

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

'Precipice'

TEASER

FADE IN:

105 JAMMER 105

A member of Tyrol's old Deck Gang, walks through the NIGHTTIME STREETS of New Caprica, anxiety and tension etched into his features...

CUT TO:

106 TYROL 106

Scrabbles through a dark, narrow, rough-hewn TUNNEL, somewhere beneath the city. He's carrying something LARGE and the tunnel is low, forcing him to crouch over as he gropes his way through the near-darkness.

CUT TO:

107 LAURA ROSLIN 107

Sits on the floor of a DETENTION CELL, without shoes, eyeglasses, or jacket and trying to shield her eyes from the relentless LIGHT blazing down on her from above with one hand while the other is wrapped around her torso seeking warmth in the chilly air. A small MIRROR is on the opposite wall.

CUT TO:

108 JAMMER 108

And now we REVEAL that he's ARMED and wearing the distinctive UNIFORM of the New Caprica Police, is walking along with several other members of the NCP.

CUT TO:

109 INT. TUNNEL/TUNNEL HUB 109

Tyrol comes out of the Tunnel and into the HUB, where several different hand-dug tunnels converge. Two other men are already here, their faces barely discernible in the gloom: ANDERS and TIGH. Tyrol puts down the heavy object he's been carrying: the WIRELESS SET.

110 INT. DETENTION CELL - NIGHT 110

There's a sharp BANG as the DOOR OPENS, and Laura looks up in time to see GAIUS BALTAR ENTER the cell with a CHAIR. He sets it up in the room as the door is closed and locked behind him.

111 EXT. NEW CAPRICA - RESIDENTIAL TENTS - NIGHT 111

Jammer and his squad of NCP Officers come around a corner and stop. Jammer swallows nervously, settles himself and gives a salute to someone o.c. REVEAL BROTHER CAVIL, who mockingly returns the salute.

BROTHER CAVIL  
You understand your orders,  
Captain? Everything clear?

JAMMER  
Yes, sir.

BROTHER CAVIL  
Good.  
(beat)  
Don't worry. We have your back.

REVEAL a PLATOON OF CENTURIONS standing to one side. Jammer looks at the mechanized soldiers and nods grimly.

112 INT. TUNNEL HUB - NIGHT 112

Tyrol working on the wireless while Anders looks on. Tigh lights a cigarette nearby.

TYROL  
You hear the Cylons cut food  
rations, Colonel?

Tigh says nothing, keeps smoking. Anders answers for him.

ANDERS  
We heard. How long until the next  
Raptor transmission?

TYROL  
(checks watch)  
Two minutes.  
(beat)  
They're talking about shutting down  
the marketplace -- saying it's a  
"security risk."

(CONTINUED)

Anders gives Tigh a reproachful look. Tigh shrugs it off.

TIGH

We'll shift targets.

TYROL

(shocked)

You were going to hit the marketplace? The market? It's full of civilians -- this is getting crazy. Whose side we are we on?

Tigh barely looks up, but the quiet venom in his voice is nearly palpable and his words send a chill down Tyrol's back.

TIGH

Which side are we on? We're on the side of the demons, Chief. We're evil men in the gardens of paradise... sent by the forces of death to spread destruction and devastation wherever we go.

(beat)

I'm surprised you didn't know that.

Tyrol just looks at Tigh, not sure he even knows Tigh anymore. Anders isn't entirely comfortable here either, but he keeps his own counsel. The wireless BEEPS and Tyrol checks it. Tigh pulls a sheet of paper from his pocket, smooths it out.

TYROL

(off wireless)

Contact. They're ready for our sitrep, Colonel.

TIGH

(hands him the paper)

Send it twice, just to make sure.

Tyrol reads the message and starts TAPPING in the response, using a form of CODE.

Jammer and his squad of NCP Officers set up a perimeter around a group of residential TENTS in the city.

114 INT. DETENTION CELL - NIGHT

114

Laura watches Baltar dully as he sits in the chair and regards her with sympathy.

BALTAR

I heard you were on the list and I wanted to see with my own eyes that you had not been harmed. Here --

Baltar pulls her GLASSES from his pocket and hands them to her as he tries to connect with her.

BALTAR (cont'd)

I can help you, Laura. I can protect you. But you have to understand that things have changed now. The insurgency has crossed a redline. Suicide bombing -- it's abhorrent to everything we believe in. You and I -- we have to condemn these tactics. They cannot be legitimized in any way and the insurgency must be stopped from employing them ever again.

LAURA

This is such good news, Mr. President, I can't tell you.

BALTAR

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

There is something that scares the Cylons after all.

BALTAR

Using men and women as living bombs should scare all of us.

LAURA

Desperate people take desperate measures.

BALTAR

(heated)

Look me in the eye and tell me you support sending young men and women into crowds with explosives tied to around their chests, Laura! Tell me you approve!

She doesn't and Laura can't really bring herself to say otherwise. She opts to deflect the conversation to another topic rather than engage it directly.

LAURA

I don't control the insurgents.

BALTAR

(calmer)

I know you're as shocked and appalled as I am by these bombings. My God, Laura -- they killed almost thirty-three men and women whose only crime was to put on a police uniform and try to bring order out of this chaos.

LAURA

By arresting innocent people in the dead of night? Detaining them indefinitely without charge? Torturing them for information?

(CONTINUED)

BALTAR  
No one's being tortured.

LAURA  
Tell that to Colonel Tigh.

BALTAR  
I don't think you understand the  
very real peril that this city is  
in right now.  
(grim)  
You see, the Cylon is a machine.  
For all the layered psychology and  
emotional complexity built into the  
programing, they're still only  
machines at heart...

115 INT. DETENTION OBERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

115

Where CAPRICA SIX is watching Baltar and Laura through the  
one-way mirror.

BALTAR (THRU GLASS)  
... The contradictory impulses and  
cheap sentimentality which clog  
human decision-making are not for  
the Cylon. No. They calculate  
where we trust. They analyze where  
we hope. And their hearts only  
reason while ours only feel.

That stings Caprica Six -- is this what he really thinks?

116 INT. DETENTION CELL - CONTINUOUS

116

BALTAR  
And once their careful, deductive  
calculus tells them that the costs  
of maintaining this occupation  
outweigh the benefits... they will  
make a very logical, very rational  
decision: they will end this  
experiment.  
(beat)  
Swiftly. Suddenly. And without  
pity.

(CONTINUED)

He lets the implications of that hang in the air for a long beat. Laura watches him evenly.

LAURA

Pity has been in short supply on New Caprica lately.

He abruptly gets up and KNOCKS on the door.

BALTAR

(to Laura)

I'm releasing you.

LAURA

You expect me to say thank you?

BALTAR

What I expect is for you to consider the stakes of the situation... and obey the dictates of your conscience. Which is exactly what I have always done.

LAURA

Of that... I have no doubt.

He holds her eyes for a moment, hearing the cut, but choosing not to respond to it. Then a MASKED POLICE OFFICER OPENS the DOOR.

BALTAR

Give her her shoes and get her out of here.

Cavil hands Jammer a LIST of names.

BROTHER CAVIL

These are the names.

JAMMER

(off list)

I, uh... I know some of these people.

BROTHER CAVIL

I'm sure you do.

JAMMER

(to his men)

Okay. Suit up.

They each pull out a BLACK SKI MASK and pull it over their faces, obscuring their features. Cavil watches with sympathy as Jammer fumbles with his mask for a moment.

BROTHER CAVIL

(re: mask)

That won't be necessary much longer. Eventually your people will see you as heroes.

JAMMER

Not tonight.

(to men)

Okay -- let's move like we have a purpose!

Their weapons at the ready, Jammer's squad YANKS OPEN a tent flap and bursts inside.

With Jammer and the other NCP Officers as they rush inside, the world is a sea of GREEN shapes and BLACK shadows.

JAMMER (O.S.)

NCP! This is an NCP raid! Lemme see your hands! Hands up!

REVEAL CALLY as she bolts up in bed, shocked awake and caught in the GLARE of FLASHLIGHTS.

CALLY

What-- what's going on? Don't shoot, don't shoot!

NICHOLAS -- her baby -- starts SCREAMING in his crib. Cally tries to go to him, the NCP troops grab her and start to bind her wrists, Cally struggles and the scene descends into chaos.

CALLY (cont'd)

NICK! NO!! LET ME GO! LET GO OF ME! DON'T DO THIS! LET ME GO YOU MOTHERFRAKKERS! MY BABY! NO!

Cally lunges at an NCP OFFICER, clawing at his mask with her hands, her nails digging into his eyes, going completely mother bear as they drag her away. On the eyes of Jammer, as he silently freaks out from behind his ski mask....

119 OMITTED 119  
120 OMITTED 120  
121 EXT. TYROL'S TENT - CONTINUOUS 121

The NCP and Cylon forces are leaving in their trucks as Tyrol walks through his neighborhood. He hears the sound of his baby CRYING as he comes up to the entrance of his tent. He rushes inside, then comes back out again with his child in his arms. He looks after the trunks --

TYROL

(to Nick)

It's all right... Mommy's coming  
back... I'll get her back...  
everything's gonna be all right...  
It's gonna be all right...

But Tyrol is trying to convince himself more than his son that everything's really going to be all right...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

122 INT. LEOBEN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

122

Kara is sitting on the couch, watching dully as Leoben sits cross-legged on the floor and watches Kacey play with some TOYS. He's not exactly the doting father, more like a cleric sizing up a novice.

LEOBEN

After your egg was fertilized, we transferred it to a human woman, who carried it to term. She was pretty -- funny -- great smile. You would've liked her. She died during delivery, but Kacey's heart never faltered. She probably gets that will to live from you.

(beat)

I've seen her path. It will be difficult, but rewarding for her. She'll know the mind of God in her lifetime... and she'll see the patterns that others do not. She probably gets that spiritual clarity from me.

Leoben looks up at Kara, who gives no sign that she's heard a word he's said.

LEOBEN (cont'd)

She'll be hungry soon. There's food on the table.

(no response)

You wouldn't let your child starve, would you?

KARA

It's not my child. I don't even think it's human.

LEOBEN

Half-human. And you know she's yours. You just don't want to admit it.

Leoben gets up and heads for the door.

KARA

Where the frak are you going?

(re: Kacey)

Take this with you. Hey -- don't leave me here with this --

(CONTINUED)

But Leoben is out the door and gone. Kacey looks up at Kara, but Kara isn't falling for this.

KARA (cont'd)

I don't know who or what you are,  
but I do know this -- I'm not your  
mother.

Kara gets up and walks away, leaving Kacey alone.

EXT. SPACE - GALACTICA & PEGASUS

Establishing.

INT. GALACTICA - ADAMA'S QUARTERS

ADAMA, LEE, DUALLA, KAT and HELO are all reading copies of Tyrol's message from New Caprica, along with several other OFFICERS, who are also in attendance.

HELO

Their numbers are a little thin.  
Says here...

(finds it in message)

"Tigh commands 1,150 armed  
effectives." That's a lot less  
than he should have if you count  
all former Fleet officers and  
enlisted available down there.

DUALLA

Could be taking heavy losses. They  
mention a "Cylon crackdown."

KAT

We should ask for a breakdown of  
available pilots in the insurgent  
group -- somebody's gotta fly those  
ships off the ground if we're gonna  
pull this off.

ADAMA

Those ships aren't going anywhere  
yet.

(re: message)

"Cylons have removed launch keys  
from grounded Colonial ships.  
Location unknown."

KAT

Can we manufacture new launch keys?

(CONTINUED)

LEE

Forget it. The specs on launch keys are incredibly sophisticated. We'd need weeks just to do the R and D.

ADAMA

Best option is for Saul and his people on the ground to find the original launch keys.

DUALLA

Assuming they weren't destroyed.

KAT

No way -- Cylons would want to keep them safe just in case they needed to use one of those ships someday.

HELO

She's right. Keys gotta still be there somewhere. Probably locked up tight, though.

KAT

We could make a weapons' drop to the insurgents -- they know the lay of the land and they've been hitting the Cylons in the teeth for months. Give them the tools to get the keys themselves.

LEE

No way. The only thing you've got going for you so far is that they've reduced their defense perimeter to just five baseships. You put heavy weaponry down there, the Cylons are gonna know for sure you're in contact with the population. They'll call in ten more baseships and then your whole plan is toast.

Kat turns a hostile eye on Lee.

KAT

Funny. I thought it was our plan, sir.

The chill in the air is palpable.

(CONTINUED)

Everyone looks to Adama, who calmly keeps looking over the papers on his desk as if he didn't hear that.

ADAMA

Moving on...

He turns over the papers on the desk, but clearly things are far from settled between him and Lee.

Tyrol is meeting with GAETA somewhere in the city.

TYROL

Why'd they pick her up? She hasn't done anything! We've got a baby, for gods' sakes!

GAETA

I don't know. I'll try to find out.

TYROL

How long will she be held?

GAETA

Detention's run by a separate ministry, they don't give us the reasons why they detain any --

TYROL

For gods' sake, Felix! She hasn't done anything! We have a son!

GAETA

I know, Galen. I'm sorry.

TYROL

How can you do this? How do you help them day after day? How do you look yourself in the mirror...?

Tyrol suddenly realizes just how pointless this conversation has become. He turns to leave.

TYROL (cont'd)

I gotta go get my son. Cameron's watching him but she's got problems of her own...

GAETA

I'll see what I can do... see if there's something I can find out...

TYROL

Yeah, see if you can do something.

Tyrol EXITS and Gaeta lets out a long breath.

126

EXT. NEW CAPRICA - ROAD - DAY

126

Jammer, in civvies, walking down the road, his hands deep in his pockets. He sees a piece of PAPER blown across the road...

127

FLASHBACK -- (FROM "OCCUPATION") -- INT. POLICE ACADEMY - ASSEMBLY HALL - 127

The pieces of the torn DIPLOMAS fluttering down after the explosion...

128

EXT. ROAD - RESUME

128

Jammer licks his lips, doesn't want to think about this, can't help himself...

129

FLASHBACK -- (FROM "OCCUPATION") -- INT. POLICE ACADEMY - ASSEMBLY - DAY - 129

Jammer is standing somewhere in the ranks of NCP graduates, watching as his fellow NCP Officers march up to the podium to accept their diplomas and a handshake from Leoben and D'Anna. He watches DUCK ascend the stage. Everything is perfect...

130

EXT. ROAD - RESUME

130

Jammer has trouble breathing, has to stop and put his hands on his knees...

131

FLASHBACK -- (FROM "OCCUPATION") -- INT. POLICE ACADEMY - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY - 131

CLOSE ON Jammer's face. The aftermath of the explosion. Jammer lying face down on the Assembly Hall floor.

(CONTINUED)

131

CONTINUED:

131

He struggles to get up -- can't. Something's pinning his head down. He tries to yell -- no sound comes out of his mouth.

132

EXT. ROAD - RESUME

132

Jammer hyperventilating in the road.

133

FLASHBACK -- (FROM "OCCUPATION") -- INT. POLICE ACADEMY - 133  
ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

He squirms, tries to move -- discovers that his head is being pinned down by someone's LEG. He pushes and pulls -- and the leg falls away, a bloody STUMP at the end. He recoils, manages to turn over -- and discovers that he's in a PILE of dead bodies, all crumpled on top on him like dolls. Only the mounting horror of the moment drives him to claw his way out of the corpses and stand amid the sea of bodies and body parts strewn across the Assembly Hall.

TYROL (PRELAP)

You okay, buddy?

134

EXT. ROAD - RESUME

134

Jammer looks up to see Tyrol standing next to him, a concerned look on his face. It's apparent that Tyrol has no idea that Jammer is with NCP.

JAMMER

Yeah... yeah, I'm okay, Chief.

Tyrol nods, gets ready to head off. Jammer watches him for a beat, then finds himself offering up:

JAMMER(cont'd)

Hey, I uh... I heard about last night -- about Cally being on one of the lists... I'm really sorry.

TYROL

Frakking human police... bunch of traitors...

(CONTINUED)

JAMMER

Yeah, well... some of those guys who joined up -- I bet they got in over their heads. Especially now, with these suicide bombings... but at first, they probably thought they were doing a good thing, you know? Get the Cylons off the streets, let us police our own -- probably sounded like a good idea at the time.

TYROL

Bunch of frakking idiots -- what'd they expect. Hey -- you know any of those guys? Know the names of any of 'em?

JAMMER

Names? No, no idea --  
(changes subject)  
-- So what's up with Cally? Know why they detained her?

TYROL

I don't know. She hasn't done a godsdamn thing! I just talked to Gaeta and he doesn't know squat -- or so he says.

JAMMER

Gaeta's a good guy, if he says he--

TYROL

He's a frakking collaborator. When this is all over -- and believe me, someday it is gonna be over -- guys like Gaeta are gonna be strung up and you and me are gonna be right there tying the knots and making 'em tight.

JAMMER

Yeah.

Tyrol heads off, leaving Jammer to deal with his guilt and his fear all alone. He looks around the city, suddenly feeling vulnerable, and then heads away, keeping his head down.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

135 INT. PEGASUS - CIC

135

Dualla takes a MESSAGE from a PRINTER and reads it. Lee can tell by the look on her face that something's wrong.

LEE

What?

DUALLA

Admiral's decided to put some boots on the ground. Wants to send an officer as a liaison between us and the resistance elements on the planet to coordinate the rescue op.

LEE

Makes sense. What's the problem....?

DUALLA

It's who he's sending.

She hands him the message.

LEE

He's frakking kidding with this, right?

DUALLA

I wish he were.

Something in Lee snaps. He turns to Hoshi.

LEE

I want a Raptor prepped and ready on the Hangar Deck in five minutes. Inform the flagship I'm coming aboard and want a private meeting with the admiral.

HOSHI

Aye, sir.

Dualla looks at him with surprise.

DUALLA

What're you gonna do?

(CONTINUED)

LEE

What I should've done a long time ago.

Lee's heading for the door.

A short time later, Lee is confronting Adama in his quarters.

LEE

You can't do this.

ADAMA

Want to try that again?

LEE

She's a Cylon.

ADAMA

I trust her.

LEE

That's a mistake.

ADAMA

Then it'll be my mistake.

LEE

You're gambling with the lives of everyone on this ship, everyone on my ship --

ADAMA

I don't need a lecture from you on the responsibilities of command. We're done here.

Adama heads out into the Corridor. Lee takes a beat, then decides to go after him.

LEE

(building)

I'm not finished. This entire plan is a reckless gamble.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEE (cont'd)

And yes, you certainly have the right to gamble with the lives of the men and women under your command, that's not the issue --- the issue is that you're gambling with the lives of the entire human race.

ADAMA

I'm trying to save the human race.

LEE

No, you're not. That's what you're not seeing. The human race? Right now? They're the two thousand people huddled in those civilian ships out there who escaped when the Cylons came. They're the safe bet. We have to guard their survival now... just like we did after the attack on the Colonies.

Adama is taken off-stride, wasn't expecting this particular line of attack. He's groping, tries to change the subject.

ADAMA

Sharon can... penetrate the Cylon defenses...

LEE

This isn't about her.

ADAMA

The centurions can't distinguish her from the other humanoid models, did you know that?

LEE

Admiral...

ADAMA

They were deliberately programmed that way. Cylons didn't want them becoming... self-aware and suddenly resisting orders. They didn't want their own robotic rebellion on their hands -- you can appreciate the irony...

LEE

Dad.

Adama struggles for a moment.

ADAMA

I know what you're saying. But we have... a responsibility to the people we left behind...

LEE

Remember what President Roslin used to say? Our first responsibility is to the survival of humanity. We can't lose sight of that. Somehow... in the last year... we lost sight of almost everything else. We got... soft.

(beat)

If we go back to New Caprica and we lose? It's over. The human race just stops.

(beat)

Admiral's stars don't give you the right to gamble like that.

He walks away from Lee for a moment.

ADAMA

You're right.

Lee is shocked. Didn't expect that reply, doesn't quite know what to do with the unexpected victory.

LEE

Okay...

ADAMA

You should make plans to resume the search for Earth with Pegasus and the remaining civilian ships.

LEE

With Pegasus...?

(CONTINUED)

ADAMA

I know we had to leave those people behind. I know it was their choice to be there in the first place. And I know that the survival of the race outweighs everything else.

(beat)

But this time... I can't live with it. Can't face it. Maybe I'm a coward. But I'm going back. We'll do the best we can, rescue as many people as we can...

LEE

Dad, you won't have a chance --

ADAMA

I'm going back, son. And admiral's stars do give me the right to make that gamble.

Lee's about to argue, decides against it.

LEE

All right.

ADAMA

Don't look so grim. I'm coming back. And I'm bringing them with me. We'll set up a rendezvous point. I'll see you there.

LEE

Yes, sir.

But Lee doesn't believe it for a second.

ADAMA

Then I think we're finished here, Commander. Thank you for coming.

Adama starts to go back to work. Lee watches his father for a beat -- goes to him, gives him a quick, firm, hug. Adama fights off the emotion of the moment.

ADAMA (cont'd)

(wry)

You really have packed on a few haven't you?

(CONTINUED)

LEE  
(laughing thru tears)  
Frak off...

137 INT. NEW CAPRICA - TUNNEL HUB

137

Laura, Tigh, and Anders meeting in the gloomy recesses of the tunnels. Mid-argument. Laura already has a head of steam built up.

LAURA  
I don't care that it's effective  
and I don't care that the Cylons  
can't stop it. It's wrong.  
(beat)  
No more suicide bombings, Colonel.  
You understand?

Tigh barely looks at her, just takes another drag off his cigarette.

TIGH  
What -- are you working for the  
Cylons now?

Suddenly, without warning, Laura's hand shoots out and SLAPS him across the face, knocking the cigarette out of his mouth. Anders is startled -- even Laura is startled -- but Tigh barely reacts. He casually picks up his smoke.

LAURA  
Sorry. There's no excuse for that.

But Tigh isn't fazed in the least. There's a difference in Tigh since his experience in detention: a clear-eyed vision of what he's doing and why, without a hint of remorse or an idea of giving quarter on any front. He's totally committed to the fight.

TIGH  
See -- little things like that?  
They don't matter anymore. Not too  
frakking much really matters  
anymore. I got one job here Lady,  
and one job only -- disrupt the  
Cylons. Make'em worry about the  
ant hill they've stirred up down  
here so they're distracted and out  
of position when the Old Man shows  
up in orbit. The bombings?  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TIGH (cont'd)

They got the Cylons' attention --  
really got their attention. I'm  
not giving that up.

LAURA

We're talking about people blowing  
themselves up.

TIGH

You know, sometime I think you've  
got ice water in those veins and  
other times I think you're just a  
naive little school teacher. I've  
sent men on suicide missions in two  
wars now, and let me tell you  
something -- it don't make a  
godsdamn bit of difference whether  
they're riding in a Viper or  
walking onto a parade ground, in  
the end they're just as dead.

(beat)

So take your piety and your  
moralizing and your high-minded  
principles and stick'em some place  
safe until you're off this rock and  
sitting in your nice cushy chair on  
Colonial One again. I've got a war  
to fight.

Tigh limps off down the tunnel.

138

EXT. DETENTION BUILDING - DAY

138

In the courtyard of the massive building, protected by a HEAVY WALL sealing the area off from the city streets, Jammer watches as other members of the NCP march in more HOODED HUMAN DETAINEES toward the entrance to the building.

(CONTINUED)

Jammer looks tired, drawn. Across the courtyard he sees BOOMER and CAPRICA SIX walking toward one of the entrances. He turns to an NCP sergeant.

JAMMER

Take over here, sergeant.

Jammer heads toward the two Cylons.

CAPRICA SIX & BOOMER

Walk and talk.

BOOMER

... the detentions are just causing more resentment and more enemies. We're losing ground with the people.

CAPRICA SIX

I know. But we have to present an alternative -- another way to send the message that suicide bombings won't be tolerated --

JAMMER

(to Boomer)

Excuse me, sir? Can I talk to you for a moment?

BOOMER

(grins, knows him)

Sure, Jammer.

(to Caprica Six)

I'll catch up with you later.

Caprica Six goes into the building.

BOOMER (cont'd)

What's up?

JAMMER

Sir... I don't know exactly how to broach this... and I don't know exactly what I expect you to do about it, but I thought you know anyway since we were, uh -- you know back on Galactica ---

BOOMER

C'mon, Jammer. Spit it out.

(CONTINUED)

JAMMER

We picked up Chief Tyrol's wife in the last raid. Cally. She's in detention. I think she's on a list.

Boomer's surprised, not sure how to react...

INT. LEOBEN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kacey is SCREAMING her head off. Kara is pacing in the apartment, trying to ignore the shrieking child sitting on the couch.

But there's nothing like a crying child to pierce the toughest of exteriors and drive you insane. Kara finally just walks out of the room --

INT. LEOBEN'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Kara ENTERS, and goes to the sink, turns on the faucet and splashes water on her face, trying to drown out the SCREAMING from the other room. She looks up into the mirror.

Suddenly -- there's a muffled THUD and the crying STOPS. She wonders about that for a moment, looks up at her reflection again.

Despite her better instincts, Kara finds herself walking toward the door...

INT. LEOBEN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

... and going back into the living room. She looks around -- no sign of the child. Maybe it is really gone. Then she steps around the couch --

KACEY

Is lying unconscious on the floor at the foot of the concrete steps. A small POOL of BLOOD is spreading from behind Kacey's head.

KARA

Kacey...?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

142 INT. NEW CAPRICA - HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 142

Kara is sitting at the side of the bed where the unconscious form of Kacey lies. The child's head is wrapped in bandages, an IV hooked up to a stand. Kara watches Kacey silently, staring down at the wounded child with obvious concern.

The door OPENS and Leoben ENTERS, carrying two cups of coffee. He silently hands one to Kara, who takes it without a thought. Leoben sits down next to her and watches Kacey with Kara Thrace... two parents keeping silent vigil...

143 INT. DETENTION CELL - DAY 143

CALLY is sitting barefoot in the same kind of barren, brightly lit cell that Laura occupied not so very long ago. The door OPENS and she looks up to see BOOMER. It's a charged moment for them both -- feelings of anger, jealousy, resentment, fear, and familiarity wash over them both.

BOOMER

Hi, Cally. It's me -- Boomer.

CALLY

Gods I wish I had a gun...

BOOMER

Are you all right? Physically, I mean?

CALLY

What do you want from me?

(CONTINUED)

BOOMER

Look -- a lot's happened -- in everyone's life. But I want you to know -- I want you and Galen to know that... I'm happy for you. Both of you. Especially now that you've started a family, that's really great. Something he and I talked about once...

Cally stares at her for a long beat.

CALLY

Can you get me out of here?

BOOMER

I... I don't know. I don't really have anything to do with internal security. It's handled through a different--

CALLY

(raw)

Then frak you, Sharon, you stupid frakked up toaster. Haven't you done enough already? Think I give a damn about you and your emotional software? How many times do I have to shoot you, anyway? If you can't help me, then just go away and leave us alone!

(CONTINUED)

Boomer was prepared for a reaction like that, but it stings nonetheless. She nods, moves toward the door.

BOOMER

If I can help you... I will. I promise.

Cally shakes her head in disgust, looks away. Boomer EXITS.

CUT TO:

A B&W (MOS) image, from a high-angle, looking down on...

EXT. A SECURITY CHECKPOINT

A SECURITY CHECKPOINT against a large compound. TWO Masked NCP Guards are checking ID's on a few humans before they pass through the checkpoint and go into the compound. A WOMAN casually walks up to the checkpoint, waves at the Guards and tries to pass through. Guard #1 waves her off, tries to stop her. Suddenly the WOMAN SHOOTS Guard #1 and bolts past the checkpoint and into the compound just beyond as Guard #2 reacts a second too late and tries to shoot at her. Then -- AN EXPLOSION from within the compound ERUPTS and BLOTS OUT the image, which goes to STATIC. The tape REWINDS...

REVEAL:

A full-scale meeting is underway. Baltar, TWO D'ANNAS, TWO DORALS, ONE SIMON, TWO CAVILS and THREE SIXES (including Caprica Six) all watching the security tape on a monitor. Cavil #1 shuts off the monitor.

DORAL #1

(angry)

Twenty-three Cylons critically wounded -- fourteen had to be euthanized.

BOOMER

They had casualties too -- four human dead.

BROTHER CAVIL

Pardon my language, but who gives a frak about that?

(CONTINUED)

DORAL #2

The power substation was crippled.  
Almost half the city is without  
power and our best estimates put  
the repairs at two weeks.

A D'Anna turns a jaundiced eye on Caprica Six and Boomer.

D'ANNA #1

Still think we're being too hard on  
the human population?

Caprica Six and Boomer shift uncomfortably in their seats.

BROTHER CAVIL #2

We've got a very serious, very  
straight-forward problem. We have  
to increase control or we will lose  
control. That is a fact. So... we  
think it's time to take stronger  
measures.

D'ANNA #2

We agree.

SIMON

We agree.

DORAL #1

We agree as well.

Caprica Six looks to the other two Sixes in the room. She  
drops her eyes.

SIX #2

As do we.

SIX #3

(re: Caprica Six)  
Most of us do, anyway.

SHARON #2

We believe in continuing to find  
ways of accommodation with the  
human population.

D'ANNA #1

(to Caprica Six,  
contemptuous)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

D'ANNA #1 (cont'd)

You and Boomer must be so proud of yourselves -- you've introduced real division and dissent into our ranks. Congratulations.

BROTHER CAVIL #2

Nevertheless, majority rules. That is the way it's always been.

BROTHER CAVIL #1

Certainly, we've been outvoted many times.

SIMON

That's because your atheism and your immorality are an offense in the eyes of God.

D'ANNA #2

Enough.

She takes a document out of a file, puts it on the table in front of Baltar. He instinctively reacts like she just set a snake before him.

BALTAR

What is this?

D'ANNA #2

This orders the summary execution of all detainees listed on the next page. It requires your signature.

BALTAR

My signature?

DORAL #2

You're the President.

Baltar starts to look over the list.

D'ANNA #1

(annoyed)

You can read later.

D'ANNA #2

Sign now.

CAPRICA SIX

Just because you've decided to do this, doesn't mean you have to drag him into sin with you.

D'ANNA #2  
Don't lecture me about sin.

D'ANNA #1  
I'm not the one who committed the  
first act of Cylon on Cylon  
violence in our history.

BALTAR  
What? What's she talking about?

D'ANNA #1  
She crushed my skull with a rock  
back on Caprica. Interesting she  
didn't tell you.

CAPRICA SIX  
It was something I had to do... I'm  
not proud of it.

BROTHER CAVIL #2  
All very interesting, very  
edifying. Sign the order.

Doral #2 begins to move to stand behind Baltar.

BALTAR  
You... don't need my approval.

D'ANNA #1  
We're here as friends and allies,  
helping the legitimate government  
of the Colonies. You're the  
President. Everything we do should  
be sanctioned by you.

BROTHER CAVIL #1  
In other words, they're still  
worried about what "God" might  
think of them for committing murder  
and they're covering their  
existential bases.

BALTAR  
Well, I won't do it. You'll have  
to salve your consciences in some  
other way.

Doral #2 suddenly puts the muzzle of a GUN to the back of  
Baltar's head.

(CONTINUED)

DORAL #1  
Then we'll find another President.

CAPRICA SIX  
Stop this. Now.

BROTHER CAVIL #2  
This would be a particularly  
inopportune moment for you to --

It all happens in a split second: Caprica Six MOVES TOWARD Doral #2 -- who quickly shifts aim and SHOTS HER DEAD, then puts the muzzle back to Baltar's head. Baltar can see her dead body lying on the deck.

BALTAR  
(distraught)  
Dear God...

BROTHER CAVIL #2  
She'll be back.

BROTHER CAVIL #1  
But if he pulls that trigger now --  
you won't.

Doral #2 pushes Baltar's head forward slightly with the gun, forcing him to look down at the warrant. Baltar is on the verge of a complete breakdown when --

A WOMAN'S HAND

Reaches in and takes his hand in hers...

145A INT. COLONIAL ONE - MAIN CABIN - WIDER

145A

The Cylons are now gone and Baltar is alone in the room with only NUMBER SIX standing there in her red dress. There's a slightly surreal quality to the light in this suspended moment in time.

NUMBER SIX  
There's nothing you can do, Gaius.  
It'll be all right.

BALTAR  
It's good to see you. I've...  
missed you.

NUMBER SIX  
(smiles)  
I know.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

145A CONTINUED:

145A

NUMBER SIX (cont'd)

(beat)

You have to sign. They'll kill you  
if you don't.

BALTAR

I am not... a villain.

She puts a hand to his face.

NUMBER SIX

Sometimes even heroes have to do  
things they hate... so they can  
survive to fight again another  
day...

She guides his hand to sign the warrant.

BALTAR

Don't leave me again...

NUMBER SIX

I'm always here, Gaius. Always.

145B INT. COLONIAL ONE - MAIN CABIN - RESUME

145B

The Cylons are here and we're back in the same moment we  
left. Baltar signs the warrant. D'Anna snatches it off the  
table and Doral puts away the gun. OFF Baltar as he tries to  
deal with what he's just done...

146 INT. GALACTICA - CORRIDOR - ON HELO

146

Helo standing in his dress uniform, smiling at someone o.c.

(CONTINUED)

HELO

Never thought I'd live to see the day...

REVEAL Sharon walking up in a DRESS UNIFORM. She smooths out the fabric of the jacket.

SHARON

Me neither.

HELO

Looks good on you. Belongs on you.

They head down the Corridor.

SHARON

You know what this means to me?

HELO

(touches the insignia)  
One of the first things they taught us at the Academy was that symbols matter. Uniforms. Flags. Banners. Even mascots. They're like... pieces of your heart you can look at.

(beat)

This uniform... it means a lot to me, Sharon.

SHARON

I know it does, Helo. It means a lot to me too.

(beat)

I won't betray it.

Adama, Helo, Kat and a ROOMFUL of other OFFICERS are in DRESS UNIFORMS and gathered here for a ceremonial occasion. Adama is administering the oath of office to Sharon. She looks scared, and happy, and five thousand other emotions that are too complicated to ever fully know.

ADAMA

Raise your right hand and repeat after me: I... Sharon Agathon do now pledge my faith and loyalty...

SHARON

I, Sharon Agathon, do now pledge my  
faith and loyalty...

ADAMA

To the protection of the Twelve  
Colonies of Kobol...

SHARON

To the protection of the Twelve  
Colonies of Kobol...

ADAMA

And will carry out the lawful  
orders of my superiors...

SHARON

And will carry out the lawful  
orders of my superiors...

ADAMA

As an officer... in the Colonial  
Fleet.

SHARON

As an officer... in the Colonial  
Fleet.

ADAMA

Congratulations, Lieutenant.

Adama shakes her hand, a woman named Sharon is a lieutenant  
once more, and one of many circles is now complete.

ELLEN TIGH is putting on her bra and grabs her skirt from the  
floor. A man's HAND reaches out and strokes her thigh  
appreciatively.

BROTHER CAVIL

Now, that was... something.

ELLEN

Thought you might like that.

BROTHER CAVIL

Didn't do the... twist this time.  
What was that thing at the end...?

ELLEN

You mean the swirl?

BROTHER CAVIL

The swirl! Really something.

ELLEN

You said you wanted something memorable...

She gets up and finishes getting dressed. The moment she turns away from him, we see the look on her face change to bitter self-contempt. Cavil reaches for his pants.

BROTHER CAVIL

How's Saul?

ELLEN

(tight)

Fine.

BROTHER CAVIL

(casual)

Where's his next meeting with the insurgents?

She freezes.

BROTHER CAVIL (cont'd)

Don't bother to deny it, Ellen. We know he's their leader. Why do you think we let him out of detention?

ELLEN

(bitter)

I thought it was the twist.

BROTHER CAVIL

Well -- that too, in all honesty. But having the Colonel out and active in the resistance presents us with certain... advantages.

ELLEN

I don't know anything about what--

BROTHER CAVIL

Let's take your denials as read, shall we? What I want is a specific place and a specific time for a high level meeting of the insurgent leadership. If I don't get it, Saul will be picked up once again... and this time he'll lose more than an eye.

(CONTINUED)

148 'Precipice' FULL COLLATED 5/11/06  
CONTINUED: (2)

37.  
148

Off Ellen's face as she realizes she's trapped...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

149 EXT. NEW CAPRICA - TIGH'S TENT - NIGHT 149

Nothing unusual about the tent, except that there's a MAN casually sitting just outside the flap, seeming to whittle a piece of wood, but actually keeping a close eye out as people move back and forth through the area.

150 INT./EXT. TIGH'S TENT - NIGHT 150

Tyrol and Anders are going over a hand-transcribed message with Tigh.

TYROL

Tomorrow, Galactica's sending a Raptor, a few Marines and a ground liaison officer to brief us on the rescue plan and coordinate our evac plans with them.

TIGH

I'll be damned... it's really happening. Who's the liaison officer?

TYROL

(hesitant)  
Sharon...

TIGH

I hope that's your idea of a joke.

TYROL

Nope. The Admiral's given her a uniform and a billet. She's a serving officer now -- which is more than you can say about us, technically.

Tigh shakes his head for a moment.

TIGH

Old Man's lost his mind. All right. Where's the rendezvous?

TYROL

They left it up to us.

ANDERS

Here's my suggestion...

(CONTINUED)

He takes out a folded MAP of the surrounding area from his pocket and starts to go over the markings with Tigh.

ANDERS (cont'd)

If they Jump into Breeder's Canyon  
out here in the southern range,  
they probably won't get picked up --

Suddenly there's a BANG-BANG from outside. Tigh moves to peer through the flap -- sees Ellen is standing outside, waiting patiently by the Man guarding the entrance. Tigh picks up a CUP and BANGS once on the tent pole and Ellen is cleared to ENTER.

She gives Tyrol and Anders a quick smile.

ELLEN

Hi, guys.

ANDERS

Ellen.

(back to map)

Anyway -- if they Jump in here,  
they won't get picked up on Cylon  
dradis.

Ellen busies herself in the tent, but she's also nervously listening to every word and surreptitiously watching the map discussion.

TIGH

Long way out there... lotta ground  
to cover on foot.

ANDERS

I'd meet'em half-way... right  
about... here. It's good cover  
from the air, pretty isolated.

TIGH

Gotta be sure... may be the most  
important meeting we're ever gonna  
have.

That registers on Ellen's face... she doesn't want to do this, but Cavil's words echo in her ears. She takes a deep breath...

(CONTINUED)

ANDERS

I'm sure. This is the place.  
Cylons'll never find'em up here.

TIGH

Okay. Gimme the map. You got the  
message memorized? All the  
wireless freqs? Then gimme the  
message too.

Tigh reaches out for his cane, starts to drag himself to his  
feet -- but Ellen moves to him quickly.

ELLEN

I'll do it, Saul. Don't get up.

TIGH

Thanks.

She takes the message and the map, turns her back to them and  
then leans down to OPEN the TRAP on the small STOVE in the  
tent. Out of their sight, she tosses in the message, but  
POCKETS the MAP inside her clothes.

150A INT. GALACTICA - HANGAR DECK

150A

Sharon, in her flightsuit, is getting ready to board a  
RAPTOR. Adama and Helo are seeing her off.

HELO

Good hunting.

SHARON

See you soon.

They embrace, then Adama holds out a hand. She takes it,  
pauses for a beat:

SHARON (cont'd)

Can I ask you something? How do  
you know -- how do you really know  
you can trust me?

ADAMA

I don't. That's what trust is.  
Good hunting.

Sharon looks at him for a beat, then climbs into the Raptor.

151 INT. COLONIAL ONE - MAIN CABIN - DAY

151

The next day. Baltar is sitting at his desk, drinking, smoking, and popping pills, trying to wash away the guilt over what he's done, when Gaeta ENTERS at a clip, carrying a piece of paper, and filled with tension.

GAETA

Did you sign this?

BALTAR

Not now, Mr. Gaeta... I'm tired...

GAETA

This is a death warrant -- have you seen the names on here? Do you have any idea what they're about to do out there? *Are you listening to me?*

Baltar looks up -- sees a copy of the death list in Gaeta's hand.

BALTAR

I didn't have any choice...

(CONTINUED)

GAETA

(astonished)

You didn't have any...? What the hell's the matter with you!

BALTAR

Don't take that tone with me --

GAETA

There are over two hundred names on this list! Have you looked at the names? LOOK AT THE NAMES, GAIUS!

BALTAR

I'VE SEEN THEM, ALL RIGHT?

(beat)

I've seen them. And... there was nothing I could do.

Gaeta looks wildly at Baltar for a moment, completely freaked out and yet unable to figure out what to do. He turns and bolts from the cabin...

152 EXT. NEW CAPRICA - ROAD - DAY 152

NCP OFFICERS are moving through the streets...

152A EXT. NEW CAPRICA - GARBAGE DUMP - DAY (PREV SC 156) 152A

Gaeta is surreptitiously planting a copy of the death list and a note in a hidden place among the garbage. He walks away quickly, heading for...

152B EXT. NEW CAPRICA - HOSPITAL TENT - DAY (PREV SC 157) 152B

Gaeta is walking fast, but trying not to draw attention as he rounds a corner and stops. JAKE the dog is still there, but before he can reach him, Gaeta sees the TRUCKS and NCP officers moving through the streets, rounding people up -- he's too late.

153 INT. LAURA'S SCHOOL TENT - DAY 153

Laura is grading papers when the tent FLAP OPENS and two MASKED NCP OFFICERS ENTER.

OFFICER #1

Laura Roslin? Come with us, please.

Off Laura's face as she realizes this is serious trouble...

154 EXT. NEW CAPRICA - CANYON - DAY 154

A RAPTOR JUMPS into view, low above the surface, and down in a deep CANYON.

155 INT. RAPTOR - DAY 155

Sharon at the controls, MARINES in the back.

SHARON

Jump complete. Right on target.

(to Marines)

Okay, hang on -- I'm dropping down to the landing point and we've got some heavy turbulence up ahead...

The ship is shaken around...

156 OMITTED 156

157 OMITTED 157

158 INT. TRUCK - MOVING - DAY 158

Laura is in the back of a TRUCK with about a DOZEN other HUMAN detainees. Everyone is scared. No one is talking. The truck bounces to a STOP, the back FLAP OPENS and TOM ZAREK is hustled inside by masked NCP officers. The FLAP CLOSES and the truck starts MOVING AGAIN.

LAURA

Hello, Mr. Vice-President. Need a lift?

ZAREK

Guess so.

Zarek finds a spot to sit in the cramped area.

LAURA

Haven't seen much of you lately. Must be very busy these days.

ZAREK

Not much to do in detention.

LAURA

How long have you been held?

(CONTINUED)

ZAREK

Four months. I think. They play with time in there. I told Baltar I wouldn't have any part of collaborating with the Cylons and... well, he got a little pissed.

LAURA

Well, guess what? He's a little pissed at me too.

Laura smiles and puts out her hand. Tom grins after a beat and shakes her hand. Then the gravity of their situation sinks in once more.

ZAREK

At least I'll die with someone I respect. I guess that's something.

159

EXT. NEW CAPRICA - FOREST - DAY

159

Anders is leading a group of INSURGENTS through the forest.

ANDERS

(to group)

Up the ridge, hug the left face... the footing's pretty bad in through here...

160

EXT. DETENTION BUILDING - DAY

160

D'Anna is confronting Boomer as a long LINE OF DETAINEES are marched out of the building in the b.g. and loaded into the backs of TRUCKS parked just inside the blast wall.

BOOMER

Killing Tyrol's wife will only embitter him against us. He's the head of the labor union -- an organized faction that could cause us real trouble if they took to the streets.

D'ANNA

Boomer, let's be honest with one another. This isn't about Cally. In your view, there's no reason to kill any of them, right?

BOOMER

Right.

D'ANNA

We've made a decision, Boomer. All of us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

D'ANNA (cont'd)

Just like when we listened to you  
and Caprica Six and came here to  
start what we all hoped would be a  
new chapter in human/Cylon  
relations. What's the human saying  
about wishes and horses...?

BOOMER

This has nothing to do with whether  
or not we execute Cally.

D'ANNA

No one enjoys the thought of mortal  
death, Boomer. But she did try to  
murder you. Maybe this is God's  
justice...

D'Anna walks away just as the doors SLAM shut on the TRUCKS  
and they MOVE OUT. Boomer looks up just in time to see Cally  
herded into a TRUCK along with the other detainees.

Anders and his men are hidden in the trees, awaiting the  
rendezvous. Suddenly they hear:

SHARON'S VOICE

Go Panthers!

Anders grins, it's the right code phrase and he gives the  
counter-sign.

ANDERS

C-Bucks rule!

161

CONTINUED:

161

Anders and his men break cover and walk out into the open -- at the same time, Sharon walks out alone toward them.

SHARON

Hey, Sam. Been a while.

ANDERS

Funny. I feel like I see you every day.

162

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

162

Kara and Leoben are still keeping vigil over Kacey. Kara is praying as Leoben looks on.

KARA

... oh, Lords... please don't take her life... it was my mistake... don't punish her for it...

Leoben puts a hand on her arm, and without realizing it, she lets him.

LEOBEN

It was an accident, Kara. Nothing more.

Suddenly, Kacey stirs... coughs... and then looks around and cries as she WAKES UP.

KARA

Kacey! Oh my gods! Kacey! We're right here, honey. We're right here...

As Kara holds the child and Leoben looks happy at last -- *and they're still holding hands...*

163

INT./EXT. TRUCK - PLAIN - DAY

163

The truck with Laura and Zarek has stopped on a desolate plain, far from prying eyes. Jammer comes up to Brother Cavil. Other NCP Officers wait in the b.g.

BROTHER CAVIL

(to Jammer)

Let them stretch their legs for a few minutes.

JAMMER

Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

Jammer pulls his mask down over his face and OPENS the back of the truck.

Jammer (cont'd)  
Everybody out! Five minute rest  
break. C'mon! Move!

Sharon is meeting up with the rest of Anders' group.

ANDERS  
We'll wait until nightfall before  
we go back into the city... there's  
a system of tunnels we're using  
that run--

SHARON  
You hear that?

Everyone is instantly on guard and scanning the surrounding area -- and suddenly MACHINE GUN FIRE comes roaring out of the trees, cutting down men and women left and right. Sharon and Anders dive for cover --

The detainees are jumping down out of the Truck. Cally is one of the last ones out, and (masked) Jammer pulls her aside. Some CENTURIONS are moving about.

JAMMER  
You. Over here.

Cally doesn't resist as Jammer pulls her over to the opposite side of the truck, out of sight from the rest of them.

JAMMER (cont'd)  
(low)  
Run.

Cally looks at him in confusion -- did he just say that?

JAMMER (cont'd)  
(urgent, low)  
Run. Don't look back. Go.

She doesn't need to be told a third time. She bolts for the treeline and freedom.

166

EXT. PLAIN - DAY

166

Laura and Zarek are standing with the rest of the group of human prisoners, getting a little fresh air and stretching aching bodies. The NCP Officers and the Centurions watch from a short distance away.

ZAREK

Tell me something, Laura. Last year -- you tried to steal the election, didn't you?

LAURA

Yes, I did, Tom.

ZAREK

I wish you'd gone through with it.

LAURA

Me too.

There's a brief moment where they grin at each other... and then they hear a MECHANICAL SOUND and turn to see --

THE CENTURIONS

Are standing in a line. It's a firing squad. They turn their hands into WEAPONS and point them right at the human prisoners --

LAURA & ZAREK

React in shock.

CALLY

Running like hell. Suddenly we hear the o.c. SOUND OF MACHINE GUN FIRE, and Cally is KNOCKED TO THE GROUND --

FADE TO BLACK.

**SUPER: TO BE CONTINUED...**

END OF ACT FOUR