

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 toll. 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 Pashtu 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 Safiya 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?

L.T. 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 aiport 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 its way down the same dirt highway where the last convoy was attacked. The area looks battle scarred. 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 SOLDIERS 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.