

Hell's Gate

Season One - Episode Fourteen

"Lockdown"

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(Based on characters and situations created
by Joss Whedon and Mutant Enemy Productions)

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - MORNING

Tight shot on a computer screen which is showing the portal simulation which pinpoints MacroWare as the center of the anomalies.

LON (V.O.)

As you can see, all of these portals would seem to have been activated from one central location. MacroWare.

The camera pulls back to reveal FRANK, LON, TAMSIN, VI, MIKE, TYLER, and CORRINE all standing around the monitor. Corrine wears a concerned expression. Tyler's facial cuts from the last episode are still quite visible but are healing.

The simulation finishes running. Lon flicks a switch and the screen changes to show computer code.

LON (CONT'D)

(to Corrine)

The analysis of yours and Chad's "special project" code proves this conclusively.

(indicating the screen)

Highlighted are the lines deemed "suspect" by the computer.

Tyler quickly scans the screen.

TYLER

I don't see anything wrong.

CORRINE

There's not. I checked it myself.

LON

I didn't say "wrong", I said suspect.

(beat; pointing to a line of code)

Here.

(indicating another line)

And here. Spacial coordinates for two of the portal anomalies.

TAMSIN

Perhaps it's just a coincidence.

LON

(shaking his head)
The same numbers, in the same order? The probability of that happening is approximately one-million-two-hundred-twenty-six-thousand to one against.

TYLER

Thanks, Threepio.

Not understanding Tyler's meaning, Lon furrows his brow.

LON

(unsure)
Um... It's on the screen.
(to the gang)
Anyway. We still don't know who we're up against or what they're planning, but it does give us a direction in which to look.

Everyone takes this in for a beat.

LON (CONT'D)

And if this has anything to do with Tyler's recent demonic encounter, which I suspect it does, we also have a due date- the 17th.

TYLER

The day MacroWare's new OS goes into beta testing.

FRANK

If only we could get our hands on some more of that code.

Everyone looks to Corrine. Corrine looks uncomfortable.

CORRINE

Only Jon has access to the entire source code--

VI

(excitedly)
Then he's our guy! He's our... "big bad!"

CORRINE

(firmly)
I've worked with that man for eight years. He wouldn't hurt a fly!

Frank puts his hands up, trying to calm Corrine.

FRANK
We're not accusing anyone yet,
Corrine.

Lon gives Frank a questioning glance. Frank shrugs. Vi, Tamsin, and Lon continue to look suspiciously at Corrine.

A RED LIGHT comes on and a BEEPING is issued from one of the terminals. All look toward the light.

TAMSIN
Someone's in the diner.

FRANK
(to Lon)
Didn't you flip the sign?

Lon nods, looking offended at the accusation.

FRANK (CONT'D)
I'll check it out.

Anxious to leave the current situation, Corrine grabs a surprised-looking Tyler by the arm and steps up.

CORRINE
We'll go with you.

Frank squints his eyes at her and then nods. They turn to leave. Frank turns back and points toward a large machine connected to the computer.

FRANK
(to Lon)
You better get that stowed. Just in case.

Frank, Corrine, and Tyler exit. Lon looks to Mike, Vi, and Tamsin.

LON
I may be in need of some assistance. This is rather... um... bulky.

Mike throws his arm over Lon's shoulder.

MIKE
What our little buddy here is trying to say is that he's too weak to pick up the heavy machine by himself.
(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Don't worry, dude. Big, strong Mike
will help you out.

Mike then proceeds to flex and pose like a bodybuilder.
Tamsin and Vi chuckle. Lon rolls his eyes as we:

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - MOMENTS LATER

The "closed" sign adorns the door. The diner appears to be
empty. Frank, Corrine, and Tyler enter from the kitchen. They
look around.

TYLER

No one's here.

Frank furrows his brow. FOOTFALLS are heard coming down the
stairs from the upstairs apartment. The group turns toward
the sound.

BILLIE JACKSON enters. Seeing the three, she pauses for a
moment, an unsure look on her face. She straightens her back
and walks toward the group. Frank perks up at her presence.

BILLIE

Frank.

FRANK

(awkwardly)

Hey, Bill. I didn't expect to see
you again... so soon after... you
know.

BILLIE

Yeah. I didn't like how we left
things. Can we talk?

Corrine narrows her eyes at Billie.

CORRINE

I'm sorry. I don't know you. And I
don't mean to interrupt what I
assume to be a touching reunion...

(sternly)

...but we're kind of in the middle
of something.

Billie cocks an amused eyebrow at Corrine.

BILLIE

(coolly)

Well, don't let me interrupt.

There's a pause as the two ladies size each other up. Frank looks from one to the other. The two women continue to eyeball each other as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Mike and Lon are hoisting the heavy piece of machinery through the door. Mike looks to be having as much trouble lifting the object as Lon.

MIKE
(strained)
What the hell is this gizmo anyway?

LON
A Whedonium Extrapolator. It's extremely... umf...

Lon huffs with strain.

MIKE
Heavy?

LON
(straining)
I was going to say... good with computing... three-dimension spacial coordinates. But heavy...

The two men set the machine down. They both take a deep breath.

LON (CONT'D)
...is a fairly accurate description.

MIKE
So why keep it in here where we have to risk damaging our manly bits every time we want to use it?

LON
It contains several hard-to-come-by mystical parts. If they were to get damaged or stolen, they'd be next to impossible to replace.

Mike nods.

MIKE

We're too cheap to spring for a
cart? A dolly? Something with
wheels?

Lon ponders this as if the thought never occurred to him.

LON

What an excellent idea.

Mike looks annoyed as we:

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

Tyler and Corrine wear serious expressions. Corrine continues to look uncertainly at Billie who is standing a few feet away talking to Frank. Billie pays her no attention.

BILLIE

I'm sorry, Frank. About your
friend, my involvement. Everything.

She places her hand warmly on his arm. He smiles softly.

FRANK

What about the New Initiative?

BILLIE

(shrugging)

Told 'em where they could shove it.
Besides, I got it pretty cushy at
Groom Lake. Why would I wanna give
that up?

They smile at each other. Suddenly, there is the rumble of an EXPLOSION from below! The four exchange looks and in unison run into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The four run to the base door as smoke rushes up from the secret entrance. The freezer slides back into place with a SLAM, blocking the stairs which lead down to Command Central. Frank and the gang share panicked looks as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Smoke rushes in through the door as the echo of the explosion dies down. Lon and Mike look quickly at each other. They run for the door. Seconds before they get there, the massive door SLAMS shut in front of them, it's giant bolt's lock into place. The two men look urgently at each other. The lights flicker and then go out as we:

BLACKOUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. FRANK'S DINER - KITCHEN - MORNING

Frank and Billie push on the freezer, trying to get it to move. It's not budging. Tyler and Corrine add their help. With the addition of Corrine's Slayer strength, it starts to shift, slowly.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

Blackness. The sound of coughing can be heard as the EMERGENCY LIGHTS cut on. The air is thick with smoke as Vi and Tamsin pull themselves off the floor.

TAMSIN
Are you alright?

VI
Yeah.

TAMSIN
Of course, you're alright! You're a bloody Slayer! Am I alright?!

Tamsin pats herself down.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
Yes. I'm alright.
(beat)
Lon. What happened?

Vi and Tamsin look around. No answer.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
Lon!

Vi and Tamsin run from the room as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Darkness. The emergency lights cut on to reveal Mike and Lon standing exactly as they were, both wearing the same worried expression as earlier.

MIKE
(nervously)
What happened?!

LON
Some sort of explosion, I assume.
Emergency protocols would seem to
be in place.

MIKE
(nervously)
Meaning?

LON
Meaning a base-wide lockdown, to
begin with.

MIKE
Is there an emergency over-ride
switch on the door?

LON
I mentioned the need for one to
Frank when I first arrived here, so
you can guess the answer to that
question.

MIKE
(huffs)
That's a big "no" then.

Lon lightly smirks. Mike looks around the dimly lit room. He
is genuinely shaken.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Great. So what do we do now?
(looking around)
I guess I could try to "magic" us
out of here.

Lon shakes his head.

LON
No good. The vault's enchanted. A
magic dampener of sorts. It's the
only way to keep some of these
mystical artifacts in here.

MIKE
(annoyed)
So, we just wait for someone to
come and get us out?
(quietly)
Assuming there's anyone left out
there.

Lon and Mike exchange another worried look.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 (with a nervous laugh)
 You know, if this were a movie,
 right now one of us would be
 warning the other about having a
 limited air supply.

Lon gives a guilty look and turns away.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 Oh! Come on!

LON
 Another thing I warned Frank about!
 When we get out of here, I plan on
 giving that man a stern tongue
 lashing.

Despite the situation, Mike gives a nervous chuckle as he presumably imagines that interaction. Suddenly, there is the CRACKLE of static from the intercom by the door.

TAMSIN
 (filtered; over intercom)
 Lon?! Mike?! Are you in there?!

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tamsin is standing at the intercom unit outside the vault door. Vi stands just behind her.

LON
 (filtered; over intercom)
 We're here. Are you alright?

TAMSIN
 Yes. But we're locked in and all
 the controls are nonresponsive. The
 command over-ride is engaged.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

VI
 (filtered; over intercom)
 Mike?! Are you okay?

MIKE
 (Firmly)
 Fine. But I need to get out of
 here. Now.

LON
 (offended)
 I know I'm not always the best of
 company, but it's hardly worth--

Lon squints his eyes, studying Mike who is clearly agitated, his fist clenched, forehead sweating. An amused smile flickers across Lon's face.

LON (CONT'D)
 You're claustrophobic!

An annoyed look crosses Mike's face.

MIKE
 (reluctantly)
 I have a problem... with enclosed
 spaces. Yes.

Lon begins to laugh. Mike face goes from annoyed to mad. Seeing this Lon quits laughing.

LON
 I sorry. It's just, you seem so--

Mike continues to eye Lon. This is clearly a closed topic.

LON (CONT'D)
 Right.
 (into the intercom)
 We've got about forty-five minutes
 of useful air...
 (beat)
 ... if we conserve our oxygen. See
 if you can find a way to get us out
 here.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tamsin and Vi exchange a worried look.

TAMSIN
 (into intercom)
 We'll get you out. Promise.

The two women exchange one more look and exit out of frame.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Unused to doing such things, Lon gives Mike the best comforting pat on the back he can muster. Mike tries to smile in return, but the expression on his face looks more like a grimace.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

As Tamsin and Vi enter the lab, a loud banging can be heard from the door leading to the stairs that go up into the diner. They hurriedly make their way to the intercom panel beside the door. Vi presses the button.

VI

Frank?!

FRANK

(filtered; over intercom)

Vi! Status report!

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Frank, Billie, Corrine, and Tyler all stand gathered around the intercom.

TAMSIN

(filtered; over intercom)

Computer's down, full base lockdown, running on emergency power.

FRANK

What was that explosion?

TAMSIN

(filtered; over intercom)

We're not sure yet. Things are a bit jumbled.

FRANK

Where's Lon?

VI

(filtered; over intercom)

He and Mike are trapped in the vault.

An annoyed look crosses Frank's face.

FRANK
 (to Billie)
 I'm going to hear about that damn
 emergency override switch again.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

TAMSIN
 (into the intercom;
 concerned)
 Frank. They've got less than an
 hour of air.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Frank's brow furrows as worried looks cross Tyler, Corrine,
 and Billie's faces.

FRANK
 (firmly; into the
 intercom)
 We need to get this door open.
 We'll push from this side and you--

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

Vi perks up.

VI
 (into intercom)
 Frank! I think I know an easier
 way.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

VI
 (filtered; over intercom)
 Go up stairs and look in my closet.

A curious look crosses Frank's face as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Mike is pacing back and forth. Lon has taken off his suit jacket, loosed his tie and rolled up his sleeves. He sits on a stack of crates against the wall.

LON

You'll conserve more oxygen if
you're still.

Mike turns to look at Lon.

MIKE

(aggitated)

I can't be still! I've got to do
something. It feels like the walls
are closing in.

LON

Claustrophobia is purely a
psychological condition. You can
control it.

MIKE

(sarcastically)

Oh! Well, thanks! I didn't realize!
I feel much better now!

LON

I didn't mean...

(huffs)

Fine. I have every confidence that
the others are working on a way to
get us out of here, but if you feel
you must waste air, perhaps you can
find something over there...

(indicating a stack of
boxes)

...to construct a lever with. Maybe
we can pry the door open. At least
enough to get some air in.

Mike looks questioningly at Lon.

LON (CONT'D)

You are familiar with the
principles of a lever, aren't you?
It's a basic tool.

MIKE

(annoyed)

You're a basic tool. Of course I
know what a lever is!

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

I was just wondering who died and left you in charge.

LON

(standing; also annoyed)
I was merely suggesting you do something constructive while using up our precious oxygen!

Mike and Lon glare at each other as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - LATER

Vi and Tamsin are standing at the intercom.

FRANK

(filtered; over intercom)
You sure this is going to work?

VI

It did before.

FRANK

(filtered; over intercom)
Okay. Step back.

Tamsin and Vi move quickly away from the door. A loud BAM sounds as something heavy strikes the door from the other side. Again, the BAM issues. A third time and the heavy door FLIES OFF ITS HINGES.

Standing in the doorway is Corrine holding Vi's TROLL GOD HAMMER which the younger Slayer used previously to knock the same door down.

Frank pushes past Corrine and rushes to Tamsin as Tyler and Billie enter also.

Corrine hands the hammer to Vi, eager to be rid of it. Vi turns to exit the room presumably heading to the vault but Frank stops her.

FRANK (CONT'D)

That's not going to work on the vault door.

Vi turns around to face Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)

The anti-magic mojo's too strong.

Vi slumps, looking dejected.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(to Tamsin)

You and Vi see if you can get the main power back on.

TAMSIN

What about Lon and Mike? We've got to get them out.

FRANK

We will, but we've got to get into the computer to do it.

(turning to Corrine and Tyler)

And luckily, we've got two top-notch experts right here.

Corrine and Tyler look at each other and then move quickly to the large computer system.

Vi and Tamsin exit into the hallway as Billie takes a look at the disheveled room. She moves to stand beside Frank.

BILLIE

(quietly)

What do you think caused this?

FRANK

(shaking his head)

I don't know. But whatever it was--

Frank's cell phone rings. Frank takes it out and answers it.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hello?

(beat)

Oh. Hey, Tanya. This isn't really a good time, I--

(beat)

No. I'm not--

A beat and then Frank moans, having apparently been hung up on. He brings his phone down from his ear he hangs it up. Billie look at him and cocks her eyebrow.

BILLIE

Tanya? Should I be jealous?

Frank is flustered for a beat.

FRANK

We had dinner. And a big misunderstanding for desert.

He catches himself and looks over to Corrine and Tyler who are listening in. Corrine wears an annoyed expression. She's clearly got something to tell him. He and Billie move to join them.

CORRINE

On quick inspection, there doesn't seem to be much damage to the hardware itself, but the computer appears to be stuck in some kind of diagnostic loop.

Frank frowns. Tyler steps up.

TYLER

Which prevents it from accepting new commands, effectively locking us out of the system.

Frank nods.

FRANK

What can we do?

CORRINE

There's a chance that if we reset the system, everything will boot up normally when it restarts.

Frank nods again. He looks to Billie who cocks her eyebrow at him.

FRANK

(to Billie)

I know what I'm doing.

He turns back to Corrine.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(nodding)

Let's give it a shot.

Billie looks neutrally at Corrine as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Lon is again sitting on the stack of crates. Mike has found a LARGE SWORD and is using it to attempt to pry open the door. Mike strains as hard as he can while an amused Lon watches.

MIKE

If you'd get off your pasty British
ass and help, this might go better.

LON

I'm a Watcher. I watch.

Mike gives Lon an annoyed look and continues his efforts.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Tyler and Corrine are at the main computer while Frank and
Billie stand close by.

FRANK

Right. Let's do this.

Corrine reaches behind the computer. The view screen goes
blank. A beat and then it lights back up. Frank smiles
hopefully to Billie as the computer appears to reboot.

The screen turns red. "WARNING" flashes in large letters. A
flat, emotionless, computer voice sounds from the speakers.

COMPUTER

Self-destruct activated. Thirty
minutes to self-destruct.

Corrine gives Frank a steely glare. In return, he gives a
nervous smile.

FRANK

Whoops.

On Frank's face as we:

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

As before.

CORRINE

Whoops?!

FRANK

(frowning)

Damn.

BILLIE

(to Frank)

It was a risky move. You know temperamental these older systems are.

Frank nods. Corrine is now even more angry.

CORRINE

You knew this was a possibility?! At no time did you mention that this was a possibility!

FRANK

There was only like a one in a hundred chance.

CORRINE

One in a hundred chance!

Corrine is about to blow her stack. Billie steps closer.

BILLIE

(to Corrine)

Look, sista! His people are in danger so he played the odds!

Corrine takes a step closer to Billie.

CORRINE

If I want to play the odds, I'll go to Vegas! And don't call me "sista"!

The two glare at each other. Tyler and Frank quickly step in to separate "their women".

FRANK

(to Corrine)

The self destruct is no problem. We can easily deactivate it.

He looks to Billie whose body language says, "Yeah. Right."
 Off Franks' nervous, lop-sided grin we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Mike is still trying to pry open the door while Lon continues to watch, doing his best to conserve oxygen. The blade of Mike's sword suddenly SNAPS in two, causing Mike to fall to the ground. Lon jumps up from his perch.

LON
 (urgently)
 Oh my God! Excalibur!

Panicked, Mike quickly jumps up from the ground. He reaches down and picks up the pieces of the broken sword and eyes them guiltily.

MIKE
 (distressed)
 Oh, man!

Lon begins to laugh lightly. Mike glares at him.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 Dude! Uncool!

LON
 (pointedly)
 Levity lightens stress. It's a proven fact.

MIKE
 (annoyed)
 While the stress relieving properties of my foot to your ass is still just a theory. Wanna do some research?!

Lon's smile disappears.

LON
 (annoyed)
 I'm trying to help you.

MIKE
 I don't need your help!

LON

If you honestly thought that you could pry open that door, you obviously do!

The two men glare at each other as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

Vi and Tamsin enter from the hallway.

TAMSIN

All the breakers got tripped. We flipped them back but the computer's still not letting us bring main power back online.

Tamsin looks at everyone's faces which betray that something new is up.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

FRANK

We've hit a slight snag.

COMPUTER

(filtered; over speaker)
Twenty-seven minutes to self-destruct.

Tamsin's face shows both fear and anger.

TAMSIN

What the hell?!

FRANK

I was just getting to that.
(beat)
Relax. We're working on it.

Tamsin can't believe what Frank just said.

TAMSIN

I'm sorry. What did you say? "Relax"? My brother and dear friend are about to suffocate! That is if we don't all get blown sky-high first! I dare say this is as relaxed as you'll likely see me!

Frank crosses over to Tamsin.

FRANK
 (firmly)
 I'm not going to let anything
 happen to them.

Tamsin sees the sincerity in his face. She takes a deep breath, calming herself. She nods. Frank gives her a comforting touch on the arm.

He turns to face everyone else.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 (forcefully)
 Alright, folks. Listen up.
 (looking to Tyler and
 Corrine)
 Tyler. Corrine. Try to figure out
 what caused the explosion.
 (to Vi and Tamsin)
 Vi. Tamsin. Get that vault door
 open.
 (turning to Billie)
 You're with me.

Frank turns toward the hallway with Billie right at his side. The two walk out of the room.

Tamsin and Vi quickly follow.

Tyler looks to Corrine apprehensively. Corrine doesn't look happy, but she hits the floor and crawls under the computer terminal.

CORRINE
 Grab that laptop.

Tyler looks on the desk he is standing beside and picks up the laptop computer which is sitting on it. Taking it in hand, Tyler follows Corrine under the terminal as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Lon sits on the crates regulating his breathing, trying to conserve oxygen. Mike paces back and forth.

Suddenly, Mike runs at the door with all his might. Hitting the door, he bounces off of it and hits the floor. Lon jumps up, but Mike is already off the floor and making another attempt. Lon grabs him before he can hit the door again.

LON
 Stop! That door is six inches thick! You have less chance of opening it with your shoulder than you did with that sword! Now sit down!

Mike shakes Lon off of him.

MIKE
 Yes, sir, your majesty! At least I'm trying to do something!

LON
 I am doing something!

MIKE
 (sarcastically)
 Oh. I'm sorry. I didn't realize that being pompous and acting superior is going to get us out of here.

Lon tries to keep his anger in check.

LON
 (though gritted teeth)
 I'm attempting to conserve our precious oxygen which you seem intent on consuming like a child with a bag of... Skittles!

Mike and Lon again glare at each other for a beat. Mike realizes that Lon is right. He grudgingly walks to the other side of the room and sits on the floor. Off his annoyed expression we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tamsin and Vi are at a panel outside the vault door. Tamsin pulls the panel open and grabs a bundle of wires. Pulling the bundle out for better access, she examines it.

VI
 You think this is going to work?

TAMSIN
 (nodding)
 I believe so.
 (concentrating)
 (MORE)

TAMSIN (CONT'D)

If I can just isolate the door wires and connect them directly to the back-up systems, it should do the trick.

Tamsin's face falls for a second. Vi pats her on the back. Tamsin gives her an appreciative smile and regains her composure.

She focuses her attention back on the wires and holds out her hand. Vi slaps a pair of wire cutters into them as we:

CUT TO:

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND - CRAWL SPACE - MOMENTS LATER

Frank and Billie are crammed into the tiny crawl space. Each has a flashlight to light the way.

Frank looks at the wall. Painted on it is the number "21".

He nods to a panel directly under the number.

FRANK

This is it.

Billie opens the panel. Inside is a bundle of wires much like the one Tamsin pulled out moments ago. Billie reaches in and grabs them.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Be careful.

Billie pauses.

FRANK (CONT'D)

There's a lot of juice going through some of those wires.

BILLIE

(slightly annoyed)

Not my first day, Frank. I know what I'm doing.

She yanks the wire bundle out. Frank cringes.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

We cut the blue wire, engage the other two safeties, and the self-destruct gets aborted.

FRANK

Yeah. But it's the red wire.

Billie's brow furrows.

BILLIE
The blue wire.

FRANK
(firmly)
No. It's the red.

BILLIE
(annoyed)
I've got the schematics to this and every other one of our bases memorized. It's the blue.

FRANK
(loudly)
Well, it's my goddamn base and I say it's the red!

Frank and Billie glare at each other for a beat. The anger drains out of their faces as they realize what this means. Which wire do they cut? They both turn their attention to the bundle of wires, examining them closely as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tamsin is holding a mass of cut wires. She looks to Vi.

TAMSIN
Alright. Here we go.

She takes two of the wires and touches them together. The emergency lights FLICKER. Vi and Tamsin look at each other.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

The emergency lights flicker. Mike and Lon look to each other, not sure what this means.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

Tyler and Corrine are standing next to the terminal they were working on. They look to the flickering lights and give each other a questioning look.

COMPUTER
 (filtered; over speaker)
 Seventeen minutes to self-destruct.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The lights continue to flicker.

TAMSIN
 Come on!

More flickering and she finally pulls the wires apart. The emergency lights return to normal. Tamsin drops the wires and hits the wall with her fist.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
 Damn! The locking mechanism won't disengage! Auxiliary power's not enough to override the vault's mystical components.

Tamsin sits on the floor, leaning against the wall. Despair is all over her face. Vi pats her arm.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
 (annoyed; to herself)
 Come on, Tamsin! Think!

Vi fans herself. She looks up to the closed air vent in the ceiling.

VI
 Damn, it's hot in here! Maybe I could get one of these vents open.

TAMSIN
 (shaking her head)
 Wouldn't do any good. There's no air flow. What we're breathing is coming from outside. You'd have to...

A thoughtful look crosses Tamsin's face followed by a big smile.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
 Vi! You're a genius!

She grabs the younger woman and gives her a big kiss on the cheek. Off of Vi's confused smile we:

CUT TO:

COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Corrine and Tyler are busy connecting wires to the back of the laptop.

Tamsin enters, the plug end of a large extension cord in her hand.

Corrine and Tyler look up as she enters. They both cock an eyebrow in her direction.

TAMSIN

Don't mind me. Just passing through.

Tamsin exits through the door leading to the diner, dragging the long cord behind her.

Tyler and Corrine give each other a shrug and turn their attention back to their work.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Mike and Lon are as before. Mike is trying to hold it together, but the look on his face shows that he is failing. He bolts up from the floor.

MIKE

I can't take it! I gotta get out of here!

Lon stands. He's done being nice.

LON

Look here! I've had just about enough of this! You and your incessant, annoying whining. You're driving me insane!

MIKE

(loudly)
Whine! Whine! Whine! Whine! Whine!

Lon gets in Mike's face.

LON

(hatefully)
Shut up!
(beat)
God, I hate you! You stupid, wise-assed, loud mouthed... American!

Mike moves in even closer. His eyes now also burn with hatred.

MIKE

At least I'm not an arrogant,
boring, stick-in-the-mud, son-of-a-
bitch... with daddy issues!

Lon snaps. He SLAPS Mike hard across the face with enough force to turn the man's head to the left. Lon is shocked by his actions. The hate fades from his face.

LON

(regretfully)

I'm sorry, Mike. I didn't mean to--

Mike turns back to face Lon. His eyes narrow. The corners of his lip curls down into a sneer. CU on Mike's clenched fist.

The color drains from Lon's face. Mike LEAPS at Lon, knocking him to the ground as we:

CUT TO:

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND - CRAWL SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Frank and Billie are still looking at the wires in Billie's hand. She has isolated two wires out- a blue one and a red one.

FRANK

Ready?

BILLIE

As I'm gonna be.

Billie holds a pair of wire cutters to the red wire. Frank nods. Suddenly, Billie cuts the blue one instead! A jolt of electricity racks her body as we:

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Tamsin and Vi stand under the air vent in the ceiling. It has been taken off it's hinges leaving a large open hole. The other end of the large extension cord that Tamsin was seen with earlier disappears into the open vent. A ladder also stands directly under the vent.

VI

This is a great idea, but what about the self-destruct?

TAMSIN

Leave that to Frank. Besides...
(nodding toward the vault)
...that thing's made of re-enforced lead and has ten different magical enchantments. If this place does blow, they'd probably make it out without a scratch.

Vi nods, a relieved smile on her face as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Lon and Mike roll on the floor in the heat of battle.

Mike PUNCHES Lon across the face, splitting open his lip.

Lon KNOCKS Mike off of him. The two men stand and immediately resume fighting. Mike SWINGS a punch, but Lon BLOCKS and PUNCHES Mike in the stomach.

Mike doubles over. He grabs Lon by the front of his shirt as he goes down, ripping a large hole in the fabric. Lon brings up his knee and KNEES Mike in the face. Mike hits the floor, his nose a bloody mess.

Mike GRABS Lon by the ankle, tripping him. Lon hits the floor hard. Mike is on top of him in a flash. He again PUNCHES Lon in the face. Now Lon's nose matches Mikes. Mike PUNCHES him in the eye.

Lon brings his leg up, KNEEING Mike in the groin. Mike freezes in pain. His eyes roll back as he lets out a low GROAN. Lon once again knocks Mike off of him.

Panting hard, the two men stand to face each other for a second time, but neither looks ready for round two. Lon is bleeding from his nose and lip. His shirt is ripped, and a bruise is starting to appear on his left eye.

Mike looks none the better. His nose is also bleeding, droplets from which cover his shirt. He is holding his stomach with his right hand.

Both men are panting hard, unable to catch their breath in the vault's thin air.

LON
 The air's...
 (gasp)
 ...too thin. We need... to
 restrain our... physical activity.

Lon sits down on the floor. Exhausted, Mike also drops to the floor. The two sit in silence for a few beats. Mike gives Lon an embarrassed glance.

MIKE
 I'm sorry... Lon. I... freaked out.

LON
 (shaking his head)
 No... I'm sorry... I should have...
 more understanding... Shouldn't
 have let... what you said... bother
 me.

Mike scoots close to Lon and puts his hand on Lon's shoulder.

LON (CONT'D)
 I didn't... mean... what I said.
 You're not... stupid.

MIKE
 (nodding; gasping)
 I know.
 (beat)
 I still think... you're a... know-
 it-all.

Lon frowns. Mike grins jokingly at Lon. Lon smiles lightly in return as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Corrine is holding the laptop. A RIBBON CABLE runs from the back of it, disappearing under the terminal she was under earlier. Tyler stands next to her. They both look down at the laptop's screen.

COMPUTER
(filtered; over speaker)
Ten minutes to self-destruct.

Frank enters carrying the limp body of Billie.

Seeing him, Corrine sets the laptop down and she and Tyler quickly move to his side. Frank lays Billie down on the floor. He sees Tyler and Corrine's worried expressions.

FRANK
(shaking his head)
She's gonna be alright. Got quite the nasty shock, but I managed to get her clear before she got singed too bad.

Billie is already starting to rouse. Frank bends over to her as Billie sits up weakly and opens her eyes. Frank gives her a relieved grin.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Told you it was the red one.

Frank gives her a wink. Billie gives him a playful glare. He helps her to her feet. She winces and looks to her right hand. It is red and charred.

FRANK (CONT'D)
That's a pretty bad burn.

BILLIE
I'm alright.
(to Tyler)
Find anything out about the explosion?

Corrine looks a bit insulted at Billie's intentional snub. This is not lost on Tyler and he gestures to Corrine, handing her the floor. Corrine, in turn looks to Frank.

CORRINE
We managed to hack into the computer log.

Corrine moves to the laptop and picks it up. Everyone follows her. The screen shows a schematic of the base.

CORRINE (CONT'D)
(pointing to the screen)
Something caused a power surge
shorting out this relay, which in
turn, triggered an explosion of
this gas coolant line.

Frank nods.

FRANK
(to himself)
That damn Extrapolator! I told Lon
it was too much of a strain on our
systems!

BILLIE
You can yell at him later. We've
got...
(looking at her watch)
...nine minutes to get the two
safeties engaged or the next
explosion we see is gonna make the
first one look like an ant bite.

Frank nods.

TYLER
What can we do?

FRANK
Keep trying to get the main power
back online.

Corrine and Tyler nod.

FRANK (CONT'D)
We've got some work of our own to
do.

Frank and Billie open an access panel. Inside is the HUMAN
BRAIN floating in a glass container which connects the
computer system to the sphere.

FRANK (CONT'D)
(to the brain)
Sorry, Bob.

Frank reaches into the liquid filled container as we:

CUT TO:

INT. CENTRAL COMMAND - VENTILATION SHAFT - MOMENTS LATER

CU on another panel being opened. Tamsin is in the small space. She sets the panel aside. Looking into panel she finds a small tube and pulls it out. She reaches beside her and picks up a knife. She slices the tube open about an inch to reveal that it is full of wires. She sets the knife down and picks up a hose which is coming from a machine sitting next to her.

TAMSIN

If you can't bring them to the air...

(shoving the hose into the tube)

...bring the air to them.

She grabs a roll of duct tape from off the shaft floor and begins to rapidly tape around the hole where the hose is inserted.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Lon and Mike are still sitting on the floor. They are weak and sweating. The fight obviously having used up most of their oxygen.

MIKE

Who'd have thought... we'd go out like this?

Lon nods.

LON

I would have wagered... we'd kill each other first.

Mike nods.

MIKE

We almost... did.

Mike chuckles as well as he can. Lon also laughs lightly. The pair's expressions both turn somber.

LON

It wasn't all... bad... between us. Was it?

Mike shakes his head. He moves closer and slides a friendly arm across Lon's shoulder. Mike gives Lon a warm smile.

MIKE

No, Lonny-boy... it... wasn't.

Lon weakly smiles back. The two look at each other for a beat. Their expressions soften.

Lon quickly leans in and give Mike a PECK ON THE LIPS!. Mike's eyes go wide with shock and he pulls away.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey!

Lon frowns. He pulls away and manages to stand. He walks a few steps, keeping his back to Mike.

Mike picks himself off the floor and walks to Lon. Grabbing his arm, Mike turns Lon to face him.

MIKE (CONT'D)

What the hell... was that!

LON

(embarrassed)

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have--

MIKE

Damn right! That... was horrible!

Lon looks away, obviously upset.

MIKE (CONT'D)

If I'm kicking... the bucket, my last... kiss better... damn sure be memorable!

Mike forcefully GRABS Lon and pulls him in close, planting a big KISS squarely on the stunned man's lips! After several seconds, they break the kiss. The men stare into each other's eyes for a beat, both men's faces a mixture of emotions.

Suddenly, there is a HISS of air as fresh oxygen enters the room. Hearing the sound, the two men cock their heads. The intercom crackles.

TAMSIN

(filtered, over intercom)

You blokes alright in there?

They smile at each other and then cross over to the intercom panel. Lon presses the "talk" button.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tamsin and Vi stand at the intercom.

LON
(filtered, over intercom)
Yes! We're here!

Vi and Tamsin look at each other and smile. Tamsin turns her attention back to the intercom.

TAMSIN
We've had no luck getting you out,
but we managed to splice an air
compressor into the power conduit.
It's pumping in oxygen through the
electrical outlets.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Lon smile excitedly. They inhale deeply.

LON
That's bloody brilliant!

TAMSIN
(filtered; over intercom)
I know.
(beat)
It's not much, but enough that you
should be able to scratch
suffocation off your afternoon
schedule.

Mike and Lon exchange a joyful look.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

TAMSIN
As for getting you out, however,
we'll have to wait until we can get
main power back online. Might be
awhile.

LON
(filtered; over intercom)
Understood.

Tamsin presses the intercom button again, turning it off.

VI
Shouldn't we tell them about the
self-destruct?

TAMSIN
(shaking her head)
Why make them worry more?

Vi gives Tamsin an unsure shrug. The two turn and exit out of
frame as we:

CUT TO:

IN. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

The two men look awkwardly at each other.

MIKE
So... Gonna be a while before we
get out of here, eh?

LON
(nodding)
But at least we can breath now.

MIKE
I guess that means we don't need to
restrain our physical activity
anymore?

LON
I suppose.

Mike smiles at Lon seductively. Lon cocks his eyebrow. The
two men grab each other in a tight embrace, once again
kissing, but this time much more passionately. They begin to
grab at each other's tattered clothes and fall to the floor
as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Vi and Tamsin race into the room. Corrine and Tyler look to
them, while Frank and Billie continue to mess with "Bob".

TYLER
Where are Mike and Lon?

VI
(shaking her head)
We couldn't get them out.

An expression of fear crosses Tyler's face.

TAMSIN
It's alright. They've got air now.

Tyler gives a relieved smile.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
(nodding toward Frank)
How are things going?

CORRINE
They're engaging the first safety
now.

ANGLE ON: Frank, elbow-deep in the brain tank, is pushing a series of switches attached to the bottom of the container.

He pulls his hands out and shakes the liquid from them.

FRANK
Okay! One down, one to go!

COMPUTER
(filtered; over speaker)
Five minutes to self destruct.

Frank glares at the speaker.

FRANK
(to Billie)
When this is all over, remind me to
disconnect that damn thing!

Billie smirks as she follows Frank across the room.

The gang watches closely as Frank walks to the cave side of the room and approaches the sphere.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Here's where the fun begins.

He stoops down and opens a metal plate in the floor at the base of the pillar that the orb sits atop. Inside are wires and switches. The orb glows slightly and steady in its dormant state.

Vi leans in to Tamsin.

VI
(quietly)
What's the problem?

Frank sticks his hand in the open panel as Tamsin leans in to answer. Frank cuts her off.

FRANK

I touch the wrong wire in here and
it's just like touching the orb.
(concentrating on his
work)

And since the only person who can
do that and not get their brain
fried is currently lock in the
vault, this could end badly.

All around exchange worried looks except Billie who is
crouched down at Frank's side.

COMPUTER

(filtered; over speaker)
Three minutes to self destruct.

Frank continues to fiddle with wires and switches.

FRANK

(excited)
Hey! I think I've got it.

Relieved looks all around. Suddenly the sphere activates! It
lights brightly and begins to strobe!

The group all look scared. Frank's face turns stoney as we:

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - MOMENTS LATER

Mike and Lon, seen from the chest up are sitting on the floor, leaning against the vault wall looking straight forward. They are apparently naked, both wearing dopey smiles on their bruised and battered faces.

LON
(sighing)
That was...

MIKE
Over way too quickly!

They turn to each other, each with a guilty look on his face.

LON & MIKE
(in unison)
Sorry.

Both men laugh.

MIKE
Ready for round two?

LON
(nodding toward the door)
What about...

MIKE
Tamsin said it would be awhile.
People say "shortly", it means at
least fifteen minutes. "In a bit",
thirty minutes or more. "Awhile", I
figure we've got at least an hour.

LON
(smiling)
An hour, eh?

Lon and Mike turn toward each other. They sink out of frame as we:

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - COMPUTER LAB - CONTINUOUS

The team is how we left them, gathered around the active sphere, panicked looks on their faces.

COMPUTER
 (filtered; over speaker)
 Two minutes to self destruct.

FRANK
 Alright! Everyone clear out!

TAMSIN
 We're not leaving!

Vi, Tyler, and even Corrine appear to be as prepared as Tamsin to stay.

FRANK
 (raising his voice)
 I'm not askin'! You heard me! Out!

While his voice is hard, Frank's eyes soften. Tamsin gives Frank a bittersweet smile and takes Vi by the arm.

TAMSIN
 You heard the man. Let's go!

Corrine gives Frank a respectful nod and takes Tyler by the arm. As Corrine leads him quickly toward the door, Tyler looks quickly back at his uncle. The four exit.

Frank looks to Billie.

FRANK
 You too.

Billie cocks her eyebrow.

BILLIE
 You can't order me around. We're
 the same rank.

Frank clenches his jaw.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
 Okay, I'm going to be frank.

FRANK
 (lightly)
 Great. I'll be Billie. "Whoops! I
 cut the wrong wire!"

Billie's expression betrays the weight of her words. Frank's face turns serious.

BILLIE

(indicating the globe)
If this thing fries you, you're
gonna need someone to knock your
stinkin' corpse out of the way and
save this base.

Frank ponders her words for a beat. He nods and gives Billie a sly grin.

FRANK

Let's shut this bitch down.

She smile back. Frank reaches back into the panel and begins to manipulate wires.

COMPUTER

(filtered; over speaker)
Thirty seconds to self-destruct.

Billie looks at the speaker and then back to Frank.

FRANK

Here goes nothin'.

Frank grits his teeth. Billie looks on anxiously as Frank flips a switch.

The orb falls silent, reverting back to it's sleeping phase.

COMPUTER

(filtered; over speaker)
Self-destruct aborted.

Frank looks to Billie who is now looking at him. They jump up from the ground shouting excitedly. They then hug triumphantly. Frank swings Billie around and then plants a BIG KISS on her lips!

They kiss for a beat and the part quickly, stunned looks on their faces. They turn away from each other.

FRANK

(mumbling)
That was.. something... I... have
never done.

BILLIE

(mumbling also)
We were excited... and...

Tamsin, Vi, Tyler and Corrine enter. Thankful for the distraction, Frank turns to them.

FRANK
 (sternly)
 I thought I told you to leave.

TYLER
 We did.

TAMSIN
 And when we didn't hear a loud
 noise and see the diner cave in, we
 assumed it was safe to return.

Frank's stern expression fades. He smiles and holds his arms open. The two young woman are quickly in them, the three embracing in a big hug.

As Tyler approaches, Frank releases the girls and embraces his nephew. They hug for a beat and then part.

Connie gives Frank a nod. Frank smiles and nods back. Corrine's eyes shift to Billie to whom she gives a neutral nod. Billie nods back coolly as we:

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - HALLWAY - LATER

Tyler, Vi, and Tamsin stand outside the vault door.

VI
 They've been in there for almost
 four hours. I think that's the most
 time they've every spent alone
 together.

TAMSIN
 Perhaps it did them some good. Gave
 them the opportunity to talk some
 things through.

Tyler looks doubtful.

TYLER
 Mike and Lon? Twenty bucks says we
 have to squeegee one of them off
 the wall.

Tamsin and Vi look at Tyler, rolling their eyes at his comment.

Frank walks in from the Computer Lab.

FRANK
 Corrine and Billie should have the
 power up in just another second.

Seeing Tamsin and Tyler's excitement, Frank smirks.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMAND CENTRAL - THE VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Mike and Lon are standing and pulling on their shirts.

LON
 (flatly)
 What do we do now?

Mike gives Lon a playful grin. He grabs Lon's shirt.

MIKE
 I'm not a machine, dude! I've got
 to recharge, take a nap, maybe get
 something to eat before round...
 (thinking)
 ...four. Besides, I don't want you
 to think I'm easy.

Seeing Lon's serious face, Mike's smile fades.

MIKE (CONT'D)
 (shrugging)
 I don't know.

The two men look at each other for a beat. They hug tightly.

The room lights turn back on. The men quickly jump apart as
 the large door HISSES and begins to swing open.

Standing in the doorway are Frank, Vi, Tamsin, and Tyler.
 Their happy expressions turn to ones of shock as they see Lon
 and Mike's bruised and bloodied appearances.

TAMSIN
 Oh my God!
 (beat)
 Look at the state of you. You
 should be ashamed of yourselves!

Looking at Mike, Tyler shrugs and sighs.

FRANK
 Here we were tryin' to save your
 lives and all the while, you were
 tryin' to kill each other!
 (MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Sure wish you would have let us in
 on the plan, it would have saved us
 a lot of work!

Frank looks the two men up and down.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Got anything to say?

Mike and Lon stand quietly. Frank takes a step closer to the pair.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 Well, I've got news for you.
 Neither of you is leaving here
 until you kiss and make-up.

This is too much for Mike. He starts to chuckle. Frank is not happy. He leans in closer to Mike.

FRANK (CONT'D)
 You think this is funny? We just
 busted our asses--

Mike glances to Lon. Upon catching Mike's eye, Lon also begins to snicker. The two men look fully at each other and begin to laugh out loud.

Confused and annoyed, Frank frowns. He looks to Tamsin, Vi, and Tyler who look equally confused. Off of Frank's confused face we:

FADE TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - AFTERNOON

Everyone is sitting around. Corrine, Tyler, Mike (in fresh clothes), and Vi sit at a booth eating. Tamsin and Lon, also in fresh clothes, sit at the bar also with plates of food. Frank and Billie sit at a table a few feet away.

Tyler and Mike are chatting.

TYLER
 That must have been horrible,
 locked up in that vault with your
 claustrophobia.
 (beat)
 And Lon. Dude must have driven you
 crazy.

Mike glances to Lon who is sitting at the bar.

MIKE
 (with a faint smile)
 Not as bad as you might think.

Tyler shrugs and takes a bite of his food as the camera PANS over to Lon and Tamsin.

LON
 I can't believe you didn't tell us
 that the self-destruct had been
 activated.

TAMSIN
 I figured you had enough to worry
 about, what with the almost
 suffocating.

Lon glances over to Mike.

TAMSIN (CONT'D)
 And putting up with Mike.

The the mention of Mike's name, Lon returns his attention to his sister

LON
 Sorry?

TAMSIN
 Mike. I know how you two bicker.
 Must have been dreadful.

Lon steals another glance at Mike.

LON
 Yes. Absolutely terrible.

Off Lon's secret smile, the camera PANS to Frank and Billie.

FRANK
 About earlier, I... uh...

BILLIE
 Just forget about it. I already
 have.

Frank's face falls for a quick beat. He puts on a quick smile.

FRANK
 Forget about what?

Billie grins back.

BILLIE

I guess you guys are gonna be out
of commission for bit.

Frank shakes his head.

FRANK

I've seen worse. A week, tops.

BILLIE

(with a sly grin)

Still, repairs would go quicker
with another set of hands.

Frank reaches for Billie's right arm, bringing it up to
display her newly bandaged appendage.

FRANK

Don't you mean "hand"?

Billie chuckles lightly. Frank nods and gives her a smirk.

FRANK (CONT'D)

It'd be great to have you, Bill.

Billie cuts her eyes at Frank.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(warmly)

Billie.

She smile warmly in return as we:

FADE TO:

INT. FRANK'S DINER - DUSK

The diner is empty except for Frank and Billie. Billie is
walking out the door.

BILLIE

See you in the morning, Frank.

FRANK

(calling after her)

Bright and early! No sleeping in!

BILLIE

Me? You're the one whose ass I had
to drag out of bed on every mission
we went on together. And don't
think I can't still do it.

FRANK

I'll try to remember to wear
underwear to bed tonight.

He winks. Smiling, she shakes her head as she exits the
diner.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRANK'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

Billie walks out of the diner. Her smile disappears. As she
continues to walk quickly away from the diner, she reaches
into her pocket and pulls out a cell phone. She opens it, and
without dialing, places it to her ear.

BILLIE

(on phone)

It's me.

FEMALE VOICE

(filtered; over phone)

I take it all went well, Colonel.

BILLIE

(beat)

Yes ma'ma. The charge I planted
went off as planned.

FEMALE VOICE

(filtered; over phone)

Good. I hope your performance was
convincing.

BILLIE

"Second degree burn" convincing. Of
course, the whole self-destruct
scenario didn't hurt either. Even
though there was never any real
danger.

FEMALE VOICE

(filtered; over phone)

Smart thinking. Disconnecting the
detonator on your last visit.

BILLIE

A good solid plan for all
contingencies.

FEMALE VOICE

(filtered; over phone)

So, you're back in his good graces
then?

BILLIE

Yes.

Billie's face falls.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

We're still friends.

FEMALE VOICE

(filtered; over phone)

Excellent.

(beat)

I know you two share quite a bit of history, Colonel, but I hope you're mission is clear. Recruiting Frank McGann is no longer an option. He's proven to be too unstable.

BILLIE

(annoyed)

Yes, ma'am. My mission is clear.

Billie stops walking. She looks back to the diner in the distance.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Infiltrate Omega Team. Assess their threat level to the New Initiative. And if necessary...

Billie focuses on the indistinct form of Frank who is inside the diner cleaning tables.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

...take 'em out.

Billie frowns sadly as we:

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE