## **UNTITLED NAVY SEAL PILOT**

ROLE: MANDY REVISED 2/7

Please read only scenes 1 & 2 (not reading scene 3)

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

I know she won't say anything, but
it'd mean a lot if you were there.

Before he can respond, JASON'S PHONE STARTS MAKING A DISTINCTIVE ALERT SOUND. A moment later, SEVERAL OTHER PHONES START MAKING THE IDENTICAL SOUND. Jason pulls out his phone, reads a short message, looks back at Annabelle --

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

Go.

JASON

What do you want me to say?

ANNABELLE

Just be safe. Call when you can.

JASON

Annabelle --

ANNABELLE

(gently)

Go.

Around them, OTHER OPERATORS are checking their phones, hustling out. Off Jason, spinning with his brothers:

21 INT. DEVGRU - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

21

Jason waits with the other TWO ALPHA TROOP TEAM LEADERS (both mid-30s, both, like Jason, operator's operators) and his superior officer: LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ERIC ROJACK (late-30s, the Alpha Troop Commander). All look up as MANDY (30s, whip smart CIA Analyst) begins the briefing --

MANDY

We believe we have an opportunity to snatch Abu Khaled --(before they can react --) Yeah, I know, some of us have been down this road before. For anyone needing a refresher --

On an HD MONITOR, she pulls up a PHOTO of a man we'll come to know as ABU KHALED AL-MASRI (40s, Egyptian) --

MANDY (CONT'D)
(like she just wants to get
through it --)
Abu Khaled al-Masri. High-level
ISIL commander. Believed
responsible for dozens of attacks
on coalition forces in Iraq.
Appears lately to have shifted his
focus to organizing anti-Shia death
squads.

(changes slides --)
(MORE)

INFO

110

- STAKET - SC.

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17

MANDY (CONT'D)

Khaled's talent for selfreinvention is part of what's
allowed him to survive in the Game

almost twenty years.

(she starts to light up--)
But that means he's got twenty
years of gold floating around his
head. Names. Addresses. Not only
that, he knows where ISIL's looking
to go to ground. And if you can
bring him to me still breathing,
I'm gonna get it all.

Silence as all absorb. Then --

JASON

You believe, moment of truth comes, Khaled's gonna pass on martyrdom?

MANDY

Martyrdom's a young man's game. Stay alive long enough, it starts to become a habit.

She switches slides, continues --

MANDY (CONT'D)
In the last several months, we've had sightings of Khaled throughout Central Africa, meeting with various local Jihadi leaders...

Lieutenant-Commander Rojack breaks in --

ROJACK

Ma'am, if I may -- aren't the African groups still allied with AQ?

MANDY

For the most part. Khaled's trying to convince them to switch sides.

JASON

(after a moment)
Pretty risky work for a "survivor."

MANDY

We believe the ISIL leadership's finally realized it's a matter of time before they're driven out of Syria. It's possible Khaled's looking to find them a soft place to land after the Caliphate falls. He's due to sit down with some Boko Haram guys in two days. That's our window.

2/10

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17

ROJACK

We're going into Nigeria?

**JASON** 

Anyone run that by the State Department?

MANDY

Not Nigeria. Khaled doesn't trust Boko enough to meet on their turf.

Changes the slide to one of GENERAL LIONHEART (40, African).

MANDY (CONT'D)

Richard Yormie Percival, better known as General Lionheart. Commanded a faction in the First Liberian Civil War. He's guaranteeing security for both sides at his compound outside Monrovia.

(then --)
We're looking for a straight-up
snatch-and-grab -- live capture of
a high-value target. Questions?

ROJACK

Just Khaled? Not the Boko guys?

MANDY

The priority's taking Khaled alive, preserve his intelligence value. That's worth a thousand Boko guys.

**JASON** 

(re: General Lionheart)
Is Captain Beefheart the one that
used to bathe in the blood of
children because he believed it
made him bulletproof?

MANDY

Pretty sure he just ate them.
(wryly)
Don't say I never take you anywhere nice.

- END -SC.

And off Jason, gazing at SATELLITE PHOTOS of the post-Apocalyptic hellscape of Monrovia --

END TEASER

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ROJACA Thank you, Sir.

You'll launch this evening?

ROJACK
("Bet your ass we will.")
Soon's the sun's down, Sir

Of which --

CUT TO:

44 IN'N MILITARY HANGAR - "BARRACKS" - DAY

44

FIND:

-- CLAY rehearsing his room-clearing moves. Staring at his Laptop. Memorizing code words, floor maps, grid coordinates.

- -- SONNY, sleeping like a baby.
- -- Ray Skype-ing with Naima. Naima is mid-rant --

N/IMA (ON SKYPE)

I caught her saving tea bags again.

I said, "Ma, we can afford to use a whole teabag every time we want a cup o tea." She says, "Aren't you lucly we made you American?"

-- JASON or his cot, stares at the ceiling, well aware of the marital intimacy taking place nearby and of all the people in his own life with whom he is not, at this moment, Skype-ing.

Ult mately, deciding sleep's not gonna happen, he pulls himself to his feet --

45 INT. MILITARY HANGAR - "OP CENTER" - DAY

45

Steps into the Ops Center to find Mandy watching the camera feeds over the shoulders of the TECHS on duty. She looks up as he enters, steps away from the Techs to join him --

MANDY Glad to know I'm not the only one.

E START-SC.2

He nods. Doesn't say anything. Knows he wants something. Not exactly sure what that something is.

Something else on her mind at the moment --

4/10

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17 51.

MANDY (CONT'D)

(raging at herself)
Ever hear yourself saying something
makes you wonder when you became
the kind of savage animal who could
say the thing you just said?

JASON

For what it's worth, I agree with you about the moral calculation.

MANDY

What if all it's "worth" is it shows you're just as damaged as I am?

Their eyes meet. Electric. But they get back to business --

JASON

One woman who'll probably die if we all go for Khaled, against all the people we know die if our split focus causes us to miss our shot and he's allowed to stay in place.

MANDY

(nodding)
Save even more, you keep him alive
for me.

You can see how badly she wants it --

JASON

May not be up to us. He may not let it be up to us.

Mandy takes a breath. She rarely talks about this.

MANDY

You know I almost had him in Baghdad eight years ago? I was meeting a Deputy Economic Minister at this coffee house in the Mansour district.

JASON

Alone?

MANDY

My security detail always spooked him. Anyway, we're almost ready to go, door opens - and it's Khaled. Apparently he'd snuck into the city for his mom's birthday. He walks past our table, not much farther away than you are right now.

(MORE)

5/10

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17 52

MANDY (CONT'D)

I'd already been after him for years by then, quarterbacked three failed drone strikes on the guy, and now I'm close enough to see the crystal's cracked on his Rolex.

JASON That's pretty close.

Practically <u>feel</u> the Glock burning through my holster. All I have to do is pull, I can end it. Right there.

JASON Maybe get yourself ended as well.

MANDY
There was a back door to the place,
good chance I coulda made it. But
I'll tell you -- in that moment? I
didn't care.

(shakes her head --)
Then I look at my source. Take out
Khaled, even if I get away, my
asset's a dead man. Probably
tortured for a month first.

(a beat then...)
So I throw down my Dinars and we walk out. Soon's we're on the street, I call it in. Turns out our "intrepid local partners" in the state security services had been infiltrated by extremists.

JASON
Say it ain't so.
(then, serious --)
Nothing you could do.

Week later, one of Khaled's cells blew up a school bus in Mosul, killed twenty six teenagers. Week after that, my source, the guy I was protecting? Khaled's guys grabbed him and his family. They sent the death videos to Langley.

It sits there. And all Jason can say to his friend is...

JASON We got this.

When Jason says this, it counts. Mandy nods her gratitude.

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17
53.

MANDY

And the hostage - ?

JASON

I'm telling you -- we got it.

Mandy nods again.

MANDY

Bring her home.

END-SCI2

CUT TO:

46 INT. JASON'S TEAM'S BLACKHAWK - FLYING - DAY

46

Most of the guys are quiet, getting their game faces on. Jason is grilling Clay --

JASON

... and after that?

CLAY

Secure exit path. Extract hostage. (referencing "Predator")
"Get to da choppah!"

Jason's not amused Suddenly, a call comes over the radio --

RILOT 1 (0.S.)

(over the radio)
This is Blazer 1 -- I'm having some kind of issue with my pedals here.
Getting way too much shake in them.

Concern on Clay's face. Jason notices --

JASON

(to Clay)
You know how to fly a helicopter?

CLAY

(after a moment)

No.

Jason nods.

JASON

Only things on your mind should be things you control. Otherwise, you're just wasting energy.

Again, the radio --

PILOT 1 (0.S.)

(over radio)
This is Blazer 1 -- these pedals are getting worse.

(MORE)

43 INT. MILITARY HANGAR - NIGHT

43

E-START-SG3

Jason, Mandy, Douglas, Rojack, Team Leader #1, Team Leader #2, gathered around an HD MONITOR, waiting for a video conference to begin.

Mandy's hand shakes as she sips her water: she's psyching herself up for something.

ON THE MONITOR: a conference room full of Generals and Admirals, jockeying for position. The Reception is choppy. Jason leans over to Rojack --

JASON (whispering, re: other side of the call) What are they <u>doing</u> over there?

Rojack lights up. The ludicrous pissing contests between the men at the very top of his chain of command are a source of endless amusement to him --

ROJACK
(whispering back)
They all think the hostage turns
this mission into a career-maker.
Wanna make sure they show up in the
backslapping photos on CNN.

Almost reflexively --

**JASON** 

ROJACK (CONT'D)

War on Terror.

War on Terror.

The Flag Officers on the monitor appear to have arrived at some sort of equilibrium. CAPTAIN BRYCE (50s, BRAND-NEW DEVGRU COMMANDING OFFICER, "Blowhard" doesn't even begin to cover it) occupies the center of the screen --

BRYCE

(to Mandy)
I believe we're all properly
situated here now, Ms. Ellis. Now,
if you please, would you tell us
what you know about this poor
woman, Ms. --

He looks around for an aide to supply the name --

MANDY
Mitchell, Sir. Stacey. Mitchell.
Abducted April last year from her
Doctor's Without Borders free
clinic in the D.R.C..
(MORE)

8/10

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17

MANDY (CONT'D)
We're not certain how she came into
the possession of this particular
group, but, as you know, it's not
uncommon for hostages to be sold
and resold through various
pipelines, particularly attractive
Western females.

The end of the quickbrief. Mandy closes her notebook.

BRYCE

Thank you, Ms. Ellis.
(turning to Rojack)
Now, Eric -- how exactly are we going to bring this young lady home to her loving parents?

Before Rojack can answer --

MANDY

Sir!

All heads swing in her direction. Gulp.

BRYCE

Yes, Ms. Ellis?

MANDY

Sir, I believe it's my -- and my Agency's -- duty to give you our honest, objective analysis. And, from an objective point-of-view --

Jason is looking at her. He knows where she's going, gives her a slight head-shake: "Don't do it."

MANDY (CONT'D)

(to Bryce)
-- Abu Khaled's continued survival
will almost certainly lead to
hundreds of deaths, both of
civilians and of Coalition
personnel -- in fact, we believe he
may have knowledge of planned
attacks already in motion --

BRYCE

Gonna cut you off there, Ms. Ellis.

Oh, thank God. Mandy gulps water.

BRYCE (CONT'D)
Sounded like you're about to
suggest we do nothing for Ms.
Mitchell and instead adhere to our
current operational plan to snatch
the H.V.T..

(MORE)

CAVELL - "UNTITLED SEAL TEAM SIX" PILOT - REVISED STUDIO DRAFT - 01/23/17 48.

BRYCE (CONT'D)
(Mandy doesn't deny)
And what do you "analyze" as Ms.
Mitchell's captors' likely response
to the launch of such an Op?

The implication is clear. Mandy knows she should drop it --

MANDY

Sir, if I may --

BRYCE

No, I'm afraid you may not.
(again turning to Rojack)
Eric, what to you have for us?

E END - SC. 3

Mandy steps back, red-faced, as Rojack takes over their side of the conference --

ROJACK
Well, Sir, we've just gotten our
recon team in from the field a few
minutes ago. We'll need some time
to come up with a viable Ops plan
based on the current avail --

Eric, I'm going to ask you a very simple question -- do we have the resources to rescue the hostage and perform a successful, non-lethal snatch of the H.V.T.?

Rojack hesitates, not wanting to let down the big boss.
Jason's looking at Mandy, who's horrified both by what she
just advocated and also by the prospect of having Khaled once
again slip through her fingers. Before Rojack can answer --

JASON We can do both.

Jason seems almost surprised to hear himself speak. Rojack's pretty surprised, too. Bryce peers at the screen, trying to figure out who the new voice belongs to --

BRYCE

Who is that?

JASON It's Jason Harrah, Sir.

BRYCE
Jason! Of course, that's you. You were saying?

JASON

We can complete both objectives.