

LISA JORDAN

REPORTER #1 (O.C.)  
So what's the goal for the next  
three days?

SC 7 START

FIND SETH, standing towards the back with a small GAGGLE of  
reporters, answering a few short questions.

SETH  
It's time to rebuild -- starting  
with a Congress.

LISA JORDAN (O.C.)  
And what's the plan for that,  
exactly?

Seth's eyes shift to the woman -- LISA JORDAN, 30s -- who was  
semi-hidden before. Damn, she's pretty. He composes himself.

SETH  
I'm sorry, who are you with?

LISA JORDAN  
(joking)  
I came alone.  
(off his look)  
The Post. Lisa Jordan. I'm their  
new White House Correspondent.

Seth takes her in, smitten.

SC 7 END

SETH  
Right. Um...  
(then)  
Our hope is that before the  
governors leave, they will submit  
their appointments for the Senate,  
and confirm that special elections  
for the House will be held next  
week. Then, once we have a Congress  
in place, we can get our Cabinet  
appointments confirmed.

REPORTER #2  
What's the latest with Nassar --

SETH  
That's all, Mitch. The guest of  
honor has just arrived --

As the BAND STARTS TO PLAY "HAIL TO THE CHIEF" we follow  
Seth's gaze to --

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JASON ATWOOD

You ready? Because once we get this on video, nothing's gonna be the same. You know that, right?

HANNAH

Let's do it. It's time this country learned the truth...

Hannah flips a SWITCH -- PUSH IN on a RED BLINKING LIGHT on the other side of the ONE-WAY MIRROR. On it, we're --

46

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESS ROOM - NIGHT

46

REPORTERS chat in clusters around the room. Seth enters -- finds Lisa amongst them. He takes a deep breath -- psyching himself up -- before he walks over. And then, he rambles --

SETH

Hey, so... I didn't call you back. Which is rude. And I'm not... rude. I'm just... not very good at this. Assuming this is what I think it is --

SC 2 START

LISA JORDAN

Seth --

SETH

-- you're a reporter. I'm Press Secretary. But, screw it. It's Washington, right? So... will you have dinner with me sometime?

Lisa is clearly charmed by him. But something's up --

LISA JORDAN

I'd love to... but -- that's not why I called. I'm working on a story and I need a comment.

SETH

Oh.

(then, covering)

Of course. What's the story? Al-Sakar? Congress? Governor Royce?

LISA JORDAN

(hesitates)

It's more of a personal nature.

(beat)

I have a source claiming that Leo Kirkman is not the President's son.

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46 CONTINUED:

46

A stunned beat. And off Seth, poleaxed, we're --

47 INT. KIRKMAN'S SUV - NIGHT

SC 2 END 47

Kirkman is back seat with Aaron. He's on a CELL PHONE. Clearly trying to reach Alex.

KIRKMAN

(beat)

Alex, it's me. Again. Call me when you can.

He hangs up, hands the phone back to Aaron.

AARON

He's arriving now, sir.

Kirkman nods, exits the limo.

48 EXT. ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE - NIGHT

48

Governor Royce is in a wheelchair -- about to board a medical transport airplane -- accompanied by TWO FEDERAL MARSHALS. The BEAST rolls up. A beat, as Kirkman gets out and walks over to him.

KIRKMAN

(to Marshals)

Gentlemen, will you give us a moment please?

The Marshals step aside. Kirkman smiles, gloating --

KIRKMAN

Well, despite your best efforts -- your ego wasn't able to stand in the way of liberty today.

GOVERNOR ROYCE

Not very Presidential to gloat.

KIRKMAN

Given that you don't consider me to be the President, I don't see the harm.

Royce smiles.

GOVERNOR ROYCE

Let's be honest. You weren't elected. You've never run for office. Someone basically picked your name out of a hat. I think

(MORE)

(CONTINUED) 3/5

LEO  
(unsure)  
Yeah.

MYERS  
I didn't know about you until  
recently --

LEO  
Yeah. My mom didn't tell me  
either...

Myers exchanges a look with Alex.

MYERS  
Don't blame her -- I didn't used to  
be a very nice guy.

Leo nods. As Alex takes in a scene she'd hoped she'd never  
see -- torn between apprehension and hope -- we're --

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - EVENING**

47

Seth's at the podium, wrapping things up for the evening. As  
the PRESS CORPS files out, Lisa, anger in her eyes, cuts  
through the crowd towards Seth.

**SC 3 START**

SETH  
(smiling)  
Back for round two --

LISA JORDAN  
(pissed)  
Jeffrey Myers recanted his story.  
Said he knew the First Lady years  
ago, but was just looking for  
attention. Look me in the eye and  
tell me that's just a coincidence.  
That the White House had nothing to  
do with it.

Lisa lets that hang, waiting for Seth to tell her it was, but  
they both know it wasn't:

SETH  
I didn't know that's how it was  
going to play out --

LISA JORDAN  
I agreed to hold the story for you,  
Seth. Least you could've done was  
give me a heads up.

(CONTINUED)

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47

SETH

If I can make it up to you  
somehow...

LISA JORDAN

Don't. I think you were right -- a  
reporter and the Press Secretary  
have no business getting involved.  
It's just too complicated.

SETH

Lisa, I'm sorry --

LISA JORDAN

Me, too.

She turns and heads out the door, leaving Seth alone...

SC3 END  
48

48

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - COMMAND OPS - EVENING**

Kirkman is on a CELL PHONE in the corner of the CROWDED room.

KIRKMAN

Leo...

(beat)

Hi, it's me. Been trying to reach  
you. Call me if you get this....

He hangs up -- baleful -- heads back to the table.

AARON

(nods)

The exchange is a moment away, sir.  
We're almost there.

He motions to the SCREENS: we see FLIGHT INFO -- DIGITAL  
PLANES approaching Moscow, London, and Riyadh.

ANGLE ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR CARRERA: his hand covering the  
mouthpiece of his RED PHONE, listening and speaking:

CARRERA

Sir -- as you can see, we're  
tracking all three flights, each  
one carrying assets for exchange.  
We'll have confirmations from our  
people on the ground at each  
location.

The DUTY OFFICER -- listening on his headset -- begins the  
play-by-play...

5/5

(CONTINUED)