THE BOYS

Episode #208

"What I Know"

Written by

Rebecca Sonnenshine

Directed by

Alex Graves

Based on the Comic by

Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson

PRODUCTION WHITE	9/24/19
REVISED BLUE PAGES	9/27/19
FULL PINK DRAFT	10/07/19
FULL YELLOW DRAFT	10/15/19
REVISED GREEN PAGES	10/18/19
REVISED GOLDENROD PAGES	10/22/19
REVISED 2ND WHITE PAGES	10/22/19
REVISED 2ND BLUE PAGES	**10/24/19**

REVISED 2ND BLUE PAGES (6 TOTAL)

7, 7A, 52, 53, 53A

REVISED POCKET DIALOGUE FOR SCENE 32

(ADDENDUM TO SCRIPT)

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THE BOYS
Episode #208
"What I Know"
10/22/19
(REVISED GOLDENROD PAGES)

CAST LIST

BILLY BUTCHER.....	Karl Urban
HUGHIE CAMPBELL.....	Jack Quaid
HOMELANDER.....	Antony Starr
ANNIE JANUARY/"STARLIGHT".....	Erin Moriarty
QUEEN MAEVE.....	Dominique McElligott
A-TRAIN.....	Jessie T. Usher
MOTHER'S MILK.....	Laz Alonso
THE DEEP.....	Chace Crawford
FRENCHIE.....	Tomer Capon
KIMIKO.....	Karen Fukuhara
STORMFRONT.....	Aya Cash
ASHLEY BARRETT (VOUGHT PUBLICIST)	Colby Minifie
STAN EDGAR (VOUGHT CEO).....	Giancarlo Esposito
ROBERT A. SINGER (SECRETARY OF DEFENSE)	Jim Beaver
DONNA JANUARY/STARLIGHT'S MOTHER...	Ann Cusack
BECCA BUTCHER.....	Shantel Vansanten
GRACE MALLORY.....	Laila Robins
VICTORIA NEUMAN (CONGRESSWOMAN)....	Claudia Doumit
ALASTAIR ADANA (THE COLLECTIVE)....	Goran Visnjic
RYAN (BECCA AND HOMELANDER'S SON)..	Cameron Crovetti
JANINE (MOTHER'S MILK'S DAUGHTER)..	Liyou Abere
ED FLANAGAN (NY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)	J.D. Nicholsen
INSTAGRAM INFLUENCER.....	Tony Tran
MICHEL (HAITIAN KINGS).....	Toyin Ajimati
TEAM LEADER (VOUGHT TACTICAL UNIT)	Carlos Pinder
JODY (SECDEF SINGER'S ASSISTANT)...	Cydney Penner
NNC NEWS ANCHOR.....	Nneka Elliott
VNN NEWSCASTER.....	Dan Duran
KIDZ (YOUTUBE VIDEO).....	

WAITER (AT PLANET VOUGHT).....	Jarrod Terrell
SAMANTHA (EDGAR'S ASSISTANT).....	
ASSISTANT (NEUMAN'S OFFICE).....	Tabitha Tao
TOURIST (ASKS HOMELANDER FOR SELFIE)	Farleena Khan
STORMFRONT FAN (ASKS FOR A SELFIE)	Randall Baumer
FIVE VOUGHT SPECIAL AGENTS (SCENE 2)	
VOUGHT DISPATCH (OVER TACTICAL RADIO)	

CAMEO

THOMAS ROBERTS

THE BOYS
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10/18/19
(REVISED GREEN PAGES)

SET LIST

INTERIORS

SEVEN TOWER –
CONFERENCE ROOM
HALLWAY
ASHLEY'S OFFICE

CHURCH OF THE COLLECTIVE RENEWAL CENTER –
ADANA'S OFFICE
DINING ROOM

PENTAGON –
SECDEF'S OFFICE

HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT –
KIMIKO'S ROOM

ELENA'S APARTMENT

VICTORIA NEUMAN FIELD OFFICE –
NEUMAN'S OFFICE

HIGH END RESTAURANT

HOMELANDER'S CABIN

MIDDLE SCHOOL –
CLASSROOM (PSA)

QUONSET HUT

PLANET VOUGHT

SC. 43 PRESS CONFERENCE (TBD)

EXTERIORS

**TERRARIUM – *
WOODS**

CHURCH OF THE COLLECTIVE RENEWAL CENTER

GOLD GALORE (EAST FLATBUSH)

HOMELANDER'S CABIN

WOODS (NEAR CABIN)

QUONSET HUT

CENTRAL PARK –
BENCH

MONIQUE AND JANINE'S HOUSE

OUTER SPACE (ABOVE EARTH)

SC. 43 PRESS CONFERENCE (TBD)

ISOLATED AREA

VARIOUS NEW YORK EXTERIORS –
BROOKLYN (SCENE 7)
SIDE STREET (SCENE 19)
SIDEWALK (SCENE 50)

VEHICLES

SEDAN
SUV
EDGAR'S TOWN CAR

OMITTED

**INT. GOLD GALORE *
INT. TERRARIUM SECURITY BOOTH *
EXT. TERRARIUM – *
GATE**

THE BOYS
"What I Know"

FADE IN...

A YOUTUBE VIDEO. The colorful logo of the U.S. Department of Education. Over it, a CHYRON: *How to Survive a Super Villain Attack at School*.

1 **INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY** 1

Ninth-grade students (diverse, attractive) are listening to a * FEMALE TEACHER (50s, off-off Broadway). *Let's Talk The Declaration of Independence!* written on the board behind her.

CLOSE on a GIRL (15). She hears a muffled, distant SCREAM. She turns, worried, sees FLASHES OF STROBING LIGHT (not a real Supe, clearly from the lighting package) through the frosted window in the classroom DOOR --

CLOSE on more STUDENTS. All pivot to the door. MORE O.S. SCREAMS. They're scared now. The TEACHER stops her lesson.

ED FLANAGAN (O.S.)
There's a Super Villain on your school campus. You hear the calls of distress. You witness a violent display of superpowers. *What do you do?*

REVEAL -- SHERIFF ED FLANAGAN and HOMELANDER address the camera at the back of the class. Somber. The class doesn't seem to know they're there, Rod Serling style.

ED FLANAGAN (CONT'D)
I'm Sheriff Ed Flanagan, and I'm here with Homelander to talk about school safety. At the first report of an active Super Villain, a hero will immediately rush to your campus.

HOMELANDER
But to stay alive in the moment, remember to keep calm and follow the LAW.

ON SCREEN: **L.A.W.* Lock. Arm. Wait.** (***** the term *Lock Arm Wait* is a registered trademark.)

QUICK CUTS as Teacher DEADBOLTS the door. Students pile a bookcase and multiple desks against it. Others lock the windows and close the blinds.

HOMELANDER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Lock the doors and windows...

MORE QUICK CUTS: Teacher unlocks her desk drawer. Pulls out a handgun from a lock box, loads it.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 1

Students grab improvised weapons: a pair of scissors, the American flag attached to a sharp pole, a three-hole punch.

HOMELANDER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Arm yourself. Your teacher should have an authorized firearm. But use anything you can find.

MORE QUICK CUTS: The teacher takes aim at the door while students crouch behind overturned desks. CLOSE on their terrified faces.

HOMELANDER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Wait for a hero.

HOMELANDER and SHERIFF ED ADDRESS THE CAMERA.

ED FLANAGAN
Unfortunately, the possibility you may experience a Super Villain attack is growing more likely every day.

HOMELANDER
But by making an action plan, you'll dramatically improve your chances of survival -- and your survival is the only thing that matters.

ON SCREEN: *For more information: www.voughtamerica.com/active-supervillain*. **Special thanks to the New York City Sheriff's Department and P.S. 457.**

2 **EXT. WOODS - NIGHT** 2

WIDE ON THE MOON. Big, full, hanging above the MASSIVE TERRARIUM WALL in the distance. SIRENS SOUND. STADIUM LIGHTS, posted on this section of the wall, ILLUMINATE TREETOPS, as we tilt down to find --

FLASHLIGHT BEAMS crisscrossing over the FOREST FLOOR. Five shadowy VOUGHT SPECIAL AGENTS BEARING HANDGUNS and RIFLES, combing the woods in a Grid search pattern. A HUMMER stalks along the raised road beyond, large MOUNTED-SPOTLIGHT panning the trees, passing --

Find BECCA. ON THE RUN. Desperate. Dirty. Determined. She just escaped over the wall! Scrambles down behind a tree * -- SPOTLIGHT JUST MISSING HER. Shouts closing in -- *Anything? Over here!* Spots something ahead -- BOLTS --

A CULVERT. Enters and presses herself against the corrugated metal, as the humvee passes slowly over on the road above --

FLASHLIGHT BEAMS dance against the entrance, getting brighter -- voices drawing nearer -- twigs snapping --

Becca pulls a GERMAN PARING KNIFE from her pocket -- braces, ready to take them all on -- then --

2 CONTINUED: 2

She bolts -- out the other end, through the brush, towards freedom, towards her son, leaving the stupid fucking prison terrarium behind, forever -- *

3 **INT. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OFFICE - PENTAGON - DAY** 3

ROBERT SINGER, Secretary of Defense, is clearly late for something. Selecting ties from a colonial armoire, seeing how they look against his jacket.

ROBERT SINGER
(calling out the door)
Jody! Where's my flag pin?

JODY (O.S.)
How should I know?

ROBERT SINGER
Well, I can't go to this thing without a flag pin.

REVEAL GRACE MALLORY and VICTORIA NEUMAN. Across from his desk as he scuttles about. They're frustrated.

On the TV, on endless repeat. **ATTACK ON AMERICA.** C-SPAN like footage, digitized, of chaos at the Capital. Heads exploding. Then candlelight vigils, flags at half mast. National Guard Troops rolling out. Etc. Straight-up horror playing as background noise.

3 CONTINUED: 3

MALLORY
Bob, before he makes any decisions, just let me talk to him.

ROBERT SINGER
One, the President doesn't like you, he used the word "standoffish." Two, he's decided. He's declaring a National Emergency, bypassing the FDA, authorizing Compound V for use by law enforcement and first responders.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
You gotta be fucking kidding me!

He finally picks a tie. Starts tying it.

ROBERT SINGER
Wish I was. Doses are starting at 5 million a pop. Pentagon's got a big order in, ICE is next in line.

MALLORY
You can't release V into the mainstream, we're talking an avalanche of Supes, that's suicide.

ROBERT SINGER
In an hour, I'll be standing at the memorial service for the fallen heroes of the House attack...
(calling to Jody)
With my flag pin -- giving my thoughts and prayers and pledging to keep America safe. The best way to do that is with Compound V.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
We were there, remember?! Covered in my Chief of Staff's brains! This was no terrorist, it was Vought, it's a fucking coup! *

ROBERT SINGER
A bunch of their guys died, too.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
To cover their own tracks!

Singer gives her a serious look. He sympathizes.

ROBERT SINGER
For the record? I think you're right. And I hate this. But you don't have proof, and folks are so scared, Vought could take a shit on Fifth Avenue and they'd throw a ticker tape parade. *

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2) 3

Mallory didn't want it to come to this. But she shifts in her seat. Shows her cards.

MALLORY
Here's what we do have, Bob --

ROBERT SINGER
Lemme guess. A tape of me fucking my kid's nanny at her daughter's *quinceañera*? Release it, I'm begging you. A plumb gig on Fox and this shithole in my rearview? Sounds dreamy.

Mallory. Shit. That didn't go how she planned. JODY enters. Begins affixing his flag pin.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
What if we can get hard proof? A witness? Anything?

ROBERT SINGER
If you can get Jesus Christ himself, or maybe Homelander, in front of those cameras...? Sure.
(then)
I really am sorry.

Out he goes. Off Mallory and Victoria. SHIT.

4 **EXT. GOLD GALORE - EAST FLATBUSH - DAY** 4

Find ANNIE and DONNA JANUARY standing by the curb. Donna carries a Duane Reade bag filled with clothes and snacks. A dented Toyota Camry before them. *

DONNA
I'm nervous about driving in the city.

ANNIE
You'll be okay. The plan again?

DONNA
Straight to Gen's house in Sedona. Pay cash for gasoline, no hotels.

ANNIE
No oversharing with Chili's waiters. I'm serious about that last one. *

Small smiles. Clearly, one of Donna's Mom Habits.

DONNA
Okay, okay.
(then)
I don't like leaving you here.

4 CONTINUED: 4

ANNIE
I'll be fine.

Donna nods. Then. Can't help herself.

DONNA
The anxious boy? Really? With the moist handshake?

ANNIE
Mom --

DONNA
Okay.

Donna takes the CAR KEYS from Annie. Then pulls something out of her pocket -- a delicate gold chain with a cross.

DONNA (CONT'D)
You need a new one.

Annie doesn't take it. Doesn't want it.

ANNIE
I don't... I'm not gonna wear it.

DONNA
I don't care if you wear it. I just want you to have it.

She presses it into Annie's hand. She hugs Annie tightly. A lot of unspoken things passing between them.

DONNA (CONT'D)
I love you.

This next bit isn't easy for Annie. But it's true.

ANNIE
I love you, too.

They trade meaningful looks. Then Donna gets in the car. Annie watches her go, a tiny pang in her heart.

5 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - DAY** 5

Annie descends the stairs. HUGHIE watches, pit in his stomach, as BUTCHER, M.M., FRENCHIE and KIMIKO prepare for WAR. Supe-style.

Multiple TABLES -- each one is a different tactic for a different hero. Frenchie works at a table, covered in a GRIMY Russian RPG and nasty-looking SHELLS. Another table covered in Almond Joys. Another table covered in DOZENS of little glass medical vials of EPINEPHRINE.

And on the TV. **ATTACK ON AMERICA.** Of course.

5 CONTINUED: 5

ANNIE
What's going on?

HUGHIE
They've lost their minds.

Frenchie explains the rocket launcher --

FRENCHIE
The RPG releases an electromagnetic pulse on impact, should cut through Stormfront's plasma bolts.

MOTHER'S MILK
How sure are you?

FRENCHIE
Is a guesstimate.

BUTCHER. Burning with a quiet, perverse excitement. Finally. What he's always wanted to do. Murder the cunts.

BUTCHER
So that's Stormfront. Thanks to Starlight, we know Noir just needs a fuckin' tree nut. And A-Train?

MOTHER'S MILK
Got enough epinephrine here to explode the motherfucker's heart.

HUGHIE
You can't just kill everyone.

BUTCHER
That's exactly what we're gonna do.

HUGHIE
You heard Mallory, she said if we can find another witness --

BUTCHER *
Right. I'll bet they'll be queuing * up round the block after what * happened to the last lot. *

FRENCHIE
Wile E. Coyote.
(off Hughie, what?)
Always he chases Roadrunner. Always with elaborate plans. Always fails. I always say, why do this, Coyote? You just need an AR-15. *

BUTCHER *
Exactly. We're gonna shoot * Roadrunner in the fuckin' head. *

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2) 5

HUGHIE
That won't stop Vought. It won't stop Compound V! You kill these Supes and Vought'll just make a thousand more. *

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2) 5

BUTCHER
Then we'll top them, too.

HUGHIE *
So that's it -- we're just Super
Villains now? *

Butcher shrugs. Hughie looks to M.M. and Kimiko -- *

HUGHIE (CONT'D) *
Guys, come on. *

Kimiko is ALL IN to kill Stormfront. And M.M. -- he's more reluctant, but he's also patriotic --

MOTHER'S MILK
They attacked the country, Hughie.
Fuck 'em all.

Annie looks at Hughie. Feels for him. Speaks up --

ANNIE
What if I testify?

MOTHER'S MILK
Escaped convicts don't have a ton of
credibility.

ANNIE
Maybe I know someone who does. Just
give us the day.

Off Hughie -- grateful. She gives him a small smile --

6 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 6

In the RUINS of the conference room, HOMELANDER. Simmering. Watches an undamaged screen TUNED to VNN: **ATTACK ON AMERICA.**

VNN NEWSCASTER (ON SCREEN)
While officials are still trying to
determine the perpetrator of the
Capital Attack, the Department of
Homeland Security has issued a
crimson terror alert --

STORMFRONT enters. She knows he's a bit irked with how things have been going. She wants to soothe his concerns.

HOMELANDER
How's Noir?

6 CONTINUED: 6

STORMFRONT
Unresponsive. They don't think there's brain damage, but apparently, it's hard to tell. *

HOMELANDER
Noir's a vegetable. Lamplighter was a charcoal briquette on our floor. Starlight's in the wind. And you're just... fine with all this?

STORMFRONT
Yes. Because none of that matters now. Because of this --

She nods to the screen.

ON SCREEN. Dull CSPAN footage of the attack runs on a loop, the bloodiest bits blurred out for sensitive viewers. A RED BANNER: "TRIGGER WARNING: DECAPITATION." This is the part where VOGELBAUM gets it. We see his face -- then blammo.

HOMELANDER
And you didn't do this?

STORMFRONT
I wish I killed Vogelbaum.

But Homelander, emotional, seems to mourn his dead father. She senses this, retreats.

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
But no. It wasn't me.

HOMELANDER
There's no Super Villains really on American soil, right?

STORMFRONT
None that we know of.

HOMELANDER
Then it was Edgar.

STORMFRONT
Maybe. He is pretty smart -- especially for his kind.
(then)
Hey. Smile. This is all good news.

Stormfront touches his arm, comforting. The sincere joy of a true believer.

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
Yes, there's been some sacrifices, but we are this close. To -- no more premieres. Or paparazzi.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2) 6

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
Or screaming fans or any of that dancing monkey shit.

Homelander. A twinge of RELUCTANCE. He's not as sure about abandoning the fame and celebrity. About the whole plan.

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
We gotta make sure the right people get the doses, of course... but it's a whole new world.

HOMELANDER
And what about the wrong people? Couple billion of them, they won't just sit there.

STORMFRONT
Don't worry, silly. Frederick had a solution for everything.

We let that final solution hang. Off this --

7 **EXT. BROOKLYN - DAY** 7

A beat-up SEDAN drives down a Brooklyn street.

8 **INT. SEDAN - DAY** 8

One of their usual, possibly stolen, piece of shit cars. Hughie drives, Annie rides, both in silence. Billy Joel's "Only the Good Die Young" on the radio. Beat, then --

ANNIE
There's something really important I've been meaning to ask you.
(off Hughie)
Last I checked, you're not 57 years * old. So why is it always, always * Billy Joel?

Hughie smiles.

HUGHIE
I'm 57 on the inside.

ANNIE
No, really. Please?

Hughie deflects a little. Not ready to divulge what Billy Joel is really about (spoiler: his Mom).

HUGHIE
Just -- was the music in my house when I was a kid. I'd do somersaults to "You May Be Right" that were pretty thrilling to watch.

Annie smiles. Then her smile fades.

8 CONTINUED: 8

ANNIE
Butcher's right, you know.
(off Hughie)
We already tried to bring Vought down the right way. This won't work. Won't stop Compound V from getting out there.

HUGHIE
So it's hopeless? Just kill 'em all, let God sort 'em out?

Annie shrugs. She's an atheist now. But pretty much.

HUGHIE (CONT'D)
Then why are you even helping me?

ANNIE
Why'd you save me at the Tower?

HUGHIE
(huh, weird segue)
They were gonna hurt you.

ANNIE
But you could've gotten yourself killed. And after the way I treated you? You had every reason to give up on me -- so why didn't you?

HUGHIE
I just -- would never.

ANNIE
(beat)
That's why I'm helping.

They trade long looks. She's lost her hope. Even in herself. But maybe Hughie has enough for the both of them. *

9 **INT. ELENA'S APARTMENT - DAY** 9

From 207. Someone OPENS the door -- Annie and Hughie enter --

It's MAEVE, who closes the door behind them. Takes her place on the couch. Watches Annie and Hughie with an enigmatic look. Doesn't show her cards.

Hughie and Annie take in the TRASHED DINING ROOM TABLE from 207. Maeve doesn't seem to care, never cleaned it up.

QUEEN MAEVE
You were stupid to text me.
Everyone's looking for you.

ANNIE
We swiped a tourist's phone at the Disney Store. They'll trace it back to the Elsa dolls.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 9

Annie spots a photo on the shelf. Elena and Maeve.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Where's Elena?

Maeve isn't answering that question. She looks up at Hughie.

QUEEN MAEVE
This is the guy?

HUGHIE
Hi. Hughie.

He goes to shake. Maeve's not interested.

Meanwhile, Starlight notices the prescription pill bottles, the crushed powder, the rolled up hundred dollar bill, on the coffee table before Maeve. She can hold her drugs, doesn't act high. But she is.

QUEEN MAEVE
Christ. He's even more of a twink than in the photo. You could split that shit like dry firewood.

Hughie nods. Thanks. Annie gets to business.

ANNIE
I need to ask you something. It's a lot. I need you to testify.

QUEEN MAEVE
Testify?

ANNIE
On the record. Against Vought, Homelander, Stormfront, everything.

QUEEN MAEVE
Why would I do that?

ANNIE
Because things are really bad. And you're our last chance.

Maeve thinks. Then starts cutting another line of powder.

QUEEN MAEVE
Pass.

ANNIE
I get that it's dangerous --

QUEEN MAEVE
It's suicide. But that's not the reason.

9 CONTINUED: (2) 9

ANNIE
Then what is?

QUEEN MAEVE
(beat)
I'm tired.

HUGHIE
We're all tired. They're hurting people. Sooner or later, they're gonna hurt someone you love.

QUEEN MAEVE
Am I talking to you?

Annie speaks about herself here as much as Maeve --

ANNIE
Look. I know it's easier to just... disappear inside yourself. It's all I want to do. But we can't, Maeve, we can't. This is a war now, and we can't sit it out, we all gotta pick a side -- *

QUEEN MAEVE
Shut the fuck up!!!

Suddenly Maeve LEAPS to her feet! Not angry. HURT. ANGUISHED. Because hope and love and Elena and every other good thing in this fucked up world turns to shit --

Annie and Hughie tense.

QUEEN MAEVE (CONT'D)
Christ, you're an unbearable little shit! Didn't I save you?? Haven't I done enough?? It won't matter, Starlight, whatever we do, because nothing ever matters, nothing ever changes or gets better! And I -- *
(beat, quieter)
I'm tired. Just... take your twink and get out.

Maeve stands. Exits for the bedroom. Off Hughie and Annie. It was always a long shot. But now -- there's nothing left.

10 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - DAY** 10

Butcher. Working with Frenchie at the WEAPONS TABLE.

When -- MICHEL, one of the Haitian Kings, hurries half-way down the staircase -- he looks pissed -- in a French accent --

MICHEL
Msr. Charcuter -- we need you.

10 CONTINUED: 10

BUTCHER
Oi?

MICHEL
Now!

11 **EXT. GOLD GALORE - DAY** 11 *

BECCA. Looks like hell. Sweaty. Haggard. Probably hasn't slept or stopped for days. She makes a RACKET, as a LARGE HAITIAN KING struggles to bar her from reentering -- *

BECCA
I don't give a shit! He said he lived under a pawn shop in East Flatbush. I've been to every other fucking pawn shop in the last two days!! His name is William Butcher!

Butcher exits the store -- eyes widen in disbelief -- *

She sees him -- immediately bursts into tears -- grips him for dear life -- practically breathless -- *

BUTCHER
Hey, hey it's okay. How did you get here? *

BECCA
They have Ryan, Billy, they have him.

BUTCHER
Who has him?

12 **INT. COLLECTIVE RENEWAL CENTER - DINING ROOM - DAY** 12

Dark wood, traditional. Oil painting of ADANA. Half-open door to the private bathroom. It all reeks of history, class and money. ALASTAIR ADANA finishes a gourmet lunch, across from STAN EDGAR, who doesn't touch his meal.

ALASTAIR
Appreciate you coming all this way, Stan.

EDGAR
Well, I can't exactly be seen with you at the Tower, can I?

Good natured laughter by both. Adana waves it off. No big deal. He's playing the long game.

12 CONTINUED: 12

Adana's ASSISTANT OPENS the door to bring in a tray of ice cold FRESCA. (Do we notice the ASSISTANT'S hair breeze a bit as he steps into the room?) He sets the tray down, exits. *

ALASTAIR
Fresca?

EDGAR
No, thank you. Awful stuff. *

Alastair has to suppress his annoyance at that. His father * and grandfather were loyal Fresca drinkers. *

ALASTAIR
So you've had a chance to look over our proposal?

EDGAR
He publicly confessed to a sexual assault, Alastair.

ALASTAIR
And we've made a substantial investment in the Deep's rehabilitation. Our internal research bureau shows an impressive Q rating. He's an asset to Vought in these troubled times.

EDGAR
(amused)
And I'm to pay full-freight for this asset, I assume.

ALASTAIR
We're happy to show you our numbers.

EDGAR
What sort of commission is the church taking these days? 40%? 50?

Adana laughs. Doesn't confirm or deny.

ALASTAIR
Sounds like you're open to reinstatement. Fantastic. And A-Train? You'll need a speedster since Shockwave exploded.

EDGAR
Harder sell. One has-been back is redemption. Two is weakness. Besides, Stormfront has a problem with him. And for the moment at least, I have to indulge her.

ALASTAIR
What's her problem with A-Train?

12 CONTINUED: (2) 12

EDGAR
I understand she was among your grandfather's first followers when the Collective was just a start-up?

ALASTAIR
(playfully smiles yes)
I can neither confirm or deny that.

EDGAR
Then I'm sure your internal research bureau knows exactly what Stormfront's problem is with A-Train.

Adana smiles. He does know.

ALASTAIR
Deep is still a win. Shall I have business affairs reach out? *

EDGAR
Please do.

They shake.

ALASTAIR
Let me walk you out.

As they leave the dining room -- *

REVEAL A-TRAIN stepping out of the OPEN BATHROOM DOOR. Eavesdropping in the bathroom. Fuming in the wake of everything that was just said about him. Motherfuckers!

13 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - DAY** 13

Frenchie sets a carefully made sandwich in front of Becca.

FRENCHIE
Jambon Buerre. Simple, but it's the ingredients.

Becca gratefully takes a bite. She's starving. She looks up to see M.M. handing her a can of DIET COKE. Kimiko sits behind, all of them just staring at Becca, fascinated.

MOTHER'S MILK
Diet Coke with Lime, right?

Becca. Nods. How do these people know so much about her?

MOTHER'S MILK (CONT'D)
It's just... we've heard a lot about you. *

13 CONTINUED: 13

BECCA
I'm sorry, I wish I could say the same. You're close with Billy?

MOTHER'S MILK
Yeah. I mean, sure.

BECCA
Why the hesitation?

MOTHER'S MILK
No one's really close to him, you know? I mean, except for you.

Becca. Takes that in, takes in her husband's love and loyalty. As Butcher comes over (he didn't hear any of this).

BUTCHER
Guys, give her some fuckin' air.

Frenchie, Kimiko and M.M. back up. Butcher sits across --

BUTCHER (CONT'D)
So Ryan ain't on their Social Media. Least the cunts're keeping him off TMZ for now.

BECCA
You think he's in the Tower?

BUTCHER
Not sure. Stay here and rest up. I'm gonna shake a few trees.

Becca steps close, so the others don't hear -- she's gotta get something off her chest --

BECCA
I'm sorry, Billy. I don't have the right to ask you for help -- after what I said to you last time.

BUTCHER
Nah. Wasn't as bad as that row we got in at the *Spice World* movie, eh?

Becca gives a small smile, despite the circumstances.

BECCA
That movie was a masterpiece.

BUTCHER
It was an abomination against God and man.
(beat)
You're my girl. I'll get you your son back.

13 CONTINUED: (2) 13

Off Becca -- grateful -- Butcher looks up to see -- Frenchie and M.M. both watching. Touched. Tender. They've never seen such a human, loving Butcher. Which he hates --

BUTCHER (CONT'D)
Uch. Fuck off, you cunts.

14 **OMITTED** 14 *

15 **INT. TOWN CAR - DAY** 15 *

Stan Edgar. Slides into the back seat, alone, as a bodyguard * shuts the door behind him. He answers his ringing cell. *

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
Mr. Edgar. Normally, I wouldn't put this through, but the man says it's life or death, and you'd know him.

EDGAR
What's his name?

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
William Butcher.

Edgar. Interesting.

16 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - ASHLEY'S OFFICE - DAY** 16

The coffee table is full of uneaten fast food: fries, burgers, chicken nuggets with every dipping sauce. Boxes of unopened Vought toys.

Homelander and Stormfront enter to find ASHLEY standing, * scrolling through her phone. Kids are alien to her. RYAN sits on the couch, writing in a notebook.

ASHLEY
Hi! We're having a super fun time in here. I was just googling the names of the cats in *Cats*. Can you believe Ryan's never seen *Cats*?

STORMFRONT
What happened to your hair?

Come to mention it, there is a strange bald patch on the side of Ashley's head, from where she's been yanking out her hair. She strokes it as she always does, stammers, self conscious.

ASHLEY
Oh nothing, it's just -- never mind.

Homelander walks past her. Sits next to Ryan.

HOMELANDER
Hey, buddy. Sorry we left you all alone. Work's been crazy.

16 CONTINUED: 16

ASHLEY
He's not alone. I've been here. I got him all these dipping sauces.

RYAN
It's okay.

HOMELANDER
Don't wanna play Vought Tournament of Heroes? I'm the main guy.

RYAN
I'm working on my states.

HOMELANDER
States?

RYAN
I write down all 50 states as fast as I can. In either alphabetical or geographical order.

HOMELANDER
You're giving yourself homework?

RYAN
Mom says learning is a gift.

HOMELANDER
(irritated)
Yeah. Your mom's got all kinds of cute little sayings.

Ryan looks up. Tentative. Doesn't want to hurt his feelings, but --

RYAN
Do you think... maybe I could call her?

Homelander thinks that's a shitty idea. *How the hell can this kid still be pining for that lying bitch*? But before he can express this candid thought, Stormfront steps in --

STORMFRONT
You know what? I'd feel lonely too, if I were cooped up by myself in this West Elm Death Star. *

Ashley shakes her head. It's like she's not even there.

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
How about a field trip?
(to Homelander)
What do you say, Dad?

17 **INT. PLANET VOUGHT - DAY** 17 *

A WAITER in a button down and apron -- with embroidered Vought V's on them. Takes an order. He used to pitch with enthusiasm, but that was years ago. *

WAITER *
Welcome to Planet Vought. Would you like to try our new Brave Maeve Rainbow Veggie Burger? *
(looks up, sudden) *
Holy shit! *

As the REAL HOMELANDER and STORMFRONT and RYAN are shown their seats by a STAR-STRUCK HOSTESS. *

WITH RYAN *

His eyes are like saucers, taking it all in. The large sign on the wall -- PLANET VOUGHT. The framed memorabilia everywhere. Photos, movie posters, even the world famous LAMPLIGHTER SUIT on a mannequin in a glass case. *

There's HOMELANDER and MAEVE STAND-INS (in the suits) taking grinning photos with KID CUSTOMERS. Like at Disney. *

(What Ryan doesn't quite notice is the growing energy of all the other patrons staring at them and whispering.) *

RYAN
Whoa. He's dressed like you. *

STORMFRONT
Told you your Dad was a big deal. *

HOMELANDER *
Wait till you try the Big Homey with bacon. And the Mocha Noir Shake, it won't be lumpy like your Mom's. *

The first TOURIST works up the nerve to approach --

TOURIST
Homelander! Can I get a selfie?

HOMELANDER
Of course you can.

As the Tourist and her family crowd around Homelander, the DAM is broken. Now more people approach -- customers and waiters and waitresses. "Me, too, Homelander!" And THEN STILL MORE approach. A swarm. *

STORMFRONT FAN *
Stormfront, love you. Can I...? *

Stormfront starts taking selfies, too. She's separated as she's drawn to more people across the restaurant. *

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

Ryan goes from amazed to scared. Begins to feel overwhelmed. *
He's never been outside the terrarium, now he's in a crowd. *

Homelander notices his son's discomfort at the crowd -- all *
starting to push in now -- *

HOMELANDER *
Okay, everybody. One at a time. We *
just came here to eat. *

WITH RYAN. Someone jostles his chair. From his POV, he's in *
the middle of a CROWD of bodies, all shouting -- arms and *
legs and elbows in his face. Let's get subjective for a *
moment, feel the sensory overload for a kid like Ryan -- *

Ryan covers his ears. *

RYAN
(quietly)
I think I want to go home now. I *
want to go home.

Homelander. Snapping selfies. Turns to Ryan, but it's loud. *

HOMELANDER
What's that, kiddo? *

RYAN
I want to go home, please, I want to *
go home I want to go home. *

HOMELANDER *
Okay. We'll go. *

RYAN *
(looks up, tears in eyes)
I want my mom.

Homelander actually feels for the kid. Can relate --

HOMELANDER
Everyone back away, please. Please
back away.

Homelander, arm around the boy, quickly escorts him to the *
door. Outside the FRONT WINDOW, we see Homelander SOAR OFF, *
carrying his son... *

Stormfront turns, noticing them go, surprised -- *

18 **INT. SEDAN - MOVING - DAY** 18

Hughie drives in silence. Annie sits in the front seat. She
holds Donna's GOLD CROSS NECKLACE. Thinking.

HUGHIE
New bling?

18 CONTINUED: 18

ANNIE
Donna gave it to me. Pretty sure she got it at Duane Reade.

Annie stuffs the necklace back into her pocket.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Moms. The gift that keeps on giving. Forever.

Hughie smiles at the joke. Doesn't laugh.

ANNIE (CONT'D)
Shit. Sorry.

HUGHIE
It's fine.

ANNIE
No. I'm an asshole for bitching about my mom when yours is...

HUGHIE
My mom's not dead.

ANNIE
(surprised)
She's not? It's just, you never mentioned her, I thought --

HUGHIE
She's not dead. She left. When I was six.

ANNIE
Oh. Wow. I'm really sorry.

HUGHIE
It's okay.

An awkward silence.

HUGHIE (CONT'D)
That's... where the Billy Joel comes from. She and I would have these dance parties. She was fun. And she'd make <u>awesome</u> Seven costumes for Halloween.
(beat)
But then one day, she just left. Never called again. Not even a card. I heard she's at an art colony in Minnesota?

ANNIE
Were she and your Dad fighting?

18 CONTINUED: (2) 18

HUGHIE
Nope. It's like a silent alarm went off and she was, like, fuck them, time to go.

ANNIE
(tries to be comforting)
Oh. I'm sure that's not it --

HUGHIE
What would you call it?

ANNIE
I don't know.
(lame suggestion)
Going through stuff?

HUGHIE
Guess that's why I always just hang in there, no matter how bad it gets. Cause I don't wanna be like her. Kinda clingy and pathetic, isn't it?

ANNIE
No. It isn't. At all.

She gives him a long look. Understanding new facets of Hughie that she never knew. Milk this moment. Then --

SUDDENLY -- out of NOWHERE -- CAMERA ADJUSTS TO FIND -- A-TRAIN IN THEIR BACK SEAT. CLOSING the CAR DOOR behind him. *

A-TRAIN
What's up, shitbirds?

Annie JOLTS, Hughie SHOUTS in FEAR --

19 **EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY** 19

The CAR SCREECHES to a STOP -- Hughie and Annie JUMP OUT. A-Train calmly follows.

HUGHIE
What the FUCK?

ANNIE
How did you find us?

A-TRAIN
Please, I can cover all the boroughs in three hours. Just went lookin', that's all.

Hughie and Annie are stressed as hell. She keeps her hands wary at her side. What's the move?

ANNIE
I'm surprised your heart can take it.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 19

A-TRAIN
(warning)
My heart's just fine. Take a step closer and I'll show you. *

HUGHIE
I saved your life, asshole, and you're coming after us?

A-Train suddenly ZIPS right in front of them. They can't help it, they FLINCH. A-Train looks to Hughie --

A-TRAIN
We're even, bitch. *

He pulls a FILE from his bag. Hands it to Annie. Annie reluctantly looks through it. Her eyes widen.

ANNIE
Holy shit. Is this all true?

A-TRAIN
Everything makes a lot more sense now, don't it.

She hands it to Hughie. He flips through it.

HUGHIE
Where'd you get it?

A-TRAIN
Church of the Collective files. But I didn't get it. I wasn't here. You got this shit on your own, yeah?

Annie and Hughie nod.

HUGHIE
But -- why are you doing this?

A-TRAIN
I want back in. So I need her out. Fuck that Nazi bitch.

Whoosh. A-Train disappears in a blur.

Annie and Hughie look at each other. Amazed. Finally -- FINALLY -- something broke their way.

20 **INT. HIGH END RESTAURANT - DAY** 20

It's COMPLETELY EMPTY. Except for a lone WAITER, setting place settings. Butcher enters. A SUITED VOUGHT SECURITY AGENT meets him, motions for Butcher to lift his arms. He complies. Pats him down. Butcher is led to -- * * * *

20 CONTINUED: 20

Stan Edgar. At a table in the back. A SECOND SECURITY AGENT watches over him. Butcher and Edgar regard one another. Game on. Butcher sits. To the Security -- *

EDGAR
See if Mario can whip up those Gruyere Puffs?
(to Butcher)
May I get you an order? They're worth the cheat day.

Butcher. Impressed at Edgar's cool demeanor.

BUTCHER
I assume you got a man out there, with a clean shot?

He taps between his eyes. The bullseye.

EDGAR
More than one.

BUTCHER
So I'll pass on the fuckin' hors d'oeuvres, we'll get to it, yeah?

EDGAR
You said on the phone you could help with Homelander's son. I must say, I'm not sure what you mean?

BUTCHER
Yeah, right. That boy's your only possible contingency against the cunt. Which don't work, if they're off playin' Ward and the Beav. I can fix that.

One might be uptown, one might be downtown. But both men are playing the same game.

A VOUGHT SECURITY pours a San Pellegrino. Carefully squeezes the lime. Perfect. Another sets down a high end plate of cheese puffs.

EDGAR
Thank you, Alvin.
(to Butcher)
Homelander is a friend -- why would I betray him?

BUTCHER
Because you're a ruthless bastard.

EDGAR
That's hurtful.

20 CONTINUED: (2) 20

BUTCHER
(really?)
You turned a racist piece of shit into America's Sweetheart. What word would you use?

Edgar sips from his San Pellegrino, thoughtful. Decides to tell Butcher just a little bit. Comes from pride.

EDGAR
Stormfront's good at making people angry. Angry people want Compound V. Compound V raises our stock price. Look, I'd have preferred V remained a secret, but we play with the cards we're dealt. It isn't ruthless, it's just prices per share. That's all.

BUTCHER
Maybe you ain't looked in a mirror lately, but she don't bother you?

EDGAR
(pointed)
Of course she does. But it's not about me. I can't just lash out like a raging, entitled maniac. That's a white man's luxury.

BUTCHER
So just business, eh?

EDGAR
When in history, Mr. Butcher, has it ever been about anything different?

BUTCHER
And what makes you think you can control Stormfront?

Edgar smiles. As if to say, none of your fucking business.

EDGAR
Look, I have to get across town to the 21 Club, so...?

BUTCHER
Alright then. I'll get the boy away from Homelander.

EDGAR
How?

Butcher shows him his PHONE. Let's do something to make it distinct. Maybe a DARK RED cover.

20 CONTINUED: (3) 20

BUTCHER
Sorry, plausible deniability. But I'll ring your guys when I got him, they zero in on this cell signal, here, scoop him up. Just do a better job fuckin' hidin' him next time, yeah?

EDGAR
You have my word. I'll get Rebecca and Ryan somewhere safe.

BUTCHER
No, not Becca. She stays with me.

EDGAR
But -- the whole point is that he's raised by his mother.

BUTCHER
Find him a new Mommy. I want my wife back. That's the deal.

Even Edgar is surprised by this.

EDGAR
And what happens when Rebecca shows up on my doorstep, begging me to reunite her with her boy?

BUTCHER
You say you just can't do it. It's the only way you can guarantee Ryan's protection. She'd do anything to protect her kid, wouldn't she?

EDGAR
(a beat, a sly smile)
And you call me a ruthless bastard.

Butcher holds out his hand to shake --

BUTCHER
Just tell me where he is, I'll do the rest.

Beat. Edgar considers. Then shakes.

21 **EXT. CABIN - DAY** 21

Homelander stands outside his PORCH. Lost in thought. When a SNAP of PLASMA, as STORMFRONT lands.

STORMFRONT
Where's Ryan?

HOMELANDER
Inside. Wants to be alone.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

STORMFRONT
So? Go in anyway.

HOMELANDER
He doesn't want to talk to me. I -- *
I tried.

STORMFRONT
(warmly)
You're the strongest man in the world, and you're scared of a little boy.

Stormfront puts a tender hand on his arm. She may be a LOT of things, but she was always a caring mother. And Nazis *
sure do care about blood! *

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
He's your blood. Just talk to him. *
Be the man I see.

22 **INT. CABIN - DAY** 22

Homelander enters, a bit uneasy, he's not used to real fathering. Finds Ryan laying on the couch, back to us, whispering his way through the states to self-soothe.

RYAN
Oklahoma. Oregon. Pennsylvania.
(knows Homelander is there)
I'm sorry.

HOMELANDER
Don't be sorry. I'm sorry. I *
should've known that would happen. *

RYAN
(rolls over)
There were just... so many people.

HOMELANDER
I remember the first time I was in a *
crowd.

RYAN
I'm sure it didn't bother you.

HOMELANDER
Well no, we're Gods. We don't feel *
fear or pain or --

He sees Ryan. Feels this urge... to be honest. And human. *

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)
(the hardest thing to admit)
-- I was terrified. All these
people staring at me. Reaching out *
for me, egging me on to show my *
powers. I felt like I was drowning.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 22

RYAN
(looks up, engaging)
What did you do?

HOMELANDER
I flew away. They found me 87 miles down I-9. Crying.

RYAN
You? Cry?

HOMELANDER
Not in a long time, but yes.
(Ryan looks at him)
Maybe next time, you'll fly away. With me.

RYAN
I know you want me to be like you, Dad, but... I'm not.

HOMELANDER
Son. I didn't just wake up one morning and fly out the door. I had to learn. But there was no one to teach me. The doctors kept their distance, they were so scared of me. I was all alone. But you don't have to be. I can teach you.

RYAN
Really?

HOMELANDER
Of course. You're a part of me, we're a part of each other. I love you. I might not always know what to do -- but we can do it together. Would that be okay?

Ryan gives him a long look. And does something surprising. He softly cuddles into Homelander's shoulder. Homelander won him over by showing vulnerability. Humanity.

Homelander sees Stormfront. She's been watching from across the room. She smiles at him. He smiles back.

Everything is finally falling into place. He's finally found the HOME he's been looking for. All he's ever wanted.

23 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - DAY** 23

Butcher enters to find Becca anxiously SMOKING. She turns -- *

BECCA
Anything?

BUTCHER
I know where he is.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 23

BECCA
Where?

BUTCHER *
Cabin outside of Rochester. We're *
gonna go get him, alright? *

Hughie approaches Butcher. (From a table with Annie, M.M., *
Frenchie, Kimiko.)

HUGHIE
I mean -- Becca! That's incredible!
We talked, she's really great, she's
funny, you never told me how funny
she was --
(to Becca)
You're really great.

BUTCHER
Easy tiger. So let me guess? Don't
got no witness? You got fuck all?

HUGHIE
No witness. But we definitely found
fuck all, not sure I'm using that
term properly.

He points to the file on the table. M.M. is flipping through
it with a *holy-shit* expression.

Butcher approaches. Takes a look for himself. It's even
more depraved than he could imagine. He GRINS.

BUTCHER
This'll work just fine.
(looks up, to the team) *
So listen, you lot. Getting the kid
back, it ain't your fight, and I
can't ask you to come with --

MOTHER'S MILK
Lick my big black balls. Sorry,
Becca.
(off Butcher)
We've spied and lied, done the
nastiest shit for you. But this?
The first good thing we've ever
actually done? And you think we're
gonna take a pass?

HUGHIE
We're in.

FRENCHIE
Of course we're in.

Off Butcher. A grateful nod. And a tinge of guilt -- over
the deal he made with Edgar.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2) 23

BUTCHER
Then let's get to it.

24 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - DAY** 24

MONTAGE! If we really had iron-clad balls, we'd set this to the "A-Team" theme song.

FRENCHIE. Loading up wireless VoughtSonic speakers into a CRATE. (Why? Stay tuned!) Kimiko is elsewhere, btw.

HUGHIE and ANNIE. They have the manila file spread out before them. Hughie taps a laptop. Annie takes phone snaps of the dossier PHOTOS -- black and white, we catch a SWASTIKA or two -- then emails them out --

MOTHER'S MILK. Stands before the VIALS of epinephrine meant for A-Train. But he's looking at Janine's Season 1 drawing of the penguin with the chainsaw. Folded from repeated viewings. Thoughtful. *Is he ever gonna see her again?*

BUTCHER. At the gun table, loading an assault rifle. BECCA steps up to join -- selects a pistol -- expertly checks it, loads in a clip. Butcher throws her a look. *

BECCA
What? Remember that range at Fort *
Bragg? I was a better shot than *
you. *

It's fun to see a beat of their coy playfulness. *

BUTCHER *
Well, you had a bloody good teacher. *

BECCA *
I like your friends. Especially
Hughie. Bet he's good for you.

BUTCHER
He natters on like a balmy old
crone. Becca, look. You ain't
going with us.

BECCA
Ryan won't come with you, he doesn't
know you.

BUTCHER
It ain't safe for you. And I
can't...
(lose you again)

BECCA
He's my son.

Long beat. The two of them. He nods. Okay.

24 CONTINUED: 24

BECCA (CONT'D)
I have to ask you something.

BUTCHER
Anything.

24 CONTINUED: (2) 24

BECCA
Promise you'll save Ryan. No matter what happens. Get him back to me.

BUTCHER
Course I will.

BECCA
He can't grow up like Homelander, *
Billy, think of the hundreds of *
people he'd... I need you to swear. *
Swear on your brother's soul.

BUTCHER
(beat)
I swear on Lenny's soul.

Relieved, Becca pulls him close and kisses him. Butcher lets himself have this moment. Sees this future with Becca and wants it even more. His old life. His love.

This is everything --

As long as she never finds out what he's done.

CLOSE ON: he CLUTCHES THAT DARK RED CELLPHONE... his line to Edgar... the way to get Becca to himself...

25 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - KIMIKO'S ROOM - DAY** 25

Kimiko sits on her cot. Carefully folding a square of paper... into an origami mouse. She examines it. *Not bad.* She sets it on the shelf. Next to the mouse Kenji made. Brother and sister mouse.

Frenchie approaches. Watches her a moment. She looks up.

FRENCHIE
I could use some help loading the car.

Kimiko doesn't move. After a beat, she signs to Frenchie --

KIMIKO
(subtitled signing)
What if it happens again? When I see Stormfront -- what if I freeze?

FRENCHIE
You said 'freeze,' yes? Sorry, I am still learning.

She nods. Frenchie sits beside her.

FRENCHIE (CONT'D)
If there's one thing I know, it's that you can take care of yourself.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

FRENCHIE (CONT'D)
So when the time comes, you'll know what to do.

They trade looks. A real moment. He's not trying to save her or protect her. They're equals. She nods, grateful.

He offers his hand to her. She lets him pull her up. As they head out --

26 **EXT. CABIN - DAY** 26 *

CLOSE on a beat-up DEEP action figure posed on a porch rail -- *

Reveal Ryan. He narrows his eyes, trying to summon the power of his laser eyes... but just can't seem to find any juice. Homelander and Stormfront watch. Trying to be encouraging --

HOMELANDER
You'll get it. It helps to imagine someone you hate.

RYAN
At home, when I say *hate*, I have to put a quarter in the swear jar.

HOMELANDER
No swear jar here.

RYAN
But -- I don't really hate anyone.

STORMFRONT
That's really sweet, Ryan. But it's also something we can't afford. See, we're under attack.

RYAN
We are?

Does Homelander buy this? He goes with it.

STORMFRONT
There's bad guys who want to hurt people who look like us. Wipe us from the Earth, just because of the color of our skin.

RYAN
Really?

STORMFRONT
They call it a 'White Genocide.' And we're gonna need your help to protect our kind.

HOMELANDER
So try again, son.

26 CONTINUED: 26

Ryan focuses in. Thinks about bad guys. Jesus, teaching this kid racist aggression is NOT a good move. Maybe the SLIGHTEST TINGE of RED in his eyes when -- *

Suddenly, Stormfront's phone DINGS. Ding ding ding ding. Blowing up with alerts. She pulls it out, turns away -- her face drops, COMPLETELY STUNNED. Not easy to stun her, but --

STORMFRONT
You gotta be fucking kidding me!

HOMELANDER
What's going on?

Stormfront looks to him. Anger burning.

27 **EXT. WOODS - DAY** 27

Frenchie and Kimiko stack a four foot PYRAMID of Sonos-style SPEAKERS on the ground. Two mainframe backpacks beside them, a few speakers remaining that they still need to stack.

Kimiko signs: *Are you sure they'll all stay linked?*

FRENCHIE
Yes, they will. Believe me, this is nothing compared to the raves I set up in Algiers.

Kimiko smiles, signs: *Do you dance?*

FRENCHIE (CONT'D)
Of course I dance. What is the point of life without dancing?

WHOOSH. They look up to see Stormfront's distinctive figure FLYING OVERHEAD. Frenchie grabs his walkie --

FRENCHIE (CONT'D)
She's on the move.

28 **INT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** 28 *

POV. ALSO SEE STORMFRONT, SAILING ACROSS THE SKY, her PLASMA BOLTS SWIRLING AROUND HER --

It's BUTCHER. Peering out from the entrance of a LARGE, RUSTY QUONSET HUT. He speaks into his WALKIE -- *

BUTCHER
I see her. We gotta go now, * Frenchie. You close?

He pivots into the hut to see -- *

TWO CARS parked side-by-side. A STAGING AREA. An SUV with Becca. A SEDAN with M.M., Annie, and Hughie (same one they visited Maeve in).

28 CONTINUED: 28

FRENCHIE (O.S.)
Un moment!

Butcher locks eyes with a worried Becca. It'll be okay.

THE SEDAN. M.M. in the drivers seat. Annie sits shotgun, Hughie in the back. They all huddle around Annie's PHONE.

HUGHIE
Holy shit. It broke --

As we go in **CLOSE ON ANNIE'S SCREEN:**

THOMAS ROBERTS
Stunning news coming out of Vought Tower in New York City, concerning Stormfront and alleged Nazi ties --

29 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - HALLWAY - DAY** 29

Stormfront strides down the halls. People give her a wide berth. Trying not to stare, but definitely staring. Like she's some kind of monster. Passing --

QUEEN MAEVE. Watching her pass. A poker face. But deep down? Wondering whether it's time to pick a side. (We're setting up something for later, so get a CU here please!)

THOMAS ROBERTS (V.O.)
Incredibly, she may be as old as 100 years. Even more incredible, we have authenticated photos showing Stormfront with Nazi High Command, including Goebbels and Goering.

30 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 30

Stormfront enters, approaches the flat screen playing:

PHOTOGRAPHS of Stormfront and Goebbels in wartime Germany.

CLOSE on Stormfront. A mix of rage and sadness on her face as they flash more PICTURES: Stormfront and FREDERICK VOUGHT in Nazi uniforms, Stormfront and Frederick's wedding...

THOMAS ROBERTS
Already, an intense international outcry has emerged. Under strict anti-Nazi laws, the German Chancellor has placed all 36 U.S. military bases off limits to Supes --

A SNAP of STATIC -- to an INSTAGRAM VIDEO --

INSTAGRAM INFLUENCER
I can't believe I actually have to say this, this day and age? BUT YO, NAZIS ARE BAD!

30 CONTINUED: 30

A SNAP of STATIC -- YOUTUBE. The first joke videos are already sprouting. A cartoon Stormfront goose-stepping:

KIDZ (V.O.)
(to 'twinkle, twinkle')
Nazi Stormfront, Hitler's Star, Run Her Over With a Car --

31 **INT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** 31 *

IN THE SEDAN. BACK with M.M., HUGHIE and ANNIE. Still watching ANNIE'S PHONE. Fucking BLOWN AWAY. It's happening!

HUGHIE
Wow. Catchy.

When Frenchie runs into the hut, up to the two cars. Kimiko running behind -- *

MOTHER'S MILK
You ready?

FRENCHIE
Oui!

Frenchie nods. M.M. CLIMBS OUT, starts to head to the hut doorway. As Frenchie pulls his laptop from M.M.'s Sedan -- we see a .WAV FILE, ready to play. As Mother's Milk NODS to Butcher and Becca in the adjacent SUV -- * *

32 **INT. CABIN - DAY** 32

Homelander and Ryan watch television.

ON SCREEN. Our NNC NEWS ANCHOR.

NNC NEWS ANCHOR
How can we possibly let Vought release Compound V in light of this unprecedented malfeasance? A Nazi in Seven Tower? Was she a part of the attack on Congress? *

RYAN
What's malfeasance?

Homelander just stares. His life unraveling. *This is not how he wanted things to go.*

HOMELANDER
Never mind. It's just a --

Suddenly an EAR-PIERCING HIGH-PITCHED SOUND blasts through the air. An assault on their sensitive hearing. Ryan SCREAMS and covers his ears. In terrible pain. Homelander grimaces: *FUCK THAT HURTS.*

32 CONTINUED: 32

RYAN
What's happening?

HOMELANDER
I don't know.
(then)
Stay here.

Homelander exits the cabin --

33 **INT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** 33 *

Mother's Milk. Watching the skies. At the hut door. *

POV. Sees Homelander FLY OVERHEAD.

He turns back into the hut -- calls to Butcher -- *

MOTHER'S MILK
NOW!

IN THE SUV. Butcher gives Becca a look -- here goes everything -- GUNS IT, speeding away --

TEARING OUT of the QUONSET HUT, past MOTHER'S MILK, who watches them go. Tense. God help them. *

34 **EXT. CABIN - DAY** 34

Butcher's SUV races up to the CABIN. Hard stop. Butcher jumps out, races for the cabin. Becca right behind, carrying a pair of noise-canceling HEADPHONES --

35 **INT. CABIN - DAY** 35

BECCA
Ryan!?

Becca spots Ryan in the corner. Though they can't hear anything, Ryan's hands are clamped over his ears. Face contorted in pain. It's like a painful dog whistle. He looks up, surprised to see her --

RYAN
Mom?

BECCA
Baby. It's okay. Here.

She gently moves his hands away, slides the headphones over his ears. He throws his arms around her. Holding tight.

RYAN
I'm sorry I left.

BECCA
I love you so much.

35 CONTINUED: 35

CLOSE ON BUTCHER. He hangs back. Keeping one eye on the door, one eye on the mother-and-child reunion. Seeing them together with his own eyes hits him like a truck. How much love there is. A twinge of envy, remembering when she loved him that much -- MILK THIS, PEOPLE -- then -- *

BUTCHER
We gotta go.

As Becca ushers Ryan towards the door, he looks to Butcher, wary of another stranger --

RYAN
Who's that?

She leans over -- lifts the headphones long enough to say --

BECCA
My husband.

Ryan looks up at Butcher, surprised.

Becca locks eyes with Butcher. A *declaration* of sorts. Then she keeps moving, pulling Ryan towards the car --

Butcher watches, considers the betrayal he's about to commit.

36 **EXT. WOODS - DAY** 36

Homelander LANDS. Pissed. He looks around, sees the PYRAMID * STACK of VoughtSonic Speakers. He LASERS THEM IN HALF -- the * RINGING ABATES SLIGHTLY -- there's more speakers somewhere. *

He notes they are Vought Brand. He kicks them over with his * toe. Suspicious. *

HOMELANDER
What the fuck.

Then ROCKETS OFF -- to the next sound source -- *

37 **INT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** 37 *

Find Hughie, Annie, M.M., Kimiko and Frenchie waiting outside the sedan. Butcher's SUV skids INTO THE QUONSET HUT, * SCREECHES to a stop. Butcher jumps out. Starts for M.M. He * looks stricken. Pained. Did he just sell out his wife? *

MOTHER'S MILK *
Won't take him long to find all the *
speakers, we gotta move. *
(clocks Butcher's face) *
What's wrong? *

But Butcher looks back at Becca -- making peace with the * choice he made -- then -- TWIST!! *

37 CONTINUED: 37

BUTCHER *
Take my car, get them both to *
Mallory. Get 'em both safe. *

MOTHER'S MILK *
That ain't the plan -- *

BUTCHER *
Please, you're the only one I trust *
with her. *

He's desperate. M.M. nods, as Becca jumps out of the SUV -- *

BECCA *
You're not coming with us? *

BUTCHER
M.M.'s gonna take you to a woman *
with the CIA -- *

BECCA
No. Billy -- you have to come -- *

BUTCHER
I cut a deal with Stan Edgar.

BECCA
You -- what?

BUTCHER
I cut a deal. That when I got Ryan,
I'd call Vought. They'd come take
him away, you'd never see him again.

Becca stares at him. Incredulous. *What the fuck*.

BUTCHER (CONT'D)
But fuck me, I couldn't do it.
(then)
I did make the call, mind you. But
it ain't what they're countin' on.

38 **INT. CABIN - DAY** 38

Reveal BUTCHER'S RED PHONE on the CABIN FLOOR.

On the SCREEN: "THE CUNTS AT VOUGHT." With the call-in-progress RUNNING CLOCK.

FIVE ARMED VOUGHT TACTICAL TROOPS in FULL GEAR enter the *
cabin, fanning out, searching.

TEAM LEADER
Mr. Butcher? You here?

But all they find is BUTCHER'S RED CELL PHONE.

As the LEAD AGENT picks it up, confused, looks around --

38 CONTINUED: 38

-- and finds Homelander at the door. Homelander notes the Vought insignia on their uniforms. *

Everyone freezes. Fuck. He is not supposed to be here.

HOMELANDER
Did you say "Mr. Butcher?" What is going on? *

A voice CRACKLES from the Lead Agent's walkie.

VOUGHT DISPATCH (O.S.)
(filtered)
Do you have the boy?

Homelander and Lead Agent look at each other. Homelander realizes -- an ambush? Did Vought take the child?? *

HOMELANDER
Where is my son?

RED LASERS blast from Homelander's eyes in a fit of rage. Cutting the Lead Agent in half. Homelander turns. A ball of fury. Agents back away, not sure whether to fight or run --

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)
WHERE IS MY SON??

39 **INT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** 39 *

BECCA
I'm not going without you!

BUTCHER
I was gonna sell you out. I might do it again. You want a cunt like that with your kid? *

Becca grabs him. Desperate. Digging in her heels.

BECCA
But you didn't. You won't. *

BUTCHER
You just raise him up right, eh?
I'll make sure they never find you. *

BECCA
Billy, no --

BUTCHER
We're outta time.
(then)
C'mon. You gotta let me do this.
This one thing.

He means the right thing.

39 CONTINUED: 39

HUGHIE. ANNIE. Can't believe it. Watching Butcher be an honest-to-God selfless hero. It means something deep, real.

Butcher kisses Becca, love of his life, trying to remember every last second with her. Then puts her in the back seat with Ryan.

Butcher shuts the door. Still staring at Becca. He thumps the side of the car. Go. Go now.

Mother's Milk DRIVES away. OUT of the QUONSET HUT --

WITH BUTCHER

Watching them go. Emotions flooding. Trying to hold it together as the love of his life slips away again --

A40 **INT. BUTCHER'S SUV - DAY** A40 *

M.M. drives. Becca stares out the back window. Trying not to cry. Never taking her eyes off Butcher.

BEHIND HER... through the front WINDSHIELD... we SEE...

Stormfront LAND FAST on the DRIVEWAY. Right in their path.

MOTHER'S MILK
Fuck!

B40 **INT./EXT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** B40

Before he can swerve or hit the brakes, Stormfront PLASMA LASSOES the FRONT of the SPEEDING SUV --

WITH BUTCHER AND THE OTHERS

48 FRAMES. Horror on Butcher's face as he watches Stormfront FLIP the SUV onto the side of the road.

Glass and metal CRACKING and CRUMPLING. RESUME SPEED.

BUTCHER
BECCA!

Stormfront walks towards them. Spots Annie immediately, protectively stepping out of the hut.

STORMFRONT
There you are. Slippery little bitch. I assume you sent all those lies to the press?

With her attention distracted by Annie, Butcher SPRINTS off, giving Stormfront a wide berth, heading for the SUV. The rest of The Boys emerge from the hut.

ANNIE
They're not lies.

(CONTINUED)

B40 CONTINUED: B40

STORMFRONT
The pictures are obviously deepfakes and you're a lying slut. Besides, people love what I have to say. Believe in it. They just don't like the word 'Nazi,' that's all.

ANNIE
What about the truth?

STORMFRONT
What truth? What's the truth?

CLOSE ON KIMIKO. Wide angle. Shallow focus. Is she going to have another PTSD episode. Frozen in her tracks?

NO. She smiles. Then a quiet CHUCKLE. Then LAUGHS. It's not loud, but it's the first sound we've ever heard her make! *
Frenchie pivots to her -- AMAZED she's made a sound!! *

She signs to Frenchie -- he starts laughing too.

Stormfront whips around, stares at Kimiko --

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
What's so funny?

FRENCHIE
Pardon. It's just, she says the *truth* is, she's gonna put her boot up your Nazi kitty.

Stormfront smiles. *Funny*. But as she starts to sweep a crackling PLASMA BEAM at Kimiko...

ANNIE BLASTS Stormfront back. Stormfront whirls. Fucker.

WITH KIMIKO. Gathering her courage.

THEN SPRINTS FULL-TILT at Stormfront before she can blast Annie. DIVES into her knees. Sweeps Stormfront off her feet, rolls her violently, pins her HANDS --

STORMFRONT
You yellow fucking bitch!

As Stormfront manages to free her leg and KICK Kimiko off her, Annie BLASTS HER AGAIN. It's on.

40 **EXT. QUONSET HUT - WRECKAGE OF THE SUV - DAY** 40

Upside down, roof caved, glass cracked. M.M. is already pulling Ryan from the wreckage, as Becca crawls out the other side. Glass in their hair, shaken but okay --

BUTCHER RUSHES OVER, helps her to her feet --

40 CONTINUED: 40

BUTCHER
You all right?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

She nods. Still dazed. Quickly goes to Ryan, checks him over. *All in one piece, thank god.* *

M.M. hands Butcher the crowbar.

MOTHER'S MILK
Go. We'll hold her off.

A beat between them. Butcher nods. Grateful. Might not ever see him again --

BUTCHER
Thank you.

Butcher pulls Becca and Ryan off the road, into the woods --

41 **INT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** 41 *

With Hughie and Frenchie. Running towards the SEDAN --

FRENCHIE
Come! The RPG is in there! Is our only chance!

When -- PLASMA BOLTS HIT the SEDAN, it EXPLODES, Frenchie and Hughie duck down. Well, shit!

A42 **EXT. QUONSET HUT - DAY** A42 *

Kimiko is PLASMA THROWN into the QUONSET HUT WALL -- OOF! When **BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM!** *

HUGHIE and FRENCHIE HAVE PISTOLS, M.M. has a SHOTGUN, they EMPTY ALL OF THEIR AMMO into Stormfront at once.

She flinches. Feels it, but they don't leave any damage. Turns, pissed. BLASTS ALL THREE GUYS BACK. OUCH!

ANNIE
Hughie!

Annie pivots, distracted, giving Stormfront a chance to BLAST her. Annie stumbles.

The tide turns against our heroes --

Stormfront hits Annie again. Plasma beam crackling. As Stormfront advances, confident, ready to go in for the kill --

QUEEN MAEVE (O.S.)
Hey, Kraut.

Stormfront WHIRLS to see MAEVE -- right behind her! Must've followed her from the Tower! Maeve UNLOADS a FIERCE CRACK across Stormfront's JAW! Stormfront staggers back. Stunned by the force of the blow. Holy shit, Maeve's strong. Maybe stronger than Stormfront.

A42 CONTINUED: A42

PUSH IN ON ANNIE. Can't believe Maeve is actually here. *Helping* them. Putting her ass on the line.

Maeve. Another blow. Keeps advancing.

Annie and Kimiko join Maeve. Now that it's 3-on-1, it's pretty gnarly. And none of that clean-cut, Vought approved, "Dawn of the Seven" shit. This feels like a GANG STOMP DOWN. CRACKING the SHIT out of STORMFRONT. BLOODY. A few BOOT-TO-FACE CLOSE-UPS.

Let's give Kimiko a FEW AWESOME SHOTS. JUSTICE FOR KENJI.

Frenchie is with Hughie and M.M. He helps Hughie up -- they all watch in unison.

FRENCHIE
(awed)
Girls do get it done.

Outmatched, Stormfront breaks free -- WHOOSHES into the air --

Kimiko starts to run after her... NOT FUCKING DONE WITH HER YET... but realizes it's futile. She's gone. Stops. Locks eyes with Maeve. A beat, a grateful nod. They've never met.

NEAR THE VAN. Annie runs to Hughie's side. Freaking out.

ANNIE
Are you okay? Are you hurt?

Annie throws her arms around him. Grateful that he's okay. Hughie hugs her back. Also grateful to be alive. Again.

B42 **EXT. CABIN - DAY** B42 *

Homelander FLINGS OPEN the cabin door, exits. Absolutely DOUSED in blood. Like from CARRIE. Lj will be PISSED, he's so doused. Clearly, he slowly and extensively butchered everyone inside.

He calms from the sheer orgasmic, adrenaline rush of the violence. Then clenches with resolve -- he still doesn't know where Ryan is -- he has to find him -- off this --

42 **EXT. WOODS - DAY** 42

Butcher, Becca and Ryan run like hell. Out of breath. Butcher slows for a moment, trying to get his bearings -- *which way should they go??* When --

Stormfront lands in front of them. A little beaten up. Which means she's extra pissed. Butcher stops short. Standing in front of Becca and Ryan.

STORMFRONT
Come on, Ryan. Come with me.

42 CONTINUED: 42

BUTCHER
Not on your fucking life --

She doesn't let Butcher get close. She BLASTS HIM INTO A TREE with a burst of PLASMA. He CRACKS into it. OUCH.

Becca shields Ryan. Stormfront walks towards them.

STORMFRONT
You're not like her, Ryan. You belong with us.

BECCA
Stay away from my son!

STORMFRONT
Ryan. We love you.

As Stormfront looks past Becca, locking eyes with Ryan...

Becca SUDDENLY SLAMS the very sharp, German-brand PARING KNIFE into her EYE (same one she used on the Guard at the terrarium gate). Stormfront YELLS IN PAIN. Grabs Becca with one hand, yanks the knife out with the other -- blood flows --

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
YOU BITCH!!

AS BUTCHER APPEARS BEHIND -- FIRING HIS GUN INTO THE BACK OF STORMFRONT'S HEAD! **BAMBAMBAM!** But they BOUNCE OFF.

She wraps her fingers around Becca's throat. Crushing her windpipe. Taking pleasure in it. Like she did with Kenji --

STORMFRONT (CONT'D)
Look at me. I like to see the light go out.

BUTCHER
Let her GO!!!

RYAN
Stop. Please stop!! STOP!

Butcher's out of bullets. Starts HAMMERING with the CROWBAR.

WITH RYAN. Freaking out as he watches his mother being strangled. And then... from somewhere deep inside...

His face. Hatred grows.

Ryan's eyes GLOW BRIGHT HOT RED. And BEAMS -- SO FUCKING BRIGHT -- SO FUCKING POWERFUL -- MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN HOMELANDER'S -- SHOOT FROM HIS EYES. FLARING EVERYTHING.

The SCREEN -- FLARES TO WHITE. Few beats. Then suddenly --

42 CONTINUED: (2) 42

CLOSE ON BUTCHER. SNAPS to life. He's laying in the grass. Bruised. Some of his jacket charred. But ALIVE. It's all wind, he can't hear anything. Like in battle. He pulls himself to his feet -- sees --

STORMFRONT. On the ground. ONE ARM and TWO LEGS have been SLICED OFF. Jagged slashes through her uniform and flesh. One eye an empty socket, the other rolling wildly.

As Butcher's hearing returns -- he can hear her, half delirious, rapidly muttering to herself in GERMAN.

Then he sees Ryan. Standing there. Trembles. Eyes normal. In fear -- tears rolling down his cheek --

BUTCHER
That's a good lad. You done good.

But Ryan stares in another direction --

RYAN
...mom...

Butcher pivots to see what Ryan is looking at --

Becca. Alive. On the ground. Leaning against a tree. She's holding her collar bone.

Butcher approaches. Horrified as he sees --

Blood POURING through her fingers. Ryan CUT THROUGH a bit of her neck -- burn marks radiating from beneath her fingers -- too much blood to stem. She's bleeding out fast.

Ryan stares. *He did that*.

Butcher GASPS. Presses his hand over hers.

BUTCHER
No no no no no. Hold on. Hold on.
(then, desperate)
HELP! SOMEONE HELP! HELP US!

Becca grabs his hand. Can barely speak.

BECCA
It wasn't his fault. Make sure he knows that. Please.

Butcher just looks at her. Desperate. Teary-eyed. Knowing now that she's going to die. *

BECCA (CONT'D) *
Promise me you'll keep him safe.

Butcher doesn't want to hear it. Cradling her, still pressing his hand against the wound. But she insists. *

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (3) 42

BECCA (CONT'D) *
(sputtering now) *
Promise me. Please. *

She's desperate. He looks into her eyes, nods. Quietly -- *

BUTCHER *
...I promise. *

She nods back, relieved. The blood can't be stopped. And * within seconds... she's gone.

Butcher turns to Ryan. Sees him sobbing. *

RYAN
I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Butcher slowly stands. Picks up the crowbar, tightening his bloody hand around it. Face twists. RAGE coursing. Fuck * promises! *Is he gonna use that thing on Ryan??* *

BEHIND HIM

Homelander, still drenched in blood, sets down next to Stormfront. An expression of pure anguish on his face as he sees her broken, charred body. Limbs severed from her body. Jagged slashes burned through her uniform and flesh --

Burbling German at him. She looks up at him, desperate. Reaches out her mangled bloody limb for him --

Homelander is overwhelmed by emotions he didn't even know he had. Shock and pain and love. This woman had become his home. His humanity. And it's all ripped away, all gone.

And most of all -- a SEARING DESIRE FOR REVENGE, against WHOEVER DID THIS, bubbles up in him --

Then he sees Ryan. Sees Becca's body. Homelander tenses with FURY, as he puts it all together. He's quiet. Will he kill the kid? We don't know.

HOMELANDER
Did you do this, Ryan?

RYAN
(still sobbing)
I didn't mean to.

HOMELANDER
Let's go.

Ryan backs away from this BLOODY RED LIVING NIGHTMARE reaching out for him.

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)
Ryan. I said let's go. NOW!!
LET'S GO NOW!

42 CONTINUED: (4) 42

BUTCHER
(suddenly)
No.

Butcher steps between them. Clutching the useless crowbar like it's Excaliber. Stepping up and fulfilling his destiny and doing the thing he promised to do. *Protect Ryan.*

Homelander laughs. The kind of laugh you laugh when you can't bring yourself to cry.

HOMELANDER
You're gonna blow yourself up to save the little shit who murdered your wife?

BUTCHER
(weary, what can you do?)
I promised.

HOMELANDER
Have it your way.

Homelander's EYES GLOW RED FOR THE KILL WHEN --

QUEEN MAEVE
Stop.

Maeve approaches him! Unafraid, for once.

HOMELANDER
The fuck are you doing here?

QUEEN MAEVE
You're gonna let them go.

HOMELANDER
And why would I --

She holds up her PHONE. Shows him the video from Flight 37. We GLIMPSE the panicked screaming passengers on screen...

CLOSE ON HOMELANDER as he watches. This is some bad shit. Even he knows that. Even he knows this could be the end of everything. As he watches --

QUEEN MAEVE
Let them go. Stop hunting Starlight. Leave me and Elena alone. Or I release this.

He looks up. She's blackmailing him. No one's ever dared.

HOMELANDER
If you did that, I'd destroy everyone and everything.

42 CONTINUED: (5) 42

QUEEN MAEVE
Great. As long as everyone sees the monster you really are. As long as no one loves you ever again. *

Is Homelander strong enough? To give up the adoration? It's what Stormfront despised. But it's what Homelander lives on. That need -- that craving -- THAT is his real weakness.

BEHIND THEM

Butcher inches towards Ryan. Picks him up. Walks past Homelander without a glance. Both broken men who have lost everything. Almost daring him to stop him -- *

But Homelander doesn't. He doesn't say a word. Just lets Butcher keep walking with Ryan clutched in his arms, out of his life... for now. *

43 **INT. OR EXT. - PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY** 43

VIDEO POV. STAN EDGAR looks into camera. Looking perfectly remorseful, just how the Crisis Team prepped him.

EDGAR
In light of Stormfront's atrocities, the release of Compound V has been placed on indefinite hold pending a federal investigation.

WIDER. Press conference. Edgar, flanked by Ashley, Maeve, Homelander and Starlight -- who is BACK IN HER OLD, MORE MODEST UNIFORM -- YAY -- give us a NICE SHOT of that!

American flags behind them. Jostling reporters in front.

EDGAR (CONT'D)
We believe Stormfront was responsible for stealing the Compound V that created dozens of Super Terrorists, and was the sole perpetrator of the attack on Washington. I had no knowledge of this, nor did the heroes at my side, but we take responsibility and accept any consequences. We must do better. Homelander?

Homelander forces a smile, takes his place at the podium.

HOMELANDER
Thanks to the heroism of Queen Maeve and Starlight, Stormfront was neutralized. She is now being held in an undisclosed location.

He gestures to Starlight. Benevolent.

43 CONTINUED: 43

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)
I would like to personally apologize to Starlight, who was falsely accused of conspiracy and sabotage. I know that you and Maeve are two of the most loyal friends I could have.

PUSH IN ON HOMELANDER. As he continues. The AUDIO DROPS. His family is gone. His child is gone. The love of his life is gone. His teammates have betrayed him. Now he's betraying Stormfront, with no opportunity to truly grieve. *

WE PUSH CLOSER on Homelander until it's just his EYES -- as we PUSH Homelander himself closer to a full psychotic break -- *

44 **OMITTED** 44

45 **INT. COLLECTIVE RENEWAL CENTER - ADANA'S OFFICE - DAY** 45

Camera PANS off the PRESS CONFERENCE on a SCREEN, playing on MUTE, to FIND A-TRAIN and DEEP sitting nervous before a large desk. Like when you're called to the Principal's office.

ALASTAIR
Gentlemen. Thank you for coming.

DEEP
Always happy to see you, sir.

ALASTAIR
I'm afraid we had an incident at the Archives. Someone broke in and stole PDR on Stormfront.

A-TRAIN
PDR?

ALASTAIR
Private data reserve. No one saw the thief come or go. Isn't that right, A-Train? *

Beat. Fuck. A-Train knows Adana knows.

DEEP
Wait, that was you? Dude!
(to Adana)
I didn't know, sir, fuck him, I would never go behind your back!

A-TRAIN
Sir, I can explain --

But then -- Alastair raises a hand. SMILES.

ALASTAIR
I think it showed initiative. Stormfront's been critical of the church for a long time.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: 45

ALASTAIR (CONT'D)
And Vought needs to take a firm Anti-Nazi stance right now.

A-TRAIN
Wait. Does this mean --

ALASTAIR
I just spoke with Stan Edgar. You're back in.

A-Train lets out a whoop of excitement. Nailed it.

A-TRAIN
Fuck yeah! The A-Train is back baby!

Deep looks between them. Expecting his own good news.

DEEP
I'm back too, right? I'm anti-Nazi.

ALASTAIR
I'm sorry. They only had one slot. One hero is redemption, two is weakness.

DEEP
And they took <u>him?</u>

A-TRAIN
FUCK YES THEY DID! Seee ya, bitch!

A-Train exits. Cold as ice. Leaving Deep in the dust.

ALASTAIR
Be patient, Deep. We'll get you into a few more courses, up to Level Seven, and then --

DEEP
I don't wanna pay for any more fucking courses!

ALASTAIR
Deep. Calm down --

DEEP
(spiraling)
I signed over my bank account to you! I filled out the workbooks, I married some weirdo who gives bad blowjobs, when I found out we're all really just space spores, I didn't laugh. I did everything you asked. *
Because you said you'd get me back in The Seven. You fucking promised.

Long beat. Alastair takes a step back.

45 CONTINUED: (2) 45

ALASTAIR
I'm sorry, Deep. You're acting like a Toxic Personality. You should go.

Deep stares at him. Filled with rage.

DEEP
Fuck Fresca.

He turns and walks out. Maybe forever. We'll see.

46 **EXT. ISOLATED AREA - DAY** 46

Miles from anywhere. Somehow melancholy.

M.M.'s shitty SEDAN. Butcher leans against the hood. Beside RYAN. Both are banged up, wounded in more ways than one. Staring ahead, silent. Something in the way they're leaning maybe, you just might believe they're father and son...

When... TWO BLACK GOVERNMENT SEDANS pull up. Mallory and a FEMALE AGENT emerge from their cars. Ryan looks to Butcher.

RYAN
I'm scared.

Butcher holds up a hand to Mallory. Give us a moment.

BUTCHER
Here.

He takes off his MEDALLION, which he's had since day one.

BUTCHER (CONT'D)
This was your Mum's. It's St. Christopher. She gave it to me long time ago, told me it'd keep me safe, and it has, mostly.
(puts around Ryan's neck)
Now your Mum'll keep <u>you</u> safe.

Ryan nods, somber. Butcher leans over, whispers something in his ear. Something we don't hear. Then --

Ryan heads to MALLORY and the AGENT. Butcher calls after --

BUTCHER (CONT'D)
Remember what I told ya.

RYAN
(beat, a serious nod)
Don't be a cunt.

With that, the FEMALE AGENT takes a sad Ryan by the hand, leads him into her car -- as Mallory approaches. *

46 CONTINUED: 46

MALLORY
William, I'm so sorry.

BUTCHER
(not having it)
Vought's gonna want the kid back.

MALLORY
Let me handle Vought.

POV. They both watch Ryan and the Agent drive way. *

MALLORY (CONT'D) *
You think he'll turn into his *
Father? *

BUTCHER *
Becca didn't think so. *

His words are sparse -- but loaded. He's putting all his *
faith, the WORLD'S faith, into Becca's belief in her son. *
Cause that's all he's got. Too wrecked to say more. *

MALLORY
I pray she's right. *
(then) *
All the charges against you and the
Boys have been dropped. Even for
the crimes you *did* commit. You're a
free man.

What difference does it make? With Becca gone?

MALLORY (CONT'D)
And the White House is opening an
Office of Supe Affairs. Victoria
Neuman is the new Czar. She's *
sneaking me some off-the-books
funding for a team that can keep
tabs on the Supes. If you're
interested.

Off Butcher, not sure if he has any fight left in him. He looks up to the HEAVENS and we cut to...

A47 **EXT. SPACE - DAY** A47

That's right. SPACE, MOTHERFUCKERS. Just SILENCE. A sea of stars, glinting embers on velvet. When...

CLOSE UP. Homelander's FACE slowly rises into frame. Staring DOWN with hatred. He mumbles. Murmurs. Whispers. Quiet. Manic. We don't know what he says, and it doesn't matter. It's the DISTURBED FUCKING WAY HE SAYS IT.

As CAMERA WRAPS AROUND HIM TO REVEAL --

A47 CONTINUED: A47

He's FLOATING above the EARTH. Staring down on the hateful vulnerability and humanity and lovers and families that live there. And he's BUCK NAKED. Needless to say -- YIKES.

47 **EXT. CENTRAL PARK - BENCH - DAY** 47

Hughie approaches. Finds Annie already sitting on the bench.

47 CONTINUED: 47

POV. CLOSE ON: her Duane Reade CROSS -- now around her neck. Pan up to her. Just maybe -- she has hope again.

HUGHIE
Look at you.

ANNIE
I know, I know. But if Billy Butcher can do the right thing... then there's gotta be some kinda higher power, you know?

Beat. They take in the melancholy of Butcher's loss. The heroism of what he did. Then Hughie sits --

HUGHIE
Congratulations on not being a fugitive.

ANNIE
You too.

HUGHIE
Are you sure it's safe for you to go back to the Tower?

ANNIE
No. But if you jump ship and let the assholes steer, guess you're part of the problem. Someone taught me something about hanging in there?

Annie leans over and gives him a little kiss. An opening.

HUGHIE
Been thinking about that actually, the hanging in. And I think maybe I am too clingy.

ANNIE
No, you're not.

HUGHIE
Sticking with people just cause I'm terrified of losing 'em? I can't do it anymore. No, I gotta go off, stand on my own two feet for once.

Annie gives him a look. He doesn't want to reconcile? She does her best to quell her wave of disappointment.

ANNIE
Oh. Right. Okay. No worries. We'll just be friends then -- *

HUGHIE
Oh, God, no, I'm still clinging onto you! I'm not fucking crazy!

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2) 47

He leans in, kisses her. It's electric. When they finally separate, they smile at each other. Then --

ANNIE
Then what do you mean?

A48 **EXT. HOUSE - DAY** A48 *

CLOSE on a door. The sound of a doorbell ringing. The door * opens to reveal JANINE. She's a little bit older now. Looks * up to see -- Mother's Milk. He holds a stuffed penguin. *

JANINE *
Daddy! *

MOTHER'S MILK *
Hey, baby girl. *

She throws her arms around him. He holds her tightly. *

48 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - KIMIKO'S ROOM - DAY** 48

THE ORIGAMI MOUSE. Set on the table. Kimiko stares at them. *

FRENCHIE (O.S.)
Ready, Mon Couer?

Frenchie stands in the doorway. He's got a duffel bag. *

She nods. Stands, lifts her duffel. Grabs the mice. Signs * to him -- *where to?*

FRENCHIE (CONT'D)
Where to? We go dancing, of course.

Kimiko smiles. *

WIDE SHOT. The basement is cleared of any trace of The Boys. * Frenchie shuts off the lights. The room goes dark. As they * leave the basement. Forever.

49 **OMITTED** 49 *

50 **EXT. NEW YORK SIDEWALK - DAY** 50

Victoria Neuman strides down the street. Feeling good. On the phone with --

ALASTAIR (O.S.)
Congratulations on the appointment. It's about time we had an Office of Supe Affairs.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
I know it was your intel that took Stormfront down. Thank you.

51 **INT. COLLECTIVE RENEWAL CENTER - ADANA'S OFFICE - INTERCUT** 51

Find Alastair in his office. Also feeling good.

ALASTAIR
That's just the start. We have enough dirt to ruin a dozen Supes. Be a death blow for Stan Edgar. That is, if you're open to expediting the Church's tax-exempt status.

Victoria thinks a moment. Seemingly weighing the ethics.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
Small price to pay. Call my office to set a meeting?

ALASTAIR
You're one of the good ones, Vic.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
See you soon.

WITH ALASTAIR. That went well. He smiles. Grabs a Fresca. As he cracks it, ready to celebrate -- *

SPLAT! His head explodes. Holy shit. Brains and blood all over the window. His body still twitching on the floor --

52 **EXT. COLLECTIVE RENEWAL CENTER - DAY** 52

CLOSE ON Victoria Neuman, looking up. Notice her eyes. Red and black radiating from her iris like a lava lamp. And then it fades.

She's outside the Renewal Center, gazing up at Adana's window (now splattered with blood). She smiles. Pleased.

Reader, she's a SUPE. Our social justice warrior is the one who's been exploding heads THIS WHOLE TIME. Not Stormfront. Not Vought. Who the fuck is this woman?

She tucks her phone into her bag and walks away.

53 **INT. VICTORIA NEUMAN FIELD OFFICE - DAY** 53

Her offices. Modest. Populated exactly the way you would imagine: young hipsters, passionate advocates, retired professors. Posters on the wall promoting social services for the poor, accountability for the rich. A memorial to those lost at the Terrorist Attack.

As she waves, friendly to everyone -- her ASSISTANT intercepts with coffee and a binder.

53 CONTINUED: 53

ASSISTANT
Here's the research you asked for.
And your 2 o'clock is waiting --

VICTORIA NEUMAN
Thanks.

Victoria continues into her office --

Where HUGHIE is WAITING FOR HER. She smiles.

VICTORIA NEUMAN (CONT'D)
Hugh Campbell. I don't know how to repay you for what you did.

Fuck. Before it would have been innocuous, now it seems like a threat. But Hughie *doesn't know that*.

HUGHIE
I can think of a way.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
Oh?

HUGHIE
You can give me a job.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
(surprised)
You serious? What about your team?

HUGHIE
Don't get me wrong, I still wanna fight Vought -- I just wanna do it the right way. Not covered in quite as many guts. *
(then, seriously)
Truth is, I never totally fit in with the guys. It's time I stand on my own two feet.

VICTORIA NEUMAN
Do they know you're here?

HUGHIE
I haven't told them yet.

Victoria smiles. As she closes the door ON US --

VICTORIA NEUMAN
When can you start?

NOOOOOOOOOOOOO... HUGHIE, YOU IN DANGER, GIRL...

REPRISE ONLY THE GOOD DIE YOUNG by Billy Joel and we --

BLACKOUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE FOR VNN NEWSCASTER

IN SCENE 3

3 **INT. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OFFICE - PENTAGON - DAY** 3

On the TV, on endless repeat. **ATTACK ON AMERICA.** C-SPAN like footage, digitized, of chaos at the Capital. Heads exploding. Then candlelight vigils, flags at half mast. National Guard Troops rolling out. Etc. Straight-up horror playing as background noise.

VNN NEWSCASTER (ON TV)
It's being called the worst terrorist attack on the United States since 9/11. Nearly a dozen lawmakers and civilians murdered in cold blood by a person or persons unknown. One witness described shock and mayhem in the Congressional Hearing Chamber as the heads of victims exploded, causing people to stampede for the exits. And today, as the nation mourns, officials are scrambling to make sense of what happened and to ensure that it never happens again.
(then)
Good morning and welcome to this special broadcast of Attack on America. As officials conduct their investigation into the vicious assault on the Capital, one of the key questions facing them this morning: Why did the attack happen at this particular Congressional Hearing? The House Judiciary Committee had just convened as part of its investigation into Compound V. And the victims were lawmakers and civilians alike, and included one Superhero, Shockwave. According to one official who spoke with Vought News off the record, no concrete connection between the victims has been found, and no terrorist group has claimed responsibility. Investigators are considering all possible angles. Was this a random attack intended to create fear and panic? Or was it a targeted assassination, with the number of victims being used to cover the killer's tracks? These are among the many questions officials are now trying to answer.

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE FOR VNN NEWSCASTER

IN SCENE 5

5 **INT. HAITIAN KINGS BASEMENT - DAY** 5

And on the TV. **ATTACK ON AMERICA.** Of course.

VNN NEWSCASTER (ON TV)
And welcome back to our continuing coverage of the Attack on America.
(then)
As the investigation into the Capital attack continues, Vought News has learned that authorities now believe this to have been the work of a Super Terrorist. According to an anonymous source at the FBI, officials throughout the intelligence community know of no other weapons or means that could have been used in the killings. And now investigators are looking closely at possible connections to groups linked to Super Terrorists.
(then)
Just recently, Super Terrorist Kenji Miyashiro, a member of the Shining Light Liberation Army, carried out the violent attack on the East Park Housing Project, killing 59 people. We also know of at least one other Super Terrorist attack months ago in the Middle East, when a Navy SEAL team was ambushed by Super Terrorist Naqib. And Naqib, of course, was affiliated with the terrorist group responsible for the hijacking of Flight 37, which killed one hundred and twenty-three people.
(then)
So far, neither the Justice Department nor the FBI have responded to our request for comment, and no official statement has been made by any government agency. But we'll continue to keep you apprised as more information becomes available.

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE FOR DAN DURAN/VNN NEWSCASTER

IN SCENE 6.

ALREADY SCRIPTED MATERIAL IS IN **BOLD FONT.**

6 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 6

In the RUINS of the conference room, STORMFRONT. Watches the one undamaged screen TUNED to VNN: ***ATTACK ON AMERICA.*** Images of candlelight vigils and flags flying half-mast.

VNN NEWSCASTER (ON SCREEN)
There are more questions than answers today after the terrorist attack in Washington that killed 21 people. **While officials are still trying to determine the perpetrator of the Capital Attack, the Department of Homeland Security has issued a crimson terror alert.**
(then)
In Washington, all government buildings have been locked down and remain under tight security, with police and National Guards patrolling the streets.
(then)
Meanwhile, intelligence officials are carefully investigating the incident. So far, no terrorist group has claimed responsibility, but there is wide consensus among experts that this was the work of a Super Terrorist. And with that frightening possibility, many are calling for more Superheroes in order to counter the Super Terrorist threat and protect Americans.
(then)
Sources close to the White House say the President is considering doing just that, by authorizing the release of the Superhero drug Compound V to members of the military and law enforcement, under the declaration of a national emergency.

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE FOR THOMAS ROBERTS IN SCENES 28, 29, 32.

ALREADY SCRIPTED MATERIAL IS IN **BOLD FONT.**

28 **EXT. CLEARING - DAY** 28

IN THE SEDAN. Mother's Milk in the drivers seat.

In the back. Annie and Hughie watching his PHONE.

HUGHIE
Holy shit. It broke --

As we go in **CLOSE ON HUGHIE'S SCREEN:**

THOMAS ROBERTS
And this afternoon, we have **stunning news coming out of Vought Tower in New York City, concerning Stormfront and alleged Nazi ties.** NNC News has received evidence indicating that The Seven's newest member, Stormfront, was apparently a prominent member of the Nazi Party during World War Two.

29 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - HALLWAY - DAY** 29

Stormfront strides down the halls. People give her a wide berth. Trying not to stare, but definitely staring. Like she's some kind of monster. Passing --

QUEEN MAEVE. Watching her pass. A poker face. But deep down? Wondering whether it's time to pick a side. (We're setting up something for later, so get a CU here please!)

THOMAS ROBERTS (V.O.)
Incredibly, she may be as old as 100 years. Even more incredible, we have authenticated photos showing Stormfront with Nazi High Command, including Goebbels and Goering.
(then)
Based on the photos, it is now believed that she was the wife of Frederick Vought, who was of course the founder of Vought International.

30 **INT. SEVEN TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 30

Stormfront enters, approaches the flat screen playing:

PHOTOGRAPHS of Stormfront and Goebbels in wartime Germany.

CLOSE on Stormfront. A mix of rage and sadness on her face as they flash more PICTURES: Stormfront and FREDERICK VOUGHT in Nazi uniforms, Stormfront and Frederick's wedding...

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 30

THOMAS ROBERTS
Already, an intense international outcry has emerged. Under strict anti-Nazi laws, the German Chancellor has placed all 36 U.S. military bases off limits to Supes. The Chancellor has also ordered an immediate investigation by the German Interior Ministry to determine whether or not Stormfront may be guilty of war crimes.

A SNAP of STATIC -- to an INSTAGRAM VIDEO --

REVISED POCKET DIALOGUE FOR NNEKA ELLIOTT IN SCENE 32

ALREADY SCRIPTED MATERIAL IS IN **BOLD FONT**

32 **INT. CABIN - DAY** 32

ON SCREEN. Our NNC NEWS ANCHOR, NNEKA ELLIOTT.

NNEKA ELLIOTT

Obviously, this is still breaking news and we're only just beginning to learn who Stormfront was and what she was involved in during the Nazi regime, and undoubtedly there are going to be investigations both here and abroad. But the question now is, **how can we possibly let Vought release Compound V in light of this unprecedented malfeasance? A Nazi in Seven Tower? Was she a part of the attack on Congress?**

(off that terrifying question)

Jane Breyer, an independent journalist who's been covering Vought for over a decade, just noted on her blog that while this is certainly shocking news, it's not entirely unexpected when you consider the historical context. Vought's founder, Frederick Vought, defected from Germany during World War Two, and he was not the only Nazi scientist to do so. In fact, many argue that America's space program owes its origins to Nazi rocket technology. And there are serious moral questions about America having worked with scientists who were part of the Nazi regime.

(then)

But to have an <u>actual</u> <u>Nazi</u> working as a Superhero? Someone who so many Americans have cherished and admired? It's a new level of disgrace. And as Jane Breyer notes on her blog, it confirms what many have suspected, that Compound V, which we recently learned is how Superheroes are really made, is actually Nazi technology. And there's simply no way Vought was unaware of that. It's extremely disturbing, and Vought has to be held accountable for it.

SCENE 42 STORMFRONT’S GERMAN POCKET DIALOGUE

STORMFRONT
Do you remember the day we drove to the countryside in Bavaria for a picnic, Frederick? Chloe put her arms out the window of the car and pretended she was flying.
(then)
We found a perfect spot by the river, in the shade of an apple tree. It was the first time Chloe had ever eaten fresh apples, she was so happy.
(then)
That was a perfect day. I never wanted it to end. I wanted the three of us to stay there forever, underneath the apple tree. Our family, together forever.

STORMFRONT
Erinnerst du dich an den Tag, als wir in Bayern einen Landausflug mit Picknick unternommen haben, Frederick? Chloe hat die Arme aus dem Autofenster gestreckt und so getan, als würde sie fliegen.
(then)
Wir haben den perfekten Platz am Fluss gefunden, im Schatten eines Apfelbaums. Es war das erste Mal, dass Chloe frische Äpfel gekostet hat, sie war so glücklich.
(then)
Es war ein perfekter Tag. Ich wollte, dass er nie zu Ende geht. Ich habe mir gewünscht, dass wir drei für immer dort unter dem Apfelbaum bleiben. Unsere Familie, auf ewig vereint.

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE FOR STAN EDGAR IN SCENE 43

ALREADY SCRIPTED DIALOGUE IS IN **BOLD FONT**

43 **INT. OR EXT. - PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY** 43

VIDEO POV. STAN EDGAR looks into camera. Looking perfectly remorseful, just how the Crisis Team prepped him.

EDGAR
As you can imagine, these past few days have been incredibly difficult for all of us here at Vought. Discovering who Stormfront really was and what she's done has shocked and saddened us all.
(then)
In light of Stormfront's atrocities, the release of Compound V has been placed on <u>indefinite hold</u> pending a federal investigation.

WIDER. Press conference. Edgar, flanked by Ashley, Maeve, Homelander and Starlight -- who is BACK IN HER OLD, MORE MODEST UNIFORM -- YAY -- give us a NICE SHOT of that!

American flags behind them. Jostling reporters in front.

EDGAR (CONT'D)
We believe Stormfront was responsible for stealing the Compound V that created dozens of Super Terrorists, and was the sole perpetrator of the attack on Washington. I had no knowledge of this, nor did the heroes at my side, but we take responsibility and accept any consequences. <u>We must do better</u>. Homelander?

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE

ADDITIONAL DIALOGUE: TO CONTINUE AFTER HOMELANDER'S AUDIO DROPS OUT IN SCENE 43.

NOTE: Already scripted content is in **BOLD FONT**

43 **INT. OR EXT. - PRESS CONFERENCE - DAY** 43

Homelander forces a smile, takes his place at the podium.

HOMELANDER
Thanks to the heroism of Queen Maeve and Starlight, Stormfront was neutralized. She is now being held in an undisclosed location.

He gestures to Starlight. Benevolent.

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)
I would like to personally apologize to Starlight, who was falsely accused of conspiracy and sabotage. I know that you and Maeve are two of the most loyal friends I could have.

PUSH IN ON HOMELANDER. As he continues. The AUDIO DROPS.

HOMELANDER (CONT'D)
We are supposed to be your heroes. To protect and serve you. For Stormfront to betray your trust, and ours, by corrupting that relationship, is a grievous crime. And I promise you, justice will be served.