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"A CURRENT AFFAIR"

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REVISED PAGES

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SLIDERS

"A Current Affair"

TEASER

FADE IN:

- 1 OMITTED 1 (X)
- 1A EXT. CHANDLER HOTEL - DAY (D1) 1A (X)

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. Williams waves and starts off the podium to "press flesh" with the crowd. 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.

CONTINUED

1A CONTINUED 1A

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.

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

2 ANOTHER ANGLE - THE CROWD 2

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 OMITTED 4 (X)

4A EXT. SIDEWALK NEAR AMBASSADOR HOTEL - DAY 4A (X)

Not a soul in sight. Suddenly, the Wormhole opens and the Sliders arrive. Rembrandt checks out where they've landed. The others look up at the hotel. (X) (X) (X)

DIANA

Where are we? (X) (X)

MAGGIE

A hotel we probably can't afford. (X) (X)

CONTINUED

4A CONTINUED

4A

MALLORY

(X)

Shouldn't we be getting Frequent
Slider miles by now?

(X)

Rembrandt rejoins the group.

(X)

REMBRANDT

(X)

(to Diana)
How long have we got?

CONTINUED

4A CONTINUED (2) 4A

Diana checks the Timer.

DIANA

A shade under two days.

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....

Williams, at first starts to pull away, but when he realizes (X)
how beautiful Maggie is, he holds on even tighter. Instantly, (X)
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, "DOES THE PRESIDENT HAVE A (X)
GIRLFRIEND?" Taking up the rest of the front page is a (X)
familiar-looking photo of Maggie and the President, locked in (X)
"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?

MAGGIE

We've only been here a few hours.

(X)

(X)

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 GNN logo

(X)

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED 10

on the wall behind him.

ANCHOR

If you're just joining us, we're bringing you continuing coverage of the President's apparent extra-marital affair. (X)
(X)

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 grabs the remote from Remmy, clicks off the TV, then grabs the newspaper and starts thumbing through it. (X)
(X)

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 marble rye, thousands make pilgrimage.' And this is the Herald!

(X)
(X)

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. There's even a rumor about ethnic cleansing in the French speaking part of the country.

(X)
(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

Ethnic cleansing?

(X)

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, who is sitting in President' Williams' posh suite, along with the President and First Lady, SELA WILLIAMS. They are watching news coverage of "the embrace" on TV. (X) (X)

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, dear, but it's really gotten out of hand. (X)

(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 may be a blessing in disguise. (X)

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.

(X)

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."

(X)

Another woman approaches with a newspaper.

(X)

MALE PASSERBY

(X)

Would you autograph my newspaper?

(X)

(holds up paper)

(X)

Right under the picture of you and

(X)

the President...

(X)

Exasperated, Maggie turns to the other Sliders.

MAGGIE

I'm going back to the hotel.

MALLORY

Sorry....

Maggie ducks the crowd, which disperses. Remmy goes along with Maggie a few feet.

(X)

(X)

REMBRANDT

(X)

I'd better come with you.

(X)

MAGGIE

(X)

No. You guys enjoy yourselves. I

(X)

need to be alone for awhile.

(X)

She starts off. Remmy watches her go, worries, then turns back to the others.

(X)

(X)

Diana and Mallory are waiting in front of a Circuit-City-type store. Every TV in the window is featuring "the embrace." Mallory sees something a short distance away.

(X)

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED (2) 14

MALLORY

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

And Mallory strides off, Rembrandt joins them. (X)

REMBRANDT

Hey, where are you going?

MALLORY

Just having a look around.

He's gone.

DIANA

He's a big boy.

REMBRANDT

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

DIANA

Ah, let him have a good time. (X)

(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. There is a small video establishment: a couple of VCRs, small mixing console -- all part of Hawks' computer set-up. At the terminal, typing away, is Bobby Hawks. His clothes are wrinkled, his hair is uncombed, and he could use a shave. (X) (X) (X)

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.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

Startled, Hawks looks up at Mallory.

HAWKS

You sure you have the right place?

MALLORY

Do you publish The Hawks Report?

HAWKS

Yes.

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?

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED (2)

16

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?

HAWKS

(guardedly)

Well... yeah....

MALLORY

What's the story there?

HAWKS

I thought you said you read my stuff.

(X)

(X)

MALLORY

(covering like a good Slider should)

Whenever I can find it. Otherwise I'm stuck with 'clown news.'

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

Hawks nods and goes on.

(X)

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.

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED (3)

16

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 -- ?

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.

(X)

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?

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED (4)

16

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.

HAWKS

Don't move.

He grabs a notebook and a pen.

CUT TO:

17 INT. CHANDLER HOTEL ROOM - DAY

17

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

MAGGIE

(checks watch)
Guys, I'm going stir crazy.

She points and clicks without looking up. (X)

17A ANGLE ON TV SCRFEEEN

17A (X)

Maggie's point of view. It's a hand-held shot moving toward
a battered looking mobile home. (X)
(X)

ANCHOR'S VOICE

We have a report coming in from Tony (X)
Jacobs on the scene in Pacoima. (X)
White House sources have released the (X)
name of the President's alleged (X)
mystery woman. She is evidently a (X)
Maggie Beckett. And she lives here (X)
in the Southland at the Cajero Mobile (X)
Home Park and Camp Ground. (X)

The camera comes to a stop at the door of the mobile home, and (X)
we see a man's hand knock on the door. (X)

CONTINUED

17A CONTINUED

17A

TONY'S VOICE (X)
Yes, Ann, I'm here in Pacoima at the (X)
address we were given just moments (X)
ago. (X)

The door opens and there is this world's MAGGIE BECKETT. (X)
She's about eight and a half months pregnant, hair in rollers, (X)
garish makeup, a cigarette in one hand, a can of beer in the (X)
other. A man's hand holding a microphone comes into the shot. (X)

MAGGIE (X)
What do you want? Is this some sort (X)
of contest? (X)

TONY'S VOICE (X)
I'm Tony Jacobs of GNN, are you (X)
Maggie Beckett? (X)

MAGGIE (X)
Do I have to buy any magazines? (X)

TONY'S VOICE (X)
No, ma'am. The White House has named (X)
you as the woman currently have an (X)
affair with President Williams. (X)

MAGGIE (X)
The what house? (X)

We hear a dog barking inside the trailer. Maggie leans back (X)
inside to shout. (X)

MAGGIE (X)
Martha Lou put the dog down. (X)
(beat, then) (X)
I know, honey, but he doesn't like the (X)
hat. (X)
(back to camera) (X)
Now, what's this about the President? (X)

TONY'S VOICE (X)
We had some information that you (X)
might be the person having an illicit (X)
affair with the President, but (X)
obviously, you're not the right (X)
Maggie Beckett. This is Tony Jacobs (X)
in Pacoima sending back to GNN (X)
central. (X)

CONTINUED

17A CONTINUED (2)

17A

MAGGIE

Hey, wait a minute. How the hell do
you know I'm not goin' out with him?
It's not like I don't have date, you
know...

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

The camera pulls back away from the mobile home as Maggie
continues to rant.

(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

Come back here... you want a story?
I'll give you a story...

(X)
(X)
(X)

17B BACK TO SCENE

17B (X)

in hotel room as Maggie looks at this coverage in disbelief,
then clicks it off with the remote.

(X)
(X)

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.

CONTINUED

17B CONTINUED

17B

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?

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.

CONTINUED

17B CONTINUED (2)

17B

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 notices the door is slightly ajar. He opens it cautiously, and looks inside. (X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

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

DIANA

Yeah. Like us.

REMBRANDT

Maggie?

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 is at the bar. Rembrandt, and Diana enter and look around for Maggie. She's not there but the TV over the bar is on, as usual. Mallory is watching as Remmy and Diana cross to him.	(X) (X) (X)
20	THEIR POINT OF VIEW - THE BAR'S TV	20
	which, of course, is still showing "the embrace."	
21	RESUME SCENE	21
	Mallory turns to them.	(X)
	MALLORY	(X)
	Any luck?	(X)
	DIANA	(X)
	No. You?	(X)
	MALLORY	
	(shakes his head "no")	(X)
	When did you last see her?	
	REMBRANDT	
	Same time you did when she headed back here.	(X) (X)
	DIANA	
	Where'd you go anyway?	
	MALLORY	
	I hooked up with this guy, Hawks, publishes that paper I found in the room. I told him this whole affair with the President is a fake.	(X) (X)
	DIANA	
	Big deal. Nobody reads him.	(X)
	(to Remmy)	(X)
	What do we do now?	(X)

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

REMBRANDT

Sit tight right here. Slider Rule (X)
No. 2A -- If you don't know what to (X)
do, do nothing, but do it at the (X)
hotel. (X)

(checks timer)

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

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 assistant with a digital (X)
camera. Sela Williams sits off to one side, observing the (X)
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

Want to bet? (X)

WILLIAMS

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

(MORE)

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

(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!

The cameraman fires off a few shots. Then Pierson moves to
them.

(X)
(X)

PIERSON

Okay, we need one on the sofa.

(X)
(X)

Maggie and Williams move to the sofa. Pierson starts to
arrange them side by side.

(X)
(X)

WILLIAMS

I'll be really glad when this is over.

(X)

MAGGIE

Tell me about it.

(X)

The photographer does his thing. Then:

(X)

PIERSON

Okay. We can take a break while we
check out the exposures.

(X)
(X)
(X)

He and the photographer cross and go into the next room.
Maggie and Williams rise. Mrs. Williams, who has been
watching all this comes over to them.

(X)
(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

So -- I guess this isn't easy for
you, either.

(X)

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?

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED (2) 22

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. (X)

MRS. WILLIAMS

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

The First Lady goes into the room where Pierson and the photographer went. Maggie looks at Williams who manages an awkward smile. (X)
(X)
(X)

23 OMITTED 23 (X)

23A INT. ADJOINING ROOM 23A (X)

The photographer is transferring the digital disk to a computer, and we see images on the screen. Pierson watches. Mrs. Williams enters. (X)
(X)
(X)

MRS. WILLIAMS

Smart girl, this Ms. Beckett. (X)
(X)

PIERSON

Yes. Very perceptive. (X)

PIERSON

We may have to keep an eye on her.

They lean down to look at the computer monitor. (X)

24 OMITTED 24 (X)

AND AND

25 25

26 INSERT - SCREEN 26

Their point of view. We see the scene of Williams and Maggie at the table. (X)
(X)

PIERSON (O.C.)

Okay, Mel, do your stuff.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED 26

The technician changes the background so that Maggie and Williams are suddenly at an outdoor cafe in Paris. (X)
(X)

27 RESUME SCENE 27

Pierson looks pleased.

PIERSON

Fine. People will think this has been going on for years. Now let's move on to the gondola plate, then the hot tub. (X)
(X)
(X)

Mrs. Williams is still not sure she likes this, but Pierson clearly does. (X)
(X)

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.

ANCHOR

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

In full color, we see Maggie and Williams. Only now, they appear to be in a hot tub, and they're nude (we only see them from the waist up), with black bars censoring the good parts. (X)
(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT (O.C.)

Hello!

MALLORY

That girl moves fast.

They are mesmerized by the image on the TV. The other patrons have rushed over to look. (X)

DIANA'S VOICE

That could be computer generated, you know.

29 ADJUST ANGLE 29

to reveal Diana has joined them.

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED

29

MALLORY

How do we know it's not for real?

(X)

Rembrandt shoots him a look.

(X)

REMBRANDT

You're the one who told that
newspaper guy the whole thing's a
fake.

(X)

(X)

(X)

MALLORY

(a shrug)
Pretty good fake.

(X)

(X)

(X)

DIANA

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

(X)

(X)

(X)

REMBRANDT

What're we looking at? Secret
Service? FBI? CIA?

(X)

(X)

MALLORY

I think I know a way we can be sure
about that picture.

(X)

(X)

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 hot tub
encounter.

(X)

(X)

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.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

MALLORY

It was worth a shot.

DIANA

Can we blow up the image?

HAWKS

Sure. Of course, that depends if
it's a rasterized image or not. If
it's a bit map like a TIFF, then
it'll get dotty if you blow it.

(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

DIANA

Right. And if it's a J-PEG, it
depends how lossy it is.

(X)
(X)
(X)

Mallory and Rembrandt look at one another.

(X)

REMBRANDT

I think they're in love.

(X)
(X)

Hawks keeps typing instructions.

(X)

HAWKS

We're in luck.

(X)
(X)

DIANA

(to the others)
It's rasterized.

(X)
(X)
(X)

MALLORY

What a relief.

(X)
(X)

DIANA

We could make a billboard out of it
and not lose res.

(X)
(X)
(X)

(then)

Whoa! There! What's that?

(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

The champagne glass.

MALLORY

I see it. A reflection.

(X)

DIANA

Keep going.

(X)
(X)

HAWKS

Sure.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED (2)

30

REMBRANDT

Looks like a table.

DIANA

And something's on it.

HAWKS

Let's take a look.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED (3)

30

Hawks types a few keys. The background boundary is magnified, revealing the table. It enlarges to show what looks like a matchbook. Hawks types. The image focusses more clearly. We can make out an A.H. logo. (X)
(X)
(X)

HAWKS

That's about as close as I can get without losing resolution. It's a matchbook. (X)
(X)

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 some towels there last year. (X)
(a shrug) (X)
Hey, I love on the cheap. (X)

MALLORY

So this was taken at the Ambassador.

HAWKS

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

REMBRANDT

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

MALLORY

She'd never go along with it.

HAWKS

(a shrug)
Is that her in the picture? (X)

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

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED (4)

30

REMBRANDT

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

DIANA

You think she's still at the hotel?

MALLORY

And if she is, how do we get around security? We're talking Secret Service here.

(X)
(X)
(X)

HAWKS

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

(X)

Picks up a piece of paper from his desk.

HAWKS

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

(X)

REMBRANDT

You got any spare credentials?

HAWKS

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

He starts handing out the passes. Remmy takes them, looks them over, gives one to Mallory.

(X)
(X)

REMBRANDT

(to Mallory)
Here, you get to be the assistant.

(X)
(X)
(X)

They start out.

(X)

CUT TO:

31 OMITTED

31 (X)

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

31A

Pierson is on the phone, all business.

CONTINUED

31A CONTINUED

31A

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 sarcastic)

What can the U.N. do about it?
'Deplore our actions?' 'Register deep concern for the tragic consequences?' We can live with that. And let me worry about public opinion. I think we'll be able to keep a lid on things until after the fact...Right.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

And Pierson hangs up, pondering the situation.

The tuxedoed President and Maggie enter. Pierson turns to them.

(X)

(X)

WILLIAMS

They always serve burgundy chicken at these fund-raisers. I hate burgundy chicken. And what's the governor's name again?

(X)

(X)

Maggie would really like to get the hell out of there. The President notices, turns to her.

(X)

(X)

WILLIAMS

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

(X)

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.

CONTINUED

31A CONTINUED (2)

31A

WILLIAMS

No hard feelings, then?

MAGGIE

Well, maybe one or two.

WILLIAMS

I'll send you an autographed picture.
Maybe an ashtray from Air Force One.

The phone rings. Pierson answers.

PIERSON

(into phone)
Yes? Right away.

He hangs up and turns to Williams.

PIERSON

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.

MAGGIE

Forget it, Chuckles. I'm outta here.

CONTINUED

31A CONTINUED (3) 31A

She heads to the door, opens it, and sees two big Secret Service guys block her way. She turns angrily on Pierson, and we: (X) (X) (X)

CUT TO: (X)

32 OMITTED 32 (X)
AND AND
33 33

33A INT. HOTEL BEDROOM - NIGHT 33A (X)

A room somewhere else on the Presidential floor. 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. (X)

MAGGIE

Yes, I'd like an outside line. (beat, then) (X)
What do you mean the Presidential lines are secure? (X)
(a beat, then, worth a try) (X)
Hey, this is the President's girlfriend. (X)
(beat) (X)
Hello? (X)

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.

CONTINUED

34 CONTINUED

34

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.

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 OMITTED

35

35A INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

35A

Maggie is still trying to figure out what to do. The door opens, revealing the MAID, who is being allowed in by one of the Secret Service men. The maid carries a stack of clean towels that partially obscure her face. As soon as the Maid is inside, the door is quickly closed and relocked. Without looking at Maggie, the Maid starts emptying the wastebasket.

(X)

MAID

I'll just be a minute.

MAGGIE

That's okay. I could use the company.

The Maid looks up, her eyes widen.

CONTINUED

35A CONTINUED

35A

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.

MAID

It must be so exciting! What's he like? Very romantic, I bet. I mean he's the most powerful man in the world and all. (X)
(X)
(X)
(X)

Maggie has been staring at the Maid's outfit, getting an idea. (X)

MAGGIE

Yeah, he's quite a guy. (X)

The maid smiles, and we: (X)

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 is carrying a stack of dirty towels which partially obscures 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. (X)
(X)

"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. (X)

CONTINUED

37 CONTINUED

37

KENNEDY

(to one of the men)
Shouldn't you be making your rounds?
I think Shaw and I can handle one
girl. She won't be with us much
longer anyway.

The Secret Service guy moves away up the hall. The other holds the door open for Kennedy to enter Maggie's room.

38 INT. BEDROOM

38

The television is on, still the GNN anchor. It appears that Maggie is sitting on the bed, her back to us and to the door, watching the show.

ANCHOR

(X)

(on television)
DNA results prove beyond doubt that
Thomas Jefferson fathered an
illegitimate child by one of his
slaves. A White House Source says:
that means our current president is
really no better than one of our
founding fathers.

(X)

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 man is waiting outside the door. After a moment, Kennedy comes out of the room where he's just offed "Maggie," closing the door behind him.

KENNEDY

(to the Secret Service man)

Cleanup will be here in five minutes.
Meet them at the service elevator.

The Secret Service man nods and starts off up the hallway. Kennedy pauses for a moment, then starts off in the opposite direction.

40A HALLWAY

40A

As Kennedy goes past, the elevator doors open (a light and sound effect). The Sliders and Hawks exit into the hallway and look around. (X) (X)

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.

CONTINUED

40A CONTINUED

40A

HAWKS

No. They're here somewhere. Hurry,
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!

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.

41A HALLWAY

41A

Hawks and Sliders come out and head for the elevator. The
doors open, they rush inside, the doors close (a light and
sound effect). As they do, the Secret Service man comes
around the corner followed by two paramedics pushing a gurney.

42 OMITTED 42

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

Pierson and the First Lady are curled up in bed wearing robes.

MRS. WILLIAMS

I've always wanted to do this in the
Lincoln bedroom.

(X)
(X)

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.

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.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

MRS. WILLIAMS

I'm not prepared to let you sink my
inept husband because you're even more
inept.

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 OMITTED

44 (X)

44A INT. CHANDLER HOTEL - NIGHT

44A (X)

Rembrandt, Mallory, Diana and Hawks enter and cross to the bar. (X)

HAWKS

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

REMBRANDT

And if Maggie got away she'll come
here. (X)

HAWKS

What if she didn't? (X)

MALLORY

We'll burn that bridge when we get to
it. (X)

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?

REMBRANDT

Our Maggie? No... (X)

They take seats at the bar. Behind them Maggie enters and
calls out to them. (X)

MAGGIE

Hi guys! (X)

Hawks and the Sliders turn toward her. (X)

CONTINUED

44A CONTINUED

44A

REMBRANDT

(X)

I knew she'd make it.

(X)

They rise and start toward her, but before they can meet, two Secret service men burst through the doors, grab Maggie and haul her away. Hawks and the Sliders start running after her.

(X)

(X)

(X)

SLIDERS

Hey...! Leave her alone...!

(X)

They exit the hotel on the run.

(X)

44B EXT. FRONT OF CHANDLER HOTEL - NIGHT

44B (X)

A black car skids to a halt, the back door flies open just in time for the Secret Service guys to force Maggie into the car. Hawks and the Sliders come out of the hotel only to see the car screech away from the curb. They stop on the street and look after the car.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

REMBRANDT

Damn!

MALLORY

(X)

Now what?

(X)

Diana glances down, spots something.

DIANA

What's that?

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

CONTINUED

44B CONTINUED

44B

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.

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:

45 OMITTED
THRU
48

45 (X)
THRU
48

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?

CONTINUED

49 CONTINUED

49

MALLORY

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

CONTINUED

49 CONTINUED (2)

49

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.

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.

DIANA (X)
Yeah...

REMBRANDT (X)
What about saving an innocent life
right here?

CONTINUED

49 CONTINUED (3) 49

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. (X)

50 OMITTED 50 (X)

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 the two Secret Service men. (X)
(X)

MAGGIE

Let go of me!!!

The President nods to the Secret Service men. They release her. Maggie rubs her sore arms. (X)

MAGGIE

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

Williams is on the spot.

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.

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED

51

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.

WILLIAMS

Compromises are one thing, Sela, but murder --

Maggie reacts to that, realizing she has been the indirect cause of it.

(X)
(X)

MAGGIE

(to herself)

The maid.

(X)
(X)
(X)

CONTINUED

51 CONTINUED (2)

51

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 a body?
(a beat, then)
Your taxpayer dollars at work.

(X)

(X)

(X)

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

(X)

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

52 INT. PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 52
Secret Service men advance on Maggie, grab her by the arms. (X)

PIERSON

Tell Kennedy we've got another target (X)
for him. (X)

The Men nod, start out. Just then, Williams notices something (X)
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 momentarily. 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.

(X)

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 OMITTED 61

61A INT. AMBASSADOR BANQUET ROOM 61A

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

CONTINUED

61A CONTINUED

61A

DIANA

I sure hope Maggie's okay.

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 enters the room, 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.

(X)

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. Now listen carefully: I did not have homicidal relations with that woman, Maggie Beckett.

(X)

(X)

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

REPORTER #1

Did you have someone else kill her for you?

CONTINUED

62 CONTINUED

62

REPORTER #2

Did you drive her to take her own
life?

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!

The crowd gasps. The reporters ask: "What about the
picture?" Williams gives a signal, and Maggie enters the
room, followed very closely by Pierson, who prods her up the
steps of the podium, then stands just behind her. The crowd

(X)

(X)

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED

64

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.

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.

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED (2)

64

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?

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! And, most horrible of all, a young woman who worked in this hotel was murdered when they thought she was me. An innocent person is dead because of all this. And more will die in a needless war.

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

(X)

The crowd is really buzzing this time. Hawks comes to the foot of the podium. The Secret Service men move forward, but Williams, not wanting a scene, stops them.

(X)

The First Lady is seething. She glares at Pierson.

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED (3)

64

MRS. WILLIAMS

Do something!

PIERSON

Like what?

REMBRANDT

Bobby Hawks is right! The President
is about to unleash a nerve gas that's
so horrible, it's been declared
illegal by international law!

(X)

(X)

(X)

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

WILLIAMS

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

(X)

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!

(X)

CONTINUED

64 CONTINUED (4) 64

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

DIANA

We've got to go.

MALLORY

(to crowd)

And now, if you'll excuse us. We
have another engagement.

(X)

(X)

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