

THE DIPLOMAT

Episode 206

"Dreadnought"

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INT. WINFIELD HOUSE - KATE & HAL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

KATE and HAL, lying on the bed. A couple minutes after the end of Episode 5, when Hal said, "Roylin didn't come up with the idea. Grace Penn did."

KATE
What. The fuck.

HAL
Yeah.

Beat.

KATE
Who does that?

HAL
I don't know.

KATE
It was us.

HAL
Yeah.

KATE
America.

HAL
Yeah, it's bad.

KATE
We killed Scottish Independence?

HAL
Apparently.

KATE
Who gives a fuck about Scotland?
They're nice sweet people, they're cold all the time, let them make their own decisions.

HAL
Well. The thinking is... A smaller democracy is a weaker one.

KATE
It would be two democracies. The UK?

HAL
It would be four. If Northern Ireland and Wales got in on it. It's a mess.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

Yeah, but so is a United States that secretly tells its ally to *attack itself*.

HAL

Yeah.

KATE

That's a mess.
(beat)
What was the order?

HAL

Which.

KATE

What did the President tell Grace Penn to do that made her think, "I know... let's have the Brits blow a hole in themselves and blame it on Iran."

HAL

President doesn't know about it.

KATE

(beat)
What the fuck??
(beat)
Is that why she's here?

HAL

Probably. She needs to bury it.

KATE

She can't get away with this. We can't have another decade defined by the United States blithely bombing people. And pretending we didn't. Until somebody FOIA's the shit out of it and wins a Pulitzer.

HAL

In her defense...

KATE

Really?

HAL

It wasn't supposed to be that big.

KATE

Please.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

Just saying.

KATE

Roylin's been covering for Grace
Penn this whole time?

HAL

I want you to stay away from this.

Beat.

HAL (CONT'D)

You understand why I wanted you
nowhere near this?

KATE

Yeah.

(beat)

Did I say mean things when you were
just trying to protect me?

HAL

Noooo.

KATE

We have to turn that bitch in.

HAL

(beat)

You sure about that?

KATE

It's one thing to cover up a British
crime. If it's us...

HAL

Well. If we blow the whistle... bad
for democracy.

KATE

Bad for democracy if we incite acts
of terror.

HAL

Hungary. Poland. Turkey. All of them,
more autocratic than democratic.

KATE

I know, but--

HAL

Democracy is actually going out of
style.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

So we should show the world what it looks like. In a democracy, if you find out one of your heads of state decided to shoot up a British warship, and blame it on a fundamentalist theocracy, you get the justice system involved.

HAL

It'll be the end of the Rayburn presidency.

KATE

Maybe it should be.

HAL

Whatever scrap of credibility we have left in the world'll be shot to shit. Massive boost to Russia and China.

KATE

Uch.

(beat)

It can't come out.

HAL

I don't think it can. I've been up the last three nights turning it over. I don't see how we can.

KATE

It's Grace Penn.

HAL

Yeah. That's why she needs to get the fuck out of there. Quietly. And soon.

KATE

Oh shit.

Beat.

KATE (CONT'D)

I have to be Vice President of the United States.

INT. WINFIELD - BLUE ROOM - MORNING

Hal and Kate, sipping coffee at the breakfast table. He already ate. His finished plate's in front of him. She has only coffee. He watches her for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

HAL
You should eat something.

KATE
I'll boot.

STUART enters. No crutches.

STUART
Good morning!

HAL
Good morning!

STUART
(the VP...)
She down yet?

HAL
No. Meeting with staff upstairs.

NORA
Good morning!

NORA enters.

KATE
Good morning!

NORA
Are they...

KATE
Upstairs.

NORA
Thank you!

She's gone. Beat.

HAL
Hey, no crutches!

STUART
Nope. Still got the bandage. But
things are... alarmingly close to
normal.

Kate scoffs. *Normal.*

STUART (CONT'D)
What.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

(to Hal)

He should have some coffee.

STUART

I'm off it. Green tea.

HAL

Wow.

STUART

One cup. In the morning. And then nothing.

HAL

All day?

STUART

I'm a new man.

KATE

Siddown, tough guy.

Stuart pulls out a chair.

KATE (CONT'D)

Over here.

She pats the bench next to her, so they can do this quietly.

He slides in. It's three of them in a tight row.

KATE (CONT'D)

(to Hal)

You do it.

HAL

I think this one's gotta be you.

Sigh.

KATE

I. Would like to be

(whispers)

Vice President.

STUART

(beat)

No.

(beat)

For real?

Kate nods. Stuart looks to Hal.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

Of her own volition.

STUART

(beat)

Can I hug you?

KATE

We have 38 vice presidential staffers
in this house, I think we gotta play
it cool.

STUART

I'm trying. I really am. But...

KATE

I know, it's a lot. You can shake my
hand.

He does. For a long time.

STUART

Ma'am...

HAL

I smell a loyalty pledge coming.

STUART

You bet your ass.

KATE

This is all nothing right now.
Nobody's offered me a job.

HAL

But if they do, she should be ready.

Beat.

KATE

So whatever you think you need to do
to... soup this up...

Stuart's beside himself with joy.

KATE (CONT'D)

He's gonna cry.

HAL

I think you should try and focus.

STUART

You're right. You're right.

(inspecting her)

We start right now.

(CONTINUED)

Beat.

KATE
What does that mean?

INT. WINFIELD - KATE & HAL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Hal sits at the desk as Kate rifles through her closet. She pulls out a suit. Grey. Holds it up to herself.

HAL
No.

KATE
Why?

HAL
He said a color.

KATE
This is.

HAL
That's not a color.

Beat. She returns the grey suit to the closet. Rifle rifle rifle. Pulls out a *lighter* grey suit and shows Hal.

HAL (CONT'D)
No.

This could take some time.

INT. WINFIELD - STAIR HALL - DAY

Stuart's waiting downstairs when he hears...

KATE
Clear?

He looks up to find Kate above, leaning over the railing.

STUART
Hi.

KATE
Scoot.

He steps back.

She drops her high heels over the side of the balcony.

STUART
Whoa.

(CONTINUED)

And then her purse.

KATE

Sorry. Not enough hands.

Kate hurries down the stairs in a pale blue suit. She's wearing makeup. Not a lot, but some. Her hair's in an updo, messy, but an effort was made. Stuart's impressed. But she's holding two newspapers away from her body like they're radioactive.

KATE (CONT'D)

How do you read a paper and not get newsprint all over this?

...The suit.

STUART

Yeah, it's tricky. You gotta wash your hands.

KATE

You say that. But if you wash your hands in a color like this, and the faucet is even a little aggressive, it sprays all over. And then it looks like you peed yourself.

(beat)

That doesn't happen to you?

STUART

No.

Vice President GRACE PENN comes down the stairs, trailed by GRIFFIN.

GRACE

Hi there!

STUART

Good morning, ma'am!

Kate's standing, frozen, holding papers out at her sides. This is the first time she's seen Grace... since learning what Grace did.

GRACE

Everything alright?

KATE

Gotta wash my hands.

Okay.

GRACE

Join me for breakfast?

(CONTINUED)

KATE

Sure!

FRANCES appeared at some point.

FRANCES

May I show you to the Dining Room
madam?

GRACE

Thank you.

GRIFFIN

(to comms)

Clear the Dining Room.

As Grace and Frances walk toward the Dining Room, Frances spots PENSY, coming out of the Butler's Pantry, lit up with glee at the sight of the VP. Frances shakes her head "NO" and Pency, smile dying, backs away slowly the way she came.

FRANCES

Was everything comfortable?

GRACE

I slept like a rock.

FRANCES

I'm so glad.

GRACE

The house is stunning. You do
beautiful work.

FRANCES

Thank you so much. It's an honor to
care for it.

During the Frances beat, Stuart takes the papers from Kate and they hurry her into her shoes.

KATE

I can't eat.

STUART

You have to. But don't spill. Tuck
your napkin in. Like a bib.

KATE

Really?

STUART

Yeah. No?

No.

(CONTINUED)

STUART (CONT'D)

Just be careful.

INT. WINFIELD - DINING ROOM - DAY - LATER

Kate, seated, calm, betraying little of the preceding anxiety.

Grace, done with breakfast. Sipping coffee. Pensive.

GRACE

Never crossed my mind. To fight.

KATE

For your job?

GRACE

Yeah. Why is that?

Knowing what she now knows, Kate would really prefer Grace didn't fight for it.

KATE

It's easy for me to say you should stomp your feet and make them defend you. You've got a much more granular understanding of how hard it is to get anything done in that building.

GRACE

Yeah, I'm not gonna turn the place on its head, I'm just... embarrassed. By my lack of imagination.

KATE

Are you... thinking about...

GRACE

Trying to stay? No. At the end of the day... if it's bad for the country...

KATE

Yeah.

GRACE

But I appreciate the support. From you.

KATE

Of course.

GRACE

From someone who's on the short list for the job, no less. You're a good person.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

I'm not, you have to stop.

Kate's biting her cheek so hard she may draw blood. This is a lot of praise from someone she just learned is deeply problematic. But it comes off as a grateful smile.

Grace clocks Kate's hair. Her bun is sort of exploding. Tufts of hair have escaped.

KATE (CONT'D)

What.

GRACE

Nothing. It's just... some of it's coming out.

KATE

Shit. Excuse me. Shite.

She's trying to repair it.

GRACE

If it's a style choice... it's good.

KATE

I kind of tie it in a knot and usually it stays.

GRACE

You're making it worse.

KATE

Am I?

GRACE

Stop touching it.

She does.

KATE

As you suggested, I'm trying to look a little more...

GRACE

(beat)

Vice Presidential?

(beat)

It's okay. You can say it. Own it. You're a bold choice. All substance...

KATE

No style.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE

Why not? Woman of the people. Foreign policy ace. Legacy builder. If it has to be someone... I am dangerously close to glad it's you.

KATE

That's... Wow. Thank you. Now I'm embarrassed.

GRACE

Get used to it.

Long beat, as they both try to absorb the new reality coming for them. Then -

GRACE (CONT'D)

Bobby pins will help.

EXT. EMBASSY LONDON - ESTABLISHING - DAY

INT. EMBASSY - CIA - EIDRA'S OFFICE - DAY

Stuart knocks on the open door. Eidra's working.

STUART

Okay if I come in?

EIDRA

Sure.

STUART

Okay if I shut the door?

EIDRA

Yeeeah.

STUART

I just... consent matters.

He shuts the door.

EIDRA

What's wrong.

STUART

Can we sit?

EIDRA

Is this gonna be another lecture about holding Margaret Roylin? Cause I want her off my plate even more than you do.

(CONTINUED)

STUART

It's not.

They sit.

STUART (CONT'D)

The Ambassador has... for the first time... *actively* embraced the notion of maybe becoming Vice President. Willingly. If the opportunity arises.

EIDRA

(beat)

Wow.

STUART

Yeah.

(beat)

There's no offer. From the White House. And there may never be one. And if it comes, she has to make me an offer. Which she hasn't done.

(beat)

But I want you to be in on the thinking, as facts change on the ground. Not like last time, when I... delayed the sharing of information.

Beat.

EIDRA

We're not together. I don't need the facts on the ground.

STUART

I think we should be. I think it was a mistake. Splitting up. I feel. That it was a mistake.

Long beat.

Eidra leaves the room.

After a beat, Stuart follows.

INT. EMBASSY - CIA BULLPEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Stuart trails Eidra through the bullpen, into the little room where people park their cellphones...

INT. EMBASSY - CIA SECURITY ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Stuart catches up when Eidra stops to collect her phone.

(CONTINUED)

STUART

Hey. Can you stop?

EIDRA

No. I no longer give my consent to this conversation.

She continues out through the--

INT. EMBASSY - CIA HALLWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Stuart follows.

STUART

It's my first day off crutches, can you give me a fucking break?

She stops.

STUART (CONT'D)

I don't understand what this is.

EIDRA

Me?

STUART

Yeah.

EIDRA

My reaction?

STUART

Yeah.

EIDRA

What am I reacting to?

Beat.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

Your boss might move to another country. Or not. So you might move to another country. Or not.

(beat)

This message has no content.

STUART

When are you gonna stop punishing me?

EIDRA

That's not what I'm doing.

(CONTINUED)

STUART

You run away from every conversation
we have.

EIDRA

(beat)
Come here.

She has him lean down so she can speak right into his ear,
even though nobody's around.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

This is my place of business. I can't
cry here. And despite my placid
appearance, it hurts like a
motherfucker when you do this.

STUART

Eidra.

EIDRA

You just closed my door, and sat on
my couch, so you could say nothing
at all. And yet still, I have lost
my composure in the workplace. It
has to stop.

After a beat, she walks away.

INT. EMBASSY - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Kate's standing at her desk as she works. Because if she sits,
she'll rumple her suit. KNOCK KNOCK. NEIL enters.

NEIL

Ma'am, Carole Langetti is here?

KATE

Carole?!

CAROLE LANGETTI's in the bullpen. (Carole is Kate's friend.
We met her in Season 1, Ep 2.)

CAROLE

Can I come in?

KATE

Of course! Get in here!

Gives Carole a big hug--

KATE/CAROLE

Hiiii! /Omigooood.

(CONTINUED)

Neil clocked the fact that Carole's holding a water glass, full of water and ice, as she hugs the Ambassador.

NEIL
Oh, the glass. Let me grab it. Don't want to spill.

Neil takes the glass as Carole backs away, checking for water on Kate.

CAROLE
Did I get you?

Kate feels for spills.

KATE
No. Nothing.

CAROLE
(to Neil)
Don't take that away.
(to Kate, delighted)
It has ice.

KATE
Ah. No ice cubes where she's living.

CAROLE
Eight months. Without an ice cube.

Carole settles on the couch as Neil exits.

CAROLE (CONT'D)
And these are nice big chunky ones.

KATE
We're a classy joint.

CAROLE
(the getup)
Look at you!

KATE
I know, how crazy is this?

CAROLE
I love it.

She doesn't.

KATE
It's humiliating. I look like my mom.

(CONTINUED)

CAROLE

No.

KATE

I do.

CAROLE

Your mom is a beautiful woman.

KATE

She would be so happy, to see me
like this.

Kate joins her on the couches. Perches, more than sits. She may hate the suit, but she takes some care not to crease it.

KATE (CONT'D)

How long are you here?

CAROLE

I'm in this place for a tight ten,
but I'm in town for a couple days.

KATE

You're leaving in ten minutes?

CAROLE

It was gonna be lunch, but then the
Vice President dropped in and fucked
your calendar.

Kate hops up and opens the door.

KATE

Stuart?

NEIL

Ma'am?

KATE

Where's Stuart?

STUART

I'm right here.

Stuart enters.

KATE

Why is she here for ten minutes? I
haven't seen her in a year.

CAROLE

You're having a big day!

(CONTINUED)

KATE

Are you staying at the house?
(to Stu)
She should stay at the house.

STUART

The Vice President is staying at the house.

KATE

We have a hundred thousand rooms.

STUART

Secret Service'll be a hard no.

KATE

She's Agency. They'll be thrilled to have an extra pair of hands.

CAROLE

Honey, it's really okay.

KATE

It's not. How about the Cottage?

STUART

(beat)
I will check.

KATE

(to Carole)
I have outbuildings.

CAROLE

Fantastic.

INT. TEN DOWNING STREET - STAIRWAY/HALLWAY - DAY

DENNISON climbs the stairs, walks the hallway to the Trowbridges' private sitting room.

INT. TEN DOWNING STREET - SITTING ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

TROWBRIDGE is pacing when Dennison enters. LYDIA's seated.

LYDIA

Door closed, if you would, Austin.

Dennison closes the door.

TROWBRIDGE

And take off your fucking jacket.
Pretend you're a person. Not a mandarin.

(CONTINUED)

Huh. Rough mood in here. Dennison removes his jacket. Takes a seat.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)
We need to work as a team, you and I. Our prelapsarian selves. Do you think we can manage that?

DENNISON
I do.

TROWBRIDGE
Wonderful. I'll have an ally.
(then, re: Lydia)
She thinks I should resign.
(beat)
She thinks, despite the Americans' unequivocal wish to have me steady the ship, I should resign, in a fetid cloud of disgrace.

LYDIA
That is not what I said.

TROWBRIDGE
That is precisely what you--

LYDIA
You will please allow me to complete a sentence.

Beat. To Dennison:

LYDIA (CONT'D)
Nicol said he was going to tell Tom. Or Philippa. So they could quietly investigate how many of our own are fucking traitors. He's told no one.

TROWBRIDGE
I will.

LYDIA
He's dragging his feet.
(to Trowbridge)
And of course you are. It's humiliating.

TROWBRIDGE
Thank you, I hadn't noticed.

LYDIA
You are not the man for the job.
Allow someone else--

(CONTINUED)

TROWBRIDGE

Austin?

LYDIA

Perhaps Austin... someone without your baggage. To proceed with an investigation. That will steady the ship.

(to Dennison)

Don't you agree?

TROWBRIDGE

It's a secret investigation.

LYDIA

Not if you're running it.

TROWBRIDGE

(to Dennison)

Apparently it's only my ego that demands I root out the rot myself. Not an interest in the integrity -- or the survival -- of the fucking state.

LYDIA

Perhaps we'll let Austin speak.

TROWBRIDGE

Austin can say whatever the fuck he wants.

(to Dennison)

You think I should resign?

DENNISON

It's not a decision I can weigh in on.

TROWBRIDGE

I swear to Christ.

DENNISON

If you feel you need to cleanse this yourself, you will have me at your side, every step.

Trowbridge drops down onto the couch next to him. Close.

TROWBRIDGE

Are you gone? The man I came up with?

DENNISON

Nicol, I am speaking to the Prime Minister.

(CONTINUED)

TROWBRIDGE

Speak to me.

DENNISON

The decision is for the Prime Minister.

TROWBRIDGE

Austin!

DENNISON

Resign.

(beat)

She's right.

(beat)

Drift away. You will advise us all the way through, but your anger at Roylin, and at yourself, will cloud--

TROWBRIDGE

Thank you. Taken under advisement.

LYDIA

Don't blame Austin.

TROWBRIDGE

I'm thinking about it, based on the sage counsel of my beloved and my beloved. The decision will not come today, in any event, it seems worth thinking over for more than a millisecond. Meanwhile the secret internal investigation must creep secretly forward. So we'll tell Tom. Today.

LYDIA

Can we simply--

TROWBRIDGE

Tom will investigate. Tom will find all of the perpetrators of this fucking travesty. You want me to launch the investigation? It is launched.

(to Dennison)

You agree it should be Tom?

Dennison nods.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

We trust Tom, as much as we trust anyone. Though of course we trusted Margaret Roylin.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

(beat)
Tom it is.

Trowbridge stalks out.

LYDIA

I don't know, Austin. I don't know.

INT. EMBASSY - AMBASSADOR'S LOBBY - DAY

Kate leads the Vice President out of the elevator and into the Ambassador's Lobby, Griffin just behind them.

The place is packed with Embassy staff, applauding for Grace. She's gracious, shaking hands as she goes.

GRACE

Oh my goodness, thank you. It's great to meet you. You're all doing such fantastic work, the President's so grateful for your service.

NEIL

(shaking her hand)
Ma'am, it's such an honor. Big fan.

To her team over comms:

GRIFFIN

Back 'em up.

Secret Service imperceptibly widens the corridor through the crowd.

GRACE

I haven't been here in years. This building is new, right?

KATE

2018.

GRACE

They did a beautiful job.

They're just passing the wall of ambassador photos.

KATE

These are my predecessors.

GRACE

Oh my. Hello gentlemen.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

There's a woman, actually. I'm not
the first. Where is she.

They spend a moment searching.

Can't find her.

Still can't find her.

KATE (CONT'D)

There!

GRACE

Ah!

KATE

Anne Armstrong.

GRACE

There she is.

Beat.

KATE

Come on in.

They move on.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - BILLIE APPIAH'S OFFICE - DAY

BILLIE's at her desk. On her CELLPHONE with Hal.

HAL (over phone)

She's in. Kate. She's a yes.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WINFIELD - LIBRARY - DAY

Hal on the phone.

HAL

(beat)

Hello?

BILLIE

Yeah I hear you.

HAL

She would like to be Vice President.

BILLIE

Copy.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

(beat)
That's it?

BILLIE

Thank you?

HAL

Yeah, you're welcome. Let's talk
about next steps.

BILLIE

Why'd she change her mind?

HAL

Because I've been working on her.
Because, as I told you, no is a rest
stop on the road to yes.

BILLIE

Did Grace say something?

HAL

Like what?

BILLIE

I don't know. Are they openly
discussing the idea or are they
pretending it's all normal?

HAL

They talked about it. They're grown
ups.

BILLIE

Was it acrimonious?

HAL

No. They acted like a couple of
broads. "You should have the job."
"No you should have the job."

BILLIE

Christ.

HAL

How short is the short list?

BILLIE

(beat)
I gotta go.

HAL

Billie...

(CONTINUED)

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Did she say otherwise?

HAL

No.

Beat.

HAL (CONT'D)

Is there anything--

BILLIE

I gotta go.

Billie hangs up the phone. Stares at it for a moment.

HAL

Hello?

Nothing. Billie's gone.

INT. TEN DOWNING STREET - TROWBRIDGE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dennison and Trowbridge wait in chilly silence.

DENNISON

You asked for my opinion. About
Lydia's idea.

TROWBRIDGE

And you gave it.

DENNISON

I'm not calling for your resignation.

Silence.

Door opens - it's TOM LIBBY.

DENNISON (CONT'D)

Good to see you, Tom.

TOM

Hello. How are we all--

TROWBRIDGE

What are we hearing from the Russians?

TOM

Ministry of Defence is making public
demands for access to the SAS report
on Lenkov's... accidental killing.

TROWBRIDGE

I hope we said no.

(CONTINUED)

TOM

We did. They're throwing their toys out of the pram but there's no indication of it escalating.

TROWBRIDGE

If that changes...

TOM

You'll know as soon as I do.

TROWBRIDGE

(beat)

I've discovered something. We have a problem.

Silence. This is where Trowbridge is supposed to tell Tom about the vicious conspiracy inside their government. He's struggling to find the words.

TOM

With Russia?

Silence. Still struggling.

DENNISON

Not with Russia.

BAM. Trowbridge slams his hand on the desk. That shuts Dennison up. As it was intended to.

TROWBRIDGE

The Americans... would like to participate... in tomorrow's session. They know we've had a productive interchange with the Aussies. They hope to join us.

TOM

And...

TROWBRIDGE

Will it make the French hysterical?

TOM

Possibly.

TROWBRIDGE

Whisper something to someone. Let them know it's not deliberate, I'm being polite. They asked. Couldn't say no.

TOM

I'll talk to DGSE.

(CONTINUED)

TROWBRIDGE

Off you go.

DENNISON

Prime Minister.

TROWBRIDGE

Many thanks to you both, fuck a friend, and shut the door behind you.

That's it. Feels abrupt to Tom, but whatever, he leaves. Dennison does not. After a beat--

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

I'm not dragging my feet. It wasn't the right time.

DENNISON

When do you think--

TROWBRIDGE

I will let you know.

Dennison does not seem to be taking the very clear hint. Trowbridge walks to the door and holds it open for Dennison.

Dennison exits.

INT. EMBASSY - AMBASSADOR'S SCIF - DAY

The Vice President is alone in the room, on a video call with PRESIDENT RAYBURN. Though at the moment it looks like a video call with an empty Oval Office.

RAYBURN (O.S.)

She there?

AIDE (O.S.)

Yes.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY [ON SCREEN ONLY]

The President should be seated at his desk, but at the start he's out of frame, then crossing the frame, to get something from the coffee table. Unable to find it.

RAYBURN (O.S.)

Grace?

GRACE

Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

RAYBURN (O.S.)

Hang on.

GRACE

Yup.

RAYBURN (O.S.)

How'd it go?

GRACE

Good. Good enough.

Now he's back.

RAYBURN

Is he a mess?

GRACE

The PM's okay. Foreign Secretary's pretty anxious, but...

RAYBURN

I certainly hope so. A cabal inside his own government? He better be anxious.

GRACE

They're taking it slow. No rash decisions. No daylight between us.

RAYBURN

Good.

(beat)

What do you think?

(beat)

Of her.

GRACE

(beat)

I get the appeal. Took me a minute, but...

RAYBURN

Yeah. Took me a minute too.

GRACE

What's the timeline? Do you know?

The President studies Grace for a moment.

RAYBURN

I just got a call from the Prime Minister. He wanted to talk to me... about you.

INT. WINFIELD - RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

The event tonight is black tie. The troops are gathering for departure. Stuart enters, passing Pensy.

PENSY

Mr. Hayford you look so lovely.

STUART

Thank you, Pensy.

PENSY

Like a prince.

STUART

Like A prince? Or like Prince?

PENSY

Sorry?

No idea what he's talking about.

STUART

Forget it.

Frances takes iPhone photos of Kate and Carole, posed together. Kate in a snazzy dress. Carole in jeans.

FRANCES

Beauuuutiful. And, Ambassador, one where we look *right* at the camera. There we are.

KATE

(to Carole, re: Frances)
She can't stand me.

Frances hands the phone back to Carole, who flips through the pics.

KATE (CONT'D)

Please don't show those to your whole Station.

CAROLE

No way, they're gonna love it.
(shows Kate)
Look at you. You're Geostrategy Barbie.

Stuart lands by Nora.

STUART

She down yet?

(CONTINUED)

NORA

Not yet.

Nora's phone buzzes. She steps away to take the call.

NORA (CONT'D)

Hi.

Hal enters.

HAL

Langetti, where's your prom dress?

CAROLE

You're looking at it.

HAL

She down yet?

KATE

No.

Kate's feeling around the back of her dress.

KATE (CONT'D)

Is there a tag here?

HAL

Yeah.

KATE

It's making me insane.

Nora lands.

NORA

Hi...

KATE

Hi!

NORA

She's just about ready but she was wondering if she could have a quick word with you before we go.

KATE

Of course.

CAROLE

I'm going to my cottage. Have fun tonight.

Kate gives her a squeeze.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

I'll come by when we get home. You sure you don't want to come?

CAROLE

I am so sure.

Kate heads up the stairs.

INT. WINFIELD HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate closes the door behind her.

GRACE

Did you put in a call?

KATE

To...

GRACE

The PM.

KATE

No. Trowbridge? No.

Beat.

GRACE

He called the President.

KATE

Okay.

GRACE

To tell him what a gem I am.

KATE

Oh. Well. You are.

(beat)

You told him not to resign, I think you have a friend for life.

GRACE

A few months ago, Rayburn and Trowbridge decided they'd like to appoint something like a Nuclear Czar. One in each country. Somebody who can work on reducing weapons stockpiles and at the same time grow our nuclear power capacity.

KATE

Big portfolio.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE

Yeah. It puts non-proliferation and climate change under one hat, which is worth something, theoretically.

(beat)

Apparently the PM thinks it should be me.

(beat)

He doesn't know about my off-ramp.

KATE

(beat)

Did the President... tell him?

GRACE

No. He said he'd think about it. And then he called me and said... he's thinking about it.

KATE

Wow. That's... that means...

GRACE

I might stay.

KATE

(beat)

Great!

Not great. In fact very very bad.

GRACE

It's a maybe.

KATE

It's great.

GRACE

Not if you're the kind, capable person on deck to replace me.

KATE

Oh no no no that's just if it's an emergency and you need the fire department. If you can stay... if the President is prepared to stand by you...

GRACE

Considering it.

KATE

...Then that's so much better. For everybody. Absolutely.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE

I feel bad. This has been a lot of
fuss...

KATE

No.

GRACE

...And you're wearing your vice
presidential hair.

Kate's hair's in a bun, bobby pins stabbing her skull.

KATE

No, no, it's fun.

GRACE

Tomorrow morning the President's
gonna wake up and remember I'm an
albatross. That'll be the end of it.

KATE

I hope he doesn't.

GRACE

I just wanted you to know, in case
the PM brings it up tonight. I didn't
want you to...

KATE

Yeah! It would have been. Confusing.

GRACE

Now we're both ready for anything.

KATE

We are.

GRACE

Thank you. You really are something,
I'm glad we've had a chance to get
to know each other.

It's earnest.

INT. WINFIELD - STAIR HALL - NIGHT

Grace comes down the stairs, Griffin trailing. Stuart, Nora,
and a few others mill at the bottom.

GRACE

Oh my goodness, look at you, you're
all gorgeous.

(CONTINUED)

NORA

We should get right in the car.

GRACE

(cueing Nora)

"Ma'am you also look gorgeous."

NORA

Ma'am you also look gorgeous.

(to Griffin)

We're good.

GRIFFIN

(to comms)

Ready to travel. CMR team loading
up. Arrow exiting the building.

They're out the door.

Kate comes down the stairs. Stuart, waiting for her at the
bottom, sees her shocked face. Because Grace is not resigning.

STUART

You okay?

EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - NIGHT

The VP's motorcade pulls up.

Stuart is watching from across the street as he talks on the
phone with Billie.

STUART

Nuclear Czar?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - BILLIE APPIAH'S OFFICE - DAY

BILLIE

The President did not run this by
me.

STUART

Instead of Vice President? Or in her
capacity as Vice President?

BILLIE

He thinks... in her capacity as Vice
President.

STUART

He thinks she can stay??

(CONTINUED)

BILLIE

He does. But she can't. Shut it down.

STUART

You shut it down.

BILLIE

Yeah, on my end, but make sure the Brits don't turn it into something.

STUART

Billie. He wants her to stay??

BILLIE

She's not staying.

EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - NIGHT

Trowbridge is in place, ready to greet the Vice President who is the last to arrive.

The VP and her entourage approach, Kate and Hal trailing. BYRON, SANDY, and Griffin scan the crowd.

TROWBRIDGE

There she is! Woman of the hour!
Welcome to Blenheim Palace.

GRACE

An honor to be here.

TROWBRIDGE

Only the best for you, madam.
(re: the photographer)
One for the history books, shall we?

GRACE

Absolutely!

They turn and produce an official smiling HANDSHAKE for the OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

Stuart just landed next to Kate. Quietly--

STUART

I talked to Billie. She's as surprised as you are.

KATE

About nuclear czar?

STUART

She needs some time to walk it back.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

Tell Dennison to make sure it doesn't
come up tonight.

Standing next to Dennison is Australian Chief of Navy ADMIRAL
KENNETH RULAND (60s). Trowbridge turns to the Admiral.

TROWBRIDGE

Admiral, I think you know the Vice
President?

ADMIRAL RULAND

I certainly do! I was guest of honor
until you showed up.

GRACE

I don't know what to tell you, Kenny,
they needed an upgrade and I got a
phone call.

They like each other.

Griffin lands behind Grace and imperceptibly instructs...

GRIFFIN

We're ready to move inside.

Grace, without acknowledging the comment, turns to move up
the stairs, Trowbridge and Ruland moving with her.

GRACE

I don't know why I wasn't invited in
the first place.

TROWBRIDGE

I was quite sure Kenny wouldn't like
the competition.

Kate and Dennison have been conferring at the edge of the
space.

KATE

Is the PM talking about the Vice
President in his speech tonight?

DENNISON

Ignoring her would be odd.

KATE

Trowbridge wants her to work on a
non-proliferation project. It would
be better if it didn't come up
tonight. Could you...?

(CONTINUED)

DENNISON

I'm so sorry, I'm afraid I can't.

KATE

Why?

DENNISON

I will no longer be a thorn to Nicol Trowbridge. He's a flawed man doing his best in an utter nightmare. He deserves my support.

KATE

It's supportive. Grace Penn has some issues you don't want any part of.

DENNISON

Margaret Roylin's lack of faith in Nicol brought us an atrocity. I will not undermine him at every turn.

KATE

She had no faith because he's inept.

DENNISON

I am his lieutenant. Not yours.

KATE

Sure. But we have a partnership. It doesn't need to stop just because--

DENNISON

That was a mistake. Do you understand? All of it.

He looks at her. And then walks away.

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - ENTRY HALL - NIGHT

A glorious space made only slightly less so by the signage honoring the nuclear submarine partnership between Australia and the UK. The new *Dreadnought* line of submarines are prominently featured. A couple of waiters offer champagne to the arriving guests.

Kate finds Stuart and Hal.

KATE

Lead balloon.

STUART

Why?

(CONTINUED)

KATE

He's all about Nicol, and listening to me is a betrayal of Nicol.

HAL

Tell him yourself.

KATE

Trowbridge? Hates me.

HAL

Loves you.

KATE

(to Stu)
Talk to his guy.

STUART

And say what?

KATE

Something vague.

HAL

I'll get him.

KATE

(to a dignitary)
Hi!

Hal makes his way to a cluster -- the VP, Dennison, the PM, and Admiral Ruland, and RANDALL.

TROWBRIDGE

The French couldn't decide if they were more furious at me for the Lenkov business or you for the submarine business.

ADMIRAL RULAND

They settled on me.

GRACE

To be fair, you earned it.

Hal elegantly peels Randall off--

HAL

Stuart Hayford needs a quick word.

Hal's already filled Randall's space as Randall scans the room and finds Stuart, crossing to him.

(CONTINUED)

DENNISON

Give it another month, they'll move on.

ADMIRAL RULAND

They'd better. We paid them half a billion Euros to get the fuck over it.

HAL

I heard they're selling those subs to India.

ADMIRAL RULAND

They are!

TROWBRIDGE

And they're *still* sulking.

Randall and Stuart have agreed on something. They part ways.

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - ANTEROOM/STATE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Guests drift toward the dining room.

Randall leans in for a quiet word with Trowbridge.

RANDALL

The Vice President's spouse finds himself in a bit of a bog right now, with a regulatory agency. Ambassador Wyler suggests, while freely bathing in the sunlight of the VP's gaze, we avoid lashing ourselves to her mast. In our remarks.

TROWBRIDGE

Randall, if you had just three words before your own death...

RANDALL

Don't talk about Nuclear Czar.

Trowbridge pulls out his notecards. Shuffles through. Extracts one, tears it in half and hands the pieces to Randall.

TROWBRIDGE

Wasn't so hard, was it?

He marches into the dining room, swallowed by a crowd that includes Grace, Dennison, Kate, Hal, Nora, Stuart, and Ruland.

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Trowbridge stands. Pulls out his notecards. Scans the room.

(CONTINUED)

TROWBRIDGE

Are we off the record?

Silence. No one confirms or denies.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

Reassuring. Thank you.

ADMIRAL RULAND

Yes!

TROWBRIDGE

There we are. Thank you Kenny. The French...

He pauses to choose his words carefully. After a moment... laughter.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

I haven't even said anything yet!

More laughter.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

You were untrue. To the French. You said you'd welcome their well-crafted submarines, and you've forsaken them for ours.

On the table are small submarines fashioned from chocolate and wrapped in gold foil. Trowbridge picks one up.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

There's no single entendre to be had here. It's a love triangle and a proboscis.

Laughter.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

Next time we have dinner we're inviting the French. Is my point.

He moves on to his next notecard.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

She is...

That sentence started half-way through. He realizes he must have skipped something. Looks back at the last card. And this one again. Remembers there's a card missing. Removed. Haltingly, he fills in the blank for himself...

(CONTINUED)

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

In place of a French Delegation,
we're honored to welcome Vice
President Grace Penn. Of the United
States. Of America.

(from the card)

She is uniquely qualified for this
task.

He realizes that doesn't scan.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

Of working with us. And you. And the
French. Moving forward. Here and
now.

He smiles at Grace. Grace smiles back. But when Trowbridge
moves on, her face darkens. She knows what he skipped.

TROWBRIDGE (CONT'D)

Bon appetit!

Pause.

DENNISON

Bon appetit!

The rest of the table joins in - *cheers, hear hear.*

PORTMAN, seated next to Dennison, leans in.

PORTMAN

Did that make sense to you?

DENNISON

Enough to get us to our soup.

As he takes his seat, Trowbridge shoots the slightest hint of
an eyebrow raise at Kate, meant to signal... *You're welcome.*
The Vice President clocks it.

And now she's watching Kate.

Eventually, Kate notices.

Grace is seated next to Hal. On his other side... Kate.

WAITERS serving the first course and guests chitchatting cover
the following quiet conversation.

GRACE

What didn't he say?

(CONTINUED)

KATE

(beat)
I don't...

GRACE

He told me he was going to mention
my new portfolio. Didn't happen. And
then he looked right at you.

KATE

I'm not sure what you mean.

GRACE

I think you want somebody's job. And
you want to make sure it's available.

KATE

That's not what I'm after.

Beat. Then, to Hal --

GRACE

Looks like Peter Cottontail. But
she's a climber.

HAL

I think you're misunderstanding.

GRACE

She should watch herself.

After a moment, Kate looks at Hal.

KATE

Tell her.

Hal's shocked.

Shakes his head no.

Kate shakes yes.

GRACE

This ought to be good. Out with it.

HAL

(beat)
The Ambassador knows Margaret Roylin
didn't come up with... her plan.

Grace freezes.

HAL (CONT'D)

The Ambassador knows who did.

(CONTINUED)

Silence.

Grace looks at Hal. Grace looks at Kate. Kate looks at Grace.

Grace's body temperature just spiked dramatically. She takes a moment to gather herself. It doesn't work.

SCRRRAPE. She slides her chair back and leaves the room.

Hal and Kate share a look. Both trying to remain calm. But shaking. Kate sips her drink.

NORA

Ma'am?

Nora lands at Kate's shoulder, startling her.

NORA (CONT'D)

Could you step out for a moment?

KATE

(beat)

Sure.

She looks at Hal. She rises and follows Nora out.

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Nora leads Kate down a big empty corridor into a big empty room.

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - BIG EMPTY ROOM - NIGHT

Kate and Nora wait. After a moment, Griffin opens the door and enters. The Vice President follows, dragging a large, mounted poster behind her. It says DREADNOUGHT, and features the logo, emblazoned above a MAP OF THE WORLD. A few of these were in the lobby when everyone entered.

GRACE

Door.

Nora and Griffin leave, Griffin closing the door behind her. Grace plops the map on a spacious table.

The room has a FIREPLACE full of the cold coals of a long-dead fire. Grace takes one of the COALS.

On the map, using the coal as a marker, she draws a line from the Arctic Circle to the northeast coast of the United States.

GRACE (CONT'D)

The quickest way for Russia to
penetrate our naval defenses is
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GRACE (CONT'D)
steaming from the Arctic to the North
Atlantic.

She draws three O's. Two in Alaska, one in Greenland.

GRACE (CONT'D)
...Our military presence in the
Arctic.

Grace draws a series of X's across the top of Russia.

GRACE (CONT'D)
...These were Russia's Arctic military
positions in 1995.
(then)
Today...

She adds more. At least two dozen more. Swarming the Arctic.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Infantry, naval, radar, search and
rescue, air defense. The biggest
build-up since the Soviets fell.

Beat. Moving on... Grace draws two X's out in the ocean.

GRACE (CONT'D)
...This is where we lost Russia's
most sophisticated submarines. In
the North Atlantic. For three weeks.

Then Grace draws an X north of Norway.

GRACE (CONT'D)
...This is where we found their
Losharik submarine. Which we noticed
only because it caught fire.
(then)
We have no idea how many more there
are. But we think they're around
here, here, here, and here:

She slashes X's over the Kara Sea, the Norwegian Sea, the
Barents Sea, the Kola Bay. It's like a *Risk* board right before
the end of the game. It's stark.

After a beat, Grace draws a CIRCLE in Scotland.

GRACE (CONT'D)
...This is Creegan. You know what Creegan
is?

KATE
A nuclear submarine base.

(CONTINUED)

Grace points to Creegan. It sits along the line Grace drew from Russia to the US.

GRACE

All of the UK's nuclear weaponry is housed at Creegan. It's what makes them one of the nine nuclear powers. Also it's the only base in Europe where we can dock our nuclear subs. Also it's the last place we have any hope of detecting a Russian sub before it's in the vast Atlantic, barreling toward New York.

(beat)

Creegan is "Target One" in the European theater of war.

(then)

The Scots hate nukes. And they hate English overreach. But they really hate having a bullseye on their heads. If Scotland had gone independent...

KATE

They would've closed the base.

GRACE

In a second.

(beat)

When we took our forces out of Iceland, Russian sub activity skyrocketed. As did air incursions. When we pulled our last combat brigades out of Europe... anyone...?

KATE

Russia annexed Crimea.

Beat.

GRACE

Is there a universe in which the United States could afford to lose the base in Scotland?

Beat.

KATE

No.

(beat)

But you went to Margaret Roylin.

GRACE

So did you.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

I didn't ask her to blow up a ship.

GRACE

Neither did I. It was supposed to be--

KATE

Some bent metal. And nobody dead. So it wasn't your fault?

GRACE

It's entirely my fault. You think I'm suggesting it's not my fault? I own it. And I will carry it. But I will not let it tear down the President.

KATE

That sounds convenient to me. It sounds like a reason to bury it.

GRACE

I don't give a shit how it sounds to you. I can name every one of the forty-three people who died in this debacle. I couldn't do that if it was 40,000. Or 40 million. Vaporized, in a nuclear conflict.

Beat. The poster...

GRACE (CONT'D)

This is my game board. The whole goddamn thing.

She circles the UK. It looks small.

GRACE (CONT'D)

This is yours. Keep your eyes on your own paper.

Grace throws down her coal marker. She wipes her sooty hands on the skirt of her black dress and marches out.

Kate stares at the map.

INT. WINFIELD - KATE & HAL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kate and Hal. Silent. Shedding party gear. He presents his wrists, and she removes his cufflinks without him asking. She turns her back and he unzips her without her asking.

Troubled. Both of them.

Kate slumps to a sit, the dress still half-on. Thinking.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

I'm gonna go say hi to Carole. Walk with me for a minute?

He looks at her for a beat. Then nods.

EXT. WINFIELD - BACKYARD - NIGHT

They're seated on the small steps that lead to the lawn. She just told him what she learned from Grace.

HAL

She *told* you that?

KATE

Yeah.

HAL

(beat)
For *Creegan*?

KATE

Yeah. I mean... it's not nothing.

HAL

Of course not.

KATE

I get it.

HAL

Yeah.

KATE

It's a real problem.

HAL

Yeah.

Silence.

KATE

She should stay. She should keep her job. She shouldn't be punished for making a decision that had to be made.

HAL

(beat)
I really can't do this.

KATE

What was the alternative?

(CONTINUED)

HAL

I can't.

KATE

No nuclear deterrent in the North Atlantic? In what universe is that an option?

HAL

I don't think it was an option, I think she faced a dangerous, complex, consequential--

KATE

She made a tough call!

HAL

And god bless her! But swooping in to convince *Nicol Trowbridge* he's a leader the world can't live without? That's not realpolitik. That's her risking the credibility of the United States to save her own ass.

KATE

She did exactly -- *exactly* -- what you would have done.

HAL

Can we take a quick break from making it all about me? Just once? And look at you?

KATE

No.

HAL

After the great and good on two sides of the Atlantic prostrated themselves at your feet...

KATE

That's not why I'm saying it.

HAL

...You condescended to the idea of being Vice President...

KATE

No.

HAL

...It was terrifying. But you did it. Katie it took a feather to knock you off that box.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

It's a big feather! You and I are not empowered by the American people to choose a head of state.

HAL

Valid.

KATE

It is.

HAL

Totally valid. So call the Secretary of State. Call Ganon. Put it through the mill. Let the justice system--

KATE

Fuck you.

HAL

--And the national security apparatus--

KATE

Okay.

HAL

--Decide what happens next.

KATE

Sure.

HAL

Why not? If she's so fucking sure she made the only open move, Ganon will get it. If it was a reckless, murderous act of war, he'll take her down.

KATE

That's the biggest load of shit I've ever heard. Really. Which is saying something.

HAL

You know what? Fine. Don't be Vice President.

KATE

Listen to yourself. No, you have to because it's so great. A woman makes a vintage Hal Wyler move... a unilateral, save-the-world-cause-nobody-but-me-can move, and your answer to that... is report it up the chain to Miguel Ganon.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

It's not okay. How you talk to me.

KATE

Miguel Ganon! If you said the President, or Billie, but the man you called a-- a-- a-- neck with a nose...

HAL

That's not what I called him.

KATE

You called him stupid, and not-smart, and with bad judgement.

HAL

He's Secretary of State! It doesn't matter what I think of him!

KATE

I'm gonna mark it on my calendar -- the day Hal Wyler told me the only rational thing to do is write a cable to the 7th floor.

(then)

So we could kill someone's career. And make way for me and you.

Kate gets up and walks away. Hal stays.

EXT. WINFIELD - NIGHT

Kate weaves through the gardens and lands in front of THE GARDENER'S COTTAGE.

When she knocks, Carole opens the door.

INT. WINFIELD - GARDENER'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

A fire. Kate and Carole sip alcohol, side by side on the couch.

KATE

Was I happier?

CAROLE

Before Hal? Shit, I don't remember.

KATE

I don't either.

CAROLE

I don't think so. I don't think you were happier. But this is sadder than you were before him.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

Yeah. There was a good middle.

CAROLE

An epic middle.

Beat.

KATE

He gives me advice like he's doing me a favor. But you look closer and you see it's just him doing him a favor.

Beat.

KATE (CONT'D)

I really... believed... that he could be different.

(beat)

I mean I changed. A lot.

(beat)

He didn't.

Silence.

KATE (CONT'D)

What.

(beat)

Say it!

CAROLE

I'm just here for the free booze.

KATE

I haven't changed?

CAROLE

You have.

KATE

So?

CAROLE

He hasn't?

KATE

How?

CAROLE

He's supporting your career. He's working behind the scenes to make you more effective.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

You -- of all the fucking people in the universe -- should understand that's not what's happening.

CAROLE

Honey, you don't have to convince me. I'm on your side, always. I may laugh at you. But I support you.

It's sweet. And then there's a moment of quiet, after which Kate asks a hard question.

KATE

If you weren't on my side, what would you say?

(beat)

If you were on Hal's side. I mean it.

Beat.

CAROLE

I'd say this has happened before. You want him to behave, and when he does, you don't see it. You can't even detect it. Or...

KATE

What?

CAROLE

I worry sometimes that you don't like it. You don't like him when he's good.

Oh. That's awful.

EXT. WINFIELD - ESTABLISHING - MORNING

Sun rises over the estate.

INT. WINFIELD - KATE & HAL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Kate's staring at Hal's face when he opens his eyes. She's been waiting for him to wake up.

HAL

Jesus.

KATE

You up?

HAL

No.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

You're right.

Beat.

KATE (CONT'D)

We need to tell Ganon. He'll take her down.

Beat.

HAL

Really?

KATE

Yeah. You were right.

HAL

You sure?

KATE

Yeah, but I shouldn't do it.

(beat)

You should.

HAL

Why?

KATE

I need a clean profile. I want to be Vice President.

Hal Wyler's never been so turned on in his life. He flips her over, he's on top of her, inside her, and she wants it, she's loving it and laughing, all at the same time.

HAL

You're the hottest fucking thing I've ever seen.

KATE

I know, right?!

HAL

You're so fucking hot.

KATE

I am!

INT. WINFIELD - RECEPTION HALL - DAY

Stuart and Eidra. Both waiting for the Ambassador, who's still upstairs. Silent.

(CONTINUED)

STUART

I'm not trying to make you cry.

EIDRA

Good.

He sighs. Audibly.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

It's okay not to talk.

Silence.

STUART

I understand that we're not getting back together. Fifth time, I really start to get the message. But I just want to say...

EIDRA

Omigod.

STUART

No -- I would like to say. That we broke up because of how you feel about relationships. There is a narrative here that says we broke up because I did something wrong. And that's a load of hooey. I brought up a complication, and you bolted. Because you are commitment averse. And as a friend? A person who cares for you as another person? I think you need to deal with it or you're gonna be alone for the rest of your life. I don't want that for you.

She looks at him. Horrified.

STUART (CONT'D)

Okay, I see why I shouldn't say these things at work.

Kate enters, Hal behind her.

KATE

Hi.

(quiet, to Eidra)

Hal needs to go to the Embassy and make a secure call to the Secretary of State. Can you...

EIDRA

Gladly.

(CONTINUED)

And she leaves, delighted to have a reason. Hal follows.

INT. WINFIELD - BLUE ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The VP's having coffee while Nora briefs.

NORA

I don't think we want to do a swing through Asia right now, but you can talk to him about it, see if it's something he's really attached to.

Grace nods Nora away. Kate sits. They had a tense conversation last night, and this is tense. Grace looks at Kate for a long moment. At her hair.

KATE

Is it... falling out again?

GRACE

No. It's not.

(beat)

Why don't we go for a walk?

Grace rises. She spots Griffin across the room and nods to the outdoors as she exits, Kate trailing.

GRIFFIN

(to comms)

Getting some air. Let's have four through twelve on the perimeter.

INT. EMBASSY - CIA HALLWAY - DAY

Eidra escorts Hal through the CIA hallway. Keys the code in, and opens the Station door.

INT. EMBASSY - CIA SECURITY ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

EIDRA

Phone?

Hal hands her his phone.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

You want to lock it? Or go with the cubby?

HAL

Whatever.

She puts the phone in a cubby and brings him into the

INT. EMBASSY - CIA BULLPEN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Howard's working when Eidra and Hal enter.

(CONTINUED)

EIDRA

Howard?

HOWARD

Yup. Hi there.

Howard rises and leads Hal into the SCIF.

INT. EMBASSY - CIA SCIF - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Howard starts setting up the video call.

HOWARD

We spoke to Secretary Ganon's office,
he's wrapping up a meeting, and then
he'll be on.

Hal checks to make sure the SCIF door is closed, and Eidra's elsewhere. The blinds are down in the SCIF, but the slats are open. Hal shuts them.

HAL

Actually, hang on a minute. I need
you to do something else for me.

EXT. WINFIELD - BACK LAWN - DAY

Kate and the Vice President walk across the lawn to that fence way in the back of the backyard.

KATE

Apparently Margaret Thatcher used to
come here when she needed to think.
She'd do laps around the grounds.

GRACE

Oh yeah?

KATE

It's the only green space in town
where she could walk without her
detail.

GRACE

Precious commodity.

KATE

The house staff says her ghost has
been spotted. Walking the loop.

Grace stops.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE

I need your assurance you're not going to tell anyone.

KATE

About...

GRACE

My role in Britain's recent misfortune.

KATE

(beat)
Of course.

GRACE

No heroic press conferences.

KATE

No. The public can't know. It's too costly.

GRACE

Not just the public. Nobody.

KATE

(beat)
I'm not telling anyone.

INT. EMBASSY - CIA SCIF - DAY

Hal's at the end of the table, close to the screen. Waiting. The video link is live.

ON THE SCREEN, we don't see the Secretary of State, we see an AIDE, waiting by a chair at a conference table.

AIDE (on screen)

He's coming in.

HAL

Great. Thank you.

Hal was leaning on the end of the table, but now he rises.

AIDE (on screen)

Sir, we have Ambassador Hal Wyler up on the link.

The Aide steps out of the frame. Hal's looking at an empty chair. After a moment, President Rayburn enters the frame.

RAYBURN (on screen)

Good morning.

(CONTINUED)

HAL

Morning, sir. Sorry to interrupt.

EXT. WINFIELD - BACK LAWN - DAY

GRACE

Ambassador, I intend to keep my job.

KATE

I understand that.

Grace stops walking.

GRACE

That means you have to stop chasing it.

KATE

I'm not.

GRACE

Sure about that?

KATE

It was chasing me.

GRACE

So you're done.

KATE

I have a job right here, it comes with a nice house.

GRACE

You've abandoned all your Vice Presidential ambitions.

KATE

Yes.

GRACE

(beat)

Then why's your hair up?

Shit. Busted.

INT. EMBASSY - CIA BULLPEN - DAY

Hal Wyler barrel-asses out of the SCIF. Frantic, to a CIA AIDE:

HAL

Where's my phone?

He spots Howard.

(CONTINUED)

HAL (CONT'D)

Get my cellphone!

HOWARD

I'm sorry, sir, we don't allow cellphones in the Station.

HAL

Get the Ambassador on the phone.

HOWARD

(to CIA Aide)

Can you give Alysse a call, see if she knows when the Ambassador is avail?

But Hal's already running to Eidra's Office. He SLAMS his hand on the glass wall and yells to Eidra through the glass--

HAL

GET MY WIFE ON THE PHONE.

EXT. WINFIELD - BACK LAWN - DAY

KATE

None of this is my decision.

GRACE

There we are.

KATE

It's not yours either.

GRACE

I am flooded with relief right now. I so dislike being gaslit--

KATE

You're not being--

GRACE

I so dislike being gaslit, that even when I learn that a grasping hayseed is after my job, I am overcome with relief.

KATE

Ma'am, I don't want your job. I've been trying like hell to get out of it. But if the President asks me to serve, the answer is yes.

GRACE

No. That is incorrect. The answer is no.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GRACE (CONT'D)

(beat)

When you're out of your depth and the lady in the chair is not... When it's clear that the President's request is coming from anxiety, and the misperception that shaking a snow globe changes its internal architecture... you say no to the President of the United States.

KATE

No. I'm sorry. I disagree.

GRACE

I just said twelve things, which one don't you like?

KATE

I don't know.

GRACE

You don't know. That's just what we're looking for in a leader.

KATE

I realize you faced a bad situation. It was unbearably complicated--

GRACE

It wasn't, actually. You would have done exactly the same thing!

KATE

Maybe I would. And don't get me wrong, I am grateful I wasn't in your shoes--

GRACE

So why the fuck do you think you should be now?

KATE

Because, ma'am, at the end of the day one of us hatched a terrorist plot and it isn't me.

Stuart hurries, as much as a man recently off crutches can hurry, across the back lawn from the house.

STUART

Ambassador?

Kate walks to meet him. The VP stays where she is, looking out beyond the fence.

(CONTINUED)

STUART (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to interrupt, but Mr. Wyler's on the phone, he said it's urgent.

Stuart hands her his phone -- Hal's already on.

KATE (to phone)

Really?

HAL (O.S.)

Katie--

KATE (to phone)

I just called the VP a terrorist, and said I wanted her job, I feel like I should follow up.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. EMBASSY - CIA - EIDRA'S OFFICE - DAY

Hal's calling from Eidra's desk phone. He's a mess.

HAL

Katie I did something.

KATE

What did you do.

HAL

I thought it would be better. Because what if Ganon made it all about Ganon?

KATE

Hal.

(beat)

What did you do?

HAL

I didn't tell Ganon. I told the President.

KATE

Jesus fucking Christ. What did he say?

HAL

Katie... He got...

KATE

What?

(CONTINUED)

HAL

(beat)

He got really upset.

KATE

What does that mean?

Before he can answer, Kate sees Secret Service Agents stream out of Winfield. Like, ten of them. Sprinting across the lawn. Nora behind them. They blaze past Kate. They're sprinting toward the Vice President.

GRIFFIN

MA'AM.

HAL

He died, Katie. The President's dead.
Grace Penn is President.

Grace Penn turns toward the phalanx of Secret Service booking toward her. As the possible explanation for that behavior begins to dawn on her, we --

BLACKOUT.

END OF SEASON TWO