scatter. James stalks after them. One Insurgent turns and FIRES at James. In stride, James shoots and nails the Insurgent with a kill shot to the chest.

In awe, Kelly watches James wipe out the remaining Insurgents on the thermal satellite feed.

KELLY

Unbelievable.

JAMES

Come again, Command?

KELLY

(into headset)

Welcome back, Jayhawk! Find your men and finish the assignment.

Delang opens his eyes to see Macky's unconscious body being hoisted up next to him. He looks up and sees he's suspended beneath a bridge by a rope. A mob of laughing insurgents hold the other end of rope below.

Confused, Delang looks around trying to figure where he is when Macky wakes, and lets out a terrifying ROAR. The panicking mob below drops them, SLAMMING them to the ground.

Macky jumps up with a crazed look in his eyes. He snatches up an abandoned weapon and shoots at the retreating Insurgents.

Macky GRINS as he FIRES at the Insurgents. Macky takes multiple bullets and doesn't even blink. He looks at Delang.

MACKY

You need an invitation?

Delang snaps into action. He grabs a gun and joins Macky FIRING. Macky YELLS as he empties his clip.

JAMES

Cease fire!

James scans the silent, razed village. Nothing moves.

DELANG

What the hell just happened?

Macky looks wild-eyed. James can't tell if he's on the verge of laughing or crying.

JAMES
MacAttack, you okay?

MACKY
Okay? That was better than sex!

James and Delang looks at Macky likes he's nuts.

DELANG
Then you're not doing it right.

JAMES
(looking around)
Snake! Nomad! Sound off!

Nothing. James points at Delang to head left, Macky to head right. Snapping into action, they spread out and search. Macky kicks in a nearby door. Delang scouts out an alley.

FOOTSTEPS. James, Macky and Delang aim their weapons. They relax when they spot Pete standing there. His clothes are bullet-ridden, but he has a serene grin on his face as he checks out his healed wounds. James approaches him slowly.

JAMES
You okay?

PETE
No... I'm perfect.

James stares at Pete, confounded by his calm demeanor. Pete looks up, like he smells something strange in the wind.

PETE
Where's Zameer?

James scans the village.

JAMES
(into his com link)
Command, we need a location on Nomad.

BRUCE (V.O. COM LINK)
GPS shows he's half a click southwest of your position.

James hand-signals his squad to head in that direction.

INT. MOSQUE - DAY

Bloodied, Zameer kneels inside the mosque, MUMBLING a prayer as fast as he can. He repeats the same phrase over and over.

ZAMEER
 Aouzu Billahee Min ash-Shaitaan ar-
 Rajeem, Aouzu Billahee Min ash-
 Shaitaan ar-Rajeem, Aouzu Billahee...

James and his squad barge into the empty mosque. They slow down as they approach Zameer, who doesn't stop praying.

MACKY
 What the hell is he saying?

PETE
 I seek refuge with Allah from the
 devil. It's from his Muslim prayers.

Macky looks at Zameer like he's crazy. James squats next to Zameer.

JAMES
 You okay, Zee?

ZAMEER
 Okay? We're all dead!

Zameer breaks down crying into James's shoulder. For a moment, no one seems to know how to handle the situation.

JAMES
 It's okay, Zee. You're not dead. None
 of us are. Can you stand up?

James and Delang help him up. Zameer looks around, confused.

ZAMEER
 Did I dream all that?

KELLY (V.O. COM LINK)
 What's your status, Jayhawk?

JAMES
 (into his com link)
 Target is neutralized. The village is
 secured. The Squad is... intact.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - DAY

KELLY
 Roger that, Jayhawk. Prep Qusar's
 remains for sea burial and head to
 your evac point.

JAMES (V.O. COM LINK)
 I have some questions for you.

KELLY

As soon as we get you out of there.

Grady nods his approval. Kelly pulls off her headset and exhales, relieved. She smiles, overcome with emotion.

SECRETARY GRADY

You should be damn proud, Major. They'll be reading about this day in history books.

KELLY

Thank you, sir.

SECRETARY GRADY

After they drop Qusar in the sea, retask them to Haditha.

KELLY

We need to bring them back for full examinations.

SECRETARY GRADY

Agreed, but there'll be time for that after your men clear Haditha. That's the number one priority now.

Before she can protest, Secretary Grady strides out of the lab. Bruce looks at Kelly.

BRUCE

You actually pulled it off. They all made it.

KELLY

Captain Corvado didn't.

BRUCE

It shouldn't have been done this way... but this serum could save thousands, even millions, of lives.

KELLY

That's what they told Oppenheimer.

Kelly looks at him, the weight of the world on her shoulders. She stands up to leave.

KELLY

Call me if there are any changes.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Behind the desk PRESIDENT EDWARD PARAMO, 54, dark, handsome, radiating charisma.

Sitting in front of him is Defense Secretary Grady and VICE PRESIDENT STEVEN WALSH, 44, sandy blonde hair, with a gold cross pinned to his lapel.

VICE PRESIDENT WALSH

This is fantastic! How were you able to get Qusar with zero losses?

Secretary Grady looks over to President Paramo to see if he should inform the V.P. about the project. The President nods.

SECRETARY GRADY

We've developed a rapid healing serum that allows our troops to keep fighting, even after mortal injuries.

PRESIDENT PARAMO

This could END war as we know it.

President Paramo leans back in his chair proud, but the V.P. looks sick.

VICE PRESIDENT WALSH

Or this could end humanity.

PRESIDENT PARAMO

What are you talking about? Wars are won on technology.

Vice President Walsh looks down, debating whether to speak. He looks up with conviction.

VICE PRESIDENT WALSH

If people see what these men are capable of, do you have any idea how much power they could wield? Mr. President, you need to pull that squad out of the field right now.

SECRETARY GRADY

With all due respect, Mr. Vice--

VICE PRESIDENT WALSH

Revelations, Chapter 13: "The Beast's head received a death blow, but it was healed and the whole earth followed the Beast in amazement."

Stunned, Secretary Grady looks over at the President, to see if he's taking the Vice President seriously. He is.

SECRETARY GRADY

This is a military upgrade, NOT religious prophecy.

VICE PRESIDENT WALSH
Your upgrade might have just created
the anti-Christ--

PRESIDENT PARAMO
Thank you, gentlemen, for your
perspective. I'd like a moment alone.

Vice President Walsh gives a stiff nod as he exits. Secretary Grady waits until the President gives him a "go on with the mission" nod. Secretary Grady returns the nod and leaves.

Alone now, President Paramo bows his head in deep thought.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - NIGHT

Secretary Grady, on his cell, walks to a helicopter, BLADES SPINNING.

SECRETARY GRADY (INTO PHONE)
After Haditha is cleared, ship them
to Asadabad. It's time we put these
fuckers on notice.

He shuts off his phone and smiles. He climbs into the helicopter. It ascends into the night sky.

INT. KELLY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kelly tries to feed smashed carrots to Sean with a spoon, when he jerks his head, smearing carrot all over his cheek.

Not missing a beat, Mom stops cooking and wipes his face.

KELLY
All right, fifth time is the charm.

Kelly catches her Mom smiling at them.

KELLY
What?

MOM
Nothing. You just seem happier.

She kisses Kelly on the head. Kelly squeezes her Mom's hand.

MOM
I talked to the pastor... about
christening Sean.

Kelly stiffens momentarily, then continues feeding her baby.

MOM
Ask yourself what Ben would've
wanted.

KELLY
Ben's not here... don't bring it up
again, okay?

Kelly turns back to her baby, who's grabbing for the spoon.

KELLY
You still hungry? You're gonna be a
giant if I keep feeding you.

Her Mother returns to cooking, hiding how upset she is.

EXT. IRAQI VILLAGE - DAY

SUPER: **Outside Haditha, Iraq**

The Squad marches through the deserted town, looking around,
perplexed.

PETE
Where's the resistance?

JAMES
It's coming, believe it. Hey... does
Nomad seem okay to you?

They both look at Zameer, who nervously scans the skyline.

PETE
I'm more worried about MacAttack.

JAMES
(looks around)
Where the hell is he?
(to the Squad)
Fan out and find him!

They look around in the various empty buildings.

INT. IRAQI BUILDING - DAY

James slowly enters the large building, followed by his
squad. They see Macky in another room, pouring gasoline on
his bare arm. Macky's oblivious of the Squad watching him.

ZAMEER
(whispering)
What the hell is he doing?

Macky pulls out a lighter and sets his arm on FIRE. Macky watches his skin BURN and REGENERATE, smiling.

JAMES
Fall in, soldier!

Startled, Macky KNOCKS OVER THE GAS CAN and it spills all over him, ENGULFING HIM IN FLAMES.

Pete leaps into actions and tackles Macky, putting out the fire. Macky laughs the whole time, healing almost instantly.

JAMES
What the fuck is wrong with you!
(listens to his COM)
Roger that.
(to the Squad)
We're headed to Afghanistan. The L.Z.
is two clicks south of here.

MACKY
I'll go ahead and clear it.

JAMES
Not you. You stay with me. Snake,
Nomad, take point.

Pete and Zameer jog ahead. James glares at Macky.

MACKY
Just havin' a little fun, skipper.

JAMES
We have no idea how long the serum
will last. Think about that.

Chastened, Macky nods. James marches ahead. Delang puts his arm around Macky.

DELANG
(quietly to Macky)
I thought it was fun.

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kelly sleeps restlessly.

DREAM SEQUENCE -

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS, RAMADI, IRAQ - DAY

An abbreviated version of Kelly's dream before:

Benjamin runs out to help the wounded from the bomb attack.

The Suicide Bomber EXPLODES. Benjamin falls in the sand, missing his arm and both his legs.

Benjamin SCREAMS, but not in pain -- in determination.

As his yell ECHOES, his torn and tattered limbs MAGICALLY SLIDE THROUGH SAND to him. His limbs RECONNECT to his body.

Benjamin is whole again, but he's STILL SCREAMING--

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kelly sits up from her nightmare, barely able to stifle her own scream. She catches her breath and calms down.

Her cellphone RINGS, she grabs it.

INT. SUBTERRANEAN ARMY BASE LOBBY - NIGHT

Kelly runs up to the Armed Guard, who looks panicked.

KELLY

What happened?

ARMED GUARD

You'd better see the tape.

The Armed Guard presses PLAY on one of the monitors. ON SCREEN: Zeus LIES DEAD STILL in his cage.

ARMED GUARD

Your lab assistant thought the dog was dead and called us to move it. As soon as we opened that cage--

ON THE MONITOR: Zeus springs into life and leaps at the other Armed Guard, TEARING INTO HIS THROAT. The surviving Armed Guard FIRES his pistol at the crazed dog.

ARMED GUARD

I emptied my clip into that dog and barely made it out. Your assistant didn't have time to follow. He holed himself up in the cage.

(presses a button on the monitor)

This is the live feed now.

Kelly watches the monitor, stunned. Zeus TERRORIZES Bruce, who has LOCKED HIMSELF INSIDE Zeus's cage.

Zeus stops and stares at the surveillance camera in the lab, like he's aware someone is watching him.

ARMED GUARD

You have an anti-serum for that...
thing, right?

KELLY

It's inside the lab.

The Armed Guard doesn't have to say "oh shit" -- it's written all over his face. Zeus bites at the cage, twisting the metal. Bruce SCREAMS. Kelly gathers her wits.

KELLY

I need three gas masks, three I.V.
bags with Naloxone and a canister of
Kolokol-1.

ARMED GUARD

You got it, Major.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT

One of the mirrored walls looks into the lab. It's a bloody mess from the dead Guard. Bruce sits terrified in the cage as Zeus BARKS and charges at him.

Kelly leans over to a microphone and presses a button.

KELLY

Bruce, can you hear me?
(off his nod)
I'm going to use Kolokol-1 to slow
down the dog.

BRUCE

The gas that killed those Russian
hostages?

KELLY

You'll have to hold your breath for a
minute or two.

BRUCE

JUST GET ME THE FUCK OUTTA HERE!

Kelly puts on a GAS MASK, as does the Armed Guard. He hands her a small canister of Kolokol-1.

Kelly gives the thumbs up to Bruce, who sucks in a deep breath. She pulls the locking pin on the gas canister, opens the lab door and throws it in. Before she can close the door, Zeus gets his snout in, BARKING LIKE MAD.

NARCOTIC GAS SPILLS INTO BOTH ROOMS. Bruce's face turns red.

Zeus yanks back and Kelly slams the door. She watches Zeus until he stops barking and squats down. Bruce turns crimson.

KELLY

I gotta get Bruce the mask.

ARMED GUARD

The dog's not down yet!

KELLY

He could die if I don't!

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Kelly opens the door. Zeus lies prone, looking drugged. Kelly runs to Bruce, opens the cage and puts the mask on him.

Bruce takes several deep breaths with the mask on. He calms down, but then his eyes widen and he SCREAMS IN HIS MASK.

Growling behind Kelly, Zeus BARES his teeth.

Zeus looks downright evil. Ever so slowly, Kelly reaches out... and pets Zeus. The dog gradually calms, looks sad.

KELLY

Get out of the cage, Bruce. Now!

Bruce scrambles out as Zeus looks intent on killing him, but can barely stand. Kelly blocks Zeus from Bruce, petting him.

Bruce runs to the exit. Kelly pulls the now placid Zeus BACK INTO HIS CAGE. She pets him a few more times.

KELLY

(to Zeus)

It's okay.

Kelly unlocks her lab drawer and pulls out the ANTI-SERUM GUN. She loads a PLEXIGLASS BULLET WITH BLUISH-GREEN LIQUID.

KELLY

Vent the room!

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT

Bruce hits a VENT on the control panel. The gas is sucked out of both rooms. A green "ALL CLEAR" indicator light glows.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

The dog recovers fast and BARKS. Kelly points the ANTI-SERUM GUN at Zeus's flank and FIRES. The dog HOWLS as the bullet pierces its skin. Zeus's wound BEGINS TO HEAL, THEN STOPS. Zeus whimpers and licks the small laceration in his backside.

The dog is docile now and Kelly pulls off her mask. She opens the cage and gently injects Zeus with a sedative and bandages his wounds. She rubs Zeus's head tenderly.

KELLY

No more guns. I swear.

Kelly puts Zeus back in his cage. Looking haggard, Bruce comes back into the lab, carrying the Naloxone I.V. bag hooked up to his arm.

KELLY

Get some rest after you get checked out at the infirmary.

BRUCE

Can't. The Squad's landing in twenty.
(seeing Kelly distracted)
What is it?

KELLY

Zeus played dead for forty minutes.

BRUCE

You think the dog faked its own death in order to escape? Want to know what I think? I think you're the one who needs to get some rest.

Bruce pats her shoulder, but Kelly looks worried.

EXT. AFGHANISTAN VILLAGE - DAY

James and his Squad SHOOT at various INSURGENTS as they attack. The Squad takes the town by force, but something's off -- Delang and Macky are LAUGHING like school kids.

SUPER: **Asadabad, Afghanistan**

Two brazen Insurgents FIRE at the Squad without cover. Macky blows them away with his DOUBLE-BARRELED SHOTGUN.

MACKY

(counting his kills)
Eighty-eight. Eighty-nine! I love my job!

DELANG

(shooting two Insurgents)
A kiss for you! And a kiss for you!

PETE

Wait!

The Squad hunkers down. A second later, a ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE (RPG) ZIPS past them, exploding close enough to shower them with debris.

MACKY
(standing up)
Who needs to duck? Come get some!

The Insurgent with the RPG launcher frantically tries to reload. Macky runs up and SHREDS him with GUNFIRE.

MACKY
Amateur.

JAMES
CEASE FIRE!

The men stop firing and it's quiet. Zameer looks at Pete.

ZAMEER
How did you know that RPG was coming?

Pete looks unsure. Delang puts an arm around Pete.

DELANG
(joking)
Everybody knows Snake can see through walls.

Zameer hears SOMETHING behind a crate. He flips the box over and aims his rifle at a quivering 10-year-old BOY, who holds a knife, but with his eyes closed, scared out of his mind.

Macky draws his pistol and FIRES at the Boy. Zameer spins the Boy and shields him with his body. The Boy drops his knife.

ZAMEER
WAIT! He's just a kid.

MACKY
He's a future jihadist. Step aside.

ZAMEER
No way.

MACKY
We're fighting a war, dumb-ass. Now step aside.

ZAMEER
Fuck you.

MACKY
Fuck me?

Macky FIRES his pistol at Zameer as he protects the Boy. Zameer YELLS IN AGONY as the bullets pierce his back. James WRESTS the smoking hot pistol from Macky, gets in his face.

JAMES

You may be invincible, but I'm damn sure you can be locked up. You fire at a friendly again, you'll never see the light of day. You read me?

MACKY

Sir, the boy had a knife. I believe the rules of engagement are clear--

JAMES

It's clear you fired at Nomad.

MACKY

Sir, won't happen again, sir!

JAMES

Let the boy go.

Zameer lets go of the terrified Boy, who tears off running, covered in ZAMEER'S BLOOD. Zameer PUNCHES Macky in the mouth.

ZAMEER

That hurts, you asshole!

MACKY

(laughing)
Maybe you didn't get the same dose I got, cause that felt like a kiss.

JAMES

Cut the crap right now!

Kelly's voice crackles over James's COM.

KELLY (V.O. COM LINK)

What's your status, Jayhawk?

JAMES

(into his com link)
All clear, Command... thought you abandoned us.

INT. MISSION CONTROL ROOM - DAY

Kelly and Bruce watch the Squad on the thermal satellite monitor. Zameer's sporadic CAMERA FEED cuts in and out.

KELLY
 (into her com link)
 We got some more ammo and working A/V
 equipment for you. Pick up is one
 click north of your current position.

INTERCUT MISSION CONTROL ROOM/AFGHANISTAN VILLAGE

JAMES
 Copy that. On our way.

KELLY
 How are you and the Squad holding up?

JAMES
 Okay... it's strange.

KELLY
 What do you mean?

JAMES
 We haven't slept in two days, but
 nobody's tired. And Macky...

KELLY
 Jayhawk, tell me EXACTLY what you're
 observing.

JAMES
 It's weird. Macky doesn't seem to
 feel any pain at all. And that's
 definitely not the case for me.

KELLY
 What else?

Pete stops James before he can answer. Pete looks around,
 suddenly cautious.

PETE
 Something's not right.

JAMES
 (into his com link)
 Hold on, Command. We're checking
 something out.

The Squad hears a low RUMBLE and looks around.

MACKY
 What is that?

Kelly hears the rumble over the intercom too.

KELLY
What's going on?

Silence. Then pandemonium breaks out over the COM LINK.

PETE (V.O. COM LINK)
EVERYONE SCATTER!

MACKY (V.O. COM LINK)
What the hell?!

DELANG (V.O. COM LINK)
RUN!

ZAMEER (V.O. COM LINK)
SERGEANT!!!

The LIVE FEED shows the Squad running scattershot then CUTS OUT COMPLETELY as THERMAL FLASHES on her satellite monitor REMOVE ALL TRACES OF LIFE in the area.

BRUCE
Oh my God.

KELLY
Jayhawk, are you there?
(to Bruce)
What's happening?

The Squad's bio-monitors all display the same error message:
Thermal Detonation. No radiation Detected. Looking for Signal...

BRUCE
There's absolutely nothing... wait.
(points to the radar)
Our choppers are coming up.

KELLY
(into COM LINK)
Delta One, can you give us a visual
on lima zulu?

HELICOPTER CAMERA shows scorched earth. No structures, only smoking ash. SAND MELTED INTO GLASS glitters in the sunlight.

HELICOPTER PILOT (V.O.)
The whole L.Z. is incinerated.

KELLY
Jayhawk, do you read me? James!

HELICOPTER PILOT (V.O.)
Command, there are no survivors here.

Kelly barely holds it together.

BRUCE

Maybe their GPS melted, but they're still alive...

Kelly stares at the satellite feed... there's nothing with a heat signature for miles.

INT. LAB - DAY

Secretary Grady stands by grimly as Kelly watches the Armed Guard roll a caged monkey out of the room. Zeus, the only animal left in the empty lab, watches all the activity from inside his cage, wagging his tail happily.

KELLY

You're killing the whole project.

SECRETARY GRADY

No, we're not. It's a hiatus. We have other projects we can use you on--

KELLY

Sir--

SECRETARY GRADY

This wasn't my call, Major, and I'm fighting to get us back on track. Too much has been sacrificed for us not to move forward.

KELLY

I would like to be the one to inform the soldier's families.

SECRETARY GRADY

Not until we get some confirmation one way or another. If a week goes by, we'll report them as M.I.A.

KELLY

Corporal Rehan's wife is seven months pregnant. She deserves to know.

SECRETARY GRADY

We don't know anything.

Frustrated, Kelly takes wounded Zeus out of his cage and puts him on a leash. Zeus licks her face and she rubs his head.

ARMED GUARD

Ma'am, you can't take that dog!

KELLY
Try stopping me.

Zeus lowers his head and SILENTLY bares his teeth in a demonic grin at the Guard. All traces of the friendly golden retriever are gone. Spooked, the Guard takes a step back.

SECRETARY GRADY
(to the Guard)
She can care for the dog.

Zeus immediately drops the posture and sits back on his haunches. Unsettled, Secretary Grady stares at the calm dog.

SECRETARY GRADY
(to Kelly)
Take some R & R. You've earned it.

Kelly treads away with Zeus.

EXT. PERSIAN GULF - DAY

Deep blue-green waters. Land is visible in the distance.

SUPER: **The Persian Gulf off the Iranian coast**

A NAKED BODY serenely bobs on the water FACE DOWN. It's so bloated with water it's hard to tell if it's a man or a woman.

A SEAGULL lands on it, pecks at a swollen ear, pulling on it.

Suddenly, the head surges up. The startled seagull flies off. It's Mike Delang, coughing up water. He watches his bloated hand as it shrinks and becomes normal. He smiles.

Delang looks around at the open sea, then at the sky to get his bearings. He sees a distant shoreline, starts swimming.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY

SUPER: **Karakoram Pass, India/China Disputed Border Region**

A group of seven ROBED ASIAN MONKS meditate in a circle, colorful scarves wrapped around their shaved heads. They sing a deep Tibetan throat chant as incense smokes swirls in the air.

Lying dead in the center of the Monk's circle, dressed in an white robe, is Pete Jacobs, his SERPENT TATTOO visible on his neck. His skin slowly changes from gray to healthy.

Pete draws a deep breath and opens his eyes. The Monks encircling him immediately stop chanting and bow their heads forward. The LEAD MONK looks to the others.

MONK
(in Tibetan)
He has returned.

Pete looks around at his surroundings, dazed.

PETE
Returned from what?

MONK
(in broken English)
You understand Tibetan?

Pete shakes his head, but looks even more confused.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

Kelly runs up a woody hiking trail, with Zeus racing alongside. She attacks the uphill climb, grimacing and giving it all she's got.

INT. ARMY BASE GYM - DAY

Kelly jabs and kicks at a heavy bag in the empty gym. She looks mean. And judging from her technique, you wouldn't want to get on her bad side.

Bruce runs up outside the gym glass wall and BANGS ON IT to get her attention. Elated, he YELLS THROUGH THE GLASS.

BRUCE
We found a survivor!

KELLY
Who is it?

BRUCE
We're not sure, but he's definitely one of ours.

Kelly runs out of the gym toward Bruce.

INT. SUICIDE BOMBER'S APARTMENT - DAY

SUPER: **Bannu, Afghanistan**

Four SUICIDE BOMBERS carefully place DYNAMITE into vests in the primitive room.

A RUCKUS is heard outside the window. Suicide Bomber #1 looks out and sees a MOB OF PEOPLE fleeing in terror.

SUICIDE BOMBER #2
 (in Pashto)
 What is it?

Suicide Bomber #1 shakes his head until he sees--

SUICIDE BOMBER #1
 (in Pashto)
 American Soldiers!

The four Suicide Bombers grab their vests as Macky KICKS THE DOOR IN. He wears local vestments and holds an AK-47 rifle.

MACKY
 No need to get riled up. It's just
 me, fellas.

Macky smiles. The bewildered Bombers look at him. Suicide Bomber #1 reaches for a gun and Macky FIRES his AK-47, nailing the vest bomb, and the entire place EXPLODES.

INT. ARMY HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

SUPER: **Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.**

Kelly, still in her workout clothes, runs down the hall with Bruce. She snags a lab coat and puts it on before heading into the hospital room guarded by MILITARY POLICE.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

James lies unconscious in a bed, BANDAGED NECK TO TOE. A military NURSE UNWRAPS the bandages from his right arm. It appears uninjured. Kelly and Bruce stare at James.

NURSE
 He was found in Kabul two days ago
 and transferred to the morgue. He
 came in looking like this.

The Nurse hands Kelly a photograph we don't see. Kelly hides her revulsion, but Bruce can't help but look away.

KELLY
 How many people saw him heal?

NURSE
 I was alone in the morgue when I
 heard him moan. I informed my
 Commanding Officer and he initiated
 shadow protocol. Everyone else thinks
 he died in Kabul.

Kelly stares at James. She checks his pupils, shines a penlight down his throat. She runs her index finger down his arm, marvelling at his skin.

KELLY

Any signs of consciousness?

NURSE

No, but his brain activity is off the charts.

KELLY

Let me know the moment he wakes up.

BRUCE

You mean 'if' he wakes up.

James's eyes pop open and he SEIZES Kelly's arm. She involuntarily screams. He pulls her close.

KELLY

Restrain him, Bruce!

The Nurse and Bruce both struggle to get padded restraints on James, but he won't be denied. He pulls Kelly closer, facing him.

JAMES

What the fuck have you done?

James's heart monitor BLARES as his heart rate escalates. Bruce and the Nurse grapple to restrain James, who still grips Kelly's arm. Kelly stops struggling and looks James in the eye. She summons a calm, clear voice.

KELLY

Soldier, release your superior officer.

James stares at her with hatred... but he lets go of her arm. Kelly quickly composes herself.

KELLY

It's okay, Sergeant. You've been out of it for five days straight.

JAMES

Nothing about this is okay. Where are my men?

KELLY

We don't know. We detected a thermal detonation--

JAMES

We were incinerated alive. Even after my skin burned off, I could still feel it. My last memory is one of complete, blinding agony... congrats, Major. You've created the most effective torture known to man.

Kelly stares at James, horrified. She turns away. Bruce puts a hand on her shoulder, but she shrugs it off and turns back to James.

But she can't look at him. She runs out of the door before she completely loses it in front of him.

JAMES

Where the hell are you going? You owe me some answers!

The Nurse tries to calm James down. Bruce runs after Kelly.

INT. ARMY HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kelly sits on the floor, sobbing. Bruce squats next to her, but doesn't comfort her. Her breathing calms down, but she looks inconsolable.

KELLY

I could have told the Secretary no... but I wanted Qusar.

BRUCE

He just would've had someone else inject them.

KELLY

This was supposed to help them survive, not prolong suffering.

BRUCE

If it weren't for you, he'd be dead right now.

KELLY

He makes it sound preferable.

BRUCE

If he survived, then maybe the others did, too. We need to find these men.

Kelly looks at Bruce. She sucks in a deep breath, roughly wipes the tears out of her eyes. She stands.

KELLY

Get the SecDef here.

Bruce nods. Kelly heads back into the hospital room.

EXT. THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA - DAY

Near the western end of the wall, this section is more desert than anything else. The part tourists never visit.

INT. OLD TRUCK - DAY

A frantic peasant woman, SUNG WA, 35, drives her sick, elderly FATHER. He coughs and wheezes up some blood. Sung Wa looks at him, puts a hand on his shoulder.

SUNG WA
(in Chinese)
We'll be there soon.

Sung Wa looks up to see a MAN right in front of her truck. She SCREAMS, SLAMS ON THE BRAKES as she PLOWS OVER him. She smacks the dashboard, tearfully, trying to hold it together.

SUNG WA
(in Chinese)
Stay in the car, Dad.

She reaches to open her door, but the passenger door opens. Wearing raggedy peasant clothes and covered in fresh blood with a HUGE GASH ON HIS FOREHEAD, Zameer pushes the panicky Father to the middle of the seat.

ZAMEER
Drive.

Sung Wa and her Father yell at Zameer in CHINESE until Zameer presses a 9mm GLOCK at her Father's head. He points ahead.

ZAMEER
Drive.

Shaking badly, Sung Wa puts the truck in gear, drives away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

James glares at Kelly.

JAMES
Is Captain Corvado here?
(off her hesitation)
You said he was stable... is he dead?
(Kelly looks away)
Answer me goddamnit!

KELLY
Captain Corvado is still
unresponsive. I'm sorry, Sergeant.

JAMES
Bullshit. He's dead... did you have
the decency to tell his wife?

Bruce bursts into the room before she can answer, hands Kelly a note.

KELLY
Has this been verified?

Bruce nods. Kelly thinks for a moment, then looks at James.

KELLY
We just received word on another
squad member. I'll debrief you when
the Secretary of Defense arrives.

Before James can ask a follow up, the door slams shuts.

EXT. BANK OF IRAN - DAY

MERCHANTS, selling rugs, fruits, etc., fill the bustling street. The Bank is the nicest building by far.

SUPER: **Khorranshahr, Iran**

INT. BANK OF IRAN - DAY

A MAN wearing a head-dress steps up to a beautiful Irani TELLER, who's busy doing calculations.

TELLER
(in Farsi)
Good morning.

The Man says nothing. The Teller looks up, startled to see a Westerner in a traditional outfit. It's Corporal Mike Delang and he beams his most charming smile. She smiles back and he shows her the GUN inside his cloak.

DELANG
Euros and dollars, please.

The Teller stares at Delang's steely blue eyes as he whistles a happy tune. She quickly grabs money from her drawer and puts it in a bank pouch. She slides the bag to Delang.

Delang winks and PUTS A FINGER TO HIS LIPS. The Teller nods and Delang walks away, eyeballing two SECURITY GUARDS who talk to one another, oblivious of the robbery.

Delang leaves the building. The Teller sounds the ALARM.

EXT BANK OF IRAN - DAY

The two Security Guards RUSH out the front doors. Delang is nowhere to be seen on the crowded streets.

INT. KELLY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Kelly and Defense Secretary Grady sit at a table with James. The lights are dimmed and a huge monitor shows PHOTOS of buildings and mosques, ravaged and STREWN WITH BODIES.

KELLY

This is outside Bannu, Afghanistan.

SECRETARY GRADY

We think Macky is behind this.

Kelly turns on the overhead light, looks at James.

KELLY

He's not leaving any witnesses behind, but we're almost certain it's him. And if you and Macky survived, then maybe your entire squad did.

SECRETARY GRADY

Any idea how you ended up so far away from your last known location, Sergeant?

JAMES

Absolutely none, sir.

SECRETARY GRADY

Sergeant, you and your squad are American heroes. I want these men found and I want them brought back home. Are you up to the task?

JAMES

Sir, yes, sir. I have one request.

SECRETARY GRADY

Name it. Whatever you need to get these men back, and back to normal.

JAMES

I need Major Lennox to accompany me.

Shocked, Kelly looks at James, sees the cold light of revenge in his eyes. Secretary Grady shakes his head.

JAMES

She's the authority on this serum and something's grossly wrong.

(MORE)

JAMES (CON'T)

Not only does Macky not feel any pain, he seems to LOVE it... we're gonna need her expertise in the field, make no mistake about it.

SECRETARY GRADY

Not going to happen. She's too valuable to put in harm's way.

JAMES

Then give her the serum.

Kelly tries to keep her composure. Secretary Grady considers his proposition, looks at Kelly.

KELLY

Sir, I have an infant at home--

James looks at Kelly with a hint of remorse.

SECRETARY GRADY

We'll handle your domestic situation, Major. This needs to be dealt with quickly and quietly. You want more soldiers, say the word... I'll let you make the call on whether you want to take the serum yourself.

Kelly says nothing, the full implication of his orders hitting her.

KELLY

We'll handle it, sir.

SECRETARY GRADY

Good luck to the both of you.

INT. OLD TRUCK - DAY

Sung Wa drives fast, stealing glances at Zameer as her Father coughs up some more blood. She slows when she sees a make-shift hospital with a PAINTED RED CROSS up the road.

ZAMEER

What are you doing? GO!

SUNG WA

(in Chinese)

My Father needs help.

Zameer points ahead and keeps the gun at her Father. Sung Wa can't take it anymore. She SLAMS ON THE BRAKES, hysterical.

SUNG WA
 (in Chinese)
 MY FATHER NEEDS HELP! YOU NEED HELP!

ZAMEER
 No understand. Keep driving!

Zameer wipes his bloody face and Sung Wa sees that his GASH IS COMPLETELY HEALED. She covers her mouth, astonished. She points at Zameer's head.

SUNG WA
 (in Chinese to her Father)
 Did you see that?

The Father looks at Zameer and smiles when he sees Zameer's healed forehead. He takes Zameer's free hand and holds it. Zameer jerks his hand away.

ZAMEER
 Get off me.

SUNG WA
 (pleading in Chinese)
 Can you heal my Father?

Zameer shakes his head and throws his hands up -- the international gesture for "What the fuck are you saying?".

Sung Wa clasps Zameer's hand and places it on her Father's chest, keeps it there by holding her hand on top of his.

SUNG WA
 (in Chinese)
 Heal my Father. Please!

ZAMEER
 What are you doing?

FATHER
 (in Chinese)
 His hand is warm.

Zameer starts to pull his hand away, but Sung Wa gently guides it back, holds it firm against her Father. Slowly, her Father's breathing becomes less raspy. He stares into Zameer's eyes with belief.

The Father gives a single cough. He looks down in amazement at his hand. His phlegm is CLEAR. Sung Wa beams at Zameer and kisses his hand. Zameer, not understanding anything that's going on, pulls his hand away.

ZAMEER
 Can you drive now? Okay? DRIVE?

Zameer mimics driving a steering wheel. Sung Wa gets it. She starts the truck, all too happy to help her savior.

INT. KELLY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Duffle packed and wearing combat fatigues, Kelly lies on her bed, holding her baby Sean aloft. Kelly smiles at her baby but tears roll down her cheek. Sean pouts, so Kelly makes funny faces. He giggles with delight.

A KNOCK at the door. Zeus, lying at the foot of the bed, gets up on all fours, protectively. Kelly's Mom comes in, looking like she's been crying too. She rubs Zeus's head.

MOM

Watching out for us, aren't you, boy?
(to Kelly)
The car's here.

Kelly lays the baby in its crib. Zeus lies down beside the crib, on guard duty. Kelly looks at her Mom.

KELLY

My will is in the top drawer--

MOM

Don't even say that.

KELLY

--and there's a safety deposit key...
Ben's stuff for Sean to have...

Kelly keeps her voice even, but she can't stop the tears from welling up in her eyes. Her Mom pulls Kelly into a big hug.

MOM

Just promise me you'll be careful.
You have a beautiful son here who
needs you. I need you, too.

KELLY

I promise.
(kisses Sean)
Be good for Nana.

Steeling herself, Kelly grabs the green duffle and marches out of the room.

INT. LAB - NIGHT

Bruce watches Kelly load anti-serum bullets into a case.

BRUCE

The SecDef is going to get you
killed.

KELLY

I have my orders.

Kelly holds up one of the few remaining vials of the original serum. She puts it in a syringe. Bruce shakes his head.

KELLY

I'm only going to take it if I'm in imminent danger.

BRUCE

Even if you survive the initial dose, we're just beginning to see the side effects.

KELLY

It's just... insurance.

BRUCE

If Sergeant Graham starts acting erratic, you hit him with the anti-serum ASAP.

KELLY

Roger that. I need you to figure out how the men ended up so far apart.

BRUCE

How am I supposed to do that?

KELLY

Recreate the conditions. Start with mice.

Bruce glares, clearly hating the idea. Kelly grabs the anti-serum bullet cases and marches out of the lab.

BRUCE

Good luck.

KELLY

Yeah. You, too.

INT. C-17 MILITARY CARGO JET - NIGHT

TWO PILOTS fly the airplane. It shudders with turbulence.

In the cabin behind the pilots, Kelly and James sit on opposite sides of the plane. James watches Kelly clean her spotless gun. He crosses over, sits next to her.

JAMES

So what's the game plan, Major?

Kelly hands James a PLEXIGLASS ANTI-SERUM BULLET.

KELLY

This polycarbonate bullet contains the anti-serum. Any shot that pierces Macky's skin should be effective.

JAMES

Why not use a syringe or have him drink it??

KELLY

Your body heals too fast for that to be effective. Only this bullet pierces the skin fast and violently enough to get the anti-serum into the bloodstream before the body can heal. But no kill shots. These can be lethal if you hit the head or the heart.

JAMES

So we can be killed.

KELLY

Better get some sleep, if you can.

James nods, crosses back over to his side of the plane.

He turns over the plexiglass bullet, studying it.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Secretary Grady waits as TWO SECRET SERVICE AGENTS escort the President to him. He's wearing a presidential robe.

SECRETARY GRADY

I apologize for disturbing your sleep, Mr. President.

President Paramo nods for the Secret Service to leave.

SECRETARY GRADY

We know the men were wiped out by several Mark 77 incendiary bombs... from British jets.

PRESIDENT PARAMO

That doesn't make any sense.

SECRETARY GRADY

MI-6 said they received an executive request from us.

PRESIDENT PARAMO

Not from me, they didn't.

SECRETARY GRADY

"And they worshipped the beast,
saying, 'Who is like the beast, and
who can fight against it?'"

PRESIDENT PARAMO

Walsh would never be that stupid.

SECRETARY GRADY

He's a believer, Sir.

Furious, the President grabs the phone, about to dial.

SECRETARY GRADY

There's more, Mr. President. The
Chinese have mobilized their military
near Quinghai.

PRESIDENT PARAMO

What's in Quinghai?

SECRETARY GRADY

Rumor has it a healer is causing
unrest... I think he's one of ours.

The President looks stricken.

INT. CAVE - DAY

Pete and the group of Monks meditate in silence, illuminated
by a single candle in the center of the cave.

It's cold. VAPOR from the Monks's exhalation shows that they
breathe in unison. Except one of the monks. His breathing
comes in rapid HUFFS.

Pete opens his eyes and stares at the rapid breather. It's
James, totally freaked. Pete speaks without moving his lips.

PETE (V.O.)

Welcome, James.

INT. C-17 MILITARY CARGO JET - DAY

James startles awake from his dream with a deep inhalation.
Kelly's busy prepping her gear.

KELLY

We land in ten.

James stands and gets his gear ready.

KELLY

Macky staged another attack twenty minutes ago. He won't be hard to find.

JAMES

Your husband's Delta?

KELLY

Was. KIA last year.

JAMES

Hey... I didn't know you had a baby.

KELLY

My personal life is none of your business.

JAMES

Understood, Major.

James checks the bolt action on the gun, locks the bullet in.

JAMES

I've known Macky a long time... he loves his job, but he's not a psychopath... at least he wasn't.

KELLY

Macky wasn't mentally ready to be Superman. You see a shot on Macky, you take it.

James nods once. Kelly straps her serum gun to her thigh.

KELLY

Let's get our boys back.

An EXPLOSION ROCKS THE PLANE. It NOSEDIVES. The tail section RIPS OFF. Parachutes and debris are sucked out. Kelly and James hang on to whatever they can as they PLUNGE DOWNWARD.

JAMES

You have a choice. Take it!

From her pants, Kelly pulls out the syringe that holds the serum. The plane SHUDDERS. She almost drops it. She stares at the needle. Is she really going to do this?

JAMES

You got about ten seconds! Word to the wise, I'd get as far away from this jet fuel as possible.

James lets go of the harness and is SUCKED OUT OF THE GAPING HOLE where the tail section of the plane used to be.

Taking deep panicked breaths, Kelly can see the ground approaching through the cockpit. It's now or never.

COLLISION ALARMS BLARE. She raises her hand, about to jam the syringe into her thigh, but STOPS herself. She feels the space between ribs in her rib cage, just above her heart.

She takes a deep breath and JAMS THE NEEDLE INTO HER HEART. She GASPS in agony, struggling to push in the plunger.

EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - DAY

The NOSE of the C-17 SLAMS into the ground, EXPLODING IN A HUGE FIREBALL.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT.