



Seri es Two

Epi sode Fi ve

By

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EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 0. 1540

A white furniture van with a sign on it - 'Pluto Removals' - is being filmed at a distance. It is parked in an area of lock-up garages.

Figures are unloading drums from the lock-up and putting them into the furniture van.

VOICE (RUTH)

These are members of a group calling itself Patmos.' Ideology: survivalist. The lock-up seen here was inspected by Special Branch. The drums seen here were empty. The van has been left parked in an East End car park for the last forty-eight hours. Level of Threat: Blue, A/B

EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 0. 1138

Again a hand-held camera.

A Caucasian male is stopped, overpowered and deftly pulled into a van, the doors close and the van pulls off. And...

EXT. WOODLAND AND SCRUB - DAY 0. 1145

Figures training with weapons in woodland and scrub, mountains behind.

VOICE

These pictures were taken in the Brecon Beacons of an animal rights group believed to be planning an armed attack. Target is suspected to be laboratories in Bristol. Level of Threat: Blue A/B.

INT. HOUSE - DAY 0. 1153

Hand held camera, a door has just been smashed down. Armed figures in black wearing gas masks are pounding up stairs. CUT TO: room after room: empty.

Then a small back room. On a trestle table there are chemical implements. Stacked in a corner of the room there are bags of fertiliser. It's a bomb making factory.

Very noisy then silent.

The camera CLOSES on a map of the Whitehall area of London pinned to the wall with arrows and routes marked upon it.

VOICE (RUTH) (Very matter-of-fact)

House on Peckham Rise, found empty. Discovered:
detailed maps of Whitehall Government Buildings
with CCTV camera positions marked. The bomb-makers
have still not been apprehended. Their group is
unknown. Level of threat is flagged as Blue: A/A.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 0. 1250

SEEN BY A CCTV (COLOUR) CAMERA:

INTERROGATOR

You are Christopher John Jennings. You work as a
maintenance engineer at Sefton B Nuclear Power
Station in East Anglia. You have recently received
a transfer in your bank account of one hundred
thousand pounds.

A bank statement is passed over the table.

INTERROGATOR (cont'd)

We believe you have sold information about the
nuclear plant of use to terrorists operating out
of North Africa.

JENNINGS goes to pieces.

JENNINGS

Oh God, oh God help me...

A figure moves towards JENNINGS, aggressively. The automatic
camera zooming in.

VOICE (RUTH)

The interrogation of this suspect is on-going.
Level of threat: Red, A.

Freeze on the terrified face of JENNINGS.

And his face is on a monitor's screen.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 0705

RUTH sits looking at the monitor.

RUTH

Good morning world.

TITLES

EXT. HUNGERFORD BRIDGE - DAY 1. 0740

A CCTV Camera looks at the traffic crossing on the north side
of the bridge.

Morning rush hour: traffic is jammed on the bridge and along the north embankment. The buses are full, people hurry along the pavements. Busy, crowded London. Focus on a figure crossing the bridge, walking towards camera - it's TOM.

EXT./INT. HUNGERFORD BRIDGE/COFFEE SHOP - DAY 1. 0742

TOM walks down the steps of Hungerford bridge, then the camera zooms towards a coffee shop. The window is misted. GO CLOSER.

A hand wipes a circle in the misted window and we see a POV from inside of TOM approaching. REVERSE: to see the person looking out is VICKY.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 1. 0743

TOM and VICKY are sitting at a bar on stools facing the glass. She takes a long white envelope from her bag and holds it out to him. Noise. The closeness of others.

TOM looks at the tickets.

TOM
Egypt?

VICKY
The hotel's on an island in the middle of the river Nile. Near Thebes and the valley of the Kings. We can drive out into the desert and spend the night under the stars, shagging ourselves stupid.

TOM
No way can I go to Egypt.

VICKY
You've got some leave.

TOM
I can't.

VICKY
Can't or won't?

TOM
They'd never give me clearance.

VICKY
Oh the mysterious 'they', your (loud) spooky bosses.

TOM (Slipping off the stool)

Take the tickets back. If they're difficult I'll go halves...

VICKY
If you don't come to Egypt with me I'll break this window.

TOM
Don't be ridiculous...

She thumps the window with great force. It holds. People turn.

VICKY
You're going to dump me aren't you.

TOM sighs.

TOM
Look let's have lunch and talk. The Clock Tower, yes?

VICKY
Expensive. Definitely a dumping lunch.

TOM
One?

VICKY (A bright forced smile)
Right then. Windows are safe until one o'clock.

TOM slips away, his face drawn.

Behind him her smile slips away to a look of misery.

EXT. ESTABLISHING. THAMES HOUSE - DAY 1. 0815

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 0816

The Grid is busy with people arriving for work. DANNY is not amongst them. There are two officers: PHIL - middle aged, portly - and MARY - 30s, conservatively dressed, hair up tight.

SAM
Saw that Jude Law film last night.

TOM
And what was that like for you?

SAM
That'd be telling.

COLIN
Ever been on a barge?

SAM
A what?

COLIN
Me and some mates are going up to East Anglia this weekend, on the canals. Great pubs.

SAM
You'll all fall in. And get that rat's disease.

COLIN
You don't want to come then?

SAM pulls a face.

COLIN (cont'd) (Pushing it)
What you doing this weekend, Tom?

TOM
That's red flagged classified.

COLIN and SAM grin at each other.

TOM peels off.

HARRY can be seen in his office talking to a man and a woman.

MALCOLM is looking at the water-cooler.

SAM
Harry's in early.

COLIN
He's got some people from St Albans with him.

MALCOLM, to no one.

MALCOLM
The water cooler's half empty.

There is a distant muffled sound.

SAM
What was that?

MALCOLM
What was what?

SAM
That sound.

COLIN

It's probably the registry lift. The door gets stuck then bangs.

MALCOLM

Maintenance in this building is not what it was.
Like unfilled water-coolers...

TOM goes over to RUTH. We see her screen: she is flicking through the images of terrorist activity seen pre-credits.

TOM

That the weekly threat assessment for Downing Street?

RUTH

Yup. They like it nice and dumbed down in pictures. Bike's waiting for it.

ZOE comes through the pods. She is in a bad temper. She makes for her desk. TOM waylays her.

TOM

Zoe, the employee at Sefton B, could you look through the latest interrogation transcripts?

ZOE

Look I've just got here, right?

TOM

Fine. Did Danny come in with you?

ZOE

Obviously not.

She turns away and makes for the door to the corridor.

TOM (Sotto)

Oh Zoe.

SAM notices ZOE's distress.

TOM looks at the clock. It is 8.17am. HARRY is coming out of his office. The two people from St Albans follow him.

HARRY

Tom this is Bridget Sands and Mark Woolly, quizzers from St Albans. This is Tom Quinn.

MARK (Shakes)

Tom.

BRIDGET shakes without saying anything.

HARRY

Mark and Bridget are here to update us on the
interrogation of the Sefton B suspect.

TOM

How are things at St Albans?

MARK

Bit fraught. There's pressure on us to break what
terrorist suspects we've got our hands on.

A euphemism, TOM suspects, for very rough interrogation.

TOM

Break.

MARK

Yes.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. CORRIDOR OFF THE GRID - DAY 1. 0818

ZOE is leaning against a wall, crying.

SAM comes quickly through the doors. ZOE looks up, tears down
her face.

ZOE

No doubt everyone's heard what happened - me and
the love of my life, caught on camera. Did you see
the tapes?

SAM

Colin said Tom destroyed them.

ZOE

Not before people had a good lech.

SAM

No...

SAM puts out a comforting hand to ZOE, who lowers her head.

ZOE

What I can't deal with is this feeling of...

Suddenly there is an incredibly loud alarm. They both start.

SAM (Words cannot be heard)

What's happening?

ZOE grabs her and begins to pull her back to the Grid.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 0821

The alarm sounding. Everyone is rooted to the spot, but for ZOE and SAM who rush into the room.

HARRY is shouting. He cannot be heard.

HARRY

If you could all just pay attention the major
incident alarm...

(The alarm stops. Harry is shouting)

Has s...

(Lowers his voice)

As I was saying, the major incident alarm has
sounded.

People are looking at the pods. DANNY is trying to get through them but they will not work. Bewilderment on his face.

TOM looks at DANNY, stuck the other side of the pods. Sign language... DANNY: 'What the hell's going on?' TOM, pointing at his watch, 'You're late.'

HARRY comes up to TOM.

TOM

Let him in?

HARRY

The book says when the alarm sounds no one leaves,
no one comes onto the Grid.

TOM

Yes but this is only a glorified fire drill?

HARRY

More than that. Terrorist attack - how prepared
are we? Bali, Kenya, the Moscow Theatre - any
moment it will happen here.

TOM

More reason for having Danny on board.

HARRY

You're EmEx Officer.

HARRY moves away.

TOM thinks for a moment then presses the button. Nothing.

TOM

Malcolm, can we get this thing open?

MALCOLM

There's a manual override.

He goes to a little door on the wall and opens it. There is a red handle inside. He pulls it.

While this is happening:

MARK

Harry, do we have to be here?

HARRY

Sorry Mark, the rules state all personnel in situ take part.

BRIDGET

But we've got to brief the Home Secretary in an hour...

HARRY

Can't help I'm afraid.

He turns to address the room... as TOM and MALCOLM struggle with a pod. DANNY waiting the other side of the reinforced glass.

HARRY (cont'd)

Everyone! We knew an EERIE exercise was going to be sprung on us sometime this month. EERIE?

No one responds for a moment.

COLIN

Extreme Emergency Response Exercise.

HARRY

Good man.

(Going fast)

The first EERIE rule is that every officer responds to whatever's thrown at us in a professional manner. We treat this as real.

RUTH

Oh what fun.

RUTH gets some glum looks.

CLOSE TO: TOM and MALCOLM at the pods.

MALCOLM

Last time we had one of these was five years ago.

TOM

I was in Ireland then. How did it go?

MALCOLM

It was an absolute farce. All the National emergency systems were totally unprepared for an attack.

BACK TO HARRY.

HARRY

Right. Now Tom is designated...

The alarm goes off again. TOM and MALCOLM have moved the pod manually and DANNY is coming through.

HARRY (cont'd) (His words drowned out)
For God's sake close that bloody thing!

DANNY is through. TOM, MALCOLM and DANNY get the pod closed. The alarm cuts out.

HARRY gestures to TOM, they talk privately.

DANNY

What was all that about?

COLIN

There's a drill.

DANNY

Big one?

COLIN

Dunno. Want to come on the canals tomorrow and Sunday?

DANNY

One of your barge trips?

SAM

Booze barge.

DANNY

Yeah I'm up for that.

SAM

Oh.

COLIN

What?

SAM

Can I come after all? I mean it's the countryside,
isn't it.

COLIN

More the merrier, makes it cheaper.

HARRY turns to the Grid, claps his hands to get attention. He
is irritated.

HARRY

Right can we all get on? Tom is designated EmEx -
Emergency Executive - Officer. In a major incident
he would co-ordinate all our efforts, so...

A gesture to TOM.

TOM

This is how it works. An EERIE team somewhere in
the building will feed us information about an
emergency. As it unfolds they will assess our
response.

ZOE

What about the work we're doing?

TOM

Put everything aside 'til the exercise is over.
Folks we take this seriously. As far as we're
concerned there is a major incident in progress.
Remember what this service does...

The over-eager COLIN.

COLIN

Gather, identify and destroy.

TOM

Thank you Colin. We gather what information we can
on threats to national security, we identify
enemies of the state and we send the appropriate
forces - police, special forces - to close them
down. And that is exactly what we do in a National
emergency like this one. Colin, Malcolm - you'll
form a technical team.

COLIN

Techies of the day.

TOM (Ignoring that)

Zoe, monitor radio broadcasts. Try to build a
picture of what is happening. Yes?

ZOE
Yes.

TOM
Sam, Ruth: you are our research team.

RUTH
Goody.

TOM
Danny you are liaison officer for all the groups
and my second in command. The rest of you,
including our unwilling guests - sorry Bridget,
Mark - muck in with the groups as needed.

DANNY
Rock 'n' roll.

Overheard by ZOE and RUTH:

MARK
I suppose we go along with this?

BRIDGET
But if there is a real emergency we can't be stuck
here....

TOM
Let's talk to the Duty Room.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 0833

All are gathered around a monitor on DANNY's desk. There's a
CCTV link to the Thames House Duty Room.

A middle-aged woman, DOT, is looking up at the camera. She is
very frightened.

Throughout the scene DOT is on the monitor.

DOT (SCREEN)
There's been an explosion in Parliament Square.

TOM
Do we know what kind of explosion?

DOT (SCREEN)
Not yet. But I'm the Duty Room Officer in charge
of security and the drill is to seal all the
floors in Thames House. In case.

COLIN
'Case of what?

RUTH's enthusiasm for detail makes her chirpy. ZOE takes off her earphones to listen during RUTH's speech.

RUTH

Well if it had been a nuclear device we wouldn't be here. But it could be a dirty bomb, with radioactive material blown out over the city. People will get radiation poisoning in range of ooh, a mile? And then, for years, cancers, deformed children.

ZOE

And we're to believe this thing's gone off in Parliament Square? Half a mile away?

RUTH is chirpy.

RUTH

Oh yes. Latest intelligence is there are at least ten dirty bombs under construction, somewhere in London.

They all look at her.

RUTH (cont'd)

It was in my briefing two weeks ago.

ZOE puts her earphones back on.

TOM (To Dot on the screen)

What are the emergency services doing?

DOT (SCREEN)

I don't know. There's a lot of confusion... oh God.

TOM

What?

DOT (SCREEN)

C section and the Registry, I can't lock them down.

TOM

Why not?

DOT

The system's not working.

MALCOLM (Raving)

The sins of Maintenance. Why is it that nothing in this country works?

BRIDGET and ZOE both trying to get a line on their mobiles and land lines.

BRIDGET
I can't call out.

ZOE
The damper cage must have been activated.

BRIDGET
What's that mean?

ZOE
It means our phones and mobiles won't work. We're totally cut off.

BRIDGET (desperate)
But I need to call the hospital. My daughter...

TOM
How about the other floors? Immigration, Sections A and D...

DOT
I'm sorry, the locking switches won't work...

TOM
Are you saying the control room, and the Grid are the only areas locked down...

DOT
At the moment...

ZOE
It's on Radio Four.

Everyone still.

TOM
Put it on speakers.
(To Dot)
Dot you must lock down the whole of the building.

ZOE throws switches. The voice of an announcer. Everyone is very still, listening.

ANNOUNCER (SPEAKERS)
... as we know more as this incident unfolds. To repeat. A bomb has exploded in Parliament Square. Reports are sketchy but police are asking traffic

to avoid Parliament Square, the area around the House of Commons and Westminster Abbey and the Embankment... We... We have our reporter Ed Hadley on the scene IN Central London. Ed, what can you tell us?

A beat. The roar of helicopters on the radio link.

And somewhere on the Grid there is the loud ringing of a telephone. COLIN goes in search of it.

REPORTER (SPEAKERS)

Sue, I'm standing near the cenotaph looking down Whitehall toward Parliament Square. Police are asking drivers to evacuate the area, that's happening and people are abandoning their cars and running past me up Whitehall...

ANNOUNCER (SPEAKERS)

And this is because...

REPORTER (SPEAKERS) (Strain in his voice)

... well at this kind of incident there is the ever-present fear of another explosion...

RUTH (To Sam, under her breath)

But explosion of what, stupid man...

COLIN is at the door of the meeting room.

COLIN

It's the Downing Street scrambler.

TOM

Zoe keep monitoring the radio.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 1.0840

TOM turns on the monitor. A video-phone image appears on the screen.

DUNBARTON

Is that five?

TOM

Yes. Who is this?

DUNBARTON

Paul Dunbarton, I'm the Downing Street EmEx. Who am I speaking to?

TOM

Tom Quinn, the EmEx at Thames House. Where are

you?

DUNBARTON
DeFen D ten.

RUTH looks at TOM.

TOM
That's the cabinet office bunker.

DUNBARTON
Tom. You need to know the PM and the Cabinet are
on their way to Turnstile.

TOM
Downing Street has been evacuated?

DUNBARTON
It's the new post 9/11 procedure. Helicopters
landed on Horseguards. The PM and members of the
Cabinet who were in number ten should be at
Turnstile in fifty minutes. We need to know what
this is and who's behind it. Have you had any
intel on this?

TOM
It could be one of ten or more groups. We'll get
back to you. What about the Royal Family?

DUNBARTON
They're at Sandown Races. They're being lifted by
helicopter to Windsor Castle - the new nuclear
bunker there.

TOM
Keep this line open. Sam.

HARRY comes into the meeting room. He leans against the door
jamb listening.

SAM
Yes.

TOM
In the contingencies filing cabinet. There are
copies of something called the London Emergency
Services Liaison Major Incident Procedure Manual.
Could you distribute them to everyone?

SAM
Right.
(She hesitates)
What's Turnstile?

And TOM hesitates.

HARRY

Oh let's slide along the learning curve.

TOM

Turnstile is an alternative seat of Government. It's under the Cotswold hills, between Bath and Corsham. In an attack on the country the Cabinet and 250 officials and scientists would be moved there.

SAM

Would you two go?

HARRY

Only the Director General is on the list. The rest of us must make do.

SAM (Frowns. To Danny)

What if the rest of us die and they've got no country to run?

DANNY

I don't know, running a country with no people sounds like a politician's dream.

He grins.

TOM

Danny get the big map set up.

(Calls across to Zoe)

Zoe, something else I want you to do - keep a log of events and our responses. Right?

ZOE (stroppy)

If I must.

A sympathetic look from BRIDGET to ZOE.

DANNY is putting up a big map of London for all on the Grid to see.

TOM

Colin. Break out the EPCUs.

COLIN

The EP er...

HARRY

The Emergency Protective Clothing Units.

COLIN blank.

TOM

In the lockers at the back of the forgery suite.

COLIN

Oh. Sorry.

A look from COLIN: 'oh God I messed up.'

TOM

Help him would you Phil?

PHIL

Sure.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 0935

Everyone is putting on silvery suits.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 1. 0936

HARRY is looking out through windows of his office at the scene outside. Some are laughing.

HARRY looks serious.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 0938

TOM, already in his suit. ZOE is struggling with hers. SAM distributing copies of the LESLP handbook - it's a 53 page booklet, 'Procedural Manual' printed on its cover.

TOM (Taking a manual and opening it at once)
Get in your protective gear, Sam.

SAM

It's all loose and it smells...

A sharp look at SAM.

MALCOLM approaches wearing his hood up and a gas mask over his face.

MALCOLM (Indistinct through his mask)
These suits are totally...

TOM indicates 'take off mask.' MALCOLM does.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

These suits are of course totally inadequate. They seem to be low level anti-radiation kit with iodine filters in the masks for dust. If there

were any kind of chemical, let alone biological, threat they'd be useless. I mean we should have integrally sealed barrier suits with breathing apparatus.

TOM
Malcolm -

MALCOLM
Sorry but if we're going to take this seriously...
?

TOM
All right -
(to everyone)
Let's forget them. Danny.

He takes DANNY aside to talk to him.

Everyone stops. Then they are climbing out of the suits enthusiastically.

ZOE picks up the earphones again.

GO TO: MARK and MALCOLM, removing their suits.

MARK
Is your boss on top of this, technically?

MALCOLM
Absolutely.

TOM comes back.

ZOE is adjusting dials, confused. She quickly takes off her headphones.

ZOE
Radio four's gone off the air.

RUTH
Submarine warning.

TOM (Turning)
What did you say, Ruth?

RUTH
It's a thing GCHQ set up, for nuclear submarines at sea. If the country's under serious threat of attack, the Today programme will go off air.

DANNY

I don't think it's that.

SAM

Tom, the woman in the duty room...

ON A MONITOR: DOT is pulling wires out from behind equipment. Her hands are shaking uncontrollably.

MALCOLM

She's pulling the comm. circuits.

She has taken out an electronic unit and is unplugging leads. As she does this, the computers on the Grid go down.

TOM

Dot listen to me!

DANNY

Everything goes through that room. She could cut us off completely.

DOT

Don't worry, don't worry - I'm sorting it out...

TOM

Dot. What's happening on the other floors? C section...

And she looks at the camera, her face wet with sweat, hair matted on her forehead.

TOM (cont'd)

We need to be connected to the Metropolitan Police Central Control Room. Can you put us through?

All of them watching her. Then she stands up on the table and reaches toward the camera.

DANNY

Don't do that!

MONITOR: Her face is near the camera. The camera wobbles as she wrenches it. Then the monitor goes to static.

COLIN

Look I don't want to, but... what if this isn't a drill?

No one wants to answer that.

RUTH

The telly.

Everyone rushes to a screen, crowding round it. RUTH switches it on.

A reporter is running away along a street jammed with cars, other people are running, the camera moves about erratically.

STUDIO ANCHOR (V.O.)

Stuart? Can you tell us what's happening? Can you...

REPORTER (breathless)

Smoke, and I... People are... Something...

And the screen snows.

COLIN

Try BBC.

Snow on the screen. RUTH flicks through more channels. The power on the Grid goes down completely now.

COLIN (cont'd)

What's doing this? What's happening out there?

MALCOLM

It's got to be technical.

COLIN

I'll check the circuit breakers.

The group breaks up.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1001

COLIN, MALCOLM and PHIL have the tables piled up, ceiling panels off and cables hanging down. With the only light coming from some practicals and work lights, they try to establish some kind of communication.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1133

TOM, ZOE, and DANNY come into the computer room.

MONITOR: An image, an indistinct yellowy figure, is just discernible in the interference snow.

TOM

Is this on the cable link?

DANNY

Somehow, yes.

TOM (Calls out)
Everyone in here.
(To Zoe)
And get Harry.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1137

Everyone crowds into the computer room.

ON THE TERMINAL SCREEN: via a camera on a laptop, a figure in a full breathing apparatus - breathing mask, bottles on his back - all covered by a bright yellow suit with a massive hood. No eyes can be seen through the dark glass visor. The figure fills the screen.

ZOE and HARRY come into the room.

TOM
Can we talk to him?

COLIN
Don't know if he's got a mike in his suit...

TOM
Where do you think he is?

DANNY
Looks like a vehicle.

TOM
Well how do we communicate?

The figure moves away. The blurry image of the inside of a van. White shiny walls, stacks of electronic equipment.

TOM (cont'd)
It's some kind of van.

DANNY
Could be the mobile incident control room.

TOM
Zoe, what do we know about that?...

A glare from her.

TOM (cont'd)
Zoe?

ZOE examines the manual and goes onto professional auto-pilot.

ZOE
Well it's always sent to the site of a major

incident. It's equipped with a small lab for on site analysis, radios, something called Computer Aided Despatch.

COLIN

That's how they're reaching us. Via satellite into the Government cable network.

The figure reappears holding a pad. On it there is written: 'P Square'

DANNY

P...

TOM

Parliament Square.

TO THE SCREEN:

The figure is holding up a second page. On it are written the capital letters: VX.

DANNY (shocked)

VX - not the gas...

RUTH

Oh dear God.

The screen goes blank.

COLIN

Lost it...

TOM (Angry)

Then get it back.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1153

LONGSHOT: Looking across the Grid towards the meeting room. The lights surge back on.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 1. 1153

TOM, HARRY, RUTH, ZOE, DANNY, COLIN, MALCOLM, SAM others crowded in.

RUTH is about to brief them but - for the first time - she is upset.

RUTH

VX -

(She falters)

Silly me, it's just the thought...

HARRY

It's all right, Ruth. Sam will brief us. Let's be absolutely clear what this stuff does.

SAM

Well. It's a nerve gas. This is its formula.

The formula is displayed on the meeting room's screen:

$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{CH}_3)-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{C}_3\text{H}_7)_2$

A moment with them staring at the meaningless letters and numbers. But MALCOLM understands.

MALCOLM (In awe)

Look at the chlorine bonding in that. Makes it almost indestructible.

SAM (Consulting notes. Nervous.)

VX was first developed by us, at Porton Down Wiltshire in 1952. Where it was first tested. It was found to be a grade double A effective weapon.

RUTH

That means devastating.

SAM

The British traded the VX technology with the United States for information on the H bomb.

MALCOLM (low)

Oh dear oh dear.

As SAM tells them about the gas, CUT to those listening, their faces become grave as she goes on.

SAM

It is odourless. Its molecules are also adhesive. It is virtually impossible to remove them from the surfaces they stick to. In its liquid form it is a green, viscous slime. It stops nerve ends communicating with each other.

(She takes a beat, finding this more and more difficult.)

VX is absorbed through the skin or the eyes. It acts almost immediately on the victim. It takes between an hour and two hours to result in death.

The LD...

COLIN

LD...?

DANNY
Lethal dose.

SAM (Grateful to Danny)
Yes. The lethal dose is as little as ten milligrams for humans.
(Relying more and more on the text)
The only known countries to possess VX are the United States, France and Russia. Britain, after inventing it, abandoned stocks in favour of thermonuclear weapons.

DANNY
Is there an antidote?

SAM (Turns papers)
Atropine. It is itself highly toxic. For it to have an effect, it has to be injected directly into the heart.

MALCOLM
It's one sweet weapon.

ZOE looks at him, horrified. He catches her eye.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
I was just thinking technically...

TOM
Right. If we're dealing with VX gas, what we need to try and do is make sure the Grid is sealed, tight as we can make it.

DANNY
The air conditioning's down. The air may get bad but it's all ours.

COLIN
What about the water in the loos?

They look at him.

COLIN (cont'd)
The water's from tanks on the roof. Exposed to the air. The stuff could get in up there.
(Loses confidence)
If we're going to get picky.

TOM
Then we close the loos down and set up emergency toilets in the stationery room.

COLIN
No I didn't mean...

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1228

MALCOLM and MARK come into the room. All - but for HARRY -are crowded before the monitor. Fuzzy, the picture of the van has appeared again. It clears.

TOM
I must talk to him.

MALCOLM
Put the satellite signal through the backup
router.

COLIN
Tried that but...

Flicks a switch.

At once a rush of sound. Heavy breathing of the figure in the vehicle.

COLIN (cont'd)
Wow.

TOM
Can you hear me?

The figure moves towards the camera.

TOM (cont'd)
What exploded? A car?

Shakes head.

TOM (cont'd)
Bigger than a car?

Nods.

TOM (cont'd)
A lorry a...

Nods.

TOM (cont'd)
Did some of it survive the explosion?

A nod.

TOM (cont'd)

We really need to know more about that lorry. Can you go outside and look at the wreckage?

A shake of the head. The figure lifts an air cylinder, puts it down then moves aside and points at a thick tube.

TOM (cont'd)
What's he mean?

DANNY
He's linked to an air supply in the vehicle, his cylinder must be empty.

SAM comes in.

SAM
What's going on?

TOM shoots out a hand - 'be quiet.'

TOM
We must find out who is behind this attack. We must know more about the vehicle they used. Do you understand?

The figure on the screen hunches. Then pulls at the mask and hood, tearing off equipment.

It's not a man, it's a woman with long blonde hair.

SAM
You've asked her to breath the air.

TOM (Sotto)
Sam be quiet.
(To the screen)
What's your name?

She is both scared and angry. And a natural talker.

STEPHANIE
Stephanie Mills. Steph.

TOM about to say something but she is talking.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)
The air cylinder on my suit, it was only half full. I've been on the fixed supply. It's like a farce, the tube doesn't reach the driver's seat so I haven't been able to .. To... I mean it takes the end of the world for you to realise that nothing bloody well works!

MALCOLM
Absolutely!

TOM
What's your job?

STEPHANIE
I'm a fire fighter.

TOM
And your major incident training's up to speed?

STEPHANIE (Offended)
Course it bloody is.

TOM
Stephanie, Steph... The lorry.

He hesitates, she's on to what he means.

STEPHANIE
You're thinking... If the cab's still intact
what's in it.

TOM
Yes. Anything that can help us find out who did
this.

STEPHANIE
Well, it's part of my job isn't it. Investigate
the causes of the incident.

TOM
You're the only one who can.

A beat.

STEPHANIE
Who are you anyway?

TOM
I'm the Emergency Executive Officer at Thames
House.

STEPHANIE
M.I.5. James Bond behind a desk, getting others to
do the dirty work?

TOM
That's me.

A beat.

STEPHANIE
See you then.

She moves across the van and is gone - light fills it, the back door is open.

COLIN
You just asked someone to go to their death.

TOM
Yes.

COLIN, a touch of fear in the way he looks at TOM, who stands up and leaves.

DANNY
Maybe the gas molecules wouldn't be in the air any more. Just on the ground... and she's still in a protective suit.

INT. THAMES HOUSE GRID - DAY 1. 1231

TOM comes out of the computer room and goes over to RUTH.

TOM
Can the data base help us at all with this gas?

RUTH
Not really, it's available all over the place, there are a lot of old Soviet stocks on the market...

The lights in the Grid go off.

Short cries of: 'What? Oh God...' over them MALCOLM shouting:

MALCOLM
Don't worry the emergency generator will kick in...

Greeny lights come on casting lurid shadows amongst the desks and equipment of the Grid.

MALCOLM (cont'd)
There are stand-by hand lamps.

He goes into the forgery suite and comes out with powerful hand lamps. He distributes them and people are turning them on.

(NB: from here these lamps - casting noirish shadows - are used when the main lighting is down and the greenish light is

on. For the rest of the episode the lighting is unpredictable: sometimes the regular lighting cuts in, sometimes it fails.)

And COLIN is at the computer room door.

COLIN
She's back.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1234

All before the monitor. STEPHANIE is looking into the camera. She looks harrowed by what she has seen.

STEPHANIE
They're all dead.

TOM
Did...

STEPHANIE
They're dead. They're lying about dead...

TOM
Did you see the vehicle that exploded?

She nods.

STEPHANIE
It was... white. I think. The top and one side was blown out. But it had a sign on the side. Planets. And it said 'Pluto Removals.'

RUTH
Oh Heaven.

She leaves fast.

TOM
Stephanie, thank you. Please put your suit back on.

STEPHANIE
Oh don't think there's any point. Is there.

TOM
Yes of course there is.

STEPHANIE
The House of Commons is just outside. If they're all dead I can just wander in. Have a drink. They're all drunks in the House of Commons so there're lots of bars, aren't there!

TOM

Put the suit back on, Stephanie.

A moment while - through the technological window - they stare at each.

STEPHANIE

What's your name?

TOM

Tom.

STEPHANIE

Want to come and have a drink with me, Tom?

TOM

No.

STEPHANIE

Why? Scary place the House of Commons, do you think?

TOM

I think it is today, Steph. Look you've got to protect yourself as best you can. Be professional.

STEPHANIE

Like you, you mean? Sending me out to breathe VX?

A horrible silence.

STEPHANIE (cont'd)

Do your best for people.

TOM

We will.

STEPHANIE

I'm off for that drink. I'll raise a glass to say good luck, Tom.

She leans forward quickly. The screen goes dead.

They are all sitting still.

TOM

What's Ruth...?

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1240

RUTH is at her desk. All are gathered around.

RUTH

It was in the loony file. And it showed up on the weekly A routine Special Branch trawl of websites. We mentioned it in the weekly report, just to keep the numbers up. But then it struck me. Do you see?

TOM

Do I?

RUTH

The Group signed itself Patmos. The Greek Island where St. John wrote Revelation. The book of the end of the world.

TOM

What threat did the group make?

RUTH

To bomb ten British cities.

Hits a key.

On her screen - large - the names of cities scroll down:
LONDON, EDINBURGH, CARDIFF, LEEDS, NOTTINGHAM, BIRMINGHAM,
BATH, COVENTRY, NEWCASTLE, PORTSMOUTH.

GO TO: Shocked faces.

RUTH (cont'd)

It's the usual survivalist fantasy. Destroy the cities, the pure in heart will survive in the hills.

TOM

Did they mention gas?

RUTH

Oh yes. Here's the text.

Passes him a paper. He reads.

TOM

'The British Whore's Last Breath.'

ZOE

It's real, isn't it. After all the warnings about attacks on Britain, It's happened. We've known it was coming. The government has known. Small pox injections, regional disaster centres being set up...

DANNY

All too bloody late.

ZOE

But the moment it happened... I didn't believe it

-

But she's interrupted by COLIN.

COLIN (serious)

I've bypassed the system, got into the London
Traffic Congestion cameras. It's a bit...

Many screens in the room flicker.

And the image of Hungerford bridge through a CCTV camera
flickers onto the monitors in the room.

The cars and a few vans, lorries and buses are still. Some are
at odd angles. The bridge is packed. There are no signs of
people. A bird flies across the scene.

ZOE

That's Hungerford Bridge.

TOM

I was having a cup of coffee near there, four
hours ago.

COLIN

The signal's coming and going...

BRIDGET

Oh God... there could be people we know out
there...

MARK

Yes, we must do all we can to contact our
families...

BRIDGET

I haven't said but it's my daughter.

(A beat)

She's in Guy's hospital. At least let's try to
find out if the hospital is affected...

TOM

No.

MARK

Don't you understand? Her little girl's out
there...

ZOE

My father lives in Battersea. Can't I just somehow

find out if he's ok?

A murmur of agreement amongst people on the Grid.

MARY

Let us at least try to reach our families.

RUTH

Maybe it doesn't matter. We may as well just walk out. Get home somehow before the VX affects us.

All are still, listening to her. And she says what they are all thinking.

RUTH (cont'd)

I mean - we should be with our loved ones. Even if we've only...
(Shame at revealing her loneliness)
... got a cat.

A beat.

TOM

No. We don't discuss this again.

SAM

It was just a normal Friday morning, then suddenly it wasn't at all.

Before DANNY can reply:

TOM (Calling across the Grid)
Danny.

SAM

What about your family?

DANNY

My Mum's away. Singing in Scotland.

SAM

I didn't know your Mum was a singer.

DANNY

Gospel choir. Your folks, Scots?...

SAM

Morningside.

Danny does not know...

SAM (cont'd)

The posh bit of Edinburgh.

TOM
Danny! Now.

DANNY and SAM are looking at each other seriously. He touches her hand and goes to join TOM.

TOM (cont'd)
Everyone gather please.

They do.

TOM (cont'd)
So. Comments? Ruth?

RUTH
Well we know the security risk to the country and it couldn't be worse.

DANNY
We know who did it.

ZOE
But how do we get them?

SAM
That's right, we're stuck in here imagining...

TOM
So we need communications. Malcolm, Colin what's our status?

MALCOLM
Well when Dot freaked out in the duty room there were some things she pulled and some things she turned on.

TOM
Like?

MALCOLM about to speak, COLIN leaps in.

COLIN
All internal and external phones are out. The satellite link's gone.

TOM
So we can't...

COLIN
Can't speak to anyone in or out the building, can't contact anyone by e mail or the net.

HARRY has appeared in the doorway.

DANNY

I could go down to the control room.

TOM

It'll be locked down.

HARRY

And anyway no one leaves the Grid.

He goes.

DANNY (low, to Zoe)

What's the matter with Harry?

ZOE

How do you mean?

DANNY

He's so distant.

TOM

What comms have we got left Malcolm?

MALCOLM

The cable link's still working. Though it's dodgy.

TOM

Keep trying to get through.

BRIDGET

We need to move to a new location, an ops room that works.

DANNY

And how would we do that?

BRIDGET

Wait... another hour? Then take a chance the gas has dispersed.

TOM

Ruth?

RUTH

That would be too dangerous.

TOM

Right. We all keep working. First thing - brief Paul Dunbarton.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. MEETING ROOM - DAY 1. 1303

TOM and DANNY before the monitor. All the others - but for HARRY - crowd in behind them to listen.

PAUL DUNBARTON is on the monitor. He looks haggard and nervous.

TOM
So...
(He hesitates)
So this is real.

DUNBARTON
What do you mean? Of course it's real!

They are all staring at Tom. Go CLOSE to Zoe.

TOM
I'm sorry I...

DUNBARTON
Quinn? Quinn what's the matter with you?

TOM
I thought this... this was an Eerie exercise.

DUNBARTON
Well if you think that you better step down. Make someone else EmEx Officer.

MARK (Low)
Nail on the head.

Malcolm looks at him sharply. Tom takes a deep breath.

TOM
There's a serious threat to cities throughout the country. The group responsible is called Patmos, their weapon's VX gas. We need to contact Turnstile...

DUNBARTON
Tom. Tom listen. The Prime Minister's party didn't make it to Turnstile.

A beat.

DUNBARTON (cont'd)
We got reports of three helicopters crashing near Chipping Norton. The VX must have got to them.

TOM
What about the Royal Family?

DUNBARTON

We think they may be lost too. Their helicopter took off from London to pick them up and take them to Windsor. The pilot must have been infected.

A beat. They are all trying to take this in.

MALCOLM (Awestruck)

The country's like a body with no head.

TOM

Tell me, did the Government declare a State of Emergency?

DUNBARTON

That was going to happen when the Prime Minister got to Turnstile.

TOM

So one hasn't been declared.

DUNBARTON

I'm sorry I...

His hand is shaking he pulls it out of the camera's view.

DANNY

Oh God.

TOM

Paul? What's the matter?

DUNBARTON (His hand is shaking.)

I think I'll take a walk in St James's.

DANNY

No don't do that.

(A beat)

He's infected and he knows it.

TOM

Paul, other cities are in danger. We need a decision to declare a...

DUNBARTON

Goodbye.

A hand forward. The link goes dead.

MARK

So what the hell do we do now?

TOM

We must contact the other cities. Malcolm?

MALCOLM

The cable link runs to the capitals: Cardiff,
Edinburgh.

TOM

Do what you can.

BRIDGET

That's pathetic.

TOM (To Mark and Bridget)

Get anything we've got to eat - chocolate bars the
lot - and put it over there. Divide it up into
rations.

MARK

I don't think lunch is our immediate problem, do
you? I'd have thought the Prime Minister being
presumed dead and this secret service being
absolutely incapable of doing anything about it is
what matters.

TOM

Just collect what we've got to eat. Phil, Mary,
help them.

For a moment TOM and MARK glare at each other.

DANNY

Just do it mate.

It passes. Lights flicker.

From this point on MALCOLM, COLIN and PHIL are taking panels
off the wall from around the pods.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1309

They are gathered before the map. Not HARRY. Lights still
flickering, then resume to normal. Everyone looks up in
relief.

TOM

So. We are half a mile from the point of
explosion.

MALCOLM

Ground zero.

A beat as the grim phrase hits them all.

TOM

Has this gas ever been used before?

RUTH

No. Except for the Sarin on the Tokyo subway but Sarin's a much, much weaker member of the same family.

TOM

And if it has reached us here at Thames House, how wide is it spreading?

RUTH

Well the footprint would...

With a marker she goes to the board.

CLOSE UP: The map as she draws.

RUTH (cont'd)

We are here. So if we project at least another... quarter of a mile beyond us?

MALCOLM

The wind's from the northwest today.

(Embarrassed)

I always listen to the forecast. For the garden.

RUTH

So at a conservative estimate, the affected area is at least...

She draws a tear-shaped area. It is frightening large.

DANNY (Low)

Hell.

RUTH

It could be much bigger. A VX cannister of say ten kilograms in a liquid state under pressure, exploded properly so it converts to a gas state, would be as effective as the Atom bomb on Hiroshima.

TOM

Killing how many?

RUTH

Oh I'd have thought during this first hour... nigh on a million have been infected.

TOM
A million.

DANNY
How far could the wind blow it?

RUTH
By the end of the day... three quarters of the
South East of England?

SAM
Over all our homes?

A BEAT, as this all sinks in. The lights flicker off again.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 1. 1316

HARRY is staring at the wall. TOM comes in.

He is taken aback by Harry's inertia.

HARRY
Are things unravelling?

TOM
The Prime Minister and the cabinet died before
they reached Turnstile. The Royal Family could be
lost too.

HARRY
Heroic times.

HARRY looks up at him, watery eyed. TOM is taken aback.

TOM
Harry?

HARRY
Now that the disaster we have anticipated for so
long is with us, what is your strategy?

TOM
If the alternative seat of Government isn't there,
until we hear to the contrary, we'll have to be
the command centre.

HARRY
In effect, you'll be taking over the Government.
How very Oliver Cromwell of you, Tom. Is... anyone
out there feeling unwell?

TOM, taken aback.

TOM
No.

HARRY
I went to the loo, before you closed it.

TOM
I won't ask who else did. Morale may not take it.

HARRY
Right.

For a moment they are looking straight at each other. Then TOM leaves.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1318

An alarm sounds from a distant building. There is a small surge of power but the lights remain off.

TOM is coming out of HARRY's office. He is tearing the JIGSAW document into three sections.

TOM
Ruth, Danny, Zoe: speed read this. I want to know chains of command when Turnstile fails. Fast as you can.

He tosses them the sections. They take it and are reading at once. He goes into the computer room.

MALCOLM
Sorry Tom we can't get anything.

TOM
We've got to talk to the other cities.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1447

Things are deteriorating on the Grid. Desks are untidy. Screwed paper cups and papers are discarded on the floor.

DANNY
We're going to have to ration the water in the cooler, it's going down fast.

TOM
Then do it.

Disgruntled, MARK and BRIDGET are emptying two cardboard boxes of chocolate bars, sandwiches, the odd apple and orange.

TOM is waiting by the readers. He looks at his watch.

There is now a sign above the stationery room door: 'Ritz Cloakrooms'. COLIN comes out, sheepishly, closing the door. He holds his nose, shaking his head.

TOM takes out his mobile. He tries VICKY again.

RUTH

She'll be somewhere safe. I mean whoever it is...
will be.

DANNY finishes reading. He looks across at SAM who is facing a wall, looking at her hands.

DANNY

Do you mind...

Indicates SAM. TOM gives the faintest of signs.

DANNY goes over to SAM.

DANNY (cont'd)

What's the matter?

SAM

It's weird, you never hear the traffic from in
here. But now you really can't hear it.

DANNY

Yeah.

SAM

I said I'd come on the barge, with you and Colin.
But the canals will have VX in them now. According
to Ruth's database, it could be for years. I...
only said I'd go on the barge 'cos of you. Was
that ok?

DANNY

Yeah. Yeah, very much ok. I better...

He goes.

DANNY rejoins TOM, ZOE and RUTH.

TOM

So! At this moment who is running the country?

ZOE

No one.

DANNY

It's a mess.

RUTH

There are meant to be regional Government Disaster Centres but they're still in the planning stage. If Turnstile's not working, there doesn't seem to be any obvious chain of command.

ZOE

It's just a chaos of diagrams. There's even one for moving the PM's car during a nuclear attack. But if Turnstile's not working...

RUTH

It's the headless chicken scenario. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have always feared it - no one at the top to give orders.

TOM

Have you found how you declare martial law?

DANNY

Yeah er...

DANNY leaves through and tears out a couple of pages. TOM snatches them and is gone.

DANNY (cont'd)

Mission man.

MALCOLM steps out from the computer room.

MALCOLM

Tom, in here...

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1458

TOM, MALCOLM, COLIN. The monitor screens are alive. An office behind a man in his late thirties. JOHN MACLEISH.

MALCOLM

We just got this. Edinburgh section.

TOM

Who am I talking to?

MACLEISH

John Macleish EmEx Officer. And you are?

TOM

Tom Quinn EmEx Thames House.

MACLEISH

We cannot contact Downing Street, or Turnstile or any of the London Emergency services. BBC Radio have gone off the air. There's panic here. What can you tell us?

TOM

There is a major threat, repeat a major threat to Edinburgh and other cities. You must immediately evacuate the City centre.

MACLEISH

And just how am I to expedite that?

TOM is trying to keep clear but feeling the strain. He consults the Jigsaw document.

TOM

Set up a major incident control room co-ordinating emergency services and the Army. Police - with troops if needed - must begin the immediate arrest of anyone suspected of belonging to a group called Patmos.

MACLEISH

On what authority?

TOM

Under the 2001 Anti-Terrorism and Crime Act article five of the European Convention on human rights is suspended. The police can arrest anyone they suspect of terrorist involvement.

MACLEISH

The declaration of a state of emergency can only be done by the Government of the day.

DANNY (Low)

A barrack room lawyer.

TOM

The Government of the day no longer exists.

MACLEISH

We must wait for instructions from some authority. Or else we will be descending into anarchy.

TOM

We'll get back to you.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1512

There are signs of the Grid becoming more disorderly. The food has been messily chopped up and shared.

They are debating the situation.

TOM

We don't have long. Edinburgh could be attacked at any moment. But I want you to agree to this.

DANNY

If it's a choice between anarchy or death I'll take anarchy.

MARK

A secret service declaring a state of emergency? That's treason.

MALCOLM

If the Royal Family's dead, whom is the treason against?

DANNY

Do it. My mum's in Edinburgh.

SAM puts her hand on his arm in comfort.

BRIDGET

I thought we weren't allowed to let personal life influence decisions.

SAM

What matters is that people believe us, on the streets. When the orders are given.

RUTH

Yes Sam, spot on.

TOM

So are we for this?

MARK

Absolutely not.

BRIDGET

You're fiddling while Rome burns.

MARK

Yes the Emperor Nero? Your EmEx is in the grip of some kind of power fantasy...

DANNY

I don't think so.

MARK
Dumb stupid loyalty is not what is needed here,
Danny.

DANNY
It's loyalty will get us through this.

MARK
No it's clear thinking, and trying to take over
the Government ain't clear thought!

TOM
Well, what do you say?

RUTH
I say... fiddle on. What else is there to do?

A beat.

TOM
So we have a state of emergency. Yes.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1517

MACLEISH (Shocked)
No way.

TOM
I outrank you.

MACLEISH
I very much beg your pardon?

TOM
I am EmEx London, you are EmEx Scotland. London
outranks Edinburgh.

MACLEISH
I don't accept that.

TOM
You stone-headed bastard! Declare the emergency,
evacuate the city.

A beat.

MACLEISH
On your head be it.

DANNY (Low)
Thank God.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1619

TOM is looking around.

SAM is crouched over RUTH's computer.

ZOE, earphones on, is still trying to catch a radio station.
DANNY is banging on the floor in Morse code with a broom.

MALCOLM and COLIN are pulling up floor panels.

MARY and PHIL are counting cups of water. They pour a cup then pour the water back into the cooler. TOM goes over to them.

TOM
Phil, Mary... what's it look like?

MARY
About two cups each.

TOM
That all?

PHIL
'Fraid so.

TOM
I want you to monitor what people drink. Quarter
of a cup a go, no more.

MARY
Right.

PHIL
This saving the world?

TOM
Every little bit.

BRIDGET and MARK are talking in a corner. TOM looks across at them, then at HARRY's office. RUTH is in there. HARRY has his back to her.

TOM realises something is wrong.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY 1. 1621

TOM comes into HARRY's office to find RUTH in a state of shock, rooted to the spot. TOM stops.

HARRY speaks, his back curved. His tone is downbeat, odd.

HARRY
Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are

honest, Whatsoever things are just, Whatsoever things are pure, Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

TOM circles round to HARRY's front. He sees he is trembling, mucus is running from his nose.

TOM

Go to your station and stay there.

RUTH leaves the office. Tom lets the blinds down over the windows.

HARRY looks up at TOM, helpless.

HARRY

I didn't think it was... the real thing. Forgive me, I...

TOM

It's all right, Harry. Look, there is an antidote. If there's any way of getting it I will.

HARRY

Not possible. And you know it.

TOM

I'm so sorry Harry. I'm going to have to quarantine your office. Sorry, I can't even shake your hand.

HARRY

You'll need the keys to lock me in.

HARRY looks at a desk drawer.

TOM gets the keys.

He goes out of the office and locks the door.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 1. 1624

He turns and looks at RUTH who is standing at her desk. He goes over to her.

RUTH

So it's in here.

TOM

Yes.

RUTH
Shall we tell?

TOM
No.

RUTH
You mean we just leave Harry?

TOM
What else can we do?

RUTH
It's a terrible decision, Mr. Tom Quinn.

TOM
Is it, Ruth? I can't tell any more.

He is near the edge.

TOM (cont'd)
They look at you. Their eyes are either full of
dumb hate or dumb trust. What am I going to do,
Ruth?

RUTH
What are you saying, on the head of the King, let
all the sorrows lie?

TOM (Whisper)
I'm meant to be EmEx officer but I don't know what
to do, Ruth. I don't.

He turns aside.

She pulls him back. Close to him. She has a vindictive edge in
her voice.

RUTH
Oh no, you don't suddenly go all moody and
sensitive. That's for us, we're the troops. You're
the leader and leaders don't have feelings, as you
well know, Mr. Tom Quinn.

A beat.

TOM
If that's trying to comfort me, it's a strange way
of doing it.

A cry from inside the computer room:

MALCOLM
Tom! Tom!

TOM runs to the computer room. All follow.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 1. 1629

JOHN MACLEISH is on the monitor. He looks shattered.

MACLEISH
There's been an explosion in the Morningside area
of the city.

SAM
No no oh no.

DANNY holds her.

TOM
You must isolate yourselves at once. Get to the
disaster centre bunker.

MACLEISH
They haven't finished building it, didn't you
hear?

TOM
Start quarantining the city. Just do it...

The monitor begins to snow.

MACLEISH
And how am I...?

TOM
... MacLeish?

The monitor goes blank.

COLIN
The cable link's dead.

DANNY turns away and closes his eyes. Tears are streaming down
SAM's face.

They are all sitting still before the dead monitor.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 0700

Dawn: The Grid is now wrecked.

Chairs are up on desks and DANNY is standing on one, banging
his broom handle on the ceiling.

ZOE is listening through headphones. She takes them off and throws them down.

DANNY jumps down, gets onto another chair and carries on. It has become obsessive.

RUTH (To Tom)

Eight hours since we heard anything at all.

Saturday morning - I should be shopping.

(closer)

What about Harry?

TOM

We've got to leave him alone.

RUTH

If he's, I mean... shouldn't we give him some water or something?

TOM

We daren't break his quarantine.

RUTH

No.

RUTH turns away, ground down by this.

MALCOLM and COLIN are lying on the floor by a wall. Using screwdrivers they have pulled up sections of the floor. The plaster lies in rubble across the Grid floor. Cables are exposed. They have electrical boxes and equipment with which they test the wires and the cables they discover.

COLIN

When are we going to get some sleep?

MALCOLM (ignoring him)

Dead. Next one.

LOOK AT: The map. The footprint of the VX gas has been greatly expanded.

There is now a map of the UK beside it. The threatened cities are all marked. A crossed out shape spreads from Edinburgh. Dotted lines project the gas clouds from the other cities.

DANNY is on a desk with a broom. He is knocking Morse code on the ceiling, then listening.

Nothing.

He climbs down off the desk. He thumps on the floor.

SAM

What's he signalling?

RUTH

'Anyone for tea?' Didn't you do Morse code in your training?

SAM

No.

RUTH

The old skills die out.

SAM

What's the point in an electronic age?

RUTH

What electronics? They've all failed us.

SAM goes away and sits, facing a wall.

ZOE (Looking at the map of the country.)

My Aunt Sylvie lives in Bristol. The winds coming up the Severn. The VX would go all over the Midlands. And if they did Birmingham...

DANNY gives up his Morse code rapping. He goes and sits with SAM.

GO TO: COLIN and MALCOLM.

MALCOLM

Love birds over there.

COLIN is resentful of DANNY with SAM.

COLIN

It's unprofessional.

MALCOLM

Human nature. In moments of extreme stress we turn to nookie.

COLIN looks at him.

MALCOLM (cont'd)

Well some do. Others take it out on walls.

He stabs a screw driver into the plaster.

GO TO: SAM and DANNY, who are leaning in close to each other, smiling and talking quietly.

BRIDGET and MARK are in a corner, talking low to PHIL and MARY. MARY shakes her head and leaves the group.

TOM goes to MALCOLM and COLIN.

TOM
How you doing?

MALCOLM
Nothing's live.

TOM (Confidentially)
Look, do something.

MALCOLM
How d'you mean?

TOM
Invent something. To talk to the outside world. It doesn't matter what.

MALCOLM
You mean for morale...

TOM
Sh. Do it now.

MALCOLM
Right...

MALCOLM and COLIN look at each other, perplexed.

TOM goes to ZOE and RUTH, watched by MARK and BRIDGET.

TOM
What do you think those two are up to?

ZOE
We'll know now.

BRIDGET and MARK come over to TOM. They speak so everyone on the Grid can hear.

MARK
We demand to talk to Harry.

BRIDGET
We've got to leave.

MARK
Maybe your superior will take control of this situation.

TOM

Harry is sick.

And everyone is awake and alert and frozen still.

TOM (cont'd)

He has the VX symptoms.

Shock. A beat.

ZOE

Harry's in there? Dying?

DANNY

Dear God.

SAM

Can't we help him, do something for him, can't we...

She peters out into silence. And they are all silent.

BRIDGET

How contagious is it, you said?

RUTH (Furious at her)

If you really want to know it takes a few molecules. Straight through the skin.

MALCOLM

Look, I saw Harry go to the loo.

MARK

It may not be that, the breach could be Tom's fault.

COLIN

How do you work that out?

MARK

He let Danny in through the pods. He could have been contaminated.

They are all looking at DANNY.

DANNY

You what?

COLIN

Yeah Tom and Malcolm forced the pod open after the alarm sounded. Cos you were so bloody typically

late! We're all going to get it cos big- shot high
flyer Danny couldn't get to work on time!

DANNY
Calm down little man.

COLIN takes a swing at him. DANNY steps aside and COLIN falls.
DANNY is about to strike him with the edge of his hand.

SAM
Danny!

TOM has DANNY in a lock.

TOM
No. No.

Everyone is still. TOM releases DANNY.

TOM (cont'd)
Apologise to each other.

COLIN gives DANNY a finger.

TOM (cont'd)
I said apologise.

They look at each other.

DANNY
Yeah

COLIN
Ok.

They touch hands.

BRIDGET
You're killing us all, what happens when someone
else falls sick?

TOM
They join Harry.

A beat.

COLIN
Yeah but what if...

TOM
One by one we'll quarantine each other.

BRIDGET

Oh yes? Til' there's one then none of us left?

TOM

What else do you suggest?

BRIDGET

That we make a run for it.

MARK

Get a vehicle, get out of the London area.
Regroup.

DANNY

Like where?

BRIDGET

The Ashford Safe House.

MARK

We must do this! We can't die in here. Ashford's
more than a safe house, it's a command centre in
itself. All the links...

RUTH

And Ashford's South, with the Westerly wind
Ashford may have escaped the gas footprint...

TOM

No. We stay here. As a control centre.

MARK

That's madness. We've got no line to the outside
world.

TOM

Then let's get one. There may be a line passing
through the ceiling that's working. Let's find it.

BRIDGET

We've got half the ceiling off already!

TOM (Shouts)

Then let's get it all off! All of us, let's do it.
And Malcolm's got an idea, haven't you!

They all stare at MALCOLM.

MALCOLM

Yeah. Colin and I we're... working on a
communications device.

MARK
What kind of 'device'?

MALCOLM (Lost)
It's...

COLIN
It's a robot. To contact the satellite network.
From outside.

Everyone is looking at them.

DANNY
Great.

BRIDGET and MARK look disgruntled.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 0901

DANNY is on a tower of chairs, held by SAM. He is prizing off sections of the ceiling. Everyone is chipping with office scissors, screwdrivers at the floors but for MALCOLM and COLIN, who have taken video recorders and computers to pieces. They are assembling a small machine: four wheels from the innards of VHS drives, wires, motherboards. It's like a chaotic Mars rover. Several disks have the mangled innards of computers, VHS machines and mobile phones strewn over them.

MALCOLM (Calling out to the Grid at large.)
Remember: if you hit a wire stop at once and give me a shout.

MARK stops digging and comes over to look at the 'robot.'
Others join him.

MARK
How's this thing supposed to work?

MALCOLM
Well the dish can send and receive a satellite signal... It's just copper wire.

COLIN
We've cannibalised the WAP chips of three mobile phones. And the wheels are from the drives in the VHS machines.

MALCOLM
There's a two-way radio out of the television set.
And with a speaker to attract attention as it moves about. It's powered by the batteries from our laptop.

There's a ripple of approval. Smiles.

MARK

When it moves about where?

COLIN

Outside. We'll communicate with it by thirteen amp wire, stripped out of the walls.

MARK

Yes? And how are we going to get it outside?

COLIN (Looking at Tom)

Well. That's an executive decision.

MARK (Turning away)

What rubbish.

The others turn away.

TOM (Low)

Zoe. You're weapons qualified.

ZOE

So?

TOM

There are firearms kept at the back of the forgery suite.

ZOE

These are people we work with. We can't point guns at them.

TOM

No one must leave the Grid.

ZOE

Only the security unit can use arms. It's absolutely forbidden to distribute weapons to other personnel. You know that.

TOM

Right now, we are the only ones who can say what is or is not forbidden.

ZOE

So what are we running in this hole? A tight little fascist state?

TOM

I don't care. I'm not going to let this group of people fall apart.

ZOE

You mean you'll shoot them before they do?

TOM

You have had advanced weapons training, that gives you some seniority. Just give me authority to break out the weapons.

ZOE looks across at everyone on the Grid hacking at walls, DANNY at the ceiling.

ZOE

All right.

TOM

Good.

TOM is pulling something from his pocket. LOOK CLOSE: In the palm of his hand lies a key ring with odd looking metal implements on it.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. FORGERY SUITE - DAY 2. 0917

TOM and ZOE. TOM is trying to pick the lock of a small cabinet high on the wall.

TOM

Keep the door closed.

TOM gets the cabinet open.

Four automatic pistols are on a rack. TOM takes two. There are also four sets of handcuffs. TOM looks at them for a moment, then takes them. He puts them in his pockets. He takes two clips of ammunition and puts them into the pistols.

He closes the cabinet. He gives a pistol to ZOE.

TOM (cont'd)

Hide it.

They put the pistols under their clothing.

A beat. They are looking at each other, calm, unsmiling.

INT. THAMES HOUSE. THE GRID - DAY 2. 0923

TOM and ZOE come out onto the Grid. It is now thoroughly wrecked. Lumps of ceiling hang loose. Desks are on top of each other. DANNY is still tearing at the ceiling.

TOM 'tours the campfires.'

RUTH

It's pointless. I'm an analyst. But there's nothing to analyse. Just a load of dead wires to look at.

TOM

When we get the power back on you'll be the most important person in the room.

RUTH

You know, I never realised. I'm just my job. Nothing else. Without it I go completely to pieces.

TOM

Ruth, you're much more...

RUTH

No, no I'm happy with that.

She pulls herself together affecting her old self. She stabs the wall.

TOM goes to MALCOLM.

MALCOLM

We can't do much more here, Tom. We've just about hit every possible power source there is.

And TOM goes to PHIL and MARY.

TOM

What's the food situation?

PHIL

A packet of cream crackers and half a banana that's going off.

TOM

Water?

MARY

Half a litre left.

TOM

Right.

(low)

Don't let people know it's that low.

PHIL

No.

TOM goes to DANNY and SAM, who is looking at HARRY's office with fear in her eyes.

DANNY
Shouldn't we try and see how Harry is?

TOM
We can't. We have to keep him isolated.

SAM
That's cruel.

TOM
Yes.

SAM
Tom...

TOM
Look Sam....

SAM
No.

She nods at something. TOM turns to see MARK and BRIDGET pulling on protection suits.

TOM
What are you doing?

MARK
We're going to the Ashford station.

Everyone stops what they are doing.

BRIDGET
We all should.

MALCOLM
Those suits are useless.

MARK
They may give us an edge out there.

BRIDGET
Ashford's got a full communications array. We can get a grip of the situation from there.

MALCOLM
They have a point. If we could get there.

BRIDGET

We are going to Ashford.

MARK and BRIDGET are at the pods.

DANNY (Moving towards them)

I don't think you are.

TOM

Stay where you are.

MARK

Kent. Clean air.

RUTH

Maybe not. We don't really know how far the footprint's spread.

TOM

Listen. The traffic out there is backed-up for miles. How will we reach Ashford? On foot? Walking on ground, breathe air that's contaminated?

MARK

But the contamination is in here! Your boss is certainly dead by now behind that door.

SAM (Low, to herself)

Help us, someone has got to help us.

TOM

As long as there are healthy officers here, we stay. Malcolm and Colin are working on a communications device.

MARK

That's Mickey Mouse morale building and you know it!

BRIDGET

Have we got to die in here?

TOM

Yes. If that is our fate.

MARK

Fate? You're losing it friend.

(To Zoe)

Zoe, Danny, your boss here is losing it.

BRIDGET

Let's vote on it.

TOM
No vote.

BRIDGET
Little Hitler.

MALCOLM
Look...

TOM and ZOE are looking at each other, thinking: shall we make a move?

TOM
I'm giving you an order.

MARK
Bridget the control panel.

BRIDGET turns to the pod manual control panel.

TOM
Don't touch that.

MARK gives TOM the finger.

GO TO: BRIDGET's hand pulling at the control panel.

GO TO: MARK struggling with the pod.

MARK
It's going!

TOM (O.S.)
I am ordering you to do your duty.

MARK and BRIDGET turn on him.

TOM, arm straight, is pointing a pistol at them.

Everyone dead still.

MARK
I...

He moves a fraction.

Then ZOE draws her pistol and, arm straight, points it at MARK.

MARK (cont'd)
What you going to do Tom? Shoot a fellow officer?
In Thames House?

TOM
If needs be: yes.

MARK
I don't believe you.

TOM
Zoe cover me.

TOM takes out handcuffs from his pockets and raises his pistol again. He holds the handcuffs to DANNY.

TOM (cont'd)
Both of you. Down on the floor. Down on the floor!

GO BACK AND FORTH from the faces of MARK and BRIDGET to DANNY, to ZOE and back to the two rebels.

CLOSE UP: TOM's finger on the trigger. He pulls it. The gun clicks.

Everyone dead still.

THEN ALL AT ONCE:

The lights go from emergency green to normal.

HARRY comes out of his office. Everyone stares at him. He smiles. SAM bursts into tears and turns away.

RUTH (Low)
You bastard.

Men in suits with clipboards are coming out of the corridor doors.

TOM and ZOE still have their pistols raised, everyone else on the Grid cannot move.

MALCOLM slumps down against a wall. COLIN, in a fury, turns and thumps his fist into a destroyed patch of wall. RUTH bursts into tears.

And tears are pouring down ZOE's face as she lowers her pistol.

And DANNY and SAM are looking at each other. And DANNY smiles.

And into the stunned silence MARK and BRIDGET begin to applaud.

And now COLIN is beginning to laugh and laugh.

And TOM is still pointing the pistol.

And now STEPHANIE MILLS, the girl from Parliament Square, still in the bottom part of her bright yellow protection suit and JOHN MACLEISH are coming in through the pods, all applauding.

And TOM is pointing the pistol.

And the babble of self congratulation dies down. They are all looking at TOM.

HARRY approaches him.

HARRY
Congratulations Tom, that was a superb display of leadership.

A beat.

TOM lowers the gun. He turns to HARRY and smiles.

TOM (beat)
Thanks, Harry. How was your night?

Applause handshakes, the happy babble louder still.

TOM and ZOE look at each other.

HARRY
Oh, didn't you know there was a back door in my office?

ZOE
Ruth's right, you are a bastard.

And she puts her arms round his neck and hugs him.

Suddenly MALCOLM and COLIN's machine bursts into life and - tinnily but clearly - is broadcasting Sue Lawley talking on Desert Island Discs: 'And your last disc is...' POMPOUS VOICE: 'It has to be Elgar'....

Everyone applauds, laughs and the tension breaks. A babble of 'when you...' 'I didn't know' 'What was the point of...' begins, a spontaneous self-debriefing.

HARRY (Low to Tom)
Did you think I was convincing?

TOM
Oh utterly.

HARRY (Beams)
Really?

COLIN approaches STEPHANIE.

COLIN
That was wonderful in the van.

STEPHANIE
Thanks.

COLIN
Have you have had... nerve gas training?

STEPHANIE
Of course.

COLIN
Ah.

ZOE is on her mobile phone.

ZOE
Dad? It's Zoe, you're all right aren't you?

She moves away.

MARK and BRIDGET, all smiles, approach TOM.

BRIDGET
Very well done, Quinn.

TOM
Thanks.

MARK
So you guessed we'd put dummy ammunition in the
fire arms locker.

TOM
Not really.

The smile fades from MARK's face. Comes back. Then drops off.

Suddenly everyone's listening.

MARK
You were prepared to shoot me?

TOM
Yes. Does that get me good marks or bad?

MARK

We'll... have to assess that.

TOM

I bet you will.

HARRY is waving two bottles of champagne.

HARRY

Plastic cups for the occasion, in my top drawer.
Sam?

SAM

Oh right.

TOM is turning away, taking out his mobile. Behind him champagne is opened.

TOM (On his phone)

Vicky?

EXT. THAMES EMBANKMENT - DAY 2. 0940

VICKY is walking along amongst the London crowds. A normal day.

CUT BETWEEN: TOM on the Grid, VICKY on the Embankment.

VICKY

And where the hell were you yesterday?

TOM

I was held up.

VICKY

Couldn't you have phoned?

TOM

Not from where I was.

VICKY

I sat in that restaurant and they looked. People
looked at me. I had a big sign over my head
'Jilted.' '

TOM

I had a big sign over my head too.

VICKY

And what was that?

ON THE GRID:

TOM puts his hand over the phone so she cannot hear.

TOM
End of the world, end of the world, end of the
world.

VICKY (ON PHONE)
Tom? Tom are you there?

TOM is suddenly gripped by anger. Cold.

TOM
What did you have?

VICKY
What?

TOM
For lunch what did you have?

VICKY
Er... a salmon mousse.

TOM
A salmon mousse. A salmon mousse.

VICKY
What's the matter with you? My life's in ruins
because of you. I mean what about me, you selfish
bastard?

And he goes hot with anger:

TOM
Well what about you Vicky? Sitting in a posh
French restaurant in the middle of the Western
world, thinking "this is the worst thing that can
happen to me...". Me, me, me... Why are we all so
self-obsessed? Do you know I almost see the point
of covering all the salmon mousses with green
slime.

EMBANKMENT:

VICKY
What are you talking about?

THE GRID:

TOM
I can't go on seeing you. It's not working. I want
to finish it.

EMBANKMENT:

VICKY stands still, in shock, phone in hand.

TOM (V.O.) (cont'd)
Vicky?

VICKY hangs up.

THE GRID:

TOM looks at what is now a developing party. DANNY puts a plastic cup into TOM's hand.

HARRY
Let's down these and off to a liquid lunch at the
George?

They are all leaving, happy.

GO TO: RUTH's unheeding monitor. On it a warning is flashing:

MONITOR: GCHQ RED A/A WARNING: LIKELY ATTACK IN 24 HOURS.

END