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PILOT

THE BOOK

Pilot

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TEASER

OVER BLACKNESS

We hear SCREECHING TIRES -- A WOMAN'S CRIES OF PAIN --

FLASH TO: A speeding CAR -- swerving through traffic--

CHAOS in the backseat. A woman's HAND holds a makeshift tourniquet in place. Her anxious FACE blackened by soot, spattered crimson.

NICOLE
(to the driver)
Hurry up. I can't stop the bleeding.

FLASH TO: The driver, JOHN NOLAN, looking back.

NOLAN
Hang on, Charlie --

FLASH TO: CHARLESTON WHITNEY TUCKER, in shock, singed and bleeding in Nicole's arms --

UNDER THIS we hear an ALARM building, propelling us into:

INT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - CHARLESTON'S APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

The ALARM CLOCK blares -- even though it's 3 A.M. TWO FIGURES are asleep in bed, their clothing scattered around the room. A woman's HAND shuts off the ALARM.

Charleston sits up. Healthy now. A small SCAR visible on her bare stomach. She snags her smart phone. 50 new messages. 100 new emails.

She scans them quickly as she rises. Grabs a glass of water from the cluttered night table. Drinks -- SPITS it out -- NOT water.

She grabs some clothes, disappearing into the bathroom to brush her teeth.

CHARLESTON (O.S.)
Hey, I gotta go to work. Lock the door when you leave, okay?

The CAMERA lands on a PICTURE on the wall: an EIGHT YEAR OLD CHARLESTON and her DAD, smiling like it's the best day ever.

CHARLESTON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And don't use my shampoo, it's forty bucks a bottle.

She emerges in pants and a bra. Moves to the bed, slipping on a shirt. The man, SCOTT, (35) is still asleep. Unacceptable. She pinches his butt. He jumps. Satisfied, she kisses him.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
Call me next time you're in town.

SCOTT
What if I want to call before?

CHARLESTON
Restrain yourself.

Over this we hear the ROAR of a motorcycle and CUT TO:

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - KEY BRIDGE - PRE-DAWN

Charleston zips into Virginia on her Triumph. Over this we hear a NEWS REPORT.

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
European authorities are scrambling to explain the internet slowdown sweeping the continent...

EXT. CIA HEADQUARTERS - PARKING LOT - PRE-DAWN

LUCAS WRIGHT (34) pulls into a spot --

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
While in Asia, tensions are running high as North Korea prepares for another long range missile test --

Lucas shuts off the engine, quieting the radio. He climbs out of his car, not used to the ungodly hour.

He puts his coffee on the roof. Adjusts his tie using the window reflection. Smooths down his hair. First impressions are important. He turns to head for the building --

VROOM

Charlie races past on her bike, forcing him to jump back, coffee spilling on his pants. Great.

INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS - LOBBY - PRE-DAWN

Charleston crosses the CIA SHIELD. Badges the guard. Steps onto:

INT. CIA - ELEVATOR - PRE-DAWN

The doors start to close -- BAM -- a hand stops them. Then Lucas gets on.

LUCAS
Thanks.

The doors close. They start up.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
That's a nice bike. You don't see a lot of old school Triumphs around.

She gives him nothing.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
I'm Lucas by the way--

CHARLESTON
I know. The newest member of my briefing team.

LUCAS
Right. And I'm very excited to have been given the opportunity --

CHARLESTON
Save it. You weren't my choice. Director Ross picked you. I wanted Mitchell.

LUCAS
Oh. Well... As long as we're being honest, I was advised against taking the job because of your reputation.

CHARLESTON
As a bitch?

LUCAS
No. As a perfectionist with impossible expectations.

CHARLESTON
Why didn't you listen?

LUCAS
I thrive in adversity. So I hear the President hand-picked you to be his be his briefer. Lotta pressure.

CHARLESTON
The President relies on me to distill a 68 billion dollar intelligence budget and the work of two hundred thousand operatives down to a top ten list of the most critical threats facing our nation. If I make a mistake, it leads on CNN. How's that for adversity?

OFF: Lucas...

INT. CIA - SEVENTH FLOOR BULLPEN - PRE-DAWN

Open air. People move with purpose despite the hour.

Standing around a work table are: BRETT WELKER (37) a single linguist -- EARL DREW (46), loves B movies and cyberwarfare -- GRACE HOUGH (32) Middle East expert, slightly wounded. They are examining satellite imagery.

GRACE
You're wrong.

BRETT
I'm not wrong.

EARL
He's definitely not wrong.

GRACE
Please. He's always wrong.

BRETT
About Afghan tribal relations maybe, but not fake boobs.

REVEAL: They are looking at a Keyhole satellite photo of a Mid-East presidential compound. An attractive young ARAB WOMAN in a negligible bikini is emerging from the pool. The clarity (and cleavage) are impressive.

EARL
What do you think the Crown Prince will do when he finds out his daughter's getting nasty with the Defense Minister?

GRACE
It's not rocket science. The guy keeps a secret torture museum.

BRETT
If he Iron Maiden's Farashi, it could destabilize the whole region.

EARL
We should put together scenarios for Charleston -- Brett?

BRETT
On it. But I'll need these for reference.

He grabs the photos as MILES SINGH (26), Charleston's intrepid assistant, approaches. Brett holds up a photo as they cross.

BRETT (CONT'D)
Real or fake?

MILES
(please)
Fake.

BRETT
(to Grace)
See? Not wrong.

He disappears. We STAY with Miles as he moves to the elevator bank. Reaches them as the doors open, birthing Charleston and Lucas.

MILES
Good morning. The USS Missouri -- a Virginia class ballistic missile submarine -- suffered an engine fire an hour ago in the East China Sea. It is currently dead in the water.

CHARLESTON
Do the Chinese know?

MILES
Not yet.

LUCAS
They won't stay in the dark long.

CHARLESTON
I want boat specs and a full personnel roster. And wake someone up in the China Group to give me likely scenarios. This just jumped to the front of the book.

MILES
Don't forget you're getting a psych profile on the Foreign Minister of Turkey at eight.

CHARLESTON
Tell me it's not from Swenson.

MILES
It's from Swenson.

LUCAS
What's wrong with Swenson?

Instead of answering, Charleston hands her bag to Miles.

CHARLESTON
I need to check the overnights.

She leads Lucas into:

INT. CIA OPERATIONS CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Massive and hi-tech, filled with screens and work stations that are segregated into sections -- Asia, Near East/Terrorism, South America, etc. TWO DOZEN ANALYSTS and OPERATIONS OFFICERS fill the space.

CHARLESTON
Our Op Center. I'm sure it's similar to the one at NCTC.

LUCAS
Ours is bigger.

CHARLESTON
Yeah. But we got the machine that goes ping.

They land in front of AL SILVA (46), folksy, unflappable.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
Lucas Wright, this is Al Silva, Senior Duty Officer.

LUCAS
Nice to meet you.

AL SILVA
Likewise.

CHARLESTON
Anything new on North Korea?

AL SILVA
Negative. Missile test is still scheduled for Monday, but you know how impulsive Doc Leader can be.

CHARLESTON
Is the book entry up to date?

AL SILVA
As of twenty minutes ago. Anything changes I'll let you know.

CHARLESTON
What about the Missouri?

AL SILVA
Navy's playing it close to the vest, but repair work is underway. Are you up to speed on the internet slowdown?

CHARLESTON
Confined to Europe.

AL SILVA
Yes and no. The cause seems to be a damaged deep sea fiber optic cable. But it turns out that cable also runs a significant amount of traffic for SIPRNet --

LUCAS
(alarmed)
Any indication it's terrorism related?

AL SILVA
No. Most cable damage is caused by seismic activity.

An ANALYST waves Al over.

AL SILVA (CONT'D)
Excuse me.

He moves away.

LUCAS
(troubled)
If a group like Al-Qaeda figured out how to disrupt the Defense Department's classified internet, we'd be in serious trouble.

CHARLESTON
Sure, but we've had zero chatter about that happening.

LUCAS
Doesn't mean it's not worth pursuing.

CHARLESTON
And there are people looking into it as we speak. Listen, it's natural for your terrorism expertise to color how you see the world, but to be an effective member of my team, you need to keep an open mind.

Al waves them over.

AL SILVA
You need to see this. A video just posted to a terrorist chat room we're monitoring.

ON SCREEN: A video plays of a squalid AFRICAN REFUGEE CAMP. An American doctor -- who we will come to know as DR. SILAS WOLFE (38) -- is treating an AFRICAN BOY at an OUTDOOR TRIAGE AREA. Wolfe wears a CHICAGO CUBS Jersey under his white coat.

DOCTOR WOLFE
Okay, show me where it hurts.

The boy points to his stomach. As the doctor examines him, Charleston spots a battered sign on the wall.

CHARLESTON
The Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Home to over half a million people.

LUCAS
Do you recognize the Doctor?

CHARLESTON
No. But he's American.
(off Lucas)
Only a native could love the Cubs.

ON SCREEN: An OFF-CAMERA NOISE causes the CAMERA to WHIP around, catching the arrival of TWO BATTERED LAND ROVERS. A dozen ARMED MEN emerge. REFUGEES panic -- turn to run -- several are SHOT down.

The armed men approach Doctor Wolfe -- he steps forward -- putting himself in front of the terrified boy.

DOCTOR WOLFE
What do you want?

BAM -- the LEADER brains him with the butt of his rifle. Wolfe goes down. Two men grab him and drag him to an SUV.

The Leader notices the (unseen) camera man -- raises his gun -- BRRP -- the CAMERA falls sideways -- lands on the ground -- showing the Leader's feet as he approaches.

As he picks up the camera we get a good look at his face, then the screen goes BLACK --

AL SILVA
That is not what we needed today.

CHARLESTON
Imagine how he feels.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. CIA - DAWN

A MULTI-FLOOR TRACKING SHOT...

- ANALYSTS examine the abduction video, work the phones, etc.

BRETT (V.O.)
Our kidnapped doctor is Silas Wolfe, thirty-eight, a cardiac surgeon from Chicago, with a wife and six year old daughter.

- An NGA rep charges through a door into a ROOM full of SATELLITE IMAGERY -- focused on Africa --

BRETT (V.O.)
He's volunteered for Doctors Without Borders for the last four years, mostly in East Africa.

- MONITORS shows biographical information on Wolfe and his circle -- An FBI rep hard at work with CIA counterparts --

CHARLESTON (V.O.)
Any idea why he was abducted? Beside being American?

The CAMERA passes up through BLACK, emerging into:

INT. CIA - SEVENTH FLOOR HALLWAY - MORNING

The morning meeting is underway. The Briefing Team has wheeled their chairs into the hall, joined by support staff.

BRETT
Not yet. FBI is digging into his background, but right now it seems like a case of wrong place, wrong time.

EARL
Might explain the fragmentary intel NSA picked up out of Somalia last week about a mystery event.

CHARLESTON
Where are we with the kidnappers?

BRETT
Could be bandits or local militia. Could be Al-Shabbab.
(MORE)

BRETT (CONT'D)
The working group is looking at a screen capture of the ring leader, while we run facial recognition.

CHARLESTON
Any indication what they're planning to do with the good doctor?

LUCAS
Sell him or kill him. Al-Qaeda would love to get their hands on an American like Wolfe. There's a good chance our kidnappers might trade Wolfe to the mothership for a pile of cash.

CHARLESTON
Let's have CTC contact British liaison. The Brits have good reach in Kenya, I'm betting they can add to the conversation.
(then)
All right, I brief the President in ninety minutes. I need answers in sixty.

The meeting begins to break up. Miles approaches.

MILES
Director Ross wants to see you.

OFF: Charleston, *this can't be good...*

INT. CIA - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

DIRECTOR SPENCER ROSS (52) sits behind his desk, reading a classified file. He's a shrewd operator, and a force to be reckoned with.

CHARLESTON
(appearing in the doorway)
You're here early.

He waves her in.

DIRECTOR ROSS
I thought I told you to drop the narco connection from yesterday's brief.

CHARLESTON
I couldn't. POTUS was expecting to see it.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Charleston, I'm your boss.

CHARLESTON
Yes, sir. And POTUS is yours.

He studies her for a moment.

DIRECTOR ROSS
You're not very political, are you?

CHARLESTON
Thank you, sir.

DIRECTOR ROSS
It wasn't a compliment. Now what's this I hear about an American being abducted overseas?

CHARLESTON
A doctor in Kenya. We're into it. Right now, it's too soon to tell whether it's actionable.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Regardless, I want it left out of today's briefing. The President has a lot on his plate. We need him to focus on North Korea.

CHARLESTON
Anything else?

DIRECTOR ROSS
Yes. The Turkish Foreign Minister is coming by here before his meeting with the President. I need someone to do a show and tell on the latest Syria developments.

CHARLESTON
I'll have Grace do it.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Have Lucas join her.

He goes back to his file, finished with her. She doesn't leave. Annoyed, he looks back up.

DIRECTOR ROSS (CONT'D)
Something else?

CHARLESTON
I should be the one picking the members of my team.

DIRECTOR ROSS
First of all, it's not <u>your</u> team. It's <u>mine</u>. And secondly, I needed someone you couldn't bully. Lucas Wright has excellent credentials. He's the analyst who found the Russia connection in Qatana. So play nice.

CHARLESTON
Yes, sir. But Mitchell would've been a better fit.

She walks out. OFF: Ross...

INT. CIA - SEVENTH FLOOR - LUCAS'S OFFICE - MORNING

Lucas enters with Miles to find a box waiting on the desk.

MILES
I had your stuff brought up from the second floor.

LUCAS
Awesome. Thanks.

He starts to unpack.

MILES
A word of advice? Charleston's not a big fan of personal memorabilia. She thinks it can be distracting.

LUCAS
Good to know.

He unpacks a candid PHOTO of him with his large family (four brothers, three sisters) and puts it on his desk.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
So who should I talk to about the SIPRNet slowdown?

MILES
Did Charleston ask you to run it down?

LUCAS
We discussed it.

MILES
Talk to Bishop down in IOC.

LUCAS
Thanks.

INT. CIA - CHARLESTON'S OFFICE - MORNING

Charleston is looking at a rundown on the USS Missouri. She finds a note in the file. Checks her watch. Picks up the phone. As she dials, we hear HEAVY METAL and CUT TO:

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - MORNING

NICOLE FISHER (34) is out for a run. We recognize her as the woman from the backseat of Charleston's nightmare. The Metal cuts out as her phone rings.

NICOLE
(answering)
This is Nicole.

INTERCUT WITH CHARLESTON

CHARLESTON
Don't tell me you're jogging.

NICOLE
Every morning. And I get regular massages, too.

CHARLESTON
I hate you.

NICOLE
Don't hate me, join me. Life in the private sector is awesome. Not to mention Stoker-Jacobs' ridiculous expense account.

CHARLESTON
Sorry, I'm not ready to sell my soul just yet.

NICOLE
Well, when you are, everyone in town is going to want to hire you.

CHARLESTON
Did your guys help with the retrofitting on the USS Missouri last year?

NICOLE
I think so. Why?

CHARLESTON
Can you have someone call me about it ASAP. I have a question about the engine upgrade.

NICOLE
Sure. Hey, did I just see Scott Cooper doing the walk of shame outside your building?

CHARLESTON
No comment.

She hangs up as Brett appears in the doorway.

BRETT
We got trouble. I'm hearing rumors that the Missouri was in Chinese waters to pick up a CIA asset.

CHARLESTON
(shit)
Who's running the op?

BRETT
I'm working on that.

CHARLESTON
If the Chinese find out we're exfilling an asset, they'll send the entire South Fleet to get 'em back. And we start talking World War Three.

BRETT
I'll work faster.
(hesitates, then)
Listen, Grace's divorce just finalized --

CHARLESTON
So?

BRETT
So maybe cut her a little slack today.

CHARLESTON
Did she ask you to say something?

BRETT
No. And she'd kick my ass if she knew I had.

CHARLESTON
For good reason. Grace is a tough operator. She knows how to keep her personal life at home. She doesn't need you looking out for her. And I don't need you lusting after her now that she's single --

BRETT
What? I'm not --

CHARLESTON
Please. You've been sizing her up every since they separated. Stick to the Congressional interns. And get me that run down on the asset.

Chastened, he leaves, replaced by Miles.

MILES
Swenson's here.

CHARLESTON
Ask Lucas to get started. I'll join him in a minute.

MILES
He went down to IOC about the SPIRNet slowdown.
(off her)
He said you discussed it.

CHARLESTON
(annoyed)
We did. I told him to leave it alone.

MILES
I'll get him back up here.

CHARLESTON
(as he turns)
Did we hear back from British Intel on the doctor?

MILES
Not yet.

This doesn't sit well with Charleston. She checks her watch.

CHARLESTON
Is Porter Jefferies in town?

MILES
You can't call him.

CHARLESTON
I know --

MILES
Seriously, there are strict rules --

CHARLESTON
I know. I was just asking.
(off his skepticism)
Go away.

Miles exits. She looks at her secure telephone -- hesitates --

INT. CIA. SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

DR. KENNETH SWENSON (41) slightly mad scientist, looks up as Lucas enters.

LUCAS
Hi. Lucas Wright.

SWENSON
Ken Swenson.

LUCAS
(sits)
So you've done a psych profile of the Foreign Minister of Turkey.

SWENSON
Yes.

LUCAS
Why?

SWENSON
We do one for every foreign envoy that meets with the President. They can be quite useful in statesmanship.

LUCAS
Strengths and weaknesses?

SWENSON
Yes. And predilections.

LUCAS
Is that like when a guy's got a thing for feet?

SWENSON
Do you have a thing for feet, Lucas?

CHARLESTON
(entering)
Don't answer that. You do not want Dr. Swenson inside your head.

SWENSON
She's upset because I suggested that her desire to please the President is rooted in her father abandoning her at an early age.

CHARLESTON
Ken, how'd you like to spend the rest of your career analyzing shepherds in Turkmenistan?

SWENSON
I'm allergic to wool.

CHARLESTON
Then I suggest you do your job.

He slides a report across the table.

SWENSON
According to my analysis, Foreign Minister Ahmet Gezman is an assertive narcissist, with a high IQ and domineering personality -- as well as an unabashed womanizer with mistresses spread throughout the country. He is unrefined, unpredictable and a daredevil.

CHARLESTON
Define daredevil.

SWENSON
He once wrestled a bear --

LUCAS
Cool. What kind?

CHARLESTON
Not important.
(to Swenson)
(MORE)

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
So you’re saying Gezman’s not your typical foreign head of state.

SWENSON
He’s the love child of Vladimir Putin and Cassanova.

The door opens revealing Miles.

MILES
Sorry, but there’s new intel on the Doctor.

CHARLESTON
(to Swenson)
Excuse us.

She and Lucas steps out into:

INT. CIA - SEVENTH FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As soon as they clear...

CHARLESTON
You went down to IOC.

LUCAS
Yeah. I just --

CHARLESTON
Save it. These few hours before I brief the President are crucial. I can’t have you running around, chasing hunches.

LUCAS
If it makes you feel any better, you were right. All signs point to natural causes.

They enter the BULLPEN where Brett and Grace are waiting.

LUCAS (CONT’D)
Which is what they told you when <u>you</u> called, five minutes before I went down there.

Before Charleston can reply --

BRETT
We’ve got some clarity on who took Doctor Wolfe.

As they talk we go into BOOK MODE, cutting to stylized visuals of the intel being discussed -- where *what we don't know* is out of focus or blank -- and *what we do know* gets erased or altered when new information changes our understanding.

GRACE
Facial recognition got a match. His name is Jacob Mungai. He's ex-military turned terrorist.

BOOK MODE: JACOB MUNGAI stands center screen. Around him are out of focus figures.

CHARLESTON
What's his affiliation?

GRACE
A Somali source claims Mungai has links to Al-Ittihaad al-Islami.

BOOK MODE: The figures around Mungai come into focus, wearing green fatigues, faces hidden beneath red and white head scarves. A LIST flows down the right side of the screen, highlighting their activity for the last twelve months.

CHARLESTON
(unimpressed)
We've used this source before. His intel's almost always wrong.

GRACE
Nairobi station agrees. According to their research, Mungai's got a cousin in Al-Shabbab. They think Mungai started his own splinter cell, trying to make a splash so the big boys will notice him.

BOOK MODE: red scarves become black, bandoliers of bullets criss-cross the figures. INTEL on Al-Shabbab replaces AIAI.

CHARLESTON
Any clue where they took Wolfe?

BRETT
Satellite imagery was able to track the abduction vehicles across the border into Somalia...

BOOK MODE: FOOTAGE from a satellite picks up the two Land Rovers from the abduction video.

BRETT (CONT'D)
... Where they entered the Bosaso slum in Kismayo.

The vehicles enter a sprawling slum.

GRACE
Unfortunately, they must have switched cars out of our sight, because we lost them.

CHARLESTON
Do we have any operators in the area who could effect a rescue if we can find him again?

A look between Grace and Brett.

GRACE
Yes and no.

BRETT
(off Charleston)
There's a Special Activities team two hours away.

GRACE
But they're already on a kill/capture mission.

CHARLESTON
Who's the target?

BRETT
Talal Abdal-Fattah.

We see this land on Charleston.

LUCAS
That's huge. He's been a ghost since he blew up our Embassy in Bangkok.

OFF: Charleston, we FLASH TO:

THE BLOODY BACKSEAT

Charleston wracked with pain -- BLACK SMOKE filling the sky behind them --

BACK TO SCENE

Charleston snaps back to focus.

CHARLESTON
Which means that operation is inviolate. Are there any other options in the region?

GRACE
Closest other personnel are a minimum twelve hours out.

EARL
(approaching)
We don't have twelve hours. The NSA just intercepted a cell phone call referencing the doctor -- "The match will be televised at ten."

LUCAS
What does it mean?

CHARLESTON
(checks her watch)
That they're going to behead Doctor Wolfe in about eight hours.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - MORNING

A GRAY SUV moves through traffic.

INT. GRAY SUV - MORNING

Charleston is in back, a locked briefcase containing the Book in her lap. She looks at her watch -- conflicted -- then --

CHARLESTON
I need to make a stop.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. STREET - MORNING

The SUV pulls up at the curb. A well-tailored man, PORTER JEFFRIES (40), James Bond's rounder cousin, steps from a doorway. He opens the back door.

PORTER
A bit early for cloak and dagger, isn't it?

INT. GRAY SUV - CONTINUOUS

Porter climbs in, hands Charleston an envelope.

PORTER
This is what we've got on Mungai. There's a safe house in Bosaso. We think that's where Dr. Wolfe is being held.

CHARLESTON
Thanks, Porter.

PORTER
Please. You rescued me from an extremely *indelicate* situation in Bangkok.

CHARLESTON
We got good intel out of that hooker. And I witnessed first-hand the perils of vajazzling.

PORTER
(laughs)
Still *seeing* Nolan?

CHARLESTON
When we're in the same city.

PORTER
How often is that?

CHARLESTON
Almost never.

PORTER
I must say, I was surprised to get your call. Given the Agency's strict rules.

CHARLESTON
A man's life is at stake.

PORTER
Indeed. Take care.

He gets out. Shuts the door.

DRIVER
White House now, ma'am?

CHARLESTON
Yes, please.

The driver pulls out. Over this we hear KNOCKING and CUT TO:

INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS. BRETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Lucas stands in the doorway. Brett is filling out paperwork, while Earl and Grace work on laptops.

LUCAS
Got a second?

BRETT
Sure. Just filling out a *close and continuing*.

LUCAS
I've never actually had to do that. The sheltered life of an office analyst I guess.

BRETT
Trust me. It's a pain.

LUCAS
Gotta love working for an organization that literally governs your contact with foreigners.

GRACE
Lucky for Brett, one night stands are fine.

EARL
Long as your partner isn't Russian, Chinese, Cuban or a member of the Axis of Evil.

LUCAS
They should make a calendar -- Girls of the Axis of Evil.

BRETT
I'd buy it. I'm a sucker for a hottie with a Kalashnikov.

GRACE
Why doesn't that surprise me? Men think girls with guns are hot, until one starts threatening to shoot you in the junk because you've been hooking up with your trainer at a seedy motel. Then suddenly we're the problem --

She breaks off, seeing the way they're looking at her.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Hypothetically.

LUCAS
(breaking the moment)
Right. So call me crazy, but I got the sense earlier that Charleston has some pretty serious history with Abdal-Fattah.

EARL
That's one way of putting it.

BRETT
She was in the Bangkok Embassy when he blew it up.

GRACE
It was her first overseas station. She lost four pints of blood by the time they got her to the hospital.

LUCAS
No wonder his kill team's off limits.

Miles appears in the doorway.

MILES
Sorry to interrupt, but the Foreign Minister's here.

GRACE
Show time.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Establishing shot of the iconic building.

INT. WHITE HOUSE. BAKERY - DAY

The tiny bakery adjacent to the White House kitchen is Charleston's secret place. She's greeted warmly as she enters. MICHAEL GILANI (34), sophisticated, second generation Persian, offers her a plate of pastry.

MICHAEL
Pecan tassie?

Charleston takes a bite. Swoons a little.

CHARLESTON
God, I ate so many of these before my cotillion, I could barely fit in my dress. My mother had to shove me in.

MICHAEL
Oh, I'm going to need to see pictures of that.

CHARLESTON
Never gonna happen. How's the President today?

MICHAEL
So far, so good. But rumor has it, he had a fight with the First Lady last night.

CHARLESTON
About?

MICHAEL
The anniversary. She thinks anything they do will feel political.

CHARLESTON
She's still upset Adam's death became part of the campaign. And the fact that the sympathy vote is what likely won him the election is just awful irony.

MICHAEL
I can't imagine. Losing your son is a parent's worst nightmare.

Before Charleston can reply, the phone RINGS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(answering)
Bakery.
(listens)
Yeah. She's here... I'll tell her.
(hangs up)
That was Mike at the gate. Director Ross just arrived.
(off her surprise)
Are you in trouble?

CHARLESTON
Always. It's how I know I'm doing my job.

She turns to go, then turns back to SNAG the rest of the pastry. Over this we hear:

GRACE (PRE-LAP)
Is this your first time briefing a head of state?

INT. CIA - LOBBY - MORNING

Grace and Lucas cross the lobby, heading for an entourage that includes AHMET GEZMAN (50), the Turkish Foreign Minister.

LUCAS
Yep. Anything I need to know?

GRACE
It's pro forma. We tell him a bunch of stuff he already knows, makes him feel important. It'll be over in twenty minutes.

They reach Gezman and his security detail.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Mr. Foreign Minister, I'm Grace Hough. This is Lucas Wright.

The Foreign Minister shakes Lucas' hand. Kisses Grace's.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
A pleasure.

He's a handsome man and a shameless flirt.

GRACE
If you'll come with us.

His security team starts to follow.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Just you, sir.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
Of course.

He motions for his team to stay behind. Puts a hand on her back as they walk.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN (CONT'D)
So tell me, Grace. Have you ever been to Turkey?

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENT'S SECRETARY - SAME TIME

Charleston enters. The President's Secretary, ELIZABETH (37) is at her desk. A SECRET SERVICE AGENT stands outside the Oval Office.

CHARLESTON
Morning, Liz. I think the Director's joining us.

ELIZABETH
I just heard that. I'll tell the President you're here.

She heads into the Oval Office.

Charleston notices the TELEVISION is playing a story about Doctor Wolfe's abduction. It cuts to an interview with Wolfe's wife, FIONA. His daughter, HANNAH, stands next to her, tears in her eyes. Charleston turns up the volume.

FIONA
-- I know he wants to help, but it's so dangerous.
(MORE)

FIONA (CONT'D)
And every time he goes -- I get so worried -- and now -- I don’t want my daughter to grow up without her father --

We see this land on Charleston. The moment is broken by Ross’s entrance.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Vultures. Preying on that woman’s pain for ratings.

Charleston mutes the television.

CHARLESTON
Sir, I didn’t know you were coming to the briefing.

DIRECTOR ROSS
I was in the neighborhood.

They both know he’s lying.

ELIZABETH
(reappearing)
The President’s ready for you.

With a last look at the tv, Charleston heads:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT TOM WHEELER (65) steps forward to greet them. He’s distinguished and energetic, with an easy charm. It’s clear Charleston has a much warmer relationship with him than the Director does.

SPENCER
Good morning, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Spencer, I didn’t know you’d be sitting in. Keeping an eye on our girl, here?

SPENCER
(yes)
Of course not.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Charlie, we need to have words.

CHARLESTON
Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
You know how much I value the little sleep I get. And yet you recommend that movie --

CHARLESTON
Don’t tell me. You’re seeing poltergeists in the Lincoln Bedroom.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Are you mocking me?

CHARLESTON
Wouldn’t dream of it, sir.

They settle onto the couch. Charleston unlocks her briefcase. Hands the President THE BOOK. It’s a next-gen tablet inside a carbide-leather case. He puts his THUMB on the biometric lock. It opens revealing the tablet -- fully interactive with graphics and embedded video.

He scans it while Charleston talks.

CHARLESTON (CONT’D)
At 0600 Korean Standard Time, the USS Missouri suffered a fire in its engine room while deep inside Chinese waters. The cause was a faulty battery installed during the boat’s recent retrofitting. As of twenty minutes ago, they had managed to restore limited power and are making for international waters.

DIRECTOR ROSS
We dodged a real bullet here, sir.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Thank God. Cause starting a thermonuclear war would definitely affect my re-election chances.

CHARLESTON
On board the submarine is a North Korean asset who the Missouri had just picked up. He has classified intel on the NK missile program.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
(surprised)
Why haven’t I heard about this before now?

CHARLESTON
I only found out about it this morning.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
(to Ross)
Whose fault is that?

DIRECTOR ROSS
No one's, sir. The Asset made contact yesterday morning. The exfil had to be put together extremely quickly.

CHARLESTON
We have Agency personnel waiting on the USS Eisenhower to debrief him.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
I want an update every hour.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
What's next?

CHARLESTON
Foreign Minister Ahmet Gezman --

CUT TO:

INT. CIA - FOREIGN LIAISON CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Gezman sits across from Grace and Lucas who are mid-presentation.

LUCAS
-- recent uptick in terrorist attacks, which we believe indicates a strengthening of Al Qaeda's operation inside Syria --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
(to Grace)
Tell me about yourself, Grace. Are you married?

GRACE
No -- Well, I was --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
What happened? An affair?

Lucas sees Grace's discomfort.

LUCAS
Mr. Foreign Minister, if I may continue --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
Either way, he's a fool to leave such a beautiful woman --

GRACE
Who said he left me?
(off Gezman)
I'm sorry --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
Don't be. I love a woman with passion --

GRACE
(annoyed)
Sir, please -- we're trying to brief you on the U.S. mission against Abdal-Fattah --

Lucas reacts to the revelation.

LUCAS
Grace.

She realizes her mistake. Pales.

GRACE
I mean Al Qaeda --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
(suddenly focused)
You have a bead on Abdal-Fattah?

GRACE
No -- I mean --

LUCAS
Will you excuse us for a moment?

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
Of course.

Lucas leads Grace into the hall.

INT. CIA - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As soon as the door is closed --

GRACE
(horrified)
I can't believe I just did that.

LUCAS
It's okay --

GRACE
No, it's not. Gezman's got family ties to Abdal-Fattah. The second he walks out of here, he could pick up the phone and blow our operation --

LUCAS
(knows she's right)
We can't let that happen.

GRACE
How the hell are we going to stop it?

OFF: Lucas...

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The briefing is wrapping up.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Okay, you've made your point. I'll wait until the tests come back.

He shuts the Book and hands it back to Charleston.

PRESIDENT WHEELER (CONT'D)
But I want a heads up on what we learn from that asset as soon as he's debriefed. Is that it?

DIRECTOR ROSS
Yes, sir.

He starts to rise. Charleston hesitates.

CHARLESTON
Actually, sir, there's one more thing that should be on your radar.

She's conscious of the way Ross is staring at her.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
An American doctor was abducted in Kenya by a new terror cell trying to make their bones.
(MORE)

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
They're planning to execute him in a little under seven hours.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Do we know that, or just think it?

CHARLESTON
We know it, sir. And we have a possible location. But it's unlikely we can get a rescue together in time.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Can Kenya help? I'll call Bensouda.

DIRECTOR ROSS
He won't go into Bosaso with anything short of a battalion.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
All right. Keep me posted.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Thank you, Mr. President.

CHARLESTON
Thank you, sir.

They head for the door. As they reach it, Charleston hesitates, struggling.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Is there something else?

DIRECTOR ROSS
No, sir.

CHARLESTON
I'm sorry, sir, but there is. We have a team in place that could rescue the doctor.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Charlie --

CHARLESTON
(ignoring him)
But they're about to execute a kill/capture mission of a high value target -- Talal Abdal-Fattah.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Sir, Fattah's a senior member of Al-Qaeda.
(MORE)

DIRECTOR ROSS (CONT'D)
He was behind the bombing of our embassy in Bangkok two years ago. If we pass up this chance to get him, we might not get another.

The President weighs this. Looks to Charlie.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
What do you think?

DIRECTOR ROSS
Sir, opinion is not Charlie’s job.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
And yet, I’m asking for it.

He looks back to her.

CHARLIE
(can’t believe she’s saying it)
I think we have an obligation to consider using the team to rescue Doctor Wolfe.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
All right. I want formal recommendations in two hours. Including one from Charlie.

CHARLIE
Yes, sir.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Thank you, Mr. President.

Dismissed, she and Ross head into:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENT’S SECRETARY - CONTINUOUS

Ross is steaming.

DIRECTOR ROSS
What did I tell you -- ?

CHARLESTON
Sir, given recent developments, I felt --

DIRECTOR ROSS
I don’t care. You were given a direct order.

He walks away. Charleston stares after him --

ELIZABETH
Charleston, there’s a call for you.

Charleston moves to pick up the phone.

CHARLESTON
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CIA - HALLWAY - DAY

Lucas is on the wall phone outside the door to the conference room, now flanked by TWO SECURITY OFFICERS. Inside, Gezman bangs on the door, the noise (and his voice) muffled by the room’s soundproofing.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
Unlock this door right now.

LUCAS
It’s Lucas. We got a problem.

OFF: Charleston...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CIA - HALLWAY - DAY

Charleston stands with Lucas and Grace. Gezman can be seen pacing inside.

CHARLESTON
What the hell were you thinking?

GRACE
It's my fault --

LUCAS
I'm the one who called security.

CHARLESTON
Great. So you can both go down for starting an international incident with a member of NATO.

LUCAS
What should I have done? He walks out the door, and his first phone call alerts Abdal-Fattah to our operation.

CHARLESTON
And you think you can imprison the Foreign Minister of Turkey here indefinitely? Cause I'm pretty sure someone will notice.

GRACE
Charlie --

Charleston puts up her hand, stopping Grace. She stares at the two of them, then at the pacing Foreign Minister.

CHARLESTON
Shit.

She moves to the door. Steps:

INT. CIA - FOREIGN LIAISON CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Charleston nods to the Security Officer.

CHARLESTON
Give us a minute, Vince.

As Vince steps outside --

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
Mr. Foreign Minister, first off, I'd like to apologize for the conduct of my associates --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
I demand you let me out of here right now.

CHARLESTON
I'm afraid I can't do that.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
You can and you will --

CHARLESTON
Let's cut the posturing. During the course of your briefing, we revealed the existence of a covert operation against a senior member of Al Qaeda. If I let you walk out of here, there is a risk -- however small -- that you will alert him of that operation --

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
That's ridiculous --

CHARLESTON
Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, I'd make myself comfortable. You're going to be here a while.

As he starts to protest, Charlie exits --

INT. CIA - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

GRACE
How'd he take it?

Charleston look is all Grace needs to know.

CHARLESTON
(to Lucas)
Call the President's Secretary and tell her that we've taken the Foreign Minister off his schedule.

LUCAS
I should tell the Director --

CHARLESTON
No. That's the last thing you should do.
(MORE)

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
I'll handle Ross if it comes to that. Right now, we need to buy ourselves a few hours.

LUCAS
Copy that.

He heads up the hall. She turns to Grace.

GRACE
I screwed up.

CHARLESTON
Yes, but that fact doesn't help us right now. In almost every known case of survival against all odds, the survivor never stopped to wonder "why did my plane crash?" Or "why did I live while others died?" They put aside emotion and focus only on survival. And that's what we're going to do. Which means I need you to go down to the lobby and tell Gezman's security detail that he's going to be here for the rest of the day. And you're going to do it with a smile on your face.

GRACE
What do I say if they ask why?

Charleston thinks, then reaches out and unbuttons Grace's blouse, exposing a healthy dose of cleavage.

CHARLESTON
Tell them the Foreign Minister asked you to clear your afternoon for a more in-depth briefing.

GRACE
Got it.
(then)
Thank you.

Grace heads off. Charleston turns to see Brett coming her way. She moves to intercept him.

BRETT
What's going on? Why the security?

CHARLESTON
Not important. What do I need to know?

BRETT
Nairobi station put a local on Mungai's safe house. He confirms that the Doctor is inside. How did you get the location?

CHARLESTON
It came through British Intelligence.

BRETT
I didn't see the flash cable.

CHARLESTON
Not sure we got one.

BRETT
I can check --

CHARLESTON
No. I'll take care of it. You pull together everything we've got on Wolfe. The President wants opinions on whether we should abandon the Fattah op to rescue him.

BRETT
(surprised)
Who's stupid idea was that?

CHARLESTON
Just get it done.

He walks away, replaced by Miles.

MILES
They need you in the CTC.

CHARLESTON
(surprised)
Those guys don't normally invite outsiders in.

INT. CIA - COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS CENTER - DAY

High-tech. Smaller than the main Operations Center. The personnel skew heavily female. Charleston enters. The energy is hostile. These people are invested in bagging Abdal-Fattah. Group Chief, MEGAN BELLA (43), approaches.

CHARLESTON
Megan.

MEGAN
(curt)
Charleston, I've got somebody that wants to talk to you.

She leads Charleston over to a monitor to find John Nolan looking back at her from a MILITARY HANGAR in East Africa. We recognize as the driver from Charleston's nightmare. A TEAM OF SEALS is visible behind him, prepping equipment.

CHARLESTON
(surprised)
Nolan.

It's clear there's a spark between them. But there's also complicated history.

NOLAN
I wanted to hear it from you. Are we getting pulled off Fattah?

CHARLESTON
It's a fluid situation --

NOLAN
I can't believe you advised the President to abandon the op --

CHARLESTON
I didn't advise anything --

NOLAN
A dozen people died, and you were almost one of them. There's no way saving this one guy outweighs taking down a terrorist with that many bodies on him.

CHARLESTON
Don't lecture me, Nolan. I'm the one Fattah blew up. And for the record, all I said to the President was that rescuing an American citizen at least deserved a conversation before we condemned him to die.

A hard moment, then she softens.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
Look. Abdal-Fattah is going to happen. I'm the only one talking about the doctor.

NOLAN
Doesn't matter. The President trusts you.

CHARLESTON
He trusts the Director --

NOLAN
Bull. Ross doesn't have your relationship with the President, or your field experience -- and Ross resents you for it. You need to watch your ass around that guy.

CHARLESTON
I don't need you to protect me.

NOLAN
You need somebody, cause you do a crap job of it yourself.

CHARLESTON
Look, I gotta go. Get ready to rock and roll. Cause no matter what happens -- you guys are getting dirty tonight.

She disconnects the feed. Over this we hear A GIRL'S LAUGHTER and CUT TO:

INT. CIA - CHARLESTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Charlie is watching home video of Doctor Wolfe tossing his infant daughter up in the air. Miles appears in the doorway.

MILES
It's time to go.

Charleston shuts off the video. Picks up a file.

CHARLESTON
Do I have the breakdown on terror recruiting at Wolfe's refugee camps?

MILES
It's in there. What are you going to tell the President?

CHARLESTON
Honestly, I don't know.

INT. WHITE HOUSE. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Filled with the President's NATIONAL SECURITY TEAM, including Director Ross. Charleston enters, feeling out of place among the high-powered officials. She spots Ross talking to a GENERAL. The two look over at her -- and it's clear they were talking about her.

Then the doors open and the President enters. Everyone rises.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
I'm faced with a hell of a Sophie's choice here. Protect the homeland, or save an American life.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Sir, my recommendation has not changed. Getting Abdal-Fattah has to take priority. We have credible intel pointing to an upcoming attack. If we don't stop Fattah now, we won't get another chance before he strikes.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
What about Wolfe? Is he just out of luck?

DIRECTOR ROSS
The good of the many, sir.

Wheeler nods. He doesn't like it, but he knows it's true.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Everyone agrees?

Head nods and "yes, sirs" -- except from Charleston.

PRESIDENT WHEELER (CONT'D)
Charlie, you don't?

All eyes turn to her, including those of Ross. She knows she should tow the line. Can't.

CHARLESTON
Sir, first let me be absolutely clear. I want to put Abdal-Fattah in the ground as much as anyone in this room. But Mr. President, I was always taught that rescuing a U.S. citizen trumps killing an enemy. To do otherwise is not a sign of strength, but rather disregard for the Americans that we serve.

DIRECTOR ROSS
Mr. President --

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Let her finish.

CHARLESTON
It's true that Abdal-Fattah has killed dozens. But Dr. Wolfe has saved three times that many, and he'll save ten times more. In addition, I believe that the rescue of Doctor Wolfe will prove to be an operational bonanza for the CIA. Not only will it give us critical information on the cell that abducted him, but there is a strong reason to believe that Doctor Wolfe will be able to provide intel on terrorist recruitment at several other refugee camps --

DIRECTOR ROSS
What are you basing that on?

CHARLESTON
My experience.

DIRECTOR ROSS
You want the President to abort a vital operation based on your gut.

CHARLESTON
No, I want him to do it because it's the right thing to do.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
All right. Enough.

The President pauses, feeling the weight of this decision. Then:

PRESIDENT WHEELER (CONT'D)
Go get the Doctor.

He rises to leave. The General picks up a secure phone.

GENERAL
WHIPLASH is a go. This is a Title 50 operation, OPCON goes to Langley, TACON to JSOC forces forward. Lethal force is approved.

Under this, Ross turns to Charleston.

DIRECTOR ROSS
When Abdal-Fattah kills again, those bodies will be on you.

He walks away. OFF: Charleston...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. EAST SUDAN - AIRFIELD - NIGHT

TWO BLACKHAWKS on the Tarmac -- blades spinning. Nolan and the SEALS charge inside -- loaded for war. As they take off --

INT. CIA - COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS CENTER - DAY

Standing room only. Chatter is at a minimum. These are professionals engaged in serious business.

Multiple MONITORS show different views of the OP including from helmet cameras -- one showing Nolan inside the bird.

BLACKHAWK PILOT (V.O.)
Five minutes to forward LZ.

On a DIFFERENT SCREEN we see live video of a cement compound -- THE TARGET LOCATION. One feed is from the GROUND LEVEL, another from A DRONE flying overhead.

TECHNICIAN
Sir, our recon element on the ground confirms Mungai is inside.

Charleston stands apart. If something goes wrong with the rescue, it'll be on her. Lucas approaches.

LUCAS
Popular place.

CHARLESTON
Everybody shows up when it's time to kill people. How's our guest?

LUCAS
Pissed. Although the steak dinner I had brought in from The Palm seemed to cheer him up.
(off Charleston)
What?

CHARLESTON
You could have thrown Grace under the bus. Why didn't you?

LUCAS
We're on the same team.

It's the right answer.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
We're all getting fired today, aren't we?

CHARLESTON
Big time.

A moment between them.

LUCAS
Oh, I forgot, Brett gave me a note for you.

He hands her the folded note. She opens it -- "I know how you got Wolfe's location" -- Lucas sees this land on Charlie.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Everything okay?

CHARLESTON
Yeah. Where is he?

LUCAS
Upstairs.

INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS - SEVENTH FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY

Charlie emerges from the elevator. Brett is waiting.

CHARLESTON
In my office.

They move into...

INT. CIA - CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

As soon as they're inside.

CHARLESTON
There wasn't time to go through proper channels --

BRETT
So you decided to put the President at risk --

CHARLESTON
Don't be dramatic --

BRETT
Don't be naive. By interacting with Porter, you opened yourself up to manipulation by a foreign intelligence service --

CHARLESTON
Britain's our closest ally --

BRETT
So what? You think they wouldn't kill to have an "in" with the President's ear? For God's sake, the President plucked you out of the Company doghouse and made you the most important person in the Agency. And this is how you repay him? By putting him in jeopardy?

CHARLESTON
I repay him by giving him the one thing he needs above all else. The truth. You got a problem with that, the Director's office is down the hall.

She walks out. OFF: Brett...

EXT. SOMALIA - BOSASO SLUM - NIGHT

A shanty town of cement buildings and rusted tin roofs. A mongrel DOG scampers across an empty street.

Suddenly, the night is shattered by the BLACKHAWKS landing in a trash-filled FIELD -- birthing Nolan and the SEALS. As they move away --

EXT. HIGH OVERHEAD - NIGHT

A PREDATOR DRONE circles, keeping an eye on the team as --

INT. CIA - COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS CENTER - DAY

ON SCREEN the team moves into the maze of alleys.

Charleston slips back inside the room, moving to the front.

OPERATIONS OFFICER
Alpha One, take your next left. Target is two blocks to the East. Be advised recon element has eyes on target site.

NOLAN
Copy that.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. BOSASO SLUM - NIGHT

Nolan's team move up the street at a jog. Late night passers-by get the hell out of their way.

NOLAN
Whole neighborhood's gonna know we're here in two minutes.

They slow as they near the Target Location.

ADVANCE SCOUT (V.O.)
(on radio)
Alpha One. I am in the doorway on your three o'clock.

The SEALS land there, hidden from the house.

ADVANCE SCOUT
I count one guard around the corner. At least three unfriendlies inside. Best guess, the hostage is being kept in the rear.

SEAL TEAM LEADER
Copy that. Prepare to breach.

ON CHARLESTON: as she watches the team move into place -- tension rising -- until -- an explosion of VIOLENCE -- the guard is brought down as -- the team BREACHES the building.

INT. TARGET LOCATION - CONTINUOUS

FLASHBANGS -- GUNFIRE -- YELLING -- TERRORISTS DIE --

Then the last door is kicked in revealing DR. WOLFE --

AND A DOZEN OTHER PRISONERS.

Shock ripples through the CTOC --

MEGAN
Who the hell are <u>they</u>?

CHARLESTON
I don't know. There was no intel on other captives.

The SEALS quickly secure the room.

NOLAN
What's your mother's maiden name?

DOCTOR WOLFE
Shuman.

NOLAN
Doctor Wolfe, we're here to take you home.

DOCTOR WOLFE
What about the others?
(off Nolan)
I won't leave without them.

NOLAN
That's gonna be a problem.

IN THE CTOC:

CHARLESTON
What's wrong?

OPERATIONS OFFICER
They don't have room on the choppers for all those people.

ON SCREEN: Nolan activates his comm, looks into someone's helmet cam.

NOLAN
Command, we are evacing the hostages. I'm going to walk out with Kaller and Abrams.

CHARLESTON
No --

OPERATIONS OFFICER
Roger that, Alpha one. Reserve chopper will meet you at rally point. Good luck.

OFF: Charleston, heart in her throat...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. CIA - COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS CENTER - DAY

Right where we left off.

ON SCREEN: The hostages are hurried out the BACK DOOR where the Blackhawks are touching down --

But we're FOCUSED ON ANOTHER SCREEN. Watching as Nolan and TWO SEALS exit a different door.

DRONE POV: Nolan and the SEALS exit the building. Nolan's face is clear as they move up a darkened street.

Charleston watches --

PREDATOR DONE VIEW: Nolan, Kaller and Abrams near an intersection.

AROUND THE CORNER: A PICK UP TRUCK is coming towards them on the cross street -- armed men sitting in the back.

OPERATIONS OFFICER
Alpha One, you got company.

Nolan and the SEALS go to ground as the truck nears the intersection.

DRONE PILOT (V.O.)
Command, I am ready to engage. Just say the word.

The Operations Officer looks at Megan. She nods.

MEGAN
Take 'em.

ON SCREEN: A FLASH whites out the screen as a Hellfire Missile destroys the truck.

DRONE PILOT (V.O.)
Target destroyed.

OPERATIONS OFFICER
Alpha One, you have clear sailing to the rally point. Reserve Chopper is five seconds away.

NOLAN
Copy that, Command. Good shooting.

Nolan and the SEALS hustle for the descending chopper -- Charleston turns away, allowing herself a moment of relief. Over this we hear:

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
Praise for President Wheeler tonight as the world learns of the rescue of Doctor Wolfe, and a dozen European aid workers, previously thought to have been killed during recent fighting in the region.

INT. CIA - SEVENTH FLOOR BULLPEN - NIGHT

Charlie, Lucas, Brett, Grace and Earl watch the news.

NEWS ANCHOR
The daring rescue inside a Somali slum was carried out by U.S. Special Forces just before dawn --

Miles approaches the group. Hands Charleston a note. She reads it.

CHARLESTON
Abdal-Fattah's gone.

They knew it was coming, but it doesn't hurt any less.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
(to Lucas)
Time to pay the piper.

She turns to go.

LUCAS
You want company?

CHARLESTON
No. I got this.

INT. CIA - FOREIGN LIAISON CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Foreign Minister Gezman looks up as the door opens and Charleston enters.

CHARLESTON
You're free to go. I apologize for the inconvenience.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
<u>Inconvenience</u>? I was held hostage. Wait until the President hears about this.

CHARLESTON
I was thinking you could forget about the whole thing instead.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
(laughs)
You're insane --

CHARLESTON
Maybe. I mean sure you could cause a giant stink and get me and my people fired, maybe even arrested. Or we could turn this into something that will benefit you, and quite possibly your entire country.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
What kind of nonsense is this?

CHARLESTON
Not nonsense. We just rescued a dozen aid workers from Somalia, including a nineteen year old woman from Istanbul. If a story were to surface that the Turkish government played a critical part in the operation, you would become a hero to your people, and quite possibly increase the odds of your country finally being invited into the EU.

Gezman takes this in, the politician in him clearly seeing the upside.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
And my meeting with the President.

CHARLESTON
Tomorrow morning before you leave.

A moment, then he smiles.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
You have yourself a deal. How about a drink to celebrate. At my hotel perhaps?

CHARLESTON
I'm sorry. The Agency forbids personal contact with foreign agents.

FOREIGN MINISTER GEZMAN
Too bad.

He heads for the door.

CHARLESTON
Oh -- one more thing...

He turns in the doorway.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
If you happen to talk to Abdal-Fattah, tell him we're coming for him.

A moment, then Gezman turns and walks away with CIA Security. OFF: Charlie...

INT. CIA - CHARLESTON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Charleston packs her bag. Lucas pokes his head in.

LUCAS
So is every day like this?

CHARLESTON
No. Some days are busy.

They share a smile.

CHARLESTON (CONT'D)
Have a good night.

LUCAS
You too.

INT. CIA - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Grace and Brett ride down in silence. He looks over at her. Looks away. DING. The doors open. They step into:

INT. CIA - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

GRACE
Good night.

As she starts to move away --

BRETT
He's an idiot.
(off her)
You're smart, and you're funny, and you have a good heart. Not to mention you're a total babe.
(MORE)

BRETT (CONT'D)
(shit)
I’m sorry. That was out of line--

GRACE
(smiles)
No. That was perfect. Thanks.

INT. WASHINGTON D.C. - BAR - NIGHT

Charleston and Nicole are at a table.

NICOLE
Looks like you had quite a day.

CHARLESTON
You don’t know the half of it.

NICOLE
(off her)
You okay?

CHARLESTON
Yeah. Today just brought up some stuff that took me by surprise.

Her phone RINGS, breaking the moment.

CHARLESTON (CONT’D)
(answering)
Hello?

OFF: Charleston...

INT. WHITE HOUSE BAKERY - NIGHT

President Wheeler sits at the counter eating a pie. Charleston appears in the doorway behind him.

CHARLESTON
Good evening, Mr. President.

He turns to see her.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Charlie. What are you doing here?

CHARLESTON
A little bird told me you were in here mainlining sugar.

He cuts her a piece. Hands it to her.

PRESIDENT WHEELER (V.O.)
You did good work today. It took guts to stand up in a room full of heavyweights and tell them something they didn't want to hear.

CHARLESTON
Thank you, sir.
(off his distraction)
Are you all right?

PRESIDENT WHEELER
The anniversary's coming up.

CHARLESTON
I know.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
I never told you -- the week before he died, Adam came by the house. He was in one of those introspective moods --

CHARLESTON
I remember those. He had about nine in the year we dated.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
Before he left, he told me you were the one that got away.

We see this land on her.

CHARLESTON
I -- I don't know what to say.

PRESIDENT WHEELER
(with kindness)
Good night, Charleston.

CHARLESTON
Good night, sir.

As he walks out, we CUT TO:

INT. GEORGETOWN HOME - STUDY - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Director Ross. (We don't know who he's talking to just yet.)

DIRECTOR ROSS
She has too much influence over the President.
(MORE)

DIRECTOR ROSS (CONT'D)
She’s clouding his judgment, steering him towards idealism, making him forget his friends. I put you on the briefing team to collect evidence against her. And I expect you do that. Do I make myself clear?

And now we see who he’s talking to: Lucas.

END OF SHOW