

SPRING OFFENSIVE

Written by

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INT. LIZ'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (MARCH 2010)

DR. LIZ SCOTT, an attractive and resourceful British woman in her mid 40s, drops her suitcase at the front door of her modern apartment. She looks tired, with bags under her eyes and rumpled clothes.

There is a pile of mail sprawled on the ground. She picks it up and puts it on the counter.

Liz goes to the fridge and opens it. She takes out the milk container like it is radioactive and looks at the sell by date, which is early January. She throws it out. She rummages through the fridge. There is nothing edible. She eyes the wine rack.

INT. LIZ'S APARTMENT - LATER

Liz is eating Chinese food and drinking a glass of wine. She is on the phone.

LIZ

I'm coming over this week. I promise. I can't wait. Can you make the salmon?...I know I'm not in the position to make demands.

Liz takes another big sip of wine. Laughs.

LIZ (CONT'D)

This week I promise. Please don't excommunicate me from your dinner parties.

INT. LIZ'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Liz is lying in bed, it is 5:45 AM. Her phone rings. She wakes slowly. She looks at the message:

From: Helene Lund

URGENT meeting at 8:00 AM.

INT LIZ'S APARTMENT - LATER

The clock says 8:15 AM.

Liz rummages through an unpacked suitcase for her toothbrush. On her way to the bathroom she knocks over the stack of untouched mail on the table.

LIZ  
Shit.

Liz starts brushing her teeth while sorting mail into two piles.

EXT. GENEVA/WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - DAY

Liz bikes through downtown Geneva, the picturesque and clean beacon of central European prosperity. She rides up to The World Health Organization - an imposing grey glass structure that stands atop a never ending field of perfectly manicured green grass.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - CONTINUOUS

Inside the impressive WHO building Liz is looking for her I.D. pass when she is met by JURGEN SCHNEIDER, a stern looking Swiss-German in his 50s. He waves her through security.

JURGEN SCHNEIDER  
You are late.

LIZ  
I arrived back at half past nine  
last night.

They walk through the sterile hallways of the WHO with purpose.

JURGEN SCHNEIDER  
There is an outbreak in Afghanistan-

LIZ  
Why isn't the Cairo office-

JURGEN SCHNEIDER  
We are taking the lead.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The two get on a packed elevator of business suit clad workers. Dr. Scott's bike-wear stands out. Jürgen is looking through a file.

LIZ  
Can I change before we see Helene?

JURGEN SCHNEIDER

Reports from Helmand are that patients experienced hemorrhaging from the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and rectum before death. The first symptoms presented around 10 days ago.

LIZ

No then.

Elevator dings onto floor six. Jürgen and Dr. Scott exit.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 6TH FLOOR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Liz takes the file from Jürgen. Her forthrightness makes him bristle. She scans it as they walk down the hallway.

LIZ

Initial symptoms are fever, myalgia, vomiting, extreme diarrhea, chest pain, cough, pharyngitis, photophobia, lymphadenopathy which leads to wasting, petechiae, hemorrhaging, ecchymosis resulting in multi-organ dysfunction, liver failure and ultimately death.

Liz looks through pictures of Afghan men with blood soaked mouths and hemorrhaging blisters.

JURGEN SCHNEIDER

That is why Dr. Lund wanted you here at 8 sharp.

LIZ

It has been confined to the intravenous drug population there? Could it be the results of bad heroin?

JURGEN SCHNEIDER

Unlikely.

Liz looks at a map of Afghanistan. Helmand is highlighted: an arrowhead sliver in the South of the country with Lashkar Gah, its capital, in the centre.

LIZ

The symptoms don't sound like diseases endemic to the region.

JURGEN SCHNEIDER  
No.

They come up to a large office. A SECRETARY lets them right in.

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The two enter the office of DR. HELENE LUND, a Danish doctor roughly the same age as Dr. Scott.

HELENE LUND  
You're late.

Liz and Helene kiss each other on the cheek. These old friends and their approach to each other stands in stark contrast to the formality of their interactions with Jürgen.

LIZ  
If it was urgent we could have met  
at mine.

Helene takes Liz to a conference table overlooking the WHO's perfectly manicured grass.

HELENE LUND  
You could have grabbed a cab, or we  
could have sent a car.

LIZ  
A cab on my salary?

Helene presses a button which projects an image of a man in bed surrounded by doctors in hazmat suits.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
The Boost hospital?

Helene nods.

HELENE LUND  
It is the only functional hospital  
in Helmand for a population of  
around a million...and we can  
organize cab money in your next  
contract review.

LIZ  
That's assuming I can take another  
twenty years with the Swiss.  
Present company excluded Jürgen.

Helene laughs.

JURGEN SCHNEIDER  
I have briefed Dr. Scott.  
Preliminarily. And -

Helene flashes another set of images up of hemorrhaging wounds and wasted bodies.

HELENE LUND  
This is looking bad. We need you there.

LIZ  
I just got back from six months in India dealing with TB. I haven't even unpacked.

HELENE LUND  
Then you don't have to pack.

Liz laughs.

HELENE LUND (CONT'D)  
You will be coordinating with the CDC. Your number two will be Dr. Malik Bencharif who has been our man in Helmand for the last year. Also a young Swede from our office, Dr. Karin Andersson. I have the utmost confidence in your team.

LIZ  
Well, as always, your confidence means a great deal.

Helene laughs and rolls her eyes.

HELENE LUND  
Karin's a little green, but don't go easy on her, we need to toughen her up.

LIZ  
Are we too important now to train our own protégés?

HELENE LUND  
This is a conflict zone so containment protocol is different.

LIZ  
I am aware.

Helene hands her another large folder. Helene splashes security protocol in all its boring, minute, and bureaucratic beauty on the projection screen.

HELENE LUND  
Be more aware.

LIZ  
Right.

HELENE LUND  
Containment is first priority, but we need to know what this thing is and how it got there. Samples have been sent to the Pasteur Institute for genetic sequencing, but that will take a few weeks. I don't have to tell you how unstable the region is, but an outbreak originating from a war zone-

LIZ  
Could lead to the big one.

HELENE LUND  
Exactly. Contain. Figure out what this is, and where it came from.

LIZ  
I do remember how to do my job.  
Anything else?

JURGEN SCHNEIDER  
The security detail.

Helene's interactive map of Helmand shows the military bases and in circles the presence of American, British, Danish, Georgian, Bahraini, and Estonian troops marked by their respective flags.

HELENE LUND  
You will have a British forces security detail. Any issues with NATO, if they give you any trouble, let us know. This is a joint effort. We are here to support you.

LIZ  
Institutional support, the two most dreaded words in the English language.

Helene smiles. She motions for Jürgen to leave them alone.

HELENE LUND

Liz I wouldn't ask you if we didn't  
need the best.

LIZ

I thought I made my position clear.  
I've been in the field for twenty  
years. Last year I spent six weeks  
at home.

HELENE LUND

Because you're the best.

LIZ

I'm forty six. I can't keep putting  
my life on hold -

HELENE LUND

You seeing anyone?

LIZ

Jealous?

HELENE LUND

Always.

LIZ

How could I possibly be in a  
relationship when I can't even  
unpack.

Helene puts her hand on Liz's.

HELENE LUND

Nothing was as fulfilling as field  
work.

LIZ

You could always go back.

HELENE LUND

There is no going back.

Liz takes away her hand.

LIZ

We'll contain this thing. Save the  
world, then I want an office with a  
fucking view like this.

HELENE LUND

Ok.

INT. GENEVA AIRPORT - NIGHT

Dr. Scott is intensely reviewing a large packet of documents in a clean and modern departure lounge. DR. KARIN ANDERSSON, a strikingly beautiful young woman, approaches Liz tentatively.

LIZ  
Dr. Andersson?

KARIN ANDERSSON  
It is such an honour Dr. Scott. We studied your field work in the '94 DRC cholera outbreak at university.

Dr. Scott takes her in and goes back to looking at her case notes.

LIZ  
Your looks are going to work against you. In Afghanistan doubly so.

Karin awkwardly stands trying to find something to say.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
I assure you I am qualified.

LIZ  
No one knows if they are qualified to deal with an epidemic before they have faced one. Your degrees and glowing references mean nothing on the ground.

Karin does not know what to say.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
I have narrowed the list of possible diagnoses to falciparum malaria, typhoid fever, shigellosis, typhus, cholera, gram-negative septicemia, borreliosis, relapsing fever, EHEC enteritis, leptospirosis, scrub typhus, plague, Q fever, candidiasis, histoplasmosis, trypanosomiasis, visceral leishmaniasis, hemorrhagic smallpox, measles, and fulminant viral hepatitis. Clinically it could also be snake envenomation or warfarin intoxication.

KARIN ANDERSSON

None of the patients have reported snake bites, and even if one had bit -

LIZ

(annoyed)

It is not the snake. Twelve people are dead in ten days. The first reported death was two days ago. There is one symptomatic person out of thirteen still alive. What does it sound like?

KARIN ANDERSSON

Ebola. But that is not on your list.

LIZ

It is. I just wanted to know what type of doctor we were sending into a war zone with no previous experience: one who would pick from a list or an epidemiologist.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Do you think it's Ebola?

LIZ

It could be anything. If we're really unlucky it's a whole new disease with a pathology we have no understanding of.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Ebola is endemic to Sub-Saharan Africa.

LIZ

The '91 Peruvian cholera outbreak was brought over by a commercial Chinese ship. Communicable diseases don't respect borders. Also Dr. Wolf from the CDC is bringing along an Ebola specialist, so it looks like he has the same theory.

Karin is pleased with herself.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Great.

LIZ

Not for Lashkar Gah.

INT. AIR INDIA FLIGHT - NIGHT

The plane is experiencing intense turbulence. Liz is buried deep into the case files while Karin is white knuckling her seat. Liz looks over momentarily and then continues reading the files, slightly annoyed by Karin's timidity.

The plane drops 10 feet and Liz hardly reacts, but Karin almost has a panic attack.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
(Swedish)  
Vad i helvete?

LIZ  
You should use this time to either work or to rest up, you can't waste 13 hours.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
I'll try...

She puts her head down.

LIZ  
Do you have lorazepam?

KARIN ANDERSSON  
I am usually fine on planes.

Liz takes out sedatives.

LIZ  
This is a flight to Kabul, not Stockholm for god's sake. This job is impossible without self-medication.

INT. AIR INDIA PLANE - DAY

The plane is about to land, with the whole thing shaking. Liz remains unperturbed, but Karin is roused out of her drug induced sleep feeling like she has been hit by a bus. Liz takes out her hijab (headscraf) and wraps her head. Karin looks over and a sudden realization crosses her face.

LIZ  
Don't tell me -

KARIN ANDERSSON  
I only had six hours to look over the case notes, pack, and let-

LIZ

You came to the land of the Taliban  
and you didn't bring any form of  
hijab?

Karin starts to look through her carry on. The plane shakes making the whole process virtually impossible.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I realize this is your first field mission but we are here to contain an outbreak of something that at this point has a ninety-two percent mortality rate and kills in under ten days. We can't carry you, we can't train you. Sort yourself out.

Karin's eyes well up like she is going to cry, but she is fighting it.

LIZ (CONT'D)

And if one of those tears falls you might as well stay on this plane and go back to Geneva.

Karin holds herself together as Liz pulls out another headscarf from her bag. The plane lands like a tonne of bricks, forcing Karin to grab the armrests again. Liz shakes her head.

EXT. KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

Liz and Karin, now wearing headscarves, disembark their Air India flight onto a runway, surrounded by snowdusted brown flatlands, rolling mountains and a distant cityscape.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Feels like Stockholm.

LIZ

That's where the similarities will end.

INT. KABUL AIRPORT - LATER

Liz and Karin make their way through the insane bustle of Kabul's airport.

The women are dressed mostly with hijab and tunics, but there are a few wearing the full burqa. Like most developing world airports it has the bustle of a marketplace.

DR. MALIK BENCHARIF, a self-possessed French-Algerian in his 30s with a baby face that he compensates for with sternness, is there to greet the pair.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Dr. Scott?

Malik leads the duo through the crowds of people.

LIZ  
Dr. Bencharif. This is Dr.  
Andersson.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Pleasure to meet you. LIZ  
You didn't have to come all  
the way to Kabul to meet us.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I needed to pick up supplies, plus  
it gives us a chance to discuss  
what we know. We have identified  
fifteen more cases, three of them  
related to the third patient in a  
village in the Tribal region in  
South-Central Helmand. The others  
are addicts from a squat outside  
the city on the banks of the  
Helmand River, Mirwais Nika.

LIZ  
The same squat as the original  
cases! How long until we can get to  
Lashkar Gah?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
We have ten minutes to make a  
military flight South.

They make their way through the throng of Afghans, NGO workers, Afghan National Police, and the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) that guard the airport. They are met by AN AMERICAN SOLDIER who ferries them back out onto the runway.

EXT. KABUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY - DAY

The trio are quickly ushered into a military vehicle which speeds down the runway towards a military plane which opens in the back for access.

On the plane is military equipment, British soldiers and two other civilians: DR. DANIEL WOLF, a gay American in his late 50's, and DR. THERESE DIOP, a Senegalese women in her early 30's.

Malik and Liz stride up the ramp towards the plane with purpose while Karin tentatively boards.

LIZ  
Dr. Wolf.

DANIEL WOLF  
Good to see you, it's been a long time. 15 years since-

LIZ  
(to Thérèse)  
Are you the Ebola specialist?

Daniel is a little taken back by her abrupt business like nature. Karin waves awkwardly.

THERESE DIOP  
Yes, good to meet you.

AN ARMY OFFICER comes over.

ARMY OFFICER  
You need to take your seats and strap-in. The flight down isn't always easy.

They take seats and begin to strap themselves in. Thérèse and Daniel struggle with the mechanics.

LIZ  
Dr. Andersson also feels like we are dealing with Ebola.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
All the clinical signs match, as does the mortality rate and the incubation period.

LIZ  
I think it is too early at this stage to rule out anything.  
Containment is first priority.

Thérèse figures out her seatbelt, while Daniel continues to struggle.

DANIEL WOLF  
Can we get a soldier over here to  
help me out?

A STURDY BRITISH SOLDIER comes to help.

THERESE DIOP  
Ask and you shall receive.

Liz turns towards Daniel.

LIZ  
As I was saying- now we need access  
to a lab to test samples. The field  
office isn't -

THERESE DIOP  
We brought our own.

DANIEL WOLF  
Welcome to working with the  
resources of the American  
government.

LIZ  
Thank god.

DANIEL WOLF  
Thank Obama.

The plane begins to take off. The relative comfort of the Air India flight is replaced with the power of a military grade vehicle's take off. As the other doctors brace themselves, Liz takes out her notes.

INT./EXT. PLANE: LASHKAR GAH AIRPORT - DAY

The back of the plane opens up to reveal the long expanses of arid desert that is Helmand Province. The temperature is ten degrees higher than Kabul. The five doctors exit alongside the throng of soldiers. They are met by two young soldiers PTE. JIMMY TARR and CPL. ROBBIE TURNER.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
Dr. Scott?

LIZ  
Yes.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
I'm Cpl. Turner, this is Pte. Tarr,  
we are your security detail.  
(MORE)

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER (CONT'D)  
We have instructions to take you to  
Camp Bastion to be briefed on the  
security situation and protocol by  
Col. Kinross.

LIZ  
Sorry I don't have time for a  
security debrief.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
These are orders ma'am.

LIZ  
Good thing I don't work for the  
army. We are going to the WHO field  
office.

The two soldiers look to each other perplexed.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
Do you need the address?

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
Ma'am I'm afraid I have to take you  
to Camp Bastion.

Liz goes to leave. The army men stop her. Liz looks to Malik  
for support.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I'll take Diop to the office to set  
up the equipment and test the  
samples.

LIZ  
I'm coming!

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
Our orders are that YOU attend a  
security debrief.

LIZ  
So they can go, just without a  
security detail?

PTE. JIMMY TARR  
Yes ma'am.

LIZ  
What if I take that military  
convoy? And you protect those  
doctors?

DANIEL WOLF

Malik can drop Karin and I off at  
the Boost hospital.

Liz turns to the soldiers.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER

Ma'am, if you could follow us.

Liz follows the soldiers.

LIZ

What is the point of having a  
security detail if you aren't  
actually providing security to the  
people out in the field?

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER

Orders are orders ma'am.

EXT. LASHKAR GAH - DAY

The security detail drives through Lashkar Gah, one of the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan. The city is battle scared and battle weary from fighting between ISAF forces and Taliban insurgents.

The cityscape is a hectic collage of sand colored buildings and the streets are filled with Soviet era vehicles. The women here dress mostly in full burqa while the men wear traditional dress as opposed to the more Western clothes seen in the capitol.

The air is thick with sand which foreign soldiers refer to as moon dust. The military vehicle prompts some looks of derision from the locals, but for most it has just become a fact of everyday life.

EXT. BOOST HOSPITAL - LATER

Malik drives up to the large, but rundown, white gates of the Médecins Sans Frontières-run Boost hospital whose logo adorns the side of the entrance alongside Pashto signs and instructions.

The truck is stopped at the checkpoint but once the guards see it is Malik, they waive him through.

## EXT. BOOST HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Daniel and Karin get out of the truck. The outdoor waiting area is filled with throngs of sick Afghans. Daniel and Karin are met by the gregarious AMIT KHAN, a Pashto-speaking Indian doctor in his 30's, who is in charge of the Boost Hospital.

DANIEL WOLF  
Mr Khan I presume?

Mr. Khan shakes his hand vigorously.

AMIT KHAN  
Hello! Let me show you around!

## INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: CAMP BASTION CHECK POINT - DAY

Before the military vehicle can get into Camp Bastion it has to pass a number of check points. Each one with a couple of armored guards on each side.

## EXT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

The unassuming and small WHO field office is in a sand colored building in the center of the city. Its simplicity stands in stark contrast to the grandiose Geneva headquarters in almost every way.

## INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - LATER

The small field office comprising one floor of an Afghan office building is not the place where one would expect a potential global pandemic to be fought. It is bustling with both foreign and Afghan workers.

Malik and Thérèse squeeze through the office holding the suitcases containing the portable lab.

## INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE LAB - MOMENTS LATER

The lab comprising of one room is clean but small.

THERESE DIOP  
This is what we have to-

MALIK BENCHARIF  
It is the best medical lab in Helmand.

THERESE DIOP  
You should have seen the one in  
Kananga. At least this looks  
sterile.

Thérèse starts to set up.

INT. BOOST HOSPITAL QUARANTINE SECTION - DAY

Inside the Boost Hospital the walls are painted green and the ceiling white. While the paint is new, the hospital is not. Although money has been put into making this hospital operational, it is still looks tired, rural and underfunded.

Amit is wearing the full protection against Ebola, facemask, gloves, and total medical coveralls, as he takes the similarly suited Daniel and Karin around.

While there are numerous patients, they are led to the extremely sick HAFIZ SHERZAI (20's).

DANIEL WOLF  
Tell him we need to talk to him  
about his illness and interactions.

AMIT KHAN  
(Pashto)  
These doctors need to ask you some  
questions.

EXT. CAMP BASTION - CONTINUOUS

Liz gets out of the military vehicle and is completely taken aback by the enormity of the camp, which is the size of a village. She looks around and sees military personnel as far as the eye can see. Liz is met by LT. PARKINSON, a hard-as-shit soldier in his late twenties.

LT. PARKINSON  
Dr. Scott follow me.

The two walk in silence towards a simple looking military building.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - CONTINUOUS

Liz and Lt. Parkinson walk through the well guarded hallways of a building one would never guess held the office of the Head of British Forces in Helmand. The only giveaway is the fact that at the back lies the office of COL. WALTER KINROSS, a military man in his 50's.

COL. KINROSS  
Dr. Scott, pleasure.

LIZ  
Sir, every moment I am here is dangerous for the Afghan people, the NATO mission, and could abet a global pandemic which would facilitate the spread of terrorism and the destabilization of Afghanistan.

COL. KINROSS  
Then I won't keep you.

Dr. Scott wants a fight, but Col. Kinross is not going to give it to her.

LIZ  
Let's get on with it then.

COL. KINROSS  
We are coming up to spring, which is when the Taliban launches its Spring Offensive. It is the most dangerous part of the year. These men have been hiding out in caves working themselves up-

LIZ  
Yes I am familiar with the Taliban's Spring Offensive.

Col. Kinross takes out a map of Helmand.

COL. KINROSS  
NATO forces control Lashkar Gah and Northern Helmand. The rest of the province is contested. You and your team are not to go anywhere, from this moment, without your security detail. Any area outside of Lashkar Gah you will have to clear with ISAF.

LIZ  
That's you I assume.

COL. KINROSS  
Yes.

Dr. Scott points to an area on the map that appears blank.

LIZ

There is a village in South-Central Helmand, Deshu, where three new cases have emerged. We need to get down there to contain the spread. In rural areas where family members take care of the sick the risk of exposure goes up exponentially.

COL. KINROSS

Deshu is contested territory.

LIZ

Osama bin Laden himself could be in Deshu and I'd still need access.

COL. KINROSS

We will put together a team, loop in the Americans.

Col. Kinross goes to his phone, about to make the call immediately.

LIZ

Really?

COL. KINROSS

Yes.

LIZ

I expected more of a fight.

COL. KINROSS

ISAF works with the WHO, we are all here to WIN this thing.

LIZ

Contain.

He smiles at this correction.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE LAB - LATER

Thérèse is in a Hazmat suit because of the contagion risk even samples of Ebola present. The lab is now filled with state of the art research equipment.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: LASHKAR GAH - EARLY EVENING

Liz is being driven through Lashkar Gah by Cpl. Turner and Pte. Tarr.

They stop in front of the WHO field office and Malik is talking to A FRENCH REPORTER. He ends the conversation and gets in.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
How did it go?

LIZ  
He wanted to let me know what the Spring Offensive was.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
It's nice to know the colonizers even look down on their own sometimes.

LIZ  
The British or NATO?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Both.

LIZ  
You're French aren't you?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
French-Algerian, which means no Frenchman would consider me one.

LIZ  
Like no Algerian would consider you Algerian.

Malik looks at her with barely contained anger. She has overstepped the mark in his books.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
We need the colonizers help on this. Also, media should go through Geneva. We are here to contain the epidemic, not spin it.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
(cold)  
As you wish.

INT. BOOST HOSPITAL - LATER

Liz and Malik meet Daniel and Karin with Dr. Khan.

LIZ  
How is our quarantine?

DANIEL WOLF  
Pretty top notch.

AMIT KHAN  
Mostly thanks to Malik.

Malik looks at her and does a sarcastic bow. Liz doesn't react. The others notice the tension.

DANIEL WOLF  
Want to see it?

LIZ  
Please.

Daniel leads the way.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
Have you talked to the surviving patient?

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Yes.

As they walk through the hospital they pass throngs of sick Afghans. People seeking treatment for malnourishment, broken bones, and things like TB which have almost been eradicated in the developed world.

LIZ  
How was patient zero identified?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
First person to present symptoms.

LIZ  
This is through -

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Testimony from two of the patients before their death and the surviving patients.

LIZ  
You have the first symptomatic patient as the seventh to have died, while the fourth patient to present symptoms as the first fatality. I doubt the seventh death is patient zero. I would hazard a guess it is the patient who died a full two days before any of the others.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Patient four had the weakest immune system that is why he died first.

The doctors get to the outside of the quarantine area. It has one small sink. Dr. Scott begins to wash her hands.

LIZ

You are relying on sources who claim every other infected patient from this squat presented symptoms at the same time while death seven, your patient zero, had a noticeable cough earlier, but if this is Ebola or a slow acting cholera mutation, fever would be the first symptom.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Fever is impossible to pinpoint. These are heroin addicts we're dealing with, they wouldn't notice the onset of fever if they were high.

Then Malik starts to wash his hands. Liz starts dressing in the coveralls for the quarantine area.

LIZ

Malik -

MALIK BENCHARIF

Dr. Bencharif.

LIZ

Alright if you prefer, Dr. Bencharif, you have made the wrong hypothesis. You think the cough followed these individual's fevers, while I would argue that it predated whatever killed them, and that the first mortality's diarrhea is the first concrete symptom. I think we have the wrong patient zero.

MALIK BENCHARIF

We have no way to prove -

LIZ

Then we follow up on both lines of inquiry. If anyone else believes another case is a candidate -

Daniel starts to wash his hands as Malik gets dressed for quarantine.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Patient three was the source of a few of the early patients' heroin. If that was the source of contamination he most likely ingested it first and would be our link to origin.

LIZ

Add patient three to our list.

EXT. BOOST HOSPITAL - NIGHT

As the group of doctors are leaving the facility they are met by Cpl. Turner and Pte. Tarr. An overweight Afghan in his 50's, ABDUL JALLAL, appears with Dr. Khan. He is stopped by Pte. Tarr which clearly annoys Jallal.

MALIK BENCHARIF

(to Liz)

This is not good. Head of Helmand's Health Ministry.

Liz motions for the soldiers to allow him forward which angers the prideful Jallal further.

ABDUL JALLAL

What do you think you are doing?

LIZ

I am Dr. Scott, head of the WHO's mission -

Liz puts out her hand to shake but he does not take it.

ABDUL JALLAL

I know who you are. My office is supposed to be informed of all of your-

LIZ

I am sorry-

ABDUL JALLAL

Do not interrupt me. This is our hospital and you need our permission to enter.

LIZ

This hospital is run by Médecins Sans Frontières.

ABDUL JALLAL

With our permission. You can not circumvent the authority of the Afghan people.

LIZ

Of course Mr. Jallal.

ABDUL JALLAL

The last time you people went marching around Lashkar Gah with no supervision, 15 Afghans died.

LIZ

I'm not aware-

MALIK BENCHARIF

The cholera deaths.

Liz gestures for him to leave this up to her, Jallal registers this as a sign of disrespect and as Malik's emasculation.

LIZ

There was a quarantine in place.

ABDUL JALLAL

15 people were denied treatment by your people and they died. So now you go through me. I approve your actions. I will not let innocent people die.

LIZ

Then we are on the same page.

The rest of the doctors, except Malik, get in the military truck while the two military personnel stand by Liz's side.

ABDUL JALLAL

And I find it very disturbing that they would appoint someone that does not respect our cultural traditions and differences.

LIZ

I assure you I respect-

ABDUL JALLAL

Do you know the Afghan practice of purdah?

LIZ

Gender apartheid.

ABDUL JALLAL

We believe a woman should be covered in public to protect her from being harassed or seen as a sexual object. You are a doctor. I can see your arms, neck, ankles. Please respect our customs because only then will people here respect you.

LIZ

I will ensure Malik liaises with your office. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any issues.

Malik looks pissed at being assigned something. Liz gets in the truck and the soldiers follow her.

ABDUL JALLAL

(Pashto)

You let her disrespect you.

MALIK BENCHARIF

(Pashto)

These people are not great at respecting local cultures.

ABDUL JALLAL

(Pashto)

Just as you are not great at respecting yourself.

Jallal turns and walks away.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: LASHKAR GAH - LATER

The exhausted doctors sit in the backseat.

LIZ

He believes sexism to be a cultural tradition we should respect.

MALIK BENCHARIF

When you disrespect me in front of  
the Afghans, they lose respect for  
me and I am less able to do my job.

LIZ

I am not here to protect you or  
Jallal's manhood.

Karin looks at Malik sympathetically.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I think cultural sensitivity-

LIZ

(defensive)

You are a naive girl. Dr. Bencharif  
if you cannot take orders from a  
woman you have spent too much time  
in Afghanistan.

Everyone remains silent.

LIZ (CONT'D)

I want status reports before we  
eat.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE LAB - NIGHT

Thérèse is performing an ELISA test. There is a plate the size of a hand where 21 (out of 96) microtiers are filled with different antigens corresponding to the different possible diseases. Thérèse puts the microtiers in a plate photometer machine which will read and graph the samples.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE LAB - LATER

Thérèse looks at the graph results.

THERESE DIOP

(French)

I knew it. I fucking knew it.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - LATER

Thérèse now out of her hazmat suit rushes out. Pte. Tarr is asleep at his post. He rises at her entrance and tries to wipe his drool off and pick up his gun at the same time.

THERESE DIOP  
(excited)  
It is Ebola.

PTE. JIMMY TARR  
Is that good?

THERESE DIOP  
Now we can fight it.

INT. CAMP BASTION MESS HALL - DAWN

Liz and Daniel are seated at the table when Thérèse and Karin join.

LIZ  
Why wasn't I told?

KARIN ANDERSSON  
You were asleep. I thought -

LIZ  
I should have been woken.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
You said sleep or work. You  
couldn't work anymore -

LIZ  
It is not your place to make  
executive decisions.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
What could you have accomplished at  
3 am that would have placed you in  
a better position for Deshu than  
you are now?

Liz thinks for a second. She gets up.

LIZ  
That isn't your call to make.

She gets up, followed by Daniel as they walk out of the hall.

EXT. CAMP BASTION - CONTINUOUS

They walk through endless army officers in the morning Afghan sun.

DANIEL WOLF  
She's right.

LIZ

Of course she's bloody right,  
that's not the point.

DANIEL WOLF

Never is. Better kiss and make up  
before Deshu. She might be the last  
person you see.

LIZ

Don't be melodramatic.

DANIEL WOLF

It's the tribal regions, they are  
melodramatic.

LIZ

I should leave her here.

DANIEL WOLF

I worked with her all day yesterday  
and she's a hell of a doctor, and  
the only epidemiologist who  
connected the heroin source to  
patient zero.

Liz turns towards the female barracks.

LIZ

I want a full report on the Mirwais  
Nika cleanup by the time I'm back  
from Deshu.

She heads off from Daniel. He gives her the finger behind her back.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - MORNING

Liz, Karin and Thérèse sit in the back of an army hummer. TWO SOLDIERS are in the front. The ride is bumpy but Liz continues to look through case notes while Karin and Thérèse try to keep their stomachs from ending up on their laps.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - CONTINUOUS

A parade of six armored trucks, one medical evacuation (MedEvac) vehicle, and one tank traverse the desolate desert of Southern Helmand. The roads are sand, and the only difference from the terrain around them is that the road has been packed down by army vehicles and thirty year old busses.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE FRONT: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND -  
CONTINUOUS

TWO MILITARY COMMANDERS' eyes are peeled because of the ever-present threat of Taliban fighters.

MILITARY COMMANDER #1  
Come in. All clear out front. Over.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE BACK - CONTINUOUS

There is a gun mounted on the back of an armored truck.  
SOLDIER ON REAR guard the back. FIVE SOLDIERS ride inside.

MILITARY COMMANDER #2  
Affirmative. Reading you five. All  
clear out back. Out.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - LATER

As the military vehicle drives the treacherous roads TWO  
TALIBAN FIGHTERS watch from a rock perch above the road.

INT. HELMAND HEALTH MINISTRY LASHKAR GAH - DAY

Malik and Daniel sit in the waiting room. The office is  
overcrowded with boxes and Afghan staff. Abdul Jallal comes  
out, still angry from the day before. They speak in Pashto to  
each other while Daniel looks on confusedly.

ABDUL JALLAL  
Dr. Bencharif, errand boy.

Malik holds his tongue.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Mr. Jallal, our deepest regrets  
about yesterday. These new  
Westerners don't know how it works  
down here.

ABDUL JALLAL  
They better learn.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Firstly we have discerned the  
outbreak to be Ebola.

ABDUL JALLAL  
That is not an Afghan disease.

MALIK BENCHARIF

As we discussed, we need your ministry to quarantine the house in Mirwais Nika where the infected addicts resided.

ABDUL JALLAL

Then the addicts will be out on the street, infecting children.

MALIK BENCHARIF

If we do not stop addicts from using the house the disease will spread.

ABDUL JALLAL

Drugs are contrary to Allah, maybe it is his will. Let me ask you how you think this foreign disease got here.

EXT. HELMAND HEALTH MINISTRY LASHKAR GAH - LATER

A frustrated Malik leaves with a confused Daniel.

MALIK BENCHARIF

As long as it is confined to drug users the Ministry is unconcerned.

DANIEL WOLF

Well if we don't quarantine that house it won't be confined to drug users for long.

MALIK BENCHARIF

These are faithful people Dr. Wolf.

DANIEL WOLF

You know when the first AIDS patients started dying, the junkies and faggots, that is the exact same thing American politicians said. That isn't faith, it's bigotry.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: LASHKAR GAH - CONTINUOUS

They get into their army vehicle, Cpl. Turner and Pte. Tarr are in the front.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Camp Bastion.

DANIEL WOLF

We need to go to Mirwais Nika.

MALIK BENCHARIF

If Jallal won't quarantine that house the British will. If the British won't then the Americans will. If they are too short sighted we will go to the Danes.

DANIEL WOLF

I think you and Liz are going to get along just fine.

MALIK BENCHARIF

When she stops treating me like an incompetent Arab, maybe.

DANIEL WOLF

She thinks we're all incompetent somethings.

MALIK BENCHARIF

When this is contained, Jallal is going to have me removed.

DANIEL WOLF

When this is contained you can get any field job you want.

EXT. DESHU HUT - LATER

Liz, Thérèse, and A TRANSLATOR are in full hazmat suits in a small mud house besides two extremely sick women, AFGHAN MOTHER and AFGHAN AUNT. On the floor is a wrapped body of the FATHER, and a YOUNGER AFGHAN MAN is watching from the sidelines.

LIZ

Ask her if they have had any visitors since Aazar came home to visit?

TRANSLATOR

(Pashto)

Have you had any visitors since your son was home?

A MOTHER

(Pashto)

No one has come. He was sick so they stayed away.

TRANSLATOR

No.

LIZ

Have they been in any contact with anyone since becoming ill?

TRANSLATOR

(Pashto)

Have you been in contact with anyone. Anyone been to visit?

EXT. DESHU VILLAGE - LATER

Liz, Thérèse, and Karin help the sick into the medevac. It is the only military vehicle close to town, for contamination purposes. THE DRIVER is in a hazmat suit. They start walking towards the other trucks.

KARIN ANDERSSON

There are no doors.

LIZ

They are poor.

THERESE DIOP

She means it would make cross infection easier. Someone does not necessarily need to enter to visit. The whole area around their home is potentially contaminated.

LIZ

Let's split up, go door to door, in a sense. Do we have another translator?

Liz takes off her hazmat suit.

KARIN ANDERSSON

No.

LIZ

You think that with a billion pounds of military equipment out here they could spare another fucking translator.

KARIN ANDERSSON

We can decontaminate the hut, while you -

LIZ

Get some of those soldiers to put  
on a suit and help.

MONTAGE:

BBC Radio World Service Special News Report plays overtop.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

WHO workers have identified an  
outbreak of Ebola in Afghanistan's  
Helmand Province.

INT. DESHU HUT - DAY

Karin, Thérèse, and A GROUP OF SOLDIERS in Hazmat suits decontaminate the Afghans mud house with hypochlorite spray and rope it off.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Twelve have died in the area, which  
has seen heavy fighting between  
allied forces and Taliban  
insurgents in recent weeks.

INT./EXT. DASHU VILLAGE - DAY

Liz, TWO SOLDIERS, and the translator go to family after family inquiring whether any are sick.

EXT. MIRWAIS NIKA - DAY

A parade of British forces' trucks manned with Malik, Daniel, and the vast majority (10) of people from WHO's Lashkar Gah's field office drive up to the drug den at Mirwais Nika.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

International health workers and  
the Health Ministry are looking  
into possible sources of the  
outbreak. Government officials and  
the military were quick to dispel  
rumors of Western involvement.

INT. DASHU PREGNANT WOMAN'S HUT - DAY

Liz checks the vital signs of a pregnant woman, she is providing medical care to people far removed from the region's only hospital.

## INT. MIRWAIS NIKA - DAY

Malik and Daniel find TWO ADDICTS using the drug den. This sand colored structure is decrepit and filthy. There is a mixture of needles, joint roaches, and bodily refuse on the floor. This is the perfect breeding ground for a pandemic. The two drug addicts are taken into medical care.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)  
Reports out of the war-torn  
province have indicated the  
outbreak has been limited to  
intravenous drug users.

## EXT. DESHU VILLAGE - DAY

Two soldiers in Hazmat suits rope off an area around the contaminated hut.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)  
Up next Sports, and Everton's  
surprise 3-1 upset of Premier  
League leaders Manchester United.

## INT. MIRWAIS NIKA - DAY

WHO workers begin decontaminating the drug den. The beginning of a long and arduous process.

## INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - EARLY EVENING

Back in the truck and on the way back North the soldiers and the three women are beginning to loosen up.

YOUNG SOLDIER  
My parents saw it on the news.

NERVOUS SOLDIER  
Is it as bad as all that?

LIZ  
We got lucky on containment. The societal stigma of drug abuse helped.

NERVOUS SOLDIER  
How'd you get it?

The drive is bumpy.

LIZ

It is not easy to transmit. You need to come into contact with fluid of the sick, but if you do, even a small drop on your skin can infect you.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Doctors, people preparing dead bodies for burial, and those who care for the sick are most at risk.

THERESE DIOP

It doesn't travel through air and dies fairly quickly on surfaces.

LIZ

It is not easy to transmit, but once it is transmitted, it is painful and most often deadly.

NERVOUS SOLDIER

You think you can stop it?

The soldier looks at her with pleading eyes. Karin steps in.

KARIN ANDERSSON

She has contained three of the biggest cholera epidemics in the last fifty years.

This makes the soldier breathe a sigh of relief. Liz looks at Karin and smiles. Karin smiles back at her.

NERVOUS SOLDIER

Good, I was getting right nervous.

Liz leans back into the seat and relaxes for the first time since landing in Helmand.

EXT. RIDGE SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - CONTINUOUS

The TWO TALIBAN FIGHTERS from earlier raise a rocket launcher onto a man made perch on the ridge. They aim it at the MedEvac vehicle, which is the least reinforced.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - CONTINUOUS

Liz is looking out the window when she sees a rocket EXPLODE into the MedEvac truck ahead.

The bomb is so loud all that can be heard is RINGING, and the armored truck shakes with the force of the nearby explosion. Frantic soldiers start yelling over the radio.

Gunfire breaks out from the side of the mountain and is returned by the British forces.

The three doctors are helpless in the back of the truck. Gunfire hits the side of their vehicle but it is reinforced. Karin starts to hyperventilate, Liz grabs her arm firmly but with reassurance.

LIZ  
Breathe, breathe, breathe, breathe.  
Look at me. Just concentrate on my  
eyes. Everything will be fine.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
(breathing)  
Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

EXT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - CONTINUOUS

The trucks start to move. The doctor's vehicle has to manoeuver around the charred remains of the MedEvac.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - CONTINUOUS

As Karin's breathing begins to return to normal Liz looks out of the window.

LIZ  
That entire crash site is now a  
contaminated area. You need to tell  
them that.

The soldiers ignore her and drive on.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
That needs to be decontaminated,  
there can't be Ebola on the middle  
of the fucking highway.

YOUNG SOLDIER  
Ma'am please, we need to get out of  
here! I'm going to need you to be  
quiet.

The three epidemiologists look at the sight with fear.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - DUSK

The exploded MedEvac truck is spewed across a desolate highway.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - NIGHT

Liz unexpectedly enters the office of Col. Kinross who is on the phone. Lt. Parkinson goes to her.

LT. PARKINSON  
You can't be in here.

LIZ  
Do you understand what just  
happened?

COL. KINROSS  
(to phone)  
Prepare a debrief. There is  
something I need to handle.

LT. PARKINSON  
Two British soldiers just  
died because of a mission you  
requested.

Liz tries to push past Lt. Parkinson, who stops her. Col. Kinross hangs up the phone.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
The site of the explosion is now  
contaminated and-

COL. KINROSS  
(loud and firm)  
AND that area is contested. Not to  
mention the two men I lost out  
there.

LIZ  
I am sorry about your men, but  
Ebola transmits through contact  
with bodily fluid and that is  
literally all over the main road to  
Deshu.

COL. KINROSS  
Understood. When it is safe you and  
your people, with the full support  
of the British military, will de-  
contaminate the area. Until then,  
the area is a no go. That is all.

LIZ  
Fighting a pandemic is hard in the  
best of circumstances.  
(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

We have gotten lucky so far, but  
your war is making this impossible-

COL. KINROSS

This isn't my war-

LIZ

If this spreads to another village,  
and the person isn't a drug user  
who will stay away from the gen pop  
this could explode. You are  
facilitating that.

COL. KINROSS

(a warning)

Enough.

Lt. Parkinson shows a distressed Liz out.

EXT. CAMP BASTION - LATER

Liz leaves the command center and is confronted by Malik and Daniel.

DANIEL WOLF

We heard. How are-

LIZ

What happened with the cleanup?

DANIEL WOLF

Success and the heroin users we  
picked up are in quarantine.

MALIK BENCHARIF

We had to go around Jallal.

LIZ

Go around? I thought your job was  
to appease.

DANIEL WOLF

We couldn't-

Liz stops him. This upsets Malik.

LIZ

As the one who was tasked with  
keeping him in the loop and on side  
you are telling me you went around  
him and pissed him off more.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Is that my job? I thought I was a  
doctor.

LIZ  
(angry and frustrated)  
Your job is to do whatever the fuck  
I tell you. You making my job  
harder-

MALIK BENCHARIF  
You made my job harder. You  
disrespected me in front of Jallal  
which makes him unable to respect  
me.

LIZ  
Are you quite done?

Malik does not respond.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
If you can't do the jobs I task you  
then I will find someone who can.  
Jallal does not respect you because  
you don't know when to stand up for  
yourself and when to admit you made  
a mistake.

Malik says nothing. Daniel hands her his report.

DANIEL WOLF  
The report you requested.

Liz takes it.

LIZ  
Tomorrow we need to follow up on  
leads from the newly infected and  
our three potential patient zeros.

DANIEL WOLF  
Yes.

LIZ  
Now if you'll excuse me I've had a  
long day.

Liz leaves the two doctors.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
The Arab should appease the Arab?

DANIEL WOLF  
She's been through a lot.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I've been in Helmand for five  
years. She hasn't seen anything.

INT. CAMP BASTION: WOMEN'S QUARTERS - LATER

Liz enters her room to find Thérèse comforting an upset Karin on the edge of her bed. When she sees Liz she tries to pull herself together. Liz notices this. She goes to her suitcase, rummages, and takes out a bottle of whiskey. She sits down besides the women, opens the bottle and takes a swig and passes it to Karin.

LIZ  
What you went through today no  
doctor, no person, should ever have  
to go through.

Karin takes a swig.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
I know you don't like weakness.

Liz puts her arm around Karin who bristles. Karin passes the bottle to Thérèse.

LIZ  
For your first field mission you  
came to one of the most dangerous  
parts of the world to fight  
something which we knew nothing  
about. Now we have it virtually  
contained and we know what it is.  
We are winning and that is thanks  
to you. That isn't weakness.

Karin smiles. Thérèse passes the bottle to Liz.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
I first went into the field at 24.  
It was so long ago the Berlin Wall  
was still up for god's sake. I  
cried every night. I hid it because  
I had to- I was the only woman on  
the team. But I was scared and  
lonely and unsure. And then when I  
went to the Congo in 94 for that  
cholera outbreak and 3000 people a  
day were dying I didn't think I  
could take it.

(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

I ran myself into the ground. I worked myself half to death, my girlfriend who is now my boss, left me. I proved myself on that mission, and now she sends me on new ones half because I'm the best, half to punish me I think. The point is I didn't know I had a choice, I was too young to know I had a choice. You can leave Karin and I will write you the most fantastic reference. You have done real good here. Know that. You have a choice.

Karin takes the bottle and takes a swig.

THERESE DIOP

I can still smell their flesh burning. You won't forget that. And that will make you a better doctor, and a better field worker. Now you get what these people face. That is good.

Karin hands the bottle to Thérèse.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I am not going home.

LIZ

Just know you can.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I can be an asset...I am an asset.

LIZ

Our team is stronger with you. Next stage is figuring out how Ebola got here.

THERESE DIOP

(to Karin)

You see connections others don't.

Thérèse hands the bottle to Liz, she takes a swig. She rummages again through her bags and finds a pack of cigarettes.

KARIN ANDERSSON

We can't in here.

THERESE DIOP

Smoking is bad for you doctor.

LIZ  
That's the fun.

Liz lights up and passes it to Karin. She takes a drag.

THERESE DIOP  
Pass it here.

Karin passes it to Thérèse.

LIZ  
Thank god for vices.

INT. HELMAND HEALTH MINISTRY LASHKAR GAH - MORNING

Malik waits as the room buzzes with activity.

INT. DRUG SQUAT - MORNING

Liz, Thérèse, Karin all in Hijab, and TWO TRANSLATORS make their way through an abandoned factory. Light streams in through broken windows which have been badly covered by a patchwork of rags. The floor is covered in dirt and the refuse of addiction.

Men are crouched on the ground in various states of lucidity. Some men are injecting, while others are blitzed out of their minds; some are coming out of the haze; while others still are itching for a fix.

The drug squat is eerily silent, broken only by the footsteps of the WHO workers and the sound of lighters either melting heroin for injection or lighting heroin joints for smoking.

Each WHO worker takes a translator and they approach the addicts.

INT. BOOST HOSPITAL QUARANTINE SECTION - MORNING

Daniel does rounds of the infected Ebola patients, taking their vitals and talking to those who are able.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - MORNING

British Fighter jets litter the area around the crash site with bombs. The desolate area is ignited by powerful explosives.

INT. AFGHAN CAVE - CONTINUOUS

A cave with a few AFGHAN MEN AND A WOMAN is blasted by a bomb. As the dust settles there is the body of a woman torn to shreds.

INT. HELMAND HEALTH MINISTRY LASHKAR GAH - AFTERNOON

Malik is still waiting, now looking extremely annoyed. A HEALTH MINISTRY WORKER walks by.

MALIK BENCHARIF

(Pashto)

I just need five minutes of Mr. Jallal's time.

HEALTH MINISTRY WORKER

(Pashto)

He is busy. He requests you wait.

INT. DRUG SQUAT - AFTERNOON

Liz and her translator are looking worse for wear: dirt smudged faces, and hair starting to peak out from their hijab. The day in the drug squat is beginning to take it's tole. She is talking to an extremely skinny HEROIN ADDICT #1 who could be anywhere from 35-55.

LIZ

Have you ever been to Mirwais Nika to inject heroin?

TRANSLATOR

(Pashto)

Have you been to Mirwais Nika to do what you do here?

The heroin addict picks at a scab on his arm as he ties it up readying for injection.

HEROIN ADDICT #1

(Pashto)

No. Never.

TRANSLATOR

No.

He takes a piece of brown heroin and puts it on a piece of foil. He lights underneath so the heroin melts.

LIZ

Do you know of anyone who goes to  
Mirwais Nika? Or does anyone from  
Mirwais Nika come here?

TRANSLATOR

(Pashto)

Do you go or do any people come  
from Mirwais Nika?

The addict takes out a dirty syringe. The addict uses the  
syringe to take up the melted heroin off the foil.

HEROIN ADDICT #1

No.

He puts the needle in a vein between his toe and injects.

INT. BOOST HOSPITAL QUARANTINE SECTION - AFTERNOON

Daniel and Amit are talking to EBOLA PATIENT #1, a very sick  
man who has hemorrhage blisters on his face.

AMIT KHAN

(Pashto)

Anyone who was around in the days  
before the people at Mirwais Nika  
got sick? Anyone unfamiliar?

EBOLA PATIENT #1

(Pashto)

A while ago there was a man who  
spoke Pashto odd. Not Afghan. Not  
like you either, not Indian Pashto.

AMIT KHAN

He says a man spoke Pashto like a  
foreigner before people started  
becoming sick.

Daniel's eyes light up.

DANIEL WOLF

(excited)

We need to know anything he can  
remember.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND ROAD - AFTERNOON

A bunch of Afghan men carry the body of the dead woman along  
the road passed the charred remains of the MedEvac.

## INT. CAMP BASTION REMOTE COMMAND CENTRE - CONTINUOUS

Through satellite images a group of military intelligence track the men carrying the woman along the barren windswept landscape.

## EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND ROAD - AFTERNOON

Different men, part of the Taliban insurgency, place a small Improvised Explosive Device (IED) along the dirt roadside. They disappear up the side of the ridge once it has been placed.

## INT. HELMAND HEALTH MINISTRY LASHKAR GAH - LATE AFTERNOON

Malik continues to wait. He is passed pissed off and has come around to acceptance. He approaches the Health Ministry Worker.

MALIK BENCHARIF

(Pashto)

If Mr. Jallal cannot see me I am going to go.

HEALTH MINISTRY WORKER

(Pashto)

Sorry Doctor but he left twenty minutes ago.

MALIK BENCHARIF

You have got to be kidding me!

(Pashto)

Tell Mr. Jallal if he won't cooperate we will have to talk to ISAF.

The Health Ministry Worker just shakes his head and laughs.

## INT. BOOST HOSPITAL - LATE AFTERNOON

Liz and Karin arrive to find Amit taking care of a SICK YOUNG BOY. Both women are covered in dust and dirt.

## EXT. BOOST HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Liz, Daniel, Karin, and Amit discuss.

DANIEL WOLF

He looked Afghan but he sounded foreign. Not a native Pashto speaker but he knew regional slang.

LIZ

So he either lived here for a while or he was raised by parents from Helmand.

DANIEL WOLF

Seems so.

Liz turns to Amit.

LIZ

Can you keep tabs on any potential heroin addicts or users or relatives of users that come through your door? We need to catch potential cases early, and we need more information about our local foreigner.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A British military envoy makes its way along the desolate highway when the ground ERUPTS violently like a volcano and rips through the military vehicle instantly. The IED has exploded.

INT. MOURNING TENT - CONTINUOUS

The body of the dead woman is being mourned by the men who carried her and the family which consists of ELDERS and YOUNG CHILDREN.

INT. CAMP BASTION REMOTE COMMAND CENTRE - CONTINUOUS

An ARMY MAN of about thirty looks onto a green satellite screen which displays the Mourners' tent. There is an Afghan MAN WITH A SHOTGUN standing guard outside the tent. The Army Man presses a button.

EXT. MOURNING TENT - CONTINUOUS

The man with a shotgun smokes a cigarette, unaware of the missile that is about to fall.

INT. MOURNING TENT - CONTINUOUS

An elderly woman keens over the body of the dead young woman as the rest of the family members and friends look on. It EXPLODES suddenly in a flash of light.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A group of British soldiers get out of their vehicles and engage in a fire fight with the Taliban fighters.

EXT. BOOST HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Liz, Karin, Daniel, and Amit are invigorated by the possibility of a foreign source.

LIZ

What are our options?

KARIN ANDERSSON

Army, NGO worker.

DANIEL WOLF

Photographer. Journalist.

LIZ

Expat visitor.

AMIT KHAN

Foreign born insurgent.

A car drives up.

KARIN ANDERSSON

We have a Brit, an American, and three non-native Pashto speakers.

Jallal gets out of the car, flanked by TWO SECURITY GUARDS.

DANIEL WOLF

Make your point quickly.

AMIT KHAN

I should get back to work.

Amit leaves. Pte. Tarr and Cpl. Turner come to their side.

KARIN ANDERSSON

We should all learn a phrase in Pashto and see which accent most resembles -

Jallal is upon them. The two soldiers hold their guns in front of them.

ABDUL JALLAL  
I thought I made myself clear that you do no come to this hospital unless I have said ok.

Jallal turns to his security guards.

ABDUL JALLAL (CONT'D)  
(Pashto)  
Show them out.

The two guards do not make a move because of the soldiers.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
Could you step back sir?

Jallal and his men do so begrudgingly.

LIZ  
Mr. Jallal I have had Dr. Bencharif waiting in your office since 9 AM this morning to clear this with you.

ABDUL JALLAL  
I don't take requests from errand boys.

LIZ  
Dr. Bencharif is the senior ranking foreign health worker stationed in Helmand.

ABDUL JALLAL  
You closed Mirwais Nika without-

LIZ  
That was a military operation that we had no control over.

ABDUL JALLAL  
You lie. Get out of here! You are banned.

Liz shakes her head.

ABDUL JALLAL (CONT'D)  
Do not disrespect me.

DANIEL WOLF  
She is telling you the truth.

ABDUL JALLAL

I told you sir in my office not to close Mirwais Nika. Now there are sick drug takers on the streets. Your actions insult Allah.

LIZ

Cpl. Turner can you get Col. Kinross on the phone for me. Tell him it is an emergency.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER

Right away ma'am.

Cpl. Turner goes towards his vehicle, while Pte. Tarr continues to provide support for the doctors.

ABDUL JALLAL

This is not your country. You come here and say you are here to save us, but how did Ebola get here?

KARIN ANDERSSON

That is what we are trying to find out.

ABDUL JALLAL

You invaders brought it. I don't need you to tell me more lies.

LIZ

Mr. Jallal-

ABDUL JALLAL

Call off your army men! But I want you to know this is not how things are done here.

LIZ

I apologize it has come to this.

ABDUL JALLAL

Your hair is showing. At least respect your modesty.

Liz begrudgingly adjusts her headscarf. Cpl. Turner comes back. Jallal walks away still angry.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER

I couldn't get a hold of him. You ok ma'am?

LIZ  
(to Daniel)  
Find Khan and let's learn some  
Pashto.

EXT. CAMP BASTION - NIGHT

Liz, Karin, Thérèse, and Daniel exit the truck. They are met by Lt. Parkinson.

LT. PARKINSON  
Dr. Scott, follow me.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - NIGHT

Col. Kinross and A NUMBER OF SOLDIERS are on one side of the room facing Liz. There is a sharp divide.

COL. KINROSS  
If the road to Deshu is going to be decontaminated. It happens tonight.

COL. KINROSS (CONT'D)  
You will show my men what to do-

LIZ  
Col. we can't show your men what to do. Decontamination has to be supervised by professionals.

COL. KINROSS  
The insurgency is destabilized, but they are regrouping. We can use the cover of darkness, but we can't put you at risk.

LIZ  
I have to go to ensure proper protocol is followed.

LT. PARKINSON  
We can handle spraying some chemicals on the ground.

LIZ  
That attitude is why I need to go. Please Col.

Col. Kinross turns to the other men.

COL. KINROSS  
If you insist.

INT. CAMP BASTION - LATER

Liz is being shown how to use Night Vision Devices (NVD) while being suited up with a bullet proof vest under her hazmat suit.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - NIGHT

In the dead of night Liz sits in the military convoy not saying a word. She is mentally preparing herself to return to the crash site.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - LATER

The military vehicle approaches the crash site. Soldiers exit vehicles in front of them.

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Soldiers take protective positions all around the crash site with guns trained on the ridge. Soldiers are mounted on the back of armored trucks with heavy duty artillery trained into the darkness.

Liz and 5 SOLDIERS similarly suited up get out of the truck and begin to spray sodium hypochlorite over the crash site.

The hazmat-clad decontaminators work on different areas. Liz points to areas every so often, and the soldiers follow her lead. Despite their night-vision goggles and cumbersome mixture of protective medical and army gear they work quickly and efficiently.

Suddenly A FLARE goes up and the whole area is bathed in a bright red light. The soldiers are taken by surprise, but immediately start FIRING towards the ridge.

A MASSIVE SOLDIER grabs Liz. Other SOLDIERS start ushering the unarmed soldiers towards the armored trucks. A bullet cuts through Liz's backpack of sodium hypochlorite.

MASSIVE SOLDIER  
You need to get in the truck.

LIZ  
We aren't finished.

BULLETS continue to rain down on the crash site.

MASSIVE SOLDIER  
We have to get you back to base  
camp.

Liz is thrown into the armored truck along with the others.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND

Liz tries to get her bearings while her back package of sodium hypochlorite is leaking everywhere. A soldier grabs the pack off her back and throws it outside. Cpl. Turner gets in and starts to drive the truck away as the fire fight remains outside.

LIZ  
How did they know we were there?

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
Don't know ma'am.

LIZ  
I thought you bombed the place to  
hell today?

As the truck drives it leaves the fire fight behind.

CPL. ROBBIE TURNER  
We did.

SOLDIER  
How much did we have left?

LIZ  
Five percent. The outer ring of the  
potential contaminated zone.

SOLDIER  
That's not too bad.

LIZ  
Not good enough.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - MORNING

Liz is shown into Col. Kinross's office.

COL. KINROSS  
I know what you are going to say  
and the answer is no.

Liz goes to protest.

COL. KINROSS (CONT'D)  
The answer is no. That is the  
second mission of yours which has  
lost me a man.

Liz takes this in.

LIZ  
I'm sorry about your soldier but  
partial decontamination is not good  
enough.

Col. Kinross comes over and guides her towards the door.

COL. KINROSS  
For now it is going to have to be.  
We don't know how they knew our  
position. How well do you know the  
Arab?

LIZ  
I don't like what you are  
insinuating. He is French and was  
unaware of the mission.

COL. KINROSS  
You didn't call him.

LIZ  
The only person who knew about this  
mission on my team was on that  
road.

Col. Kinross nods.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - MORNING

The room is bustling as the doctors work. Liz approaches Malik.

LIZ  
Can I speak to you for a moment?

Malik sighs and nods. The two walk out into the stairwell.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE: STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS  
The two go out to the stairwell. There is an awkward beat.

LIZ  
I just wanted to...

She stops, searches for the words.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
I apologize. I should not have  
undermined you, let alone in front  
of Jallal and-

Malik smiles.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Don't worry.

LIZ  
You were right.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Thank you.

Another beat.

MALIK BENCHARIF (CONT'D)  
I guess we should get back-

LIZ  
Yes.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Liz is at a desk, making a phone call.

LIZ  
(to phone)  
And those records will be faxed  
over immediately?

She listens. Points at Karin to get Thérèse. Karin stops working. She gets up and walks over to the lab. She knocks on the window between the lab and rest of the offices.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE LAB - CONTINUOUS

Thérèse puts away her sample carefully, being hypersensitive.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Liz is rooting through files.

LIZ  
(to phone)  
No I need a list of soldiers  
stationed in the Congo for the last  
five years. FIVE.

Thérèse and Karin approach.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
(to Thérèse)  
Can I work on the assumption that  
this outbreak is related to the  
Congo strains?

THERESE DIOP  
Mortality rate indicated yes, but  
we have to wait for the genetic  
sequencing. It should be ready any  
day now.

LIZ  
Get a flight back to Geneva to  
supervise, let me know the minute  
you hear. Also where is Turner? And  
make sure Daniel has that list of  
NGOs in Helmand.  
(to phone)  
I don't care how many soldiers it  
is. List. Faxed. Now.

MONTAGE:

INT. NGO'S - DAY

Liz and Daniel meet countless foreign workers at various  
NGO's and Governmental support offices: Afghan Relief; UNHCR;  
UNICEF; CARE; Country Development Unit; BRAC; and Médecins  
Sans Frontières.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Karin cross referencing thousands of names in a patchwork of  
different files through paper methods.

INT. BOOST HOSPITAL QUARANTINE SECTION - DAY

Malik does rounds and takes care of the Ebola patients.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION LAB - DAY

Helene brings Thérèse into the stunning and state of the art world class labs in the Geneva headquarters.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) OFFICES - DAY

Liz and Daniel meet MADELINE, a professional Canadian hippy in her 40s. The office is makeshift, but neat, which stands in contrast to the hubbub of the WHO field office.

LIZ

Thank you for meeting us.

MADELINE

No problem. I guess you want to talk Ebola.

They sit down.

LIZ

Yes. Have any of your staff-

MADELINE

There is a rumor going around that you brought it.

DANIEL WOLF

Are you kidding?

MADELINE

Seems like you pissed off the wrong people.

LIZ

Have any of your staff traveled between the two regions recently?

MADELINE

No.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE: LASHKAR GAH - LATER

Liz and Daniel look tired. They sit in silence.

PTE. JIMMY TARR

No luck ma'am.

LIZ

No.

DANIEL WOLF

Like any of these fucking do-gooders are going to admit to being responsible for an Ebola outbreak.

The military vehicle drives up to Camp Bastion.

PTE. JIMMY TARR

At least no one's getting sick, right ma'am?

DANIEL WOLF

You raise a valid point Jimmy.

LIZ

Containment is only half the job.

PTE. JIMMY TARR

Why's that ma'am?

LIZ

Containment deals with the immediate danger of the disease. But tracking the source and finding out as much as you can about the initial outbreak is what prevents further outbreaks, and helps contain new ones.

PTE. JIMMY TARR

Right, well, hope you find out then.

DANIEL WOLF

Thanks Jimmy!

EXT. CAMP BASTION - MOMENTS LATER

Lt. Parkinson is waiting for Liz and Daniel. As they get out of the truck Liz spots her.

LIZ

(to Daniel)

This can't be good.

LT. PARKINSON

Dr. Scott follow me.

Daniel pantomimes a silent scream of terror. Lt. Parkinson marches Dr. Scott off towards command.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - MOMENTS LATER

Col Kinross is behind his desk. He is more formal than he has been previous. Liz enters with apprehension.

COL. KINROSS

Do you have any idea how dangerous the game you're playing is?

LIZ

Excuse me.

COL. KINROSS

Why did you ask for military personnel files?

LIZ

Since we seem to have containment under control. Now it is up to us to discern how this outbreak occurred Col.

COL. KINROSS

You know that even the mere implication foreign troops were involved in this and the whole region could go up in smoke.

LIZ

My job is to find out how this spread from the Congo to Lashkar Gah. That is it.

COL. KINROSS

Your job is to avoid pandemics, not destabilize regions. Rule out the military. I think your job is done here.

LIZ

Excuse me?

Liz is stunned.

COL. KINROSS

We are your partner in this. Rule out-

LIZ

This is beyond the scope of your-

COL. KINROSS

While you are in Afghanistan nothing is beyond my scope.

(MORE)

COL. KINROSS (CONT'D)  
There are rumors your team brought  
it in. Working to infect locals,  
not help-

LIZ  
We ARE done here.

COL. KINROSS  
YOU are indeed.

Liz storms out.

EXT. CAMP BASTION - MOMENTS LATER

Liz is on a mission. She reaches Daniel.

LIZ  
Let's get to the field office.  
Karin needs more than one set of  
eyes.

She looks over and sees Pte. Tarr.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
Jimmy let's go.

She looks in the other direction and sees Lt. Parkinson.  
Jimmy comes over, they all get in the truck.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

Pte. Jimmy and the two doctors strap in. Jimmy turns on the  
car. Lt. Parkinson knocks on the window, which Jimmy opens.

LT. PARKINSON  
These two are not to leave the base  
until further notice. We are going  
to get the Swede, follow me.

LIZ  
Is this a joke?

LT. PARKINSON  
Col. Kinross is talking to your  
superior as we speak.

INT. CAMP BASTION - WOMEN'S QUARTERS - DAY

Liz calls Karin.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

The phone rings in the bustling field office. Malik picks up.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Hello.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE PHONE

Liz is frantically pacing as Daniel watches with anticipation.

LIZ

We are getting railroaded by the military. Get Karin to hide the military personnel files.

Malik goes to Karin who is working intently on comparing the last remaining files.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Karin you need to stop.

Karin looks up.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I'm almost done.

MALIK BENCHARIF

The Brits are coming and they want those files.

Karin jumps up.

MALIK BENCHARIF (CONT'D)

Liz it's handled.

END OF INTERCUTTING

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Malik and Karin start to get all the files together. They are frantic. Malik beckons over SAFIYA KAPOOR (30's) a Western raised Afghan.

EXT. LASHKAR GAH DOWNTOWN STREET - CONTINUOUS

A military convoy is stuck in traffic. An old soviet era sedan has broken down, and no one can get around them.

LT. PARKINSON

We are two blocks away. Let's head on foot.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE

Malik, Karin, and Saifya start putting the files into two large bags.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Take these files home. The Brits are coming for them.

SAFIYA KAPOOR

Yes.

EXT. LASHKAR GAH DOWNTOWN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lt. Parkinson, Pte. Tarr, Cpl. Turner, and TWO OTHER SOLDIERS head down the street on foot. The WHO office building coming up.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Safiya puts on her headscarf and heads to the exit.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE: STAIRWAY - CONTINUOUS

Safiya starts walking down the stairs as the soldiers enter. As an Afghan woman they barely take notice of her.

EXT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Safiya walks by the military convoy towards a car parked on the street.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Pte. Tarr and Lt. Parkinson enter. Karin is sitting waiting for them.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Hello Lt. Parkinson.

LT. PARKINSON

Where are the files?

KARIN ANDERSSON

What files?

LT. PARKINSON

The military personnel files?

KARIN ANDERSSON

I don't know what you are talking about.

INT. CAMP BASTION - WOMEN'S QUARTERS - LATER

Karin and Liz are in discussion when Col. Kinross enters. Liz stands.

COL. KINROSS

We have talked to your superiors and your mission will remain.

Although the British government and ISAF forces are withdrawing institutional support as long as your inquiry into our personnel continues.

LIZ

May we go then?

COL. KINROSS

Cpl Turner and Pte. Tarr will take you to the WHO office, after that your security detail will be relieved.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - LATER

Amit meets Liz, Karin, Daniel, and Malik. He is looking worried.

AMIT KHAN

Jallal is getting revenge. Your team is banned as long as you are in the army's bad books.

LIZ

Fuck.

Liz throws a bunch of files off of a table. People start to clean up Liz's mess.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I have a day's work left on the files. Let me clear them or implicate them.

Liz starts to sheepishly help them.

DANIEL WOLF

She's right.

Liz gets up and starts dialing a phone number.

LIZ

Get her to Safiya's. Have we heard anything from Deshu?

MALIK BENCHARIF

Nope.

LIZ

(to phone)

Helene please. It's Dr. Scott from the Helmand team.

MALIK BENCHARIF

You think someone needs to go back there?

LIZ

I KNOW someone does.

DANIEL WOLF

You can't go without military support.

MALIK BENCHARIF

I could. I speak Pashto. I look local.

LIZ

I can't ask you to do that.

MALIK BENCHARIF

You didn't.

Liz squeezes his arm as if to say thank you, Malik nods his head.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HELENE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS  
Helene picks up the phone.

HELENE LUND

I have a request from the Helmand Health Ministry to recall your mission.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE PHONE

LIZ

I have told you Mr. Jallal-

HELENE LUND

I have the same request from NATO and the British government. Give me one reason I should let you stay.

LIZ

Because with or without your support I am finding out how Ebola got here.

HELENE LUND

Is that a threat?

LIZ

It's a fact.

(to Malik)

I'm coming with you. I can't let team members put themselves in risk on my orders.

Malkik goes to respond, but she holds up her hand as Helene speaks. He rolls his eyes at her rude action, she gives him a knowing smile back.

HELENE LUND

Find out what happened, patch things up with the army and the ministry and anyone else you've angered. I don't care how much pride you have to swallow. Get them to withdraw their requests or I will pull you.

LIZ

Yes boss.

Helene Hangs up.

END OF INTERCUTTING

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Malik has been waiting patiently.

LIZ  
Yes Dr. Bencharif.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
You will not be coming.

LIZ  
Full burqa and no one will notice.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
You don't speak Pashto.

LIZ  
I won't speak.

The team laughs, Karin and Malik the hardest.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
(cheeky)  
You are not coming, and that is  
final.

INT. WHITE VAN: SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - MORNING

Malik drives through the dangerous rural roads. Malik does not stand out, and therefore does not raise the attention of:

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND RIDGE - CONTINUOUS

TWO TALIBAN INSURGENTS looking over the ridge. They take no notice of the white van.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION LAB - EARLY MORNING

Thérèse is comparing printouts of sequenced RNA Ebola genes. She calls over another scientist, DR. GEORGE MENKEN (60's).

THERESE DIOP  
Dr. Menken can I get a second  
opinion?

DR. MENKEN  
Of course.

THERESE DIOP  
Have a look at these two sequences  
and let me know what you see.

Dr. Menken takes a long hard look.

DR. MENKEN  
They are the same genetic sequence.

THERESE DIOP  
I'm not going crazy? They are identical?

Looking closely.

DR. MENKEN  
They are identical.

INT. CAR: LASHKAR GAH DOWNTOWN STREET

Daniel is driving through the bustling streets of Lashkar Gah.

BBC NEWSCASTER  
An Al-Quada video appeared today blaming the recent Ebola outbreak in Afghanistan's Helmand Province on foreign healthcare workers. The World Health Organization, Red Cross, and Doctors Without Borders were named. Government forces have condemned the video as fear mongering.

Liz turns off the radio.

INT. JOURNALIST OFFICE - DAY

Daniel and Liz meet with FRENCH, BRITISH, and GERMAN journalists and Canadian journalist JOHN ROY from the region.

DANIEL WOLF  
Yes we just need a list of all the places you've travelled in the last five years.

Liz's phone rings.

LIZ  
Excuse me.  
(to phone)  
Liz speaking.

FRENCH JOURNALIST  
Have you heard the rumours you brought Ebola *ici*?

Daniel rolls his eyes as Liz moves out of their conversation.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - CONTINUOUS

Thérèse looks worried.

THERESE DIOP  
We have an issue.

INTERCUT Between Thérèse and Liz.

LIZ  
What?

THERESE DIOP  
The sample from Karin's patient zero is identical to the 1976 original outbreak.

LIZ  
So it is part of the Zaire strain?

THERESE DIOP  
It is more than part of the Zaire strain. It has the exact genetic sequence as the first outbreak. It is not a mutation, it is as if our patient zero was part of that original outbreak.

LIZ  
What does that mean?

THERESE DIOP  
It means that either our outbreak lay dormant in patient zero for 34 years before clinical manifestations or...

LIZ  
You aren't saying what I think you're saying?

THERESE DIOP  
Or someone used the original virus to knowingly infect the Afghan cases.

LIZ  
What is the likelihood a new outbreak would have the same genetic sequence as a previous outbreak?

THERESE DIOP  
Identical?

LIZ  
Yes.

THERESE DIOP  
You would have to have around 19000 pearls of nucleotide in exactly the same formation. So I would say the chances are 1 in a few trillion.

Liz goes further out of earshot of the reporters.

LIZ  
Find out which labs have samples of the original virus and who had access. This stays between us.

Daniel interrupts excitedly and Liz quickly hangs up the phone.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
What?

DANIEL WOLF  
John Roy's photographer-

JOHN ROY  
He's actually a photojournalist.

DANIEL WOLF  
He came from Eastern Congo to document social conditions in Afghanistan, including the heroin population, and he has gone back to the DRC.

Liz looks at him, she doesn't respond.

LIZ  
(to John)  
Thank you for your info.

EXT. LASHKAR GAH DOWNTOWN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

They are walking towards their car.

DANIEL WOLF  
What's wrong?

LIZ  
Find him and see if he is a legitimate candidate.

They get into the car. Two men start pointing at them.

INT. SEDAN: LASHKAR GAH DOWNTOWN STREET - CONTINUOUS

Daniel quickly puts the car in gear and gets away from the pointing men.

DANIEL WOLF  
So I'm going to the Congo?

LIZ  
Is that a problem?

DANIEL WOLF  
Other than my husband might leave  
me? No.

LIZ  
Good.

DANIEL WOLF  
This is a breakthrough. I thought  
you'd be-

LIZ  
(no excited)  
I'm elated.

INT. AIR FRANCE PLANE - NIGHT

Daniel is reviewing notes in his business class seat. He looks tired and dishevelled, but he presses on.

INT. DESHU BUILDING - DAY

Malik meets with a GROUP OF ELDERS from the village. They are all dressed in traditional garb. They are serious, prideful men who carry themselves with dignity.

EXT. DESHU - CONTINUOUS

A young AFGHAN BOY looks in the building with Malik and the elders. He begins to run away from it, to the edge of the village.

He meets WADDAN, an Afghan man in his 30's. He says something to Waddan, who nods.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Liz is at her desk. She receives a phone call.

JALLAL'S SECRETARY (O.S.)  
Dr. Scott, Mr. Jallal would like to  
see you. Can you come in today?

Liz tries to work this out.

LIZ  
Of course.

She hangs up. Look over to Karin.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
Jallal wants to see me.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Why?

LIZ  
I don't know.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Is that a good thing?

LIZ  
I don't think so.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: SMALL OFFICE - DAY

Thérèse is on the phone. She speaks French.

THERESE DIOP  
How are logs missing?

Thérèse starts typing an e-mail.

THERESE DIOP (CONT'D)  
Is there security footage?

The e-mail reads:

To: Liz Scott

The Institut Pasteur has missing logs for individuals who accessed the EBOV-1 strain. Timeframe is November. Logs from other labs holding samples complete.

THERESE DIOP (CONT'D)  
I am going to need to review them.

Thérèse presses send on the e-mail.

INT. NSA - CONTINUOUS

An NSA OPERATIVE surveilling Thérèse's computer picks up his phone.

NSA OPERATIVE  
Something relevant on the Ebola outbreak. Sending now.

INT. N'DJILI AIRPORT, KINSHASA - DAY

Daniel is surrounded by a sea of Congolese airport staff, travellers, and NGO workers in the hectic and decaying beige/yellow airport which has not seen any improvements in the decades since the end of Belgian colonial rule. Daniel is met by LAURENT (30's), a Congolese doctor.

LAURENT  
Welcome to Kinshasa.

DANIEL WOLF  
I had to pay the customs official to let me in.

LAURENT  
The legacy of Mobutu. Steal, and steal often.

EXT. KINSHASA - CONTINUOUS

He leads him outside into the muggy, overcast, and humid heat. Kinshasa is like a rainforest, but with crumbling and neglected buildings in place of trees.

INT. ABDUL JALLAL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jallal is sitting with NAZDANA, a woman in her 20's covered in a burka and her older husband MAIWAND. Jallal motions for her to sit. Liz looks at Nazdana.

ABDUL JALLAL  
This is Nazdana.

LIZ  
Hello.

Nazdana does not respond to the foreign tongue, and looks at the floor. MAIWAND looks only at Jallal, out of respect for Liz's honour.

ABDUL JALLAL  
 Her brother used to frequent  
 Mirwais Nika.

LIZ  
 (worried)  
 Is he sick?

ABDUL JALLAL  
 No. He came to her after it was  
 closed. They took him in.

Nazdana begins to cry again slightly.

ABDUL JALLAL (CONT'D)  
 He stole from them. Everything.  
 They cannot eat.

Liz reacts with real emotion. She goes to touch Nazdana on the hand, but she pulls away.

ABDUL JALLAL (CONT'D)  
 Do you see why I didn't want  
 Mirwais Nika closed?

Nazdana continues to cry.

LIZ  
 I understand that the situation was  
 not ideal-

ABDUL JALLAL  
 You sound so unfeeling.

LIZ  
 I assure you that isn't the case.

ABDUL JALLAL  
 Westerners are always so  
 businesslike, even when it concerns  
 peoples lives.

LIZ  
 Why did you call me Mr. Jallal?

Jallal indicates for the couple to leave. They do, promptly, leaving the door open as not to have the unmarried man and woman alone together.

ABDUL JALLAL  
 There are reports, whispers at this  
 point, that there are sick in  
 Malakhan.

LIZ  
What reports?

ABDUL JALLAL  
People have heard stories of people  
bleeding to death in their homes.

LIZ  
We need to get a team down there.

ABDUL JALLAL  
We can't send anyone down. The  
fighting is too intense.

LIZ  
The military?

ABDUL JALLAL  
They need more than whispers.

EXT. DESHU - DAY

Malik walks through the village talking to locals.

INT. KINSHASA HOTEL - DAY

Daniel is met by GUY LANCOT (40's), the picture of a what a photojournalist of conflict zones would look like: faded khakis, button up rumpled white shirt, and long hair tied into a pony tail.

DANIEL WOLF  
Where did you visit in your last  
trip to the DRC?

GUY LANCOT  
North and South Kivu.

Guy goes over to the minibar and opens a beer.

DANIEL WOLF  
How did you get there?

GUY LANCOT  
By plane. Only way from Kinshasa.  
The roads don't go that far.

Guy paces as Daniel takes notes.

DANIEL WOLF  
Did you come into contact with  
anyone that was sick?

GUY LANCOT  
It's central Africa, of course I  
did.

DANIEL WOLF  
Could you explain to me their  
symptoms?

Guy chugs the remainder of the beer.

GUY LANCOT  
Poverty, oppression, war.

Daniel is not having it.

DANIEL WOLF  
Physical symptoms.

GUY LANCOT  
There has never been Ebola in the  
Kivus or Kinshasa.

DANIEL WOLF  
You went to the drug den at Mirwais  
Nika?

GUY LANCOT  
No.

DANIEL WOLF  
Where?

GUY LANCOT  
Kabul. None in Lashkar Gah.

DANIEL WOLF  
I am going to need to see your  
photos.

Daniel picks up the phone.

DANIEL WOLF (CONT'D)  
(to phone)  
Could we have a few more beers sent  
up?  
(to Guy)  
To thank you.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - DAY

Liz comes into Col. Kinross' office.

COL. KINROSS  
How can I help you?

LIZ  
We have cleared the military.

COL. KINROSS  
The issue is insubordination.

LIZ  
There are reports of more sick in  
Malakhan.

COL. KINROSS  
So you and Jallal have kissed and  
made up?

LIZ  
We need to get someone down there  
right away.

COL. KINROSS  
It's too dangerous, the area around  
there has seen heavy fighting and  
there is still no concrete  
evidence. Once there is evidence-

LIZ  
Once there is evidence it could be  
too late.

COL. KINROSS  
Dr. Scott this isn't the tail  
wagging the dog. You do not make  
decisions here. I do. You want ISAF  
support, respect chain of command,  
respect that there are more things  
at play here than an outbreak, and  
respect me.

LIZ  
Sir, with all due-

Col. Kinross's phone rings.

COL. KINROSS  
That is all. We will be in touch.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - EVENING

Liz, back in the office, reads Thérèse's email. She picks up  
the phone.

LIZ

Hi, it's Dr. Scott. Connect me to  
Thérèse.

WHO GENEVA OPERATOR (O.C.)  
She is out of the office.

Liz hangs up and tries her cellphone. It is off. She looks at the e-mail again. Thinks. Picks up the phone and dials.

LIZ

Bonjour, Institut Pasteur?

INT. CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, PARIS - EVENING

Thérèse disembarks the plane. Waiting at the gate are two CIA Agents, MILLER (female, white, 40's) and HERNANDEZ (male, Hispanic, 30's). Thérèse does not notice them. They stop her.

HERNANDEZ

Dr. Diop?

THERESE DIOP

Yes.

HERNANDEZ

Could you follow us?

She is lead away from the rest of the passengers.

THERESE DIOP

What is going on?

They waive her into a back room.

THERESE DIOP (CONT'D)

What is this about?

EXT. DESHU - EVENING

Malik makes his way towards his truck. He gets in. Waddan is watching. He takes out a walkie-talkie and speaks into it as Malik starts to drive out of the village.

INT. CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, PARIS: INTERVIEW ROOM - EVENING

Thérèse is seated at a table across from Hernandez and Miller in a room with nothing but seats, an interview table, and a one-way mirror. Thérèse is visibly nervous. Hernandez starts recording.

MILLER

Interview with Thérèse Diop, March 24th. What is your reason for being in Paris?

THERESE DIOP

I am here to compare lab samples-

MILLER

The Pasteur Institute informed us you are looking at security footage.

Thérèse does not know what to say.

HERNANDEZ

You have also been looking into who had access to EBOV-1 samples in London and Atlanta.

MILLER

Would you like to tell us again what you are doing in Paris?

Thérèse thinks.

THERESE DIOP

Can I make a call?

HERNANDEZ

Please answer the question.

THERESE DIOP

The samples from Afghanistan matched exactly samples from the original 1976 outbreak in Zaire.

EXT. DESHU - EVENING

Malik drives up the dirt road highway from Deshu. Another beaten up white truck appears and starts to gain on Malik. It drives up beside him and four men with guns waive for him to pull over. He tries to increase his speed but his truck cannot pull away from the insurgents.

The man in the driver's seat shoots a warning shot. Malik breaks quickly, out of reflex. The insurgent's truck lurches in front of him, cutting him off and blocking his ability to go forward.

Malik puts the truck in reverse, but one of the insurgents BLOWS out his front tire causing him to skid off the dirt road.

Malik tries to put the car in drive but the wheels just spin in the sand.

Two insurgents with guns come up to his side of the door. He climbs over the seats as they break his window, unlock the door, and drag him out.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
(Pashto)  
I'm a doctor.

One of the insurgents puts a bag over his head and they put him in the trunk of their truck. They drive away along the desolate dirt road.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

The office is almost empty. Liz is making a call. A woman in a burqa is escorted by Calum (20's), an Irish private security guard. He carries a gun prominently. The woman takes off the burqa, it is Karin. Liz hangs up the phone.

LIZ  
Calum, can you put the gun away while in the office please?

CALUM  
It's for your own safety miss.

LIZ  
I can't think with it in the office.

CALUM  
I'll wait in the hall.

Calum leaves.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
At least this one doesn't call you ma'am.

LIZ  
Thérèse never showed up at the Pasteur Institute and there is a fresh outbreak in Malakhan that we have no proof of.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
How many in Malakhan?

LIZ  
We don't know.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Is Malik back?

Liz realizes.

LIZ  
No.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
He should be.

Liz gets up and starts to pace.

LIZ  
This is all we need.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
This is Malik's life we're talking  
about.

Liz stops pacing.

LIZ  
I know.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Then what are we going to do?

LIZ  
Go to his house and check he isn't  
there. I'll make some calls.

INT. HELMAND HOUSE - NIGHT

Malik, with his head still covered, is brought into a dark house. He is led by two insurgents into the house, one is Waddan and the other is PARWAIZ (20's). There is a senior man DAOUD (30's) waiting. Their conversation is in Pashto. Malik is scared but trying to remain calm.

DAOUD  
You are a doctor?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Yes. Please I was just checking-

DAOUD  
We need you to look at two of our  
men. They are sick.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
With?

DAOUD

The disease the Westerners brought.  
These men spent two nights in  
interrogation and when they were  
released they got sick. Blood out  
of their mouths, blood bubbles on  
their feet.

MALIK BENCHARIF

It's highly contagious. I need  
medical-

Daoud throws some doctor cover-alls and plastic gloves.

MALIK BENCHARIF (CONT'D)

This is not good enough.

Daoud emphasizes the gun he is holding.

DAOUD

Yes it is.

Malik looks terrified, but holds his ground.

MALIK BENCHARIF

I would rather be shot than die of  
Ebola.

Daoud nods. Malik braces for a gun shot.

DAOUD

What else do you need?

INT. HELENE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Helene is in a massive master bedroom with the most beautiful view of Lake Geneva and its famous Jet D'Eau. Her phone rings. She wakes quickly and picks up the phone.

HELENE LUND

Hello.

The voice of the AMERICAN AMBASSADOR is on the other line.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

Dr. Lund?

Helene shoots up in bed. Immediately worried.

HELENE LUND

Ambassador? How can I help you?

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

Liz is furiously typing. Karin has fallen asleep at her desk. The phone rings. Liz picks it up immediately.

LIZ

Hello.

INT. PARIS CAB - CONTINUOUS

Thérèse looks exhausted and worn out. Her voice shakes.

THERESE DIOP

The Americans know.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE PHONE

LIZ

Know what?

Karin wakes and goes over to Liz.

THERESE DIOP

About the similarities between the EBOV-1 and the Afghan outbreak.

LIZ

How?

THERESE DIOP

I was just interrogated by two CIA agents.

LIZ

Are you alright?

Karin presses her arm to find out who it is. Liz mouths Thérèse.

THERESE DIOP

They think it was Al-Qaeda.

LIZ

Since when is the CIA in the business of giving out information?

THERESE DIOP

That's all I know.

LIZ

Get some rest.

Thérèse hangs up.

END OF INTERCUTTING

EXT. HELMAND PROVINCE UNKNOWN - NIGHT

Malik, with the bag back over his head and wearing the medical gear, is being guided through a small village by Waddan and Parwaiz.

The village is at the base of a ridge. The only thing that can be heard is the sound of the wind, and the crunching of the ground under their feet. They come to a small hut whose windows have been sealed by towels.

INT. HELMAND HUT - CONTINUOUS

Malik enters. There are two very sick AFGHAN MEN. They can barely react to his presence. He approaches them slowly.

MALIK BENCHARIF

I am a doctor.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - MORNING

Liz has fallen asleep. Karin is spread out on two chairs sleeping extremely uncomfortably. The phone rings. Liz wakes.

LIZ

Hello.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HELENE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Helene is standing in her office.

HELENE LUND

I had to deal with the American Ambassador last night. Completely unaware that apparently we have identified the outbreak's morphology-

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE PHONE

LIZ

We have a problem.

HELENE LUND

You don't respect-

LIZ

Dr. Bencharif is missing and we  
have reports of a new outbreak.

Helene looks incredibly frustrated.

HELENE LUND

How many newly infected?

LIZ

No proof, just rumors at this point  
but Jallal must have been pretty  
certain to reach out.

Karin wakes up, her neck is sore from the weird sleeping  
position. She looks over to Liz.

HELENE LUND

What happened with Malik? Why  
wasn't-

LIZ

He went to Deshu yesterday and he  
has not returned.

HELENE LUND

With a security detail?

LIZ

He thought travelling without would  
raise the least questions.

Helene bangs the table with her fists.

HELENE LUND

How long?

LIZ

Close to 24 hours.

HELENE LUND

I'll call the French Ambassador.

HELENE LUND (CONT'D)

We are going to have to pull you.

Karin gets up and goes to her.

LIZ

I'm not leaving with a new outbreak-

HELENE LUND

We are not playing the rumor game.  
You are coming home.

(MORE)

HELENE LUND (CONT'D)  
If it is confirmed, I might rethink  
my position.

LIZ  
I won't go.

HELENE LUND  
The Americans want our report, they  
have a leak suspect, and they want  
it by tomorrow. Then you are being  
pulled.

LIZ  
We have not located the source of  
the outbreak.

HELENE LUND  
You have been blacklisted by the  
military and the fucking Afghans.  
One of your men has disappeared ON  
YOUR WATCH, and I had to find out  
that this outbreak is BIOTERRORISM  
from a man whose job it is to pour  
sherry to dignitaries.

LIZ  
Who is the suspect?

HELENE LUND  
A Tunisian, Dr. Abdessalem, had  
access. He has been under  
surveillance. I will send you the  
file. All checks out. He met with  
an Afghan man with connections to  
Al-Qaeda. This operative travelled  
with a British born Afghan who  
spent time, three years ago, in a  
rehab centre in the Cotswolds for  
Opiate addiction.

LIZ  
You're kidding me?

HELENE LUND  
No.

Liz is trying to piece everything together.

LIZ  
The logs were missing though.

HELENE LUND  
Write the report, have it on my  
desk by midnight.

LIZ  
What about Dr. Bencharif?

HELENE LUND  
I think you have done enough on  
that front.

Liz hangs up.

END OF INTERCUTTING

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - CONTINUOUS

Liz bangs on the table.

LIZ  
Fuck! FUCK! FUUUUUUUCK!

INT. HELMAND HOUSE - MORNING

Daoud is eating. Malik is sitting on the ground, on a bright patterned rug. They speak in Pashto.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
They will die if they don't get  
medical treatment. There is-

DAOUD  
No.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I can take them with me. All I need  
is a truck.

DAOUD  
You will stay here. Help them get  
better.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I can't do anything.

DAOUD  
They are wanted men.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
They were let go.

DAOUD  
To infect us.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
They will die here.

DAOUD  
This is their home.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
It will spread.

DAOUD  
It already has.

INT. NORTH KIVU - DAY

Daniel gets off a small, barely functional plane, on a single strip airfield in the middle of the central African rainforest. He is fanning himself with his case files. You can almost see the humid heat in the air it is so thick. Laurent accompanies him.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HELENE'S OFFICE - DAY

Helene greets Thérèse.

HELENE LUND  
How was Paris?

THERESE DIOP  
We should have informed you. I apologize.

HELENE LUND  
You are not to blame. You identified the strain similarities. Impressive.

THERESE DIOP  
Not similarities. They are identical.

HELENE LUND  
Yes. Well I think your work really speaks for itself.

THERESE DIOP  
Thank you.

HELENE LUND  
I would like you to take over the mission in Helmand.

THERESE DIOP  
I work for the CDC.

Helene takes out a contract.

HELENE LUND  
I'd like to offer you a job here.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - DAY

Liz is being shown into Col. Kinross' office by Lt. Parkinson.

COL. KINROSS  
I'm sorry to hear about your doctor. I just received a call from the French Foreign Minister.

Col. Kinross looks at some files. He takes out a picture of Malik's truck.

COL. KINROSS (CONT'D)  
Tires shot out, window broken. Is this his?

Liz clutches the back of a chair. Her knees go weak for a second and then she grabs hold of herself.

COL. KINROSS (CONT'D)  
No body found. That is a good sign.  
Please sit down, you've had a shock.

Liz sits.

LIZ  
We need to look for him.

COL. KINROSS  
I've been informed bioterrorism was the cause of the outbreak.

LIZ  
(confused)  
Umm, yes, that is...our hypothesis at this point.

COL. KINROSS  
I was under the impression a report was imminent.

LIZ  
We can't release a report blaming insurgents while they have one of our own.

COL. KINROSS

That's unfortunate since the reinstating of ISAF support is conditional on the report.

Liz cannot believe it.

LIZ

And if the report-

COL. KINROSS

Not if, once the report is issued we will send a team into Malakhan, and as an allied organization we would be able to appropriate funds for a search mission. It is all so very bureaucratic. I do wish there was another way.

Liz can barely contain her anger. Col. Kinross puts his hand out for a shake, she looks at it, swallows her anger and shakes it.

INT. MALAKHAN HUT - DAY

Malik, in protective gear, is examining TWO YOUNG BOYS. Their FATHER is stretched out on a mattress on the floor. He is very weak, and sweating. They speak in Pashto.

MALIK BENCHARIF

You need to go to a hospital.

FATHER

No.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Your sons are sick too.

FATHER

No hospital. They will make us more sick. Western doctors come here to infect us. No.

Malik continues examining the two children.

INT. HELMAND HOUSE - LATER

Malik is led into the house wearing the cloth bag over his head. Waddan takes it off, and he is facing Daoud. They speak in Pashto.

MALIK BENCHARIF

I need to take them back to Lashkar  
Gah where we can quarantine-

DAOUD

These men cannot go-

MALIK BENCHARIF

The family then.

DAOUD

They will not go. Some can't, some  
won't. Either way they are not-

MALIK BENCHARIF

I need to let people know-

DAOUD

No.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Ninety two percent of people who  
have contracted this strain have  
died. Less than a 1 in 10 chance of  
survival.

Daoud paces.

MALIK BENCHARIF (CONT'D)

If it spreads 90 percent of the  
tribal region could die. It is easy  
to stop in the cities, but here is  
where it would flourish.

DAOUD

Malakhan. That is where the sick  
are.

INT. CAR: LASHKAR GAH - LATER

Liz is on her phone being driven by Calum.

LIZ

I will do the report on the  
condition it is not released until  
Bencharif is located, and I remain  
here. Non-negotiable.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HELENE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Helene is standing in her office.

HELENE LUND

The Americans are releasing this news tomorrow. They want it backed up by our office. Write the thing. The facts check out. You are on a military flight out of Camp Bastion tomorrow morning. Non-negotiable.

She hangs up.

INT. CAR: LASHKAR GAH - CONTINUOUS

Liz bangs her phone on the door handle in anger. The screen cracks. Calum puts on the radio.

BBC NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

Reports that a French Doctor working for the World Health Organization has gone missing-

LIZ

Turn it off for fuck's sake!

He does so quickly.

EXT. NORTH KIVU HOSPITAL - MORNING

Daniel is walking. He is speaking into a phone.

DANIEL WOLF

Guy Lancot did not bring Ebola to Afghanistan. None of the areas he visited are potential transmission zones.

EXT. HELMAND PROVINCE UNKNOWN - DAY

Malik is dropped off on the side of the road. There is nothing around. An OLD MAN comes from afar and waits next to him.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Liz arrives at the office which is still buzzing with nervous energy. Safiya comes up to Liz upset. Liz is looking for Karin.

SAFIYA KAPPOR

Have you heard anything?

LIZ

No, I...

She spots Karin, so she brushes off Safiya and goes to her.

KARIN ANDERSSON

What did the Brits say?

LIZ

We need to file the report blaming  
Al-Qaeda.

KARIN ANDERSSON

What if they are the ones who have  
Malik?

LIZ

The army does nothing until the  
report is published. Including  
containment in Malakhan.

KARIN ANDERSSON

What do we do?

Liz stops, shakes her head.

LIZ

We write the report.

Karin looks at her, not knowing what to answer.

LIZ (CONT'D)

The Americans are coming out with  
the bioterrorism angle either way.

KARIN ANDERSSON

But Malik-

LIZ

We are here to contain.

Karin steps away.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Once we write the report he becomes  
their priority.

KARIN ANDERSSON

This is a friend's life.

LIZ

It is so much more than-

KARIN ANDERSSON  
We are doctors, we help.

LIZ  
That's what we are trying to do.

KARIN ANDERSSON  
Then why does it feel...

LIZ  
What do the files they sent over  
say?

KARIN ANDERSSON  
That it was Al-Qaeda.

INT. HELMAND HEALTH MINISTRY LASHKAR GAH - NIGHT

Liz enters Jallal's office. He leaves the door open.

LIZ  
We found the source of the  
outbreak.

JALLAL  
Your photographer.

LIZ  
While he was in the Congo he did  
not visit any of the hotspots-

JALLAL  
Then who?

LIZ  
Al-Qaeda.

JALLAL  
No. Not to their own people.

LIZ  
We believe it was accidental. They  
were planning to use it in Europe  
or America but one of operatives  
handling it had a former drug  
problem-

JALLAL  
Are you saying this publicly?

LIZ  
We are releasing a report tomorrow.

Jallal is angry.

JALLAL

Do you know what that will do? You are making yourself, all of us, a target.

Liz bows her head in apology.

LIZ

Just keeping you in the loop.

JALLAL

Why haven't you gone to Malakhan?

LIZ

That is the next step.

JALLAL

I see.

Jallal gets up, indicating the meeting is over.

EXT. HELMAND PROVINCE UNKNOWN - NIGHT

Malik and The Old Man continue to wait. Finally an old Soviet-era van comes up. It is the bus to Lashkar Gah. The two men file into the already overcrowded van.

EXT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - MORNING

A BBC Newscaster stands outside on the manicured grass.

BBC NEWSCASTER

The World Health Organization today released a controversial report blaming the recent Ebola outbreak on Al-Qaeda operatives. The WHO asserts the disease was accidentally passed from a member of the group to a heroin addict in Lashkar Gah. This echoes similar reports last year of the bubonic plague spreading through an Al-Qaeda training camp in Algeria after accidental exposure.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - MORNING

Liz and Karin come in together. Safiya stops them.

LIZ

Any word?

SAFIYA KAPOOR

No, but Dr. Lund from Geneva has  
been trying you for the last hour.

LIZ

God what time is it there?

KARIN

6:45 Am. I bet she's been up since  
4:30.

LIZ

I'm sure she's not happy we weren't  
on that plane.

Liz goes over to her desk, starts dialing the phone.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION HELENE'S OFFICE

Helene is sitting in front of her prime view. Angry but calm.

HELENE LUND

You missed your flight.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE PHONE

LIZ

We were up all night finishing that  
report.

HELENE LUND

There is another flight this  
afternoon and if you aren't on it I  
swear to god I will fire you, and  
Karin too. Thérèse is going to run  
the field office and can handle it  
from here. Am I making myself-

LIZ

Crystal.

(to Karin)

She says she'll fire you if you're  
not on the plane this afternoon.

Karin gives a middle finger to the phone. Malik walks in  
sweaty and tired, but alive.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I can't-

LIZ  
(unbelieving)  
I have to go, Bencharif just walked  
in the front door.

Liz hangs up.

HELENE LUND  
Hello?

She gets a dial tone. Tries to call back. Nothing.

HELENE LUND (CONT'D)  
(yelling to her assistant)  
GET DR. SCOTT ON THE PHONE!

END OF INTERCUTTING

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - CONTINUOUS

Malik is hugged by a bunch of staff members. Liz stands off to the side watching, relieved. Karin hugs Malik, and then a big one from Safiya. He tries to go towards Liz, but people keep hugging him and talking to him. Finally he breaks free and makes it over to Liz.

LIZ  
You don't know how happy I am to  
see you.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
There are more cases.

LIZ  
You saw them?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Yes in-

Liz picks up the phone. She starts dialling.

LIZ  
Malakhan.

He looks at her shocked. Dr. Lund starts yelling on the phone.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
(to phone)  
Malik has confirmed the new cases.

Liz passes Malik the phone.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
You tell her.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - DAY

Malik is sleeping. He is freshly showered, and fast asleep. There is a stern knock at the door. He wakes slightly, the knocking gets louder. He gets out of bed and puts on a shirt. He opens the door. Miller and Hernandez are standing at his door, there are American soldiers behind them.

HERNANDEZ  
Sir, could you come with us? We  
need to ask you a few questions.

MILLER  
If you could get dressed.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Questions about what?

Hernandez steps inside the apartment forcing the door open. It is intimidating.

MILLER  
Get dressed sir.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - DAY

Liz is in a meeting with Col. Kinross, CRP WILLIAM GREGGS (American, 50's), and MAJORGENERAL HENRIK SOGAARD (Danish, 60's).

COL. KINROSS  
This village is close to the Helmand River. We have a concern if it contaminates the water supply it could spread to Pakistan. We need to act fast on this.

MAJORGENERAL SOGAARD  
Why have there been no other reports of Ebola?

LIZ  
The Health Ministry has heard rumors of new cases, but locals have been apprehensive to travel to hospitals. The rumors of this being a Western plot have convinced some people in the tribal regions.

(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)  
Also violence along the roads from  
the Spring Offensive hasn't helped.

MAJORGENERAL SOGAARD  
The Taliban has put out a video  
blaming The WHO for the outbreak in  
response to the report.

CRP. GREGGS  
Before launching a mission we need  
confirmation-

LIZ  
Dr. Bencharif treated cases, he  
assures-

CRP. GREGGS  
How did he just walk out of an Al-  
Qaeda cave?

Col. Kinross tries to get the group back on track.

COL. KINROSS  
We will send a team down to  
confirm, and once we have word we  
can start planning on how to  
CONTAIN this.

LIZ  
That's a waste of time.

COL. KINROSS  
Due diligence.

LIZ  
Unfortunately outbreaks are not  
bureaucratic.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Malik is being questioned by Hernandez and Miller in a small  
room that is usually used for insurgent interrogations.

HERNANDEZ  
Our difficulty is that these people  
don't usually let Western workers  
walk out.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Their people are dying.

MILLER  
From a disease they released.

Malik is being pushed, and he is taking the bait.

MALIK BENCHARIF

They say their men were infected  
with it when they were interrogated  
by the Americans.

HERNANDEZ

You believe the American government  
engages in bioterrorism?

MALIK BENCHARIF

I am just saying what they told me.

MILLER

Have you told anyone else of these  
allegations?

MALIK BENCHARIF

No.

HERNANDEZ

But you believed them?

MALIK BENCHARIF

They believed it.

HERNANDEZ

How do you know?

MALIK BENCHARIF

If this was an Al-Qaeda accident  
they work in cells right, so other  
cells wouldn't be made aware-

HERNANDEZ

You seem to know an awful lot about  
their organization.

MALIK BENCHARIF

I've been here for a year. It's my  
job to know.

HERNANDEZ

Start from the beginning.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

Liz and Karin are working together. Looking over a map of the  
village in question. Pte. Tarr and Cpl. Turner are standing  
in the back. Their security detail has been reinstated.  
Safiya comes over.

SAFIYA KAPOOR

The Taliban just released a video  
condemning the report, the WHO, and  
calling for our deaths.

LIZ

Lovely.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Like they didn't want us dead a few  
days ago.

Liz goes back to studying the map.

SAFIYA KAPOOR

Any news on Malik?

LIZ

I've been assured it's just a  
routine debrief.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Malik looks worn out from hours of questioning. Hernandez and Miller look as fresh as when they showed up at his door.

MILLER

Start from the beginning.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

Liz and Karin are still at the desk working. Karin's leaning her head on her hands. Her eyes shut, and her head starts to bob, her head slips and she wakes back up with a jolt. Liz smiles.

LIZ

I think we're done.

KARIN ANDERSSON

Yes, I think you're right.

Liz stretches. Looks over to Cpl. Turner and Pte. Tarr, both asleep.

LIZ

You wake them up.

KARIN ANDERSSON

You do it, they already hate you.

Liz laughs.

LIZ

True enough. Forward the office  
phone to my Skype.

KARIN ANDERSSON

(sarcastic)

I'm always impressed at the time  
you give yourself to disengage from  
the office.

LIZ

It's always been a strength of  
mine.

Liz walks over to the soldiers at the door.

LIZ (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Wake up!

Both men wake up and grab their guns. The two women laugh.

LIZ (CONT'D)

We're going home.

EXT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

Pte. Tarr and Cpl. Turner head out, followed by Liz and Karin. A SECURITY GUARD locks the doors behind them. Liz shivers.

LIZ

Cold tonight.

KARIN ANDERSSON

I love this weather.

Pte. Tarr goes to a truck across the street and he gets in, when TWO MEN appear out of a car. Cpl. Turner is distracted, still not fully awake.

KARIN ANDERSSON (CONT'D)

Imagine wearing hijab in the height  
of summer.

The two men aim their guns, Cpl. Turner notices, goes for his gun when they OPEN FIRE. Cpl. Turner is immediately hit and killed. Karin goes running towards the doors while Liz goes in the opposite direction towards the truck. Pte. Tarr gets out of the truck as Karin fights with the locked door. She is SHOT repeatedly.

Gunman 2 aims at Liz but he is taken out by a BULLET from Tarr. Liz jumps in the truck. Gunman 1 gets behind a parked car.

LIZ

Karin? Oh my god.

Pte. Tarr and Gunman 1 trade SHOTS from behind their vehicles. Gunman 1 SHOOTS Tarr in the shoulder, but Tarr keeps SHOOTING. Karin lying on the ground bleeding out is reaching for the door handle. Liz is crouched in the backseat.

LIZ (CONT'D)

You are going to be ok.

Gunman 1 walks towards Karin from behind the protection of the car, Tarr SHOOTS at him, while he SHOOTS Karin. Her body goes limp. Tarr continues SHOOTING until the gunman falls.

Liz goes to get out of the truck, but Tarr instructs her to stay in. Tarr is bleeding out of his shoulder. He bangs on the door to the Field Office but the Security Guard does not open it. He scans the area. No one.

Tarr gets down and checks Karin's pulse. Nothing.

Liz in the back seat sees him signal nothing, so she gets out of the truck and goes towards Karin's body. Tarr checks Turner. Nothing.

PTE. JIMMY TARR

Stay in the vehicle.

Liz does not obey and continues walking. Tarr goes towards her and grabs her with his good arm.

PTE. JIMMY TARR (CONT'D)

When I say stay in the vehicle. You stay.

He roughly shoves her in the truck.

INT. CAMP BASTION WOMEN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Liz sits on the end of her bed, it is the same room her, Karin and Thérèse shared. For the first time she cries. Her cell phone rings. It is Helene. She stops crying and picks up.

LIZ

Hello.

INT. HELENE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Helene is standing with a glass of wine. It looks like she might also have been crying.

HELENE LUND  
How are you?

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO

LIZ  
She was a good doctor, you know.

HELENE LUND  
That's why I sent her.

LIZ  
What was she, 28?

HELENE LUND  
27.

Liz tears up again but fights it.

LIZ  
You remember 27?

HELENE LUND  
Come home.

Liz gets up and paces.

LIZ  
We went to Antibes that year. We took three weeks off. I think that was the last time I went on holiday. Your tits in that black bikini...

HELENE LUND  
Please Liz, just come home.

LIZ  
You know I can't.

HELENE LUND  
I could recall you.

LIZ  
I would stay anyways.

HELENE LUND  
Come back to that office and that life on hold.

LIZ

We can never go back. You said that. This is my life.

HELENE LUND

You can. We can. Thérèse can handle Helmand. You are not-

LIZ

I'm staying Helene. You know that.

Helene now fights back tears.

HELENE LUND

I'm asking...I'm asking for me. Please, let this go.

LIZ

Is Bencharif still in debrief?

HELENE LUND

As far as I know.

LIZ

Get him out. Do that for me?

HELENE LUND

I've put my neck out for you-

LIZ

No you haven't. Not once. Ever. GET HIM OUT. I don't care what you do. Call that fucking Ambassador and stand up for YOUR team, not theirs.

Helene goes back to business.

HELENE LUND

I'll do what I can. Thérèse arrives tomorrow.

Liz hangs up, she breaks down.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - MORNING

Liz comes in. The office is empty except for Malik. They both look like shit.

MALIK BENCHARIF

How are you?

LIZ

Let's not.

Malik nods.

LIZ (CONT'D)  
We have confirmation of cases.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I know I saw them with my own eyes.

LIZ  
Official.

Liz passes him a file. He looks through it.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
They got all of this in under 24  
hours? The houses, the people  
infected, where they are in  
relation-

LIZ  
Or they needed me to sign off on  
the report and it was more likely  
using containment as their  
bargaining chip.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Do you believe that report?

LIZ  
The facts check out.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Others are saying-

LIZ  
You believe the insurgents?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I don't think either tells the  
truth.

LIZ  
You haven't been cleared for the  
mission.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Are you kidding?

LIZ  
I'm sorry.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
It's not you.

Malik goes to his desk. Liz goes to hers.

EXT. CAMP BASTION - MORNING

Liz greets Thérèse warmly, as Amit comes over.

AMIT KHAN  
Sorry about Dr. Andersson.

LIZ  
Malakhan. 10 km north of Deshu.  
Military has identified houses with  
suspected sick with the help of  
elders. So we get the patients and  
decontaminate the dwellings. In and  
out.

Lt. Parkinson walks up.

LT. PARKINSON  
You ready?

EXT. SOUTH-CENTRAL HELMAND - DAY

The convoy of military vehicles, MedEvacs, and tanks makes it  
way down the same dirt highway where the last convey was  
attacked. The area looks battle scared. Evidence of bombing  
is all around. The desert is scarred with war.

EXT. MALAKHAN - DAY

The military convoy drives up to this small town at the base  
of a sand colored ridge. About a hundred dwellings make up  
the village. Soldiers begin to make protective formations.  
Liz gets out of her military vehicle followed by Thérèse, and  
Khan. There are other doctors from WHO, and MSF.

The doctors suit up in their protective medical coverings. So  
do soldiers and translators. They disperse through the  
village.

INT. MALAKHAN HUT - DAY

Liz enters a house. There is a woman on a bed. Two other dead  
bodies. PTE. KEARNS and Translator follow.

LIZ  
Get body bags.

PTE. KEARNS  
Right.

Pte. Kearns leaves.

EXT. MALAKHAN - CONTINUOUS

Doctors and soldiers lead sick to MedEvacs.

Liz, Thérèse, and Khan lead soldiers with decontamination equipment (hoses with spray bags attached to their back) to different dwellings.

Men from the village start to congregate near the doctors. Soldiers push them back. One of them is restrained.

More sick are helped into the MedEvacs. Others who fear the Westerners are being forced into the MedEvacs. This angers locals.

People who have possibly come into contact with Ebola are put in protective suits and put in the back of the MedEvacs with the sick.

The young men start to push at the soldiers. A fight breaks out between four YOUNG MEN and a soldier at the far end of the village. The soldier's gun accidentally DISCHARGES in one of the young men's feet. The locals start to congregate, yelling in Pashto.

INT. MALAKHAN HUT - CONTINUOUS

Liz is decontaminating the hut when she reacts to the gunshot. She comes outside-

EXT. MALAKHAN - CONTINUOUS

She is faced by a growing mob of people from the village, they start to throw stones. Soldiers start SHOOTING into the air to disperse the crowd. They do not.

Khan is helping the young man who was shot in the foot. Lt. Parkinson approaches Liz.

LT. PARKINSON  
We need to get the MedEvac's out.

LIZ  
I have one more to evacuate.

LT. PARKINSON  
Get on with it.

Liz runs towards Thérèse.

LIZ  
How many do you have left?

THERESE DIOP  
Just decontamination.

LIZ  
Make sure everyone's cleared their  
area!

The soldiers FIRE some more rounds. This buys them some time, but the riot is picking up. Men start to form on the ridge. Liz runs back into her hut.

Trucks appear in the distance.

LT. PARKINSON  
This isn't good!

Some Medevac and a portion of the convoy start making their way out of the village.

Khan has to leave the shot boy, because the crowd is now throwing rocks at him too.

Liz reaches a group of SOLDIERS.

SOLDIER  
You have to go back!

LIZ  
There are more patients.

SOLDIER  
We are evacuating.

Liz pushes past the soldier. He follows her. Stones are raining down all around them.

LIZ  
Either help me or fuck off.

Soldiers start to trade GUNFIRE with insurgents on the ridge. The riot continues, and the men in trucks arriving in the distance start shooting. It is chaos.

Liz reaches a hut.

INT. MALAKHAN HUT - CONTINUOUS

Liz enters, followed by the soldier. There is a sick looking older woman. No one else.

Liz motions for her to come with. The old woman shakes her head. Stands strong.

LIZ  
We need a translator.

SOLDIER  
You won't get someone through that lot.

LIZ  
Wait outside.

EXT. MALAKHAN - CONTINUOUS

Thérèse cannot get back into the village. She is held by soldiers at the armored trucks.

THERESE DIOP  
Where is Liz?

Soldiers and medical personnel are making their way into the trucks.

Lt. Parkinson is rounding up the soldiers. She speaks into her radio. Thérèse approaches.

LT. PARKINSON  
We need air cover. Over.

RADIO CONTROL (O.S.)  
Roger. Five minutes out. Clear the area. Over and Out.

THERESE DIOP  
Liz is still in the village.

LT. PARKINSON  
She has two minutes or we leave without her. Get in a vehicle.

Thérèse goes towards the village. Lt. Parkinson grabs her.

LT. PARKINSON (CONT'D)  
Get in the truck. That is an order.

## INT. MALAKHAN HUT - CONTINUOUS

Liz tries to usher the old woman out of the hut but she won't move off the bed.

SOLDIER (O.S.)  
The trucks are leaving Doctor!

Liz puts her hands together like she is praying. This does nothing to move the old woman. A shot comes through the window startling Liz. She makes a decision and grabs the woman's arm and forces it behind her back in an armlock. The woman yells out in pain. Liz forces her to her feet.

LIZ  
Sorry.

SOLDIER (O.S.)  
WE NEED TO GO!

## EXT. MALAKHAN - CONTINUOUS

The last of the trucks start to leave. Liz and the soldier are running through as stones from the riot and GUNFIRE from the ridge rain down. The soldiers are retreating, and the old woman is fighting Liz.

A stone flies down and hits Liz in the face. Under her medical gear her nose starts to bleed. Gun fire breaks out between soldiers and people in the village. The men from the trucks have reached the village.

An Afgahn woman carrying a crying child runs away from the chaos. A stray bullet HITS the woman. It is impossible to tell from which side it came. Liz wants to go towards the screaming child, but she cannot with the old woman fighting her. Liz reaches the last MedEvac and motions for the soldiers to get the old woman in. She spits at Liz and it lands on her protective gear.

A soldier is SHOT. Other soldiers drag him into a vehicle.

Liz gets into the vehicle watching the chaos.

The armored trucks starts to move out of the area. It receives GUN FIRE.

A TALIBAN INSURGENT raises a rocket launcher and aims it at the truck. When two planes appear in the distance.

The Taliban insurgent tries to aim for the planes. This allows the truck to get out of range.

INT. ARMORED TRUCK: OUTSIDE MALAKHAN - CONTINUOUS

Liz is bleeding from her nose, but has to keep in her protective gear.

LT. PARKINSON

They were fucking waiting for us.  
We were sitting ducks. No wonder  
they let your doctor go.

She looks out the window to the village disappearing in the background. The planes drop bombs on the ridge indiscriminately. One hits the village.

Liz starts to feel sick, but she has to hold it in. She is chocking on the blood in her hazmat helmet and begins to panic. Lt. Parkinson notices, but Liz gets herself together, gasping for breath but eventually able to steady her breathing.

She looks back out the window and all she can see is smoke rising from the ridge and village.

INT. CAMP BASTION - LATER

Liz gets out of the truck, she removes her hazmat suit carefully. There is dried blood all over her puffy face. She is feeling and looking sick. She is on a mission.

She is met by Col. Kinross.

LIZ

There were kids in that village.

COL. KINROSS

We walked into an ambush.

LIZ

What about the civilians?

COL. KINROSS

None were targeted.

LIZ

The village isn't decontaminated.

COL. KINROSS

All the sick are out. We can send  
in a team to disinfect-

LIZ

You can't drop bombs on a village  
with civilians.

COL. KINROSS

I heard you forced an old woman  
into a MedEvac with an armlock. Is  
that in the doctor's code?

LIZ

How can you compare?

Thérèse approaches Liz. Liz leans over and vomits.

THERESE DIOP

Let me look at your nose.

LIZ

I'm fine.

COL. KINROSS

Take her to medical.

INT. CAMP BASTION MEDICAL FACILITY - LATER

Liz is being examined by Thérèse.

LIZ

What just happened?

THERESE DIOP

I thought you understood the Spring  
Offensive.

LIZ

Why do I feel like I just took part  
in a war crime?

Thérèse shakes her head.

THERESE DIOP

24 people are in quarantine that  
weren't yesterday.

LIZ

A woman with a child was shot. I  
didn't-

THERESE DIOP

Take the victories as they come.

EXT. MALAKHAN - NIGHT

The village has huts standing, but also rubble everywhere.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)  
Reports of civilian casualties from  
Southern Helmand following heavy  
fighting in the village of  
Malakhan. Twenty four new Ebola  
cases have been identified. The  
patients have been quarantined in  
Helmand's capital Lashkar Gah.

The hills around are badly damaged from the bombs. A SEAL  
TEAM enter under the cover of darkness and supervise FOUR  
SOLIDERS IN HAZMAT SUITS disinfecting a hut.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Malik is being questioned by Miller and Hernandez. He looks  
tired.

BBC NEWSCASTER (V.O.)  
Western and Arab governments have  
called for a cease fire in light of  
the increasing humanitarian  
disaster resulting from the  
outbreak.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Liz sits at a desk, with a prominent cut on her nose. She is  
packing up.

INT. CAMP BASTION COMMAND - DAY

Thérèse meets with Col. Kinross.

EXT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Liz stands at the front door of an apartment in a heavily  
guarded compound. She knocks on the door. Malik opens, he  
looks weary.

LIZ  
How are you?

MALIK BENCHARIF  
I just spent twenty four hours with  
the Americans.

LIZ  
Have they cleared you?

MALIK BENCHARIF

They let me out. I don't know if  
that is the same thing.

LIZ

You resigned?

MALIK BENCHARIF

A position opened up for Médecins  
Sans Frontières. Less political.

LIZ

I'm happy for you.

MALIK BENCHARIF

The Malakhan mission was a success  
then?

LIZ

In some ways.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Containment?

LIZ

Yes. No new reports of cases.

MALIK BENCHARIF

That is what you came here to do.

Malik goes to close the door. Liz stops it.

LIZ

I released that report knowing it  
could get you killed.

MALIK BENCHARIF

I know.

LIZ

I'm sorry.

MALIK BENCHARIF

Would you do it differently?

Liz doesn't respond.

MALIK BENCHARIF (CONT'D)

If you wouldn't change your actions  
you shouldn't apologize.

LIZ

More died than they're saying.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
Goodbye Liz.

Liz holds the door open.

LIZ  
It wasn't just the military. They  
played you too.

You can see Malik knows it's true and it hurts him.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
We are supposed to help, not harm.

LIZ  
Greater good.

MALIK BENCHARIF  
That's not in the oath.

Malik closes the door.

INT. WHO LASHKAR GAH FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Thérèse is on a Skype call to Daniel. Daniel is in his kitchen in Atlanta.

THERESE DIOP  
I need you here.

DANIEL WOLF  
Scott will leave me if I come back.

THERESE DIOP  
I can't do this without you.

DANIEL WOLF  
After what happened to Karin. I  
don't...

THERESE DIOP  
You have the experience.

He says nothing.

THERESE DIOP (CONT'D)  
If you tell me you do not want to  
come help, then ok. But don't use  
Scott as an excuse.

Daniel thinks.

DANIEL WOLF

If he leaves me you better pull  
some strings to get me a job in  
Geneva.

THERESE DIOP

I owe you.

INT. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - MORNING

Liz arrives at the office at 6:00 AM. The sun is coming up.

Liz goes to a desk in an open plan office, there is no name on it. She picks up the phone.

LIZ

I'm sorry. It seems my desk has  
been moved, can you tell  
me...eighth floor?

Liz walks up to a large office with her name. She goes inside. It has a beautiful view of the perfectly manicured grass. She sits down in her seat. A knock at the door.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Come in.

Helene enters. Liz smiles.

HELENE LUND

I didn't think you would be in  
today.

LIZ

I couldn't stay at home.

HELENE LUND

You need the rest.

Helene comes around the desk and sits on it next to Liz. She kisses Liz, Liz reciprocates then pulls out.

LIZ

This office is bigger than my  
apartment.

HELENE LUND

We made a deal. You held up your  
half.

LIZ

Malakhan.

HELENE LUND  
I heard you were quite the hero.

LIZ  
They dropped bombs IN the village.

Helene gets up. She looks at Liz with concern.

HELENE LUND  
You should talk to someone, you  
have just been through hell.

LIZ  
I think I should tell someone-

HELENE LUND  
Like who?

LIZ  
The newspaper or-

HELENE LUND  
Liz that operation was done under  
your supervision.

LIZ  
I can't be ok with this.

HELENE LUND  
Then there goes your career. There  
goes this organizations ability to  
do good.

Liz shakes her head.

LIZ  
The greater good?

HELENE LUND  
Yes.

LIZ  
Someone once told me that's not in  
the Hippocratic Oath. NEVER DO HARM  
is.

HELENE LUND  
That person wasn't a pragmatist. A  
realist. And a great fucking  
doctor. You are.

Helene goes to the door.

HELENE LUND (CONT'D)  
I have meetings all day, but  
dinner?

LIZ  
I saw a mother shot as she was  
holding her child.

Helene looks at Liz with concern.

HELENE LUND  
Call me if you want dinner.

Helene leaves. Liz sits alone in her large office overlooking the manicured grass. She opens up a document on her computer with WHO letterhead. She types quickly: I hereby resign, effective immediately.

Liz pauses. Thinks.

An email comes up. Subject line: Cholera Cases Identified in Gabon.

Liz deletes the resignation letter.

End.