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"A CURRENT AFFAIR"

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SLIDERS

"A Current Affair"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CHANDLER HOTEL - DAY (D1)

1

President JEFFERSON WILLIAMS, 45, stands on a platform, wrapping up a rousing speech. Behind him, a large banner proclaims "L.A. WELCOMES PRESIDENT WILLIAMS." Below him, an enthusiastic crowd cheers his every statement. A number of media people stand by with video recorders, still cameras, and tape recorders.

WILLIAMS

Yes, America is stronger than ever,  
and you -- the people who sent the  
First Lady and myself to the White  
House six short years ago -- you made  
it all possible!

The crowd cheers. A few REPORTERS jockey for position.

REPORTER #1 (A WOMAN)

(hard-hitting)

Mr. President! Mr. President! Do  
you sleep in the nude?

WILLIAMS

I'd like to answer that, Helen, but  
I'm afraid it might embarrass Mrs.  
Williams.

REPORTER #1

Why? Doesn't she know?

WILLIAMS

She knows. I just don't think she  
wants you to know.

The crowd laughs.

WILLIAMS

We need to move on now, put such  
concerns behind us and get on with  
the job the American people elected  
me to do.

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED 1

Thunderous applause and cheering. Many of the women look as if they were watching a movie star.

2 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE CROWD 2

From towards the back, a slightly scruffy-looking reporter, BOBBY HAWKS, 30, shouts out:

HAWKS

What about the war with Switzerland, Mr. President?! When will you end the senseless slaughter?!

3 RESUME SCENE 3

A hint of annoyance crosses the President's face, but Williams, ever the smooth politico, points to his ear and shakes his head apologetically: He just can't seem to hear the questions over all the cheering. Finally:

WILLIAMS

Thank you, L.A.!

More cheers as the President steps down from the platform and, flanked by a couple of SECRET SERVICE MEN, approaches the crowd, whose cheers grow louder still as he gets closer.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. ALLEY NEAR THE CHANDLER - DAY 4

Not a soul in sight. Suddenly, the Wormhole opens and the Sliders arrive. Once they get their bearings, Rembrandt notices the CHANDLER HOTEL sign, smiles.

REMBRANDT

Hey -- For once, we landed near the hotel!

MALLORY

That's a switch.  
(to Diana)  
How long have we got?

Diana checks the Timer.

DIANA

A shade under two days.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED

4

REMBRANDT

Plenty of time for a little R&R.

A loud cheer catches their attention.

MAGGIE

I wonder what that's all about.

REMBRANDT

Probably one of my doubles finishing a song.

MAGGIE

Yeah, right.

REMBRANDT

Hey, you never know.

MALLORY

C'mon.

They set off around the corner.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. CHANDLER HOTEL - DAY

5

The Sliders see the crowd, move forward to discover the object of their enthusiasm: President Williams and his entourage.

6 CLOSER ANGLE - MAGGIE

6

As the commotion nearly engulfs the Sliders, a sudden surge of eager fans pushes Maggie right into the President's arms!

MAGGIE

Oops... Sorry....

Instantly, news cameras swing around and we hear the whirring of automatic film advancing as the press overdoes its thing.

CUT TO:

7 CLOSEUP - LOS ANGELES HERALD

7

A banner headline declares, "PRESIDENT'S SECRET AFFAIR EXPOSED!" Taking up the rest of the front page is a familiar-

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

7

looking photo of Maggie and the President, locked in "the  
embrace."

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 CLOSEUP - LOS ANGELES HERALD - CONTINUOUS 8

Pull back to reveal that we are in:

9 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL ROOM - DAY - SOMETIME LATER 9

And Mallory is holding the newspaper. The other Sliders have settled in. Rembrandt is on the bed running through TV channels with the remote.

MALLORY

(to Maggie)

How many people can say they just ran into the President of the United States?

MAGGIE

Please... I just want to forget it ever happened.

MALLORY

Not much chance of that.

Mallory holds up the paper. She grabs it.

MAGGIE

What?! Gimme that!

Maggie gives the photo and story a quick scan.

DIANA

How'd they get the paper out so fast?

REMBRANDT

It's not just the paper....

Maggie and Diana follow Rembrandt's gaze over to the TV. Rembrandt clicks the sound up a couple of notches.

10 CLOSEUP - TV 10

There is "the embrace" in full color. Then we see a serious, Tom Brokaw-like news ANCHOR sitting at his desk, a giant SNN sign on the wall behind him.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED

10

ANCHOR

If you're just joining us, we're bringing you continuing coverage of the President's not-so-secret affair.

MAGGIE (O.C.)

Oh, give me a break!

11 WIDER

11

to include the Sliders watching the television.

ANCHOR

Our resident psychologist has tentatively diagnosed the President as having a sexual addiction.

MAGGIE

Remmy...!

Rembrandt changes the station, but wherever he goes, it's the same old story.

ANCHOR #2 (V.O.)

... that President Williams had been seeing the young woman....

ANCHOR #3 (V.O.)

... not known how long the romance has been going on, but insiders say....

ANCHOR #4 (V.O.)

... our unseasonably hot and steamy weather forecast....

MAGGIE

There! Leave it!

ANCHOR #4

...but first, more on the President's hot and steamy affair!

MAGGIE

Off!

An amused Rembrandt obliges. Maggie starts thumbing through the rest of the newspaper.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

11

REMBRANDT

I think you and the Prez make a pretty cute couple, if you ask me.

MAGGIE

I don't remember asking you.

DIANA

What kind of a place is this?

MAGGIE

Tabloid World, I guess. Listen to the lead stories: 'Baseball hunk strikes out with starlet but loses thirty pounds,' 'Image of Virgin Mary appears in slice of rye toast...' And this is the Herald!

REMBRANDT

I'd love to see what kinda stories the rags print.

Mallory has been looking through desk drawers, pulls out another newspaper, printed on cheap, pulpy stock.

MALLORY

I think I found one.

(starts reading)

'Stocks plunge to record lows,'  
'Senate tables health-care vote,'  
'heavy fighting continues in  
Switzerland.' This seems to be real news.

MAGGIE

What is it?

Mallory checks the front.

MALLORY

The Hawks Report... put out by somebody named Bobby Hawks.

DIANA

What was that about fighting in Switzerland?

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED (2)

11

MALLORY

(reads on)  
'Recent reports confirm an escalation  
with heavy casualties in the war  
between the United States and the  
Swiss.'

REMBRANDT

Over what? Cheese? A Swatch embargo?

MALLORY

(skims story)  
Let's see... Apparently Switzerland  
was responsible for a banking scandal  
that's led to a worldwide depression.  
The Swiss army overran France and is  
proceeding with ethnic cleansing.

REMBRANDT

Ethnic cleansing? In France!?

MAGGIE

The Swiss have an army?

REMBRANDT

I thought they just had army knives.

DIANA

How did the United States get  
involved?

MALLORY

(skimming on)  
It doesn't say.  
(checks front)  
This is from last week. I'd like to  
see the current issue.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. Maybe he's got the real story  
on the President's affair.

Maggie throws a pillow at Remmy, and we...

CUT TO:

12 EXT. AMBASSADOR HOTEL - DAY - ESTABLISHING

12

A much larger, more impressive place than the Chandler.

13 INT. PRESIDENTIAL, SUITE - DAY - CLOSE ON THE HAWKS REPORT 13

This time, the headline reads: "PRESIDENT EXPECTED TO ADDRESS L.A. CROWD -- BUT NOT ISSUES." Pull back to reveal the paper is in the hands of Presidential Chief of Staff, CHUCK PIERSON, 40, who is sitting in President' Williams' posh suite, along with the President and First Lady, SELA WILLIAMS, 38. They are watching news coverage of "the embrace" on TV.

WILLIAMS

I can't believe they're making such a big deal out of... out of nothing!

MRS. WILLIAMS

Jeff, you know there's nothing they won't do to sell papers or attract viewers.

WILLIAMS

You're right, as usual, Sela, but it's really gotten out of hand.

(to Pierson)

Chuck, I want you to quash this story before it goes any further.

Pierson finishes looking through The Hawks Report, tosses it on the table. Clearly, he's got something on his mind.

PIERSON

That may not be our best bet, Mr. President.

(off Williams' look)

As weird as it sounds, this sex scandal situation may be a blessing in disguise.

WILLIAMS

(glancing at TV)

Then it's a damn good disguise! What are you talking about?

PIERSON

Well, sir, you'll notice that ever since this story broke, nobody's been paying any attention to the 'situation' in Switzerland.

MRS. WILLIAMS

True, but you're suggesting ---

A glance from Pierson quiets the First Lady. Williams doesn't notice. Pierson continues.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

PIERSON

So as long as we keep the people in a feeding frenzy over the scandal, they won't care what we do in Switzerland.

WILLIAMS

Play it up instead of down, huh?

PIERSON

Exactly, sir.

WILLIAMS

I don't know, Chuck....

MRS. WILLIAMS

So we'd be using the media, instead of having them use us.

PIERSON

For a change.

WILLIAMS

Hmm... Good point, honey....

Williams wanders out of the room, pondering Pierson's suggestion. The First Lady gives Pierson a sly smile: They have some sort of a rapport that the President is unaware of. Hold on their shared smile, then:

CUT TO:

14 EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

14

The Sliders are window shopping. Maggie takes a deep breath. Then browses some womens' fashions in a window.

MAGGIE

Maybe this will all blow over. I'd like to enjoy a couple of days in a normal world with normal stuff.

(then shocked)

Can you believe the prices in this place?

Rembrandt notices a number of PASSERSBY, who are pointing and staring. Maggie whips around and confronts them.

MAGGIE

(irked)

Can I help you?

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED

14

MALE PASSERBY

Aren't you the President's mystery woman?

MAGGIE

Look, this is all a big mistake!

Maggie's protest only draws more attention to her.

FEMALE PASSERBY

It's a mistake alright, breaking up a happy marriage! Shame on you!

MAGGIE

I am not having an affair with the President!

By now, others have stopped to gawk at the "celebrity." A LITTLE GIRL extends a small book.

LITTLE GIRL

I don't know what an affair is, but will you sign my autograph book?

Exasperated, Maggie turns to the other Sliders.

MAGGIE

I'm going back to the hotel.

MALLORY

Sorry....

Maggie ducks the crowd, which disperses. The remaining Sliders continue checking out the store windows. Diana and Rembrandt stop outside a Circuit-City-type store. Every TV in the window is featuring "the embrace." Mallory sees something a short distance away.

MALLORY

I'll catch up with you guys in a bit.

And Mallory strides off.

REMBRANDT

Hey, where are you going?

MALLORY

Just having a look around.

He's gone.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED (2)

14

DIANA

He's a big boy.

REMBRANDT

Yeah. But he's still new to all this.

DIANA

Let him enjoy himself.

(then)

Why don't we check out the HDTV on  
this world.

They enter the store.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. SMALL STORE-FRONT OFFICE - DAY

15

A sign in the window announces, "THE HAWKS REPORT - THE TRUTH  
AMERICA DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW." Mallory enters the office.

16 INT. HAWKS' OFFICE - DAY

16

It's crammed with newspapers, computer printout sheets,  
photos, stationery supplies, etc. A modern printing press is  
centrally located. Videotape machines whir away beneath a  
bank of TVs showing "the embrace" on different channels.  
Behind a computer terminal, typing away, is Bobby Hawks. His  
clothes are wrinkled, his hair is uncombed, and he could use  
a shave.

HAWKS

(without looking up)

If you don't like what I write, don't  
read it. Nobody's forcing you.

MALLORY

But I do like what you write.

Startled, Hawks looks up at Mallory.

HAWKS

You sure you have the right place?

MALLORY

Do you publish The Hawks Report?

HAWKS

Yes.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

MALLORY

Then I've got the right place.

Hawks can't quite believe he has an admirer.

HAWKS

This is a joke, right? Did Bernie Shaw send you? Somebody at the Herald?

MALLORY

Nobody sent me. I'm interested in what you do.

Hawks pops up out of his seat like a Jack-in-the-Box, wheels a chair over, dumps out the papers that are stacked on the seat, and beckons Mallory.

HAWKS

Please, Mr...?

MALLORY

(taking a seat)  
Call me Mallory.

HAWKS

Call me Bobby.

MALLORY

Okay, Bobby. Doesn't anybody care about real news?

HAWKS

Let's just say they're 'easily distracted.'

MALLORY

And you?

HAWKS

(indicating computer)  
I like hard news. I'm online right now with a compatriot in Chicago. We have a sort of loose network of people around the world who share information on issues a little more important than who's sleeping with whom and which soap star is really an alien.

MALLORY

Like the war in Switzerland?

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED (2)

16

HAWKS

(guardedly)  
Well... yeah....

MALLORY

What's the story there?

HAWKS

Well, the Swiss President, Marcel Vache -- affectionately known as the Butcher of Bern -- started the whole thing by nationalizing Swiss banks, putting the world into a massive economic crisis.

MALLORY

But how'd the U.S. get involved?

HAWKS

You really are interested. Well, President Williams couldn't get approval from Congress, or the U.N., so he just went ahead and sent in ground troops, hoping to stabilize things.

MALLORY

I can understand his concern, but is it really worth risking all those lives in an undeclared war?

Hawks sees a kindred spirit in Mallory.

HAWKS

I wish more people felt that way.

MALLORY

I don't see how they could ignore it.

HAWKS

First off, they think I'm a crackpot who makes this stuff up. I am a crackpot. But the news is real. Second, even if they did believe me, they're still more interested in dirty laundry. Take this affair business.

(indicating TVs)  
I have a theory about that.

MALLORY

Which is -- ?

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED (3)

16

HAWKS

A source in Geneva says our side is actually losing the war. And the rumor is we're about to use some kind of illegal weapon.

(off Michael's  
surprise)

MALLORY

But how does that tie in to the scandal?

HAWKS

I think the President's affair is being played up to keep people distracted from his real problems overseas.

MALLORY

Could be. Want a piece of inside info?

HAWKS

What's that?

MALLORY

'The President's affair' is a fake! There is no relationship with 'that woman.'

HAWKS

How do you know?

MALLORY

I was there when it happened... I know the woman in question.

Hawks' reporter's instincts are really aroused now. He grabs a notebook and a pen.

HAWKS

Don't move.

CUT TO:

17 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL ROOM - DAY

17

Maggie is pacing like a caged animal, carrying the remote control.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

MAGGIE

(checks watch)

Guys, I'm going stir crazy.

She points and clicks without looking up. We hear "...romantic involvement with the mystery woman..." and she clicks it off, never looking up at the screen. She continues pacing.

MAGGIE

Gimme a break....

There is a knock at the door.

MAGGIE

It's about time!

Maggie opens the door to reveal Pierson, and a man in a black suit, dark glasses and earplug -- obviously Secret Service.

PIERSON

Good afternoon. We represent the President of the United States.

MAGGIE

We are not having an affair!

PIERSON

We know.

MAGGIE

You know?

PIERSON

Of course. May we come in?

At least they believe her. Maggie cautiously lets them in, closes the door. The Secret Service guy discreetly gives the room a quick scan. Then he stands near the door as Pierson enters room with Maggie.

PIERSON

Ms. Beckett, you are in a unique position to help your country.

MAGGIE

How do you know my name?

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED (2)

17

PIERSON

(a shrug)  
It's what I do.  
(then)

We realize that this is all an  
innocent misunderstanding.

MAGGIE

Would you please tell that to the  
press?

PIERSON

I'm afraid we can't just yet. In the  
meantime, we'd like you to come with  
us. The President needs you.

MAGGIE

He can need somebody else. I'm just  
passing through.

PIERSON

But nobody turns down a presidential  
request.

MAGGIE

Then I guess I'm that nobody.

PIERSON

In that case, it's not a request.

Pierson nods at the Secret Service man, who pulls aside his  
jacket enough for her to see his gun. Hold on Maggie's  
concerned face, then:

CUT TO:

18 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

18

Rembrandt and Diana enter.

REMBRANDT

Never leave the door unlocked. You  
don't know what might come slithering  
in.

DIANA

Yeah. Like us.

REMBRANDT

Maggie?

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED

18

But she is nowhere to be seen. The room is just as they'd left it, but there is no note, no sign of a struggle, nothing to indicate what happened to Maggie. As the Sliders exchange puzzled, concerned looks:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL BAR - AFTERNOON 19

Mallory, Rembrandt, and Diana enter and look around for Maggie. She's not there but the TV over the bar is on, as usual, and our people look up at it.

20 THEIR POINT OF VIEW - THE BAR'S TV 20

which, of course, is still showing "the embrace."

21 RESUME SCENE 21

The Sliders are disappointed.

MALLORY

When did you last see her?

REMBRANDT

She came back to the hotel just after you took off.

DIANA

Where'd you go anyway?

MALLORY

I hooked up with this guy, Hawks, publishes the only real newspaper in town. I told him this whole affair with the President is a fake.

DIANA

So what do we do?

REMBRANDT

Sit tight right here.

(checks timer)

We've still got plenty of time -- And she knows when we slide. She'll be back.

The others try to look hopeful.

CUT TO:

22 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - AFTERNOON

22

President Williams and Maggie are seated at a small table that's covered with a white tablecloth, flowers, fancy food on silver platters, and champagne. They are being "directed" by Pierson, who is posing them for an incriminating video. Behind them, looking very out of place, is a large green screen. Sela Williams sits off to one side, observing the process. The President looks a little uncomfortable and Maggie is a very reluctant participant.

PIERSON

Remember, you're having a great time!

MAGGIE

Oh, is that what I'm having....

PIERSON

If you could just be a little more cooperative....

MAGGIE

If you could just let me out of here....

Pierson exchanges a glance with the President.

WILLIAMS

You know, this is just as awkward for me as it is for you, Ms. Beckett.

MAGGIE

Oh yeah, like I believe that.

WILLIAMS

No, really. Posing for these fake pictures is not my idea. But circumstances...

(a glance toward  
Pierson, then)

I apologize for putting you through all of this. After all, you were just an innocent bystander.

Maggie gazes into Williams' eyes: Is he on the level?

PIERSON

Perfect! Hold that!

And Pierson takes advantage of the soulful gaze by running the video camera.

MAGGIE

What's with the green wall?

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

PIERSON

It... makes for a sharper picture.  
Okay, you can relax for a while.

WILLIAMS

That's a relief. I'll be glad when  
this is over.

MAGGIE

Tell me about it.  
(turns to First Lady)  
So -- I guess this isn't easy for you,  
either.

MRS. WILLIAMS

I beg your pardon?

MAGGIE

Standing by your man and all that.

Mrs. Williams and Pierson share a quick glance, then:

MRS. WILLIAMS

But you're not really having an  
affair with my husband -- are you?

MAGGIE

Oh, of course not. It's just that  
everybody thinks we are and that puts  
you in an awkward position. That's  
all I meant.

Mrs. Williams smiles diplomatically and glances at Pierson,  
who is over by the green screen. He gives a subtle nod.

MRS. WILLIAMS

I appreciate your concern. And now if  
you'll excuse me....

The First Lady gets up and walks over toward Pierson.

23 ANOTHER ANGLE - BEHIND THE GREEN SCREEN

23

Once they're out of earshot:

PIERSON

Smart girl.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Yes. Very perceptive.

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED 23

PIERSON

We may have to keep an eye on her.

They stick their heads around the green screen and give Maggie a big smile.

24 ANGLE - MAGGIE 24

She's not sure what they're smiling about, but what the heck -- she smiles back.

25 ANGLE - BEHIND THE GREEN SCREEN 25

Pierson walks over to where the video camera has been hooked up to some equipment, still hidden by the green screen. A video technician is seated at a keyboard, watching a monitor.

26 INSERT - SCREEN 26

We see a freeze-frame of the scene that Pierson just taped.

PIERSON (O.C.)

Okay, Mel, do your stuff.

The technician changes the green background so that Maggie and Williams are suddenly at an outdoor cafe in Paris, on a gondola in Venice, inside Air Force One, etc.

27 RESUME SCENE 27

Pierson looks pleased.

PIERSON

Fine. People will think this has been going on for years.

And on Pierson's sinister smile, we:

CUT TO:

28 INT. CHANDLER BAR - AFTERNOON 28

Mallory and Rembrandt are seated at the bar watching the TV. The angle includes the TV set. The news anchor is on screen.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

ANCHOR

... as we bring you brand-new  
exclusive pictures of President  
Williams and his mistress...

In full color, we see Maggie and Williams having their  
intimate dinner. Only now, they appear to be dining on a  
penthouse terrace overlooking the Manhattan skyline -- nude,  
with black bars censoring the good parts.

REMBRANDT (O.C.)

Hello!

MALLORY

That girl moves fast.

They are mesmerized by the image on the TV. The other patrons  
have rushed over and are fairly drooling over the new photo,  
as is Mallory.

DIANA'S VOICE

That could be computer generated, you  
know.

29 ADJUST ANGLE

29

to reveal Diana has joined them.

MALLORY

Or it could be legit!

REMBRANDT

In which case she'd be in New York,  
since that's the Chrysler Building.

MALLORY

(checks watch)  
Only been gone two hours.

REMBRANDT

Something's going on. She wouldn't  
get involved with something like this  
voluntarily.

DIANA

Somebody took her? Secret Service?  
FBI? CIA?

REMBRANDT

Wish we could find out for sure if  
that picture is for real.

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED

29

MALLORY

I think I know a way.

Off Rembrandt's and Diana's looks, we:

CUT TO:

30 INT. HAWKS' OFFICE - AFTERNOON

30

Mallory, Rembrandt, and Diana surround Hawks at his terminal. On his screen is the frozen image of the naked lunch... er... dinner.

MALLORY

First off, let's lose those black bars.

DIANA

Mallory!

MALLORY

What?! Don't we need to see the whole picture to tell if it's fake?

Diana, Rembrandt, and even Hawks give Mallory a look.

MALLORY

It was worth a shot.

DIANA

Can we blow up the image?

HAWKS

Sure. I like to do this with a lot of the 'official' footage the media sends out. You never know what you're gonna find.

Hawks types instructions into the machine. The image is blown up to the point where we can't see below their heads and shoulders, with the skyline in back. Mallory is on alert.

MALLORY

Not too close....

HAWKS

There could've been a little video cutting and pasting at the neckline.

REMBRANDT

What about the skyline?

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

Hawks types in more instructions. The closeup image shifts all the way to the left margin, beyond what appeared on TV.

MALLORY

There! What's that?

REMBRANDT

I don't remember Manhattan having a green outline.

DIANA

They probably used a green-screen matte to change the backgrounds.

REMBRANDT

What is that to the left of the World Trade Center? It looks like -- towels.

HAWKS

Let's take a look.

Hawks types a few keys. The background boundary is magnified, revealing something just beyond the green-screen area. Sure enough, it's two towels hanging on a towel rack. There is a fuzzy "A.H." monogram on them.

HAWKS

That's about as close as I can get without losing resolution.

REMBRANDT

'A.H.'

MALLORY

Somebody's initials?

DIANA

Could be anybody.

HAWKS

No, it's the Ambassador Hotel.

REMBRANDT

Are you sure?

HAWKS

I stole one after a press conference last year.

MALLORY

So this was taken at the Ambassador.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED (2)

30

HAWKS

Right. And your friend must be in on the conspiracy or she wouldn't be in this footage.

REMBRANDT

(bristling)

Look, pal, Maggie is not a part of any conspiracy.

MALLORY

She'd never go along with it.

HAWKS

(a shrug)

Is that her in the pictures?

Rembrandt, Diana and Mallory exchange looks. What is the real story here?

REMBRANDT

Whatever's going on, we still have to get to her, and soon.

DIANA

You think she's still at the hotel?

MALLORY

If she is, how do we get around security?

HAWKS

Well, I am a card-carrying member of the press -- which most people would rather forget.

DIANA

You think you could get in?

Picks up a piece of paper from his desk.

HAWKS

Well, they're having a press briefing before the President goes to his next stop. It's in about twenty minutes.

REMBRANDT

You got any spare credentials?

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED (3)

30

HAWKS

(surveying the mess)  
Somewhere around here, yeah.  
Photographer's pass, assistant, that  
sorta thing.

MALLORY

It's worth a shot.

On their hopeful look, we:

CUT TO:

31 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - SMALL ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

31

Pierson is on the phone, all business.

PIERSON

(into phone)  
I realize noxin gas has been  
outlawed, General, but given our  
heavy casualties, the President has  
emphasized how imperative it is to  
end the war as quickly as possible --  
and with honor.

(beat, then)  
well, if noxin is as effective as you  
say, we can't afford not to use it.

(beat, then)  
U.N. sanctions are a risk we're going  
to have to take, General. You let me  
worry about public opinion. I think  
we'll be able to keep a lid on things  
until after the fact...Right.

And Pierson hangs up, pondering the situation.

32 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

32

The tuxedoed President is preparing to leave.

WILLIAMS

They always serve burgundy chicken at  
these fund-raisers. I hate burgundy  
chicken.

Maggie stands off to the side, arms folded -- she'd really  
like to get the hell out of there. The President notices,  
approaches her.

CONTINUED

WILLIAMS

I really do appreciate your putting up with all of this.

MAGGIE

Well, thanks, but it's not like I had much of a choice. I was drafted.

WILLIAMS

From time to time, we're all called to sacrifice our private lives for the public good. It's the price of democracy.

Williams smiles, extends his hand. After a beat, Maggie takes it.

WILLIAMS

No hard feelings, then?

MAGGIE

Well, maybe one or two.

A detente has been achieved. Pierson enters.

PIERSON

Sir? The reporters are waiting in the Sagebrush Room

WILLIAMS

(to Maggie)  
Press briefing. Thanks again.

He separates from Maggie and exits. After Williams is gone, Maggie looks over to Pierson.

MAGGIE

Not much point in my sticking around either, right?

PIERSON

Actually, something has come up that will necessitate your continued cooperation.

MAGGIE

But the President said ---

PIERSON

Never mind what the President said. You're coming with us to the next campaign stop.

CONTINUED

32 CONTINUED (2)

32

MAGGIE

Forget it, Chuckles. I'm outta here.

She sprints to the door, but before she can open it, Pierson signals to the two Men in Black, who each grab an arm and "escort" her back.

33 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

33

The door opens and Maggie is shoved inside. The door slams shut. Maggie is pissed. She goes back to the door and opens it. The two Secret Service men stand guard. No way out. Maggie closes the door and crosses the room. She tries another door. It's a closet. She goes over to the window, tries to open it. It won't budge (and judging from the distant traffic noise, it's pretty high up to begin with). She spots a phone, picks up the receiver, pushes 0.

MAGGIE

Yes, I'd like an outside line.

(beat, then)

What do you mean? What kind of a hotel is this? Hello?!?

She tries dialing gain, but it's no use. Angrily, she slams down the receiver.

MAGGIE

Great....

Frustrated, Maggie plunks herself down on the bed, tries to figure a way out.

34 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

34

Pierson looks agitated. Then we hear a familiar voice.

MRS. WILLIAMS (O.C.)

Relax, Chuck. You're all tense.

Pull back to reveal the First Lady on a nearby couch.

PIERSON

It's a little hard to relax after that stunt she just pulled. If she gets out, she could really screw things up. She's a loose cannon.

CONTINUED

34 CONTINUED

34

MRS. WILLIAMS

Then I guess that's a cannon that'll  
have to be fired.

Pierson ponders this.

PIERSON

I'll have Kennedy take care of it.

The First Lady rises, sidles over to Pierson, puts her arms  
around him. He seems accustomed to this.

MRS. WILLIAMS

By the way, good job on the nude  
photos. I only wish Jeff really  
looked that good under his suit. Now  
you, on the other hand ---

And they kiss, which starts to get fairly involved.

CUT TO:

35 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

35

Maggie is still trying to figure out what to do. We hear the  
jangle of keys and the door opens, revealing the MAID, who is  
being allowed in by one of the Secret Service men. As soon as  
the Maid is inside, the door is quickly closed and relocked.  
Without looking at Maggie, the Maid starts emptying the  
wastebasket.

MAID

I'll just be a minute.

MAGGIE

That's okay. I could use the company.

The Maid looks up, her eyes widen.

MAID

Oh my stars, the President's girl  
friend! I saw you on TV!

Not this again....

MAGGIE

Look, I am not...  
(a light dawns;  
changing tone)  
Yep. You caught me. Guilty as  
charged.

CONTINUED

35 CONTINUED

35

MAID

It must be so exciting!

MAGGIE

You don't know the half of it.

Maggie has been staring at the Maid's outfit: short black uniform, white apron, paper hat. The Maid feels a little self-conscious.

MAID

Is my uniform dirty?

MAGGIE

No, I was just thinking....

Off Maggie's mischievous look, we:

CUT TO:

36 INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

36

The Secret Service men are still guarding the door. We hear a knock from inside the bedroom. One agent unlocks the door. Out steps what appears to be the Maid. She has the cap pushed forward somewhat and she looks downward, as if she were trying to hide part of her face. She grabs hold of the cleaning cart and begins to push it down the hallway. The agents watch her go, but don't seem particularly suspicious.

"The Maid" stops at the elevator, presses the DOWN button. After a beat, the doors open. She pushes the cart in and enters. The door closes.

37 ANOTHER ANGLE UP THE HALLWAY

37

looking past the Secret Service guys by Maggie's door. A door further up the hallway opens and another agent, one we haven't seen before, comes out. This is the "Kennedy" we heard Pierson reference earlier. He's big, menacing looking, and as he approaches the two men at Maggie's door, both of them step away, clearly in awe of this guy. He looks at them a moment, then enters Maggie's room.

38 INT. BEDROOM

38

The television is on, some kind of Jerry Springer type show, maybe "Lipschitz Live." It appears that Maggie is sitting on the bed, her back to us and to the door, watching the show.

CONTINUED

38 CONTINUED

38

LIPSCHITZ'S VOICE

(on television)

DNA results prove beyond doubt that Thomas Jefferson fathered an illegitimate child by one of his slaves. So I guess that means our current president is really no better than one of our founding fathers.

Kennedy enters quietly. He takes a silenced automatic pistol from his coat pocket and levels it at "Maggie." The pistol coughs harshly twice and "Maggie" takes two slugs to the head and goes to the floor. Lipschitz drones on in the background, and Kennedy exits.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

39 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

39

The Sliders and Hawks enter, press passes hanging around their necks. They have a video camera, still camera, mike, etc. They approach the elevator, where a stern Secret Service man stands guard.

HAWKS

Press briefing... Sagebrush Room.

The Secret Service man checks their press badges, gives them the once-over, lets them get in the elevator.

40 INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

40

The Secret Service men are gone from outside Maggie's door. The elevator opens and Hawks and the Sliders exit, and head up the hallway.

REMBRANDT

Now what? We can't just barge in on the President.

MALLORY

Shouldn't there be Secret Service?

DIANA

Maybe they've already gone to their next stop.

HAWKS

No. The briefing's for real. Let's check these rooms.

They start trying doors. The one to where Maggie was kept opens.

41 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

41

The Sliders and Hawks push open the door to reveal a female figure lying face-down on the floor, apparently dead. She is wearing Maggie's clothes. No one else is around.

MALLORY

Maggie!

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED

41

They cross to her. Mallory turns her over.

DIANA

It's not her.

REMBRANDT

Thank God.

HAWKS

Who is she?

MALLORY

And why is she wearing Maggie's clothes?

DIANA

And who killed her?

A beat as they think that over. Then,

REMBRANDT

If we don't get the hell out of here, they're gonna say we did it.

They exit in a hurry.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. AMBASSADOR HOTEL - NIGHT

42

Maggie, dressed as the Maid, exits the hotel. If nothing else, at least she's out.

MAGGIE

Free at last, free at last....

And she starts down the street.

CUT TO:

43 INT. AMBASSADOR HOTEL - PIERSON'S ROOM - NIGHT

43

Pierson and the First Lady are curled up in bed after having made the beast with two backs.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Mmm... Those sensual massage videos are really paying for themselves.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

Pierson leans toward Mrs. Williams as if to give her a kiss. The mood is broken by the ringing of the phone. Pierson grabs it.

PIERSON

(into phone)  
Pierson... What?!?!? You stupid....  
(to Sela)  
They offed the wrong girl.  
(into phone)  
So where's Beckett?... Look, I don't  
care what it takes, you find her and  
fast, is that clear?

Pierson slams the phone down. Mrs. Williams slips into her robe, gets out of bed, and begins dressing.

PIERSON

I don't believe this.  
(noting her activity)  
What are you doing?

MRS. WILLIAMS

I'm going back to my room. I'm  
beginning to think maybe I didn't  
pick the right man for the job after  
all.

PIERSON

We'll get her, Sela.

As she finishes gathering her things together:

MRS. WILLIAMS

You better pray you're right.

And she gives Pierson a chilling look as she exits his room, slamming the door behind her. Hold on Pierson's concerned look, then:

CUT TO:

44 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

44

Rembrandt, Mallory, Diana and Hawks walking. Fast.

HAWKS

Obviously, whoever shot that woman  
thought she was your friend.

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED

44

REMBRANDT

So, Maggie had to have gotten away,  
right?

HAWKS

Maybe.

DIANA

Either way, she's still in danger.

HAWKS

Maybe they only wanted her for photo  
ops to begin with, but something or  
somebody changed the rules. You  
don't think she was making trouble  
for them, do you?

MALLORY

Our Maggie? No...

REMBRANDT

Well we're not doing her any good  
here. If she got away, she knows  
we'll meet up with her at the  
Chandler.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. CHANDLER HOTEL - NIGHT

45

Mallory, Rembrandt, Diana and Hawks are about to enter.  
Suddenly, from across the street:

MAGGIE (O.C.)

Remmy! Mallory!

The group turns to see:

46 THEIR POINT OF VIEW - MAGGIE

46

sprinting down the sidewalk, about to cross to the hotel.

MALLORY

Maggie!

MAGGIE

Am I glad to see you guys!

47 RESUME SCENE

47

as they start to cross towards one another.

DIANA

You really had us worried, girl!

But before they can rendezvous:

48 A BLACK LIMO

48

comes screeching around the corner, causing our group to retreat back to the sidewalk. The limo pulls up to where Maggie is crossing and the door opens. A Man in Black grabs Maggie, shoves her in the back of the limo, which squeals off into the night.

Our group dashes across the street, but it's too late: the limo is out of sight.

REMBRANDT

Damn!

Diana glances down, spots something.

DIANA

What's that?

Mallory picks it up: It's the Maid's paper cap.

MALLORY

It looks like one of those little hats that maids wear.

HAWKS

Why was she dressed like that?

DIANA

Maybe the Prez gets really turned on by the French maid act.

The others shoot him a look.

REMBRANDT

It's anybody's guess where they're taking her.

DIANA

Or what they're gonna do to her.

CONTINUED

48 CONTINUED

48

HAWKS

If that dead girl at the hotel is any indication, I'd say she's in big trouble.

Mallory's brain gears are spinning, then:

MALLORY

(to Hawks)

Let's go back to your office. I've got an idea.

And on Mallory's pensive expression, we:

CUT TO:

49 INT. HAWKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

49

The group is gathered around the computer area. Hawks is at the keyboard.

HAWKS

Okay. What do you need?

MALLORY

You've got some clear pictures of Maggie stored up, right?

HAWKS

(indicating bank of whirring video machines)

Hundreds of them. All you've gotta do is pick a tape and a frame. But what's the deal?

MALLORY

The deal is fighting fire with fire.

DIANA

Meaning -- ?

MALLORY

Bobby here is going to doctor up some pictures of Maggie and then leak them to the press.

HAWKS

No, he's not.

CONTINUED

49 CONTINUED

49

MALLORY

What do you mean?

HAWKS

If I did that, I'd be just as deceitful as everyone else.

MALLORY

Don't think of it as lowering yourself to their level, think of it as beating them at their own game.

HAWKS

I'm sorry. I'd like to help, but it goes against everything I believe in.

DIANA

You don't believe in helping save a person's life?

MALLORY

You're willing to work to save innocent lives in Switzerland. What about saving an innocent life right here?

Hawks gives this some thought. It's a tough decision. After a few pensive beats, Hawks looks up at Mallory.

HAWKS

What do you want me to do?

The Sliders breathe a sigh of relief.

MALLORY

Great! Okay, first, let's get a good, clean shot of her face.

Hawks starts typing instructions into the machine. The Sliders share a hopeful smile. As Hawks works, Rembrandt looks at one of the TV monitors. He leans over and turns up the volume.

50 ANGLE - TV

50

More news coverage of the scandal.

CONTINUED

50 CONTINUED

50

ANCHOR

We've now learned that the name of the President's mistress is Maggie Beckett. We've tracked down a Maggie Beckett in Pacoima.

Shot changes to a reporter with a mike standing next to a trailer door, inside of which stands this world's Maggie Beckett: Eight months pregnant, looking worn and scruffy, a can of beer in one hand.

ANCHOR'S VOICE

Ms. Beckett, do you have a statement?

MAGGIE DOUBLE

The way I see it, the big guy owes me money. I got three kids, one on the way, and my old man's down in the county lockup.

ANCHOR

So you really did have an affair with the- President?

MAGGIE DOUBLE

Hey, the man has needs.

Remmy reacts to that, and we:

CUT TO:

51 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - NIGHT

51

Present are the President and First Lady, Pierson, and Maggie, who struggles to free herself from the grip of two Men in Black. A muted television is still showing embarrassing photos of the President's affair, but no one's paying any attention.

MAGGIE

Let go of me!!!

The President nods to the Men in Black. They release her. Maggie rubs her sore arms.

MAGGIE

Please, Mr. President! You're a reasonable person. Help me!

Williams is on the spot.

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED

51

WILLIAMS

I'd like to Maggie, but... I'm sorry.  
This thing is out of my hands.

Maggie tries again..

MAGGIE

How can that be? You're the  
President.

All Williams can do is shrug.

MAGGIE

Can't you see that the best thing to  
do would be to come clean about this  
whole setup? The American public can  
be very forgiving if you just tell  
them the truth.

PIERSON

The truth?!? That's a new one!

WILLIAMS

I'm sorry. If there were any way  
around this ---

PIERSON

We can't have you running around  
town, telling everybody about our  
little 'project.'

MAGGIE

What little project?  
(then)  
What else are you covering up?

Pierson and Williams exchange a look.

WILLIAMS

Chuck, isn't there some way we could  
handle this without... you know....

Sela turns to face her husband. She's all-business.

MRS. WILLIAMS

It's either this little whistle-  
blowing tramp or you, Jeff. That's  
the menu, pure and simple. You knew  
going into this you'd have to make  
compromises.

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED (2)

51

WILLIAMS

Compromises are one thing, Sela, but  
murder --

Maggie reacts to that.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Lose the girl or spend the rest of  
your presidency in disgrace, or even  
impeachment.

That word hits Williams hard.

MRS. WILLIAMS

And I have no intention of remaining  
married to an impeached President, I  
can guarantee you that.

Williams looks at his wife as though for the first time.  
Maggie tries appealing to the President again.

MAGGIE

Look, whatever else you may be, I  
can't believe you're a murderer.  
Think about it.

MAGGIE

The news shows are gonna have a field  
day when they find my body. Everyone  
will think you murdered your  
mistress. Impeachment nothing...  
It'll mean prison!

Before Williams can respond:

PIERSON

What makes you think they're going to  
find the body?

Gulp. It doesn't look good for Maggie, who seems to have run  
out of cards as we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 52

The Men in Black advance on Maggie, grab her by the arms.

PIERSON

Use the back exit.

The Men in Black nod, start out. Just then, Williams notices something on TV.

WILLIAMS

Holy...Turn it up!!

Pierson picks up the remote and clicks off the mute button.

53 ANGLE - TV 53

We see a closeup of Maggie's face. Her eyes are closed, her face is bruised, and there is a small trickle of blood out of the corner of her mouth.

ANCHOR

The dead woman has been tentatively identified as Maggie Beckett, the President's mistress, although, at present, officials have only these photos to go by.

54 WIDEN 54

to include the President and the others watching. Another photo comes up, this time of Maggie's entire body, lying lifeless in a field, looking badly roughed up.

MAGGIE

Whoa!

WILLIAMS

Those are obviously phony pictures!

MRS. WILLIAMS

(sarcastic)  
You think so, Sherlock?

The Anchor appears.

CONTINUED

54 CONTINUED

54

ANCHOR

Police say, due to the savagery of the murder, the killer was someone who had strong feelings about the victim. In other words, a crime of passion. The evidence is still coming in, but I'd have to say things don't look good for the President.

55 ANGLE AWAY FROM THE TELEVISION

55

The newscast continues in the b.g. while Pierson and the Williamses, in a panic, scramble to make sense of this. Maggie, too, would like to know what exactly is going on.

WILLIAMS

How can they think I had anything to do with her murder?

MAGGIE

I told you.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Jeff, you idiot, she's not dead... Not yet, anyway.

PIERSON

I think we're going to have to rethink that situation, Mrs. Williams.

MRS. WILLIAMS

What are you talking about?

MAGGIE

(catching on)

If everybody thinks the President murdered me, the only way to clear him is to show the world I'm alive and well.

Pierson's brain gears have been working overtime. Williams looks at him.

PIERSON

Well, as much as I'd like to make Ms. Beckett disappear, I think as long as we keep her from talking, we'll still be in the clear.

Williams is thinking it over.

CONTINUED

55 CONTINUED

55

WILLIAMS

Show everyone that she's alive, that I haven't killed anyone, and let them go on believing the affair is still ongoing?

PIERSON

Exactly. We could actually use this to our advantage.

WILLIAMS

Meaning -- ?

PIERSON

We hold a press conference. Let them pepper you with murder allegations, and then you dramatically produce Ms. Beckett. Seeing the two of you, side by side, will make the affair an even hotter story, especially if the First Lady's there!.

WILLIAMS

It'll certainly help restore my credibility.

MRS. WILLIAMS

And make me look like an even bigger fool for staying with you.

MAGGIE

I like it.

Mrs. Williams shoots Maggie a hateful look. Maggie smiles. She's won.

CUT TO:

56 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL ROOM - DAY (D2)

56

The Sliders and Hawks are following the story on TV.

57 ANGLE - TV

57

ANCHOR

Thus far, there has been no word from the White House, increasing speculation that the President has, indeed, brutally murdered his mistress, Maggie Beckett.

58 RESUME SCENE

58

DIANA  
So far, they're buying it.

MALLORY  
Yeah, Bobby. Good job on those  
photos.

HAWKS  
I just hope I did the right thing.

59 ANGLE - TV

59

The Anchor presses his earpiece, listening intently, then:

ANCHOR  
I'm getting word now that the  
President is scheduled to hold a  
press conference any minute. White  
House sources say he is expected to  
address the murder allegations at  
that time. We'll go there live as  
soon as the President arrives.

60 RESUME SCENE

60

The Sliders look relieved.

MALLORY  
Bingo!

REMBRANDT  
(checking Timer)  
Cuttin' it close.

DIANA  
Let's roll.

They start for the door.

CUT TO:

61 EXT. AMBASSADOR HOTEL - DAY.

61

A throng of people awaits the President's arrival. The  
Sliders and Bobby Hawks arrive, their press passes and  
paraphernalia in hand.

DIANA  
I sure hope Maggie's okay.

CONTINUED

61 CONTINUED

61

The other Sliders nod in agreement.

P.A. VOICE

Ladies and gentlemen, the President  
of the United States.

Despite the overflow crowd, there is only polite applause this  
time -- a far cry from the thunderous response at the  
beginning.

62 ANGLE - THE PLATFORM

62

The President exits the hotel, climbs up the steps of the  
platform, and takes his position behind the podium. Sela  
Williams follows her husband, a brave smile on her face, takes  
a seat behind the President. Immediately, Reporters start  
hitting him with questions.

REPORTER #1

Mr. President! Was it a lovers'  
quarrel?

REPORTER #2

What kind of weapon did you use?

REPORTER #1

Was her death the result of rough sex  
play?

The First Lady feigns shock and embarrassment. Williams holds  
up his hands. A hush falls over the crowd as all eyes and  
cameras are on him. He clears his throat, looks deadly  
serious, and then points his index finger right into the  
cameras.

WILLIAMS

I'm only going to say this once: I  
did not have homicidal relations with  
that woman, Maggie Beckett.

A beat of silence while the crowd absorbs this, then:

REPORTER #1

Did you have someone else kill her  
for you?

REPORTER #2

Did you drive her to take her own  
life?

CONTINUED

62 CONTINUED

62

REPORTER #1

Did the First Lady kill her in a  
jealous rage?

Mrs. Williams is shocked and angered by that last accusation,  
stares daggers at her husband.

63 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE CROWD

63

The Sliders and Hawks exchange looks at the nature of these  
lurid questions.

HAWKS

Look what we started!

Mallory grins at Rembrandt and Diana.

MALLORY

Yeah, we're getting pretty good at  
that.

64 RESUME SCENE

64

REPORTER #1

With all due respect, sir, why should  
we believe you?

Williams holds his hands up again. The crowd quiets.

WILLIAMS

Now that's the first valid question  
I've heard today. Why should you  
believe me? Well, for one thing,  
I've always been honest with the  
American people.

Rumblings of skepticism in the crowd.

WILLIAMS

And for another, Maggie Beckett is not  
dead!

Gasps of "What?" "The pictures!" "How?" etc. Williams gives  
a signal, and Maggie exits the hotel, followed very closely by  
Pierson, who prods her up the steps of the podium, then stands  
just behind her. The crowd cheers wildly: "Yay!" "She's  
alive!" "He was telling the truth!" etc. The First Lady plays  
her part by looking on Maggie disapprovingly. Perhaps she  
dabs a phony tear from her eye. Williams is behaving like a  
magician at the conclusion of a death-defying trick.

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED

64

WILLIAMS

As you can see, she is completely unharmed!

The crowd cheers again.

REPORTER #2

But where did those photos come from?

WILLIAMS

Those photos were faked by some sick prankster in order to embarrass me and make it appear as though Ms. Beckett had been killed. I'm afraid you've all been made the victims of a hoax.

While the crowd is digesting this, a loud voice rises above the rest.

HAWKS

What about the other hoax, Mr. President?!

Williams and Pierson look uncomfortable. There's really no way to ignore him this time, so:

WILLIAMS

Ah, Mr. Hawks, our resident conspiracy theorist. What is it this time? Poisoned water supply? The shadow government? Or maybe we've all been replaced by pods from outer space!

The crowd chuckles. Hawks presses on.

HAWKS

No, Mr. President, I'm talking about the war in Switzerland. I've heard reports we're using an illegal chemical weapon.

WILLIAMS

I never cease to be impressed by your vivid imagination! There is no such weapon.

MALLORY

What about the phony affair with Maggie Beckett?

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED (2)

64

WILLIAMS

As you can see, Ms. Beckett here is quite real.

Maggie seizes the opportunity, dashes over to the mike.

MAGGIE

Yes, but our 'affair' isn't and never has been.

Gasps from the crowd. Williams glares at Pierson. The First Lady doesn't know whether to register shock that the cover has been blown or feign relief that her husband has been faithful, for the sake of the crowd. Pierson starts toward Maggie.

MAGGIE

(to Pierson)

What are you gonna do? Shoot me in front of all these witnesses?

Pierson is on the spot: What can he do? Maggie continues.

MAGGIE

(re: Hawks)

What that man is saying is true! The President has been using me to fool you! He's one to talk about phony pictures. All that footage of our 'affair' was as fake as the pictures of my dead body, and he's known it all along.

The crowd is really buzzing this time. Hawks fairly leaps up the steps of the podium to help her out.

HAWKS

She's right! Williams has sent hundreds of your sons, your brothers, and your husbands to fight an undeclared war with Switzerland.

The First Lady is seething. She glares at Pierson.

MRS. WILLIAMS

Do something!

PIERSON

Like what?

CONTINUED

HAWKS

And he's about to unleash a nerve gas  
that's so horrible, it's been  
declared illegal by international law!

The crowd is horrified. Williams tries to retake the mike.

WILLIAMS

Please! Don't fall for it! This man  
is a crackpot! We all know that!

The crowd reacts: "No!" "Let him speak!" "Sit down!"  
Williams, the First Lady, and Pierson exchange a look, realize  
the jig is up, beat the most dignified retreat they can manage  
back into the Ambassador. Hawks watches them go, feels  
vindicated, breathes a sigh.

Hawks looks over to Maggie, smiles, then turns to the  
reporters.

HAWKS

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude  
to Maggie Beckett and her friends,  
for having risked their lives in  
order to expose the President's  
scheme.

Hawks gestures to Mallory, Remmy and Diana, who ascend the  
podium to the applause of the crowd. Maggie can finally  
embrace her friends, after this short but traumatic separation.

MAGGIE

Am I glad to see you guys!

REMBRANDT

Back at you, Maggie!

Hawks beckons Mallory to say a few words. He steps up to the  
mike.

MALLORY

If Bobby Hawks has a flaw, it's that  
he's too modest. It was his hard  
work that really made it possible for  
the truth to come out. Listen  
carefully to what he's telling you.

The crowd has been chastised. Diana points to the Timer.

DIANA

We've got to go.

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED (4)

64

MALLORY

(to crowd)  
And now, if you'll excuse us, we've  
got to go. We have another  
engagement.

Diana presses the Timer, the Wormhole opens, and the Sliders  
are whisked away.

CUT TO:

65 A NEWSPAPER

65

that comes spinning out at us, like in an old movie. It stops  
and we see that it's The Los Angeles Herald. There is a huge  
banner headline that reads: "STRANGE VISITORS FROM ANOTHER  
WORLD!" Below that, we see a large photo of the Sliders,  
standing on the podium, just as the Wormhole is opening. On  
that image, we:

FADE OUT:

THE END