

**CORDON**

"Pilot"

Adapted for American Television by

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My So-Called Company  
Warner Bros Television

"Cordon"

TEASER/ACT ONE

A TIGHT SPACE.

Pitch black and deadly quiet. A CHYRON tells us it's **DAY 15**.

Slowly, the sound of HEAVY BREATHING creeps in. Nervous.

A LIGHT appears. The illuminated screen of a CELL PHONE held by GLOVED HANDS. 11:59am. The light lets us see details:

A NATIONAL GUARD logo. A GUN BELT. Heavy BOOTS. A BILLY CLUB.

And then, the face of the MAN holding the phone. Heavily veiled in RIOT GEAR. Helmet, plexi face-guard. Behind the mask, the EYES of the GUARD behind it. Darting. Anxious.

He gives a quiet SIGNAL. His light swings around to reveal:

TWENTY other GUARDSMEN in full RIOT gear. They're inside a sealed FREIGHT CONTAINER. Awaiting the signal. Hands on guns. This isn't an operation that any of them want to be doing.

Finally, the lead officer drops the signal and they BURST into action, throwing open the door at the long end of the container. DAYLIGHT floods in, illuminating --

TOTAL CHAOS outside the door. A city street. DOZENS of people running, SCREAMING. Something awful is happening out there.

The officers stream out. As they work their way into the fray with their riot shields, trying to subdue the crowd, we catch glimpses that are both mysterious and terrifying.

-- A YOUNG PREGNANT GIRL (TERESA) begging to be let through as she struggles against the crowd, getting knocked down.

-- A MOTORCYCLE tears around terrorizing pedestrians, nearly mowing down an elderly man, (BERT). The rider wears a creepy HALLOWEEN MASK over his face.

-- Other COPS, in handmade protective gear. Goggles. Hospital gloves. Scarves cover mouths as they attempt crowd control.

-- MEDICAL WORKERS in HAZMAT GEAR move through the street.

-- A dead man BURNS in the street as his wife WAILS.

CONTINUED:

-- A PERSON, face covered in sweat, blood dripping from their nose, makes a sickly run through the crowd, getting closer and closer to the container until a SHOT is fired by a skittish Guardsman. The person DROPS. More SCREAMING.

-- A young woman (KATIE, 28) emerges from the crowd carrying a semi-conscious 11 year-old GIRL. Her face ravaged by fear and despair. Blood drips from an open wound on her temple.

KATIE

Help me! Please, I need help --

The last of the Guards exits the container. He SLAMS the door closed and we lose sight of Katie before she gets the help she so desperately needs as we finally, blissfully --

SMASH TO BLACK.

**TITLE CARD: CORDON**

A CHEERY VOICE interrupts the silence.

NEWSANCHOR (PRELAP)

Good morning, Atlanta.

EXT. ATLANTA - AERIALS - DAY

The VOICE greets us over aerial shots of ATLANTA, GA. The Aquarium. Coca-Cola. The Georgia Dome. It's just another day in the city.

CHYRON: **DAY ONE.**

NEWSANCHOR (V.O.)

It's another hot one, with temperatures expected to remain in the 80's all week. Great news for this weekend's annual Great Atlanta Beer Fest in Turner Park, which got rained out last fall...

EXT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL/INT. BUS - DAY

A SCHOOL BUS is double-parked outside on the busy city street. The BUS DRIVER honks at a CARGO VAN. Impatient.

BUS DRIVER

Get outta the way --

The young woman from the opening, KATIE FRANK, a fresh-faced SCHOOLTEACHER, tries to wrangle fifteen noisy FIFTH GRADERS as she moves up the aisle. She's vibrant. Healthy, if not a little scattered amidst the chaos of the kids.

CONTINUED:

KATIE

C'mon guys. Settle. Britney --

She wags her finger at BRITNEY (11), who is chowing down on a candy bar. Katie is sweet but stern.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Everyone remember, we're visitors.  
Quentin, are you allowed to do that  
at home?

She knocks his legs off a seat. QUENTIN grins at her, but complies. She approaches the driver.

KATIE (CONT'D)

We can walk the rest of the way.

He opens the door. As she shuttles the kids off, she counts.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Five, six... let's go, wait for me.

EXT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - DAY

ECU: Rats walk all over each other in a cage.

Katie catches up to her students, who curiously gawk at cages and cages of RATS as BERT (65) unloads them from the van. Astute eyes will recognize Bert as the old man in the teaser.

KATIE

I said wait --

She spots the sign EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL and realizes they're at the wrong entrance. Calls to Bert --

KATIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me, sir, can you point me to  
the main entrance?

BERT

Just around the corner.

THOMAS (11) and Quentin are fascinated by the rodents.

THOMAS

Why are you bringing rats here?

BERT

Because rats help doctors fight  
diseases.

CONTINUED:

BRITNEY

Duh, Thomas, lab rats? Hello?

KATIE

Enough with the rats.

She pushes them into a line, two-by-two. Finally pulling Quentin away from the cages.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Quentin. Don't make me yell.

As they move off, a second look at the hospital sign makes us notice it more: EMORY HOSPITAL **INFECTIOUS DISEASE CENTER**.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNIT - DAY

A RED-HEADED DOCTOR, DR. RITA HAMEL (38) sits alone in a sealed off contagion room. Coughing. Chills. Runny eyes.

Another doctor, DR. CANNERTS (55, austere, calm but focused), interviews her through a speaker system.

DR. CANNERTS

You understand the precautions we need to take, Dr. Hamel?

DR. HAMEL

Yeah. I got it.

DR. CANNERTS

Tell me one more time.

DR. HAMEL

I had just started rounds. The first patient was moved to radiology before I saw her. The second was asleep, we had no contact. The third was the Syrian kid. He presented with flu-like symptoms. I put him on an I/V drip.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - DAY

*Dr. Hamel tends to a 19 year-old Syrian patient, SAYID. Stethoscope to the lungs. Thermometer. Sayid looks miserably sick. A family member, ADNAN (20's) keeps a watchful eye.*

*Dr. Hamel touches Sayid's shoulder lightly with her gloved hand. Comforting. RESUME:*

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNIT - DAY

DR. HAMEL

I had no direct exposure, Dr. Cannerts. I followed protocol.

DR. CANNERTS

Are you certain?

DR. HAMEL

I think so. Yes.

She SNEEZES. Falls into a coughing fit. Cannerts stares at her through the glass. Concerned. She continues, head foggy.

DR. HAMEL (CONT'D)

When I went back to look in on him, he was gone. I tracked him down, tried to convince him to stay for observation. He didn't speak much English, but his friend said he wanted to go home. He signed out AMA. The address is on the chart.

A beat as something occurs to her.

DR. HAMEL (CONT'D)

The chart.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE - DAY

*From the POV of a security surveillance cam, we see the lobby of Emory Midtown Hospital. Sayid and Adnan move through the lobby. Sayid COUGHS suddenly, spasming, causing him to drop a RED BAG he's carrying as he coughs into his hands.*

*His companion ADNAN, picks up the red bag as Dr. Rita Hamel catches up to them. They exchange a few words, and then Sayid signs a chart she holds out for him. He hands back her pen, which she slides into the pocket of her lab coat. RESUME:*

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNIT - DAY

Dr. Hamel places her PEN into a sealed bag. Slides it wordlessly into a transfer window for Dr. Cannerts. He dons MEDICAL GLOVES as he removes it.

EXT. ATLANTA - AERIALS - DAY

More city views. High-rises. Parks. Train tracks. Townhouses.

INT. JANA'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

A striking young woman, JANA (30), casts half a glance at her television as the NEWS delivers a mundane report. A scrolling TWITTER FEED runs underneath the ANCHOR.

Jana is an exceptionally bright person whose personal baggage means she's her own worst enemy. Not to be messed with, right now she's struggling with *actual* baggage, and packing tape is her enemy as she seals a box amidst a sea of other boxes and suitcases. She swears to herself, chucking the tape aside. Sitting, rubbing her temples. Sweat BEADS on her forehead.

LEX (O.S.)

Jana?

LEX (35) enters her apartment in an ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT MAJOR'S UNIFORM. Handsome, rugged everyman. Big-hearted but tough. Every day on the job is a struggle to balance his sense of compassion with the law. Sometimes he loses.

LEX (CONT'D)

Hey, sorry I'm late, Jake couldn't fit the moving van into the underground garage, so we -  
(noticing her)  
What's wrong?

She looks up at him. A half smile.

JANA

I'm fine. Moving sucks.

He leans, kissing her. ECU as his lips meet her forehead. It's clammy.

LEX

Are you coming down with something?

He puts his hand on her brow, worried. She looks up at him. He reacts. He knows this look all too well.

LEX (CONT'D)

Uh-uh, no. Not again.

JANA

(knows where he's going)  
I'm fine, Lex.

LEX

You're not fine, you're having one of your...things. Your moments.

CONTINUED:

JANA

It's just a little panic. Nothing to get worked up about.

Lex reacts, *nothing to get worked up about?*

LEX

The day you're supposed to move in with me...

JANA

I know --

LEX

After three years --

JANA

I know, Lex.

LEX

Two failed attempts --

JANA

It's just a lot to --

LEX

You're not even done packing. I have Jake outside waiting to help me move you. Jake.

(exasperated)

I thought you were sure. I asked you a hundred times: are you sure??

She stares at him. Pauses a beat too long before she finally smiles, shaking it off.

JANA

Hey, I'm sorry. I was just having a moment. You know I love you.

(she kisses him)

It was just a dumb moment of doubt. You know what those are like.

LEX

No. I don't. Because I don't have any. You're either sure or you're not, Jana.

(digging in)

Jana?

EXT. JANA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Lex storms out of the building. Passes his buddy JAKE (32, COP UNIFORM, a rule-breaker with dimples that get him in and out of trouble) at the truck. Drinking a coffee.

LEX  
Let's go. She's not coming.

JAKE  
She's not coming?

LEX  
She's not moving, Jake.

Trying to contain his anger, Lex starts closing up the truck. Jake chucks his coffee, approaches his friend.

JAKE  
Want me to go up and talk to her?

LEX  
That's pretty much the last thing I want.

His phone RINGS. He quickly grabs it, then sees the caller ID. Work. He answers it brusquely.

LEX (CONT'D)  
Callahan. Yeah. A what? Okay, yeah.  
I'll be there.  
(hanging up)  
We gotta go. I have a briefing.

JAKE  
For what?

LEX  
Some Health Department thing, I don't know.

Lex jumps inside the van, starting it up. Jake looks up towards Jana's window. Mumbles to himself.

JAKE  
Jana, you gotta be kidding me.

As Jake hops into the passenger side of the van...

EXT. GEORGIA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - DAY

A **CHYRON** tells us where we are for each new location.

INT. GEORGIA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - DAY

A BRIEFING is in progress as Lex squeezes in the back next to POLICE CHIEF BESSER(50). He eyes the group. Quietly --

LEX

What's going on, Chief?

CHIEF BESSER

Possible flu outbreak.

UP FRONT, a smattering of HEALTH OFFICIALS. Other COPS.

STATE OFFICIAL

We have state and local officials present. Still waiting on Federal. Dr. Cannerts is here from the CDC.

Lex mutters to the Chief, suspicious --

LEX

Lotta important people in here just to talk about flu shots...

Dr. Cannerts speaks to the room via SKYPE.

DR. CANNERTS

I've emailed you the security footage showing the young Middle Eastern man in question.

As he continues, SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE of Sayid in the lobby of Emory Hospital appears on a screen. Lex eyes it.

DR. CANNERTS (CONT'D)

We checked his hospital registration info, his address and insurance info are fraudulent, which is to be expected if he's illegal. He's contagious. Chief Besser, we need local police to pick him up.

CHIEF BESSER

We're here.

(re: Lex)

This is Major Alex Carnahan from Zone 6. He'll be running point.

COP #1

Then maybe he oughta get on it before some kid from the Middle East gives us all the plague.

CONTINUED:

LEX

We'll get it done, Billy. So watch your tone. Unless you're still pissed we got the drop on your D by 24 in last week's game.

Scattered laughter. It's clear Lex is well liked.

LOMMERS (V.O.)

I'm glad we're all having such a good time.

Lex turns to see SABINE LOMMERS (50) enter. Brilliant and poised. Borderline severe. The Chief mutters to Lex.

CHIEF BESSER

The Feds are here.

Lommers introduces herself to Lex.

LOMMERS

Sabine Lommers, Health and Human Services. I'm not going to shake your hand, nothing personal.

(taking charge)

Do we have GEMA present? EIS? CDC?

As each group identifies itself, she continues.

LOMMERS (CONT'D)

Most of you don't know me, but the fact that I'm here should have you very worried, because I don't get called in until things get bad. What did they tell you already, flu outbreak? Well that's about the understatement of the century, so let's get started.

Lex watches as she continues. Suddenly at full alert.

EXT./INT. GROCERY MART - DAY

Jana expertly rides a bike through the city. Lost in thought. Following her usual route. Music blasts through her earbuds.

She rides past a small GROCERY MART. A heavily pregnant teenager, TERESA, 17, cleans the glass door. We've seen her before, being knocked around in the chaos of the teaser.

STAY with Teresa as she enters the store, passing the COUNTER, where LEANNE (40, harried and hardened) works.

CONTINUED:

TERESA

Mom, I have to --

She gestures to her belly. She has to pee.

LEANNE

Take your fifteen.

TERESA

You're making me take a break  
because I have to pee?

LEANNE

I'm making you take a break because  
it'll take you that long to mosey  
your way back up here after you've  
sent 20 texts to your boyfriend.

Leanne is terse. There's tension there. As Teresa heads off --

LEANNE (CONT'D)

Teresa. Your dad wants you for  
inventory at one. And you have your  
appointment at the adoption agency  
at 4pm.

TERESA

No, ma, I have your appointment.

Teresa heads into the back of the store, irritated. CUT TO:

EXT. GROCERY MART - BACK ALLEY - DAY

Teresa quietly sneaks out the alley door of the market. She  
smiles. Her boyfriend, XANDER (18) is there. A little rough  
around the edges, but likeable and sincere.

TERESA

You shouldn't be here. My mom's  
already in a mood.

XANDER

Had to check on my girls.

He gives her a long kiss. One hand on her belly.

XANDER (CONT'D)

We're set for the 1:30 to Macon. My  
ma has a doc she wants you to see.

TERESA

That's nice, because mine's got  
adoption agencies on speed dial.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

TERESA (CONT'D)

(then, remembering)

Can you push it to the 3? I have to help my dad. He'll know if I bail.

XANDER

You're running away with me. They're gonna notice eventually.

TERESA

Yeah, but a head start wouldn't suck.

XANDER

Fine. 3 o'clock.

(then)

Oh, and my mom said she might have an opening in the complex she manages, said we could live there with the baby.

TERESA

Why is your mom being so nice about all this?

XANDER

Probably 'cause yours isn't. See you at 3.

Another sweet kiss goodbye and he's off...

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE of Sayid in the lobby of Emory Hospital. Lex eyes it. Listening as Dr. Cannerts speaks via SKYPE.

DR. CANNERTS

The young man presented with swollen glands, fever and cough. DR. RITA HAMEL was the attending on rounds. Within sixteen hours, Dr. Hamel became symptomatic.

This gets Lex's attention. An ID picture of DR. HAMEL is uploaded. She smiles brightly at the camera. FLASH TO:

INT. SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE - DAY

*Dr. Hamel paces in her cell. She looks like hell.*

LOMMERS (PRELAP)

Dr. Cannerts, is it your belief that he is patient zero?

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

LEX  
(quietly, to Besser)  
Patient zero? For a flu?

DR. CANNERTS  
We had no indications of the virus prior to their contact. Since then, there are three more symptomatic patients. Two NURSES and Dr. Hamel's boyfriend. Each can trace their exposure back to Dr. Hamel.

CHIEF BESSER  
Why are we just hearing about this?

LOMMERS  
Local police are brought into the loop at such time as protocol dictates, Chief. Dr. Cannerts, what do you advise?

DR. CANNERTS  
We should contain the hospital while we confirm that the Syrian man is in fact the initial carrier. The faster we trace the virus back to its initial origins, the faster we can get it contained.

LEX  
What is it?

DR. CANNERTS  
I'm sorry?

LEX  
I came in late, sorry, I missed the round-up. What's the virus?

A tense beat.

DR. CANNERTS  
That's part of the problem, Major. It's not currently presenting as anything we can identify.

*FLASH TO: DR. HAMEL starts to COUGH UP BLOOD. Delirious. Two DOCTORS in infection suits run in to calm her. She falls, convulsing, as blood STREAMS from her mouth and nose...*

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - DAY

A DAILY NEWS SHOW airs in a room. An ordinary news day. The sound of KIDS SINGING floats down the hallway as we find --

Katie standing at the door of a community room while her students sing for elderly PATIENTS. She watches them for a beat. She smiles, finally relaxing.

A handsome DOCTOR IN SCRUBS (30's) approaches her. This is DR. BOBBY WALKER. The kind of guy who sleeps with the nurses.

DR. BOBBY WALKER

Cute kids.

KATIE

They're monsters. But they're mine.  
From 8-4, anyway.

DR. BOBBY WALKER

Lucky them.

He's flirting. She's flustered by it.

KATIE

I was supposed to meet Dr. Hamel?  
She was going to give them a tour.

DR. BOBBY WALKER

She's MIA. You get me instead.  
I'm Bobby. Dr. Walker.

She nods, not making eye contact. This is a girl who either doesn't know how to flirt or wants nothing of it.

KATIE

How does a doctor go MIA in a  
hospital?

DR. BOBBY WALKER

Beats me.

INT. HOSPITAL - SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE - DAY

*CLOSE ON DR. HAMEL, who lies still on the floor of her room. Covered in blood. Breath coming in short, tragic gasps. As she suffers in lonely silence...*

EXT. POLICE STATION - BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Jake and a group of t-shirt clad COPS play a pick-up game. SWEAT FLIES in tiny beads across the players. Jake SCORES, grins, talking shit. He taps out, pulling his phone out.

INTERCUT:

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Jana chains up her bike in a dark parking garage. A private ELEVATOR nearby. She checks her caller ID. Sighs. Answers.

JANA

What.

JAKE

Don't 'what' me. You know what.

JANA

Is he mad?

JAKE

Yeah, he's mad, Jana. You can't string him along like you do.

JANA

I had a moment of indecision. He's the one who walked out.

JAKE

The guys had an over-under on how long it would take before you freaked and pulled the plug.

JANA

The guys need to mind their own business. And I don't string. I had a panic attack. It happens.

She punches a private code into the elevator panel. It opens.

JAKE

I know relationship stuff isn't easy for you, but --

JANA

Just because you dated me for five minutes doesn't make you an expert.

CONTINUED:

JAKE

The fact that you dumped my ass  
after five minutes kinda makes my  
case for me, don't ya think?

JANA

Look, I'm at work --

JAKE

You guys are it, Jana. You two have  
that thing that we all want. And  
everyone seems to know it but you.

JANA

I know it, of course I know it.

JAKE

Then do a better job of showing it.

JANA

In the elevator. Gotta go.

CLICK. She hangs up on him. Off her frustration, we go...

BACK WITH JAKE as he hangs up, annoyed. He turns to find LEX  
standing there with another COP, Officer WALDEN (40).

JAKE

Lex. Hey.

LEX

Who was that?

Beat. Jake opts for a version of the truth.

JAKE

Jana. I was bitching at her about  
the wasted van rental.

Lex holds Jake's gaze a beat. Assessing. Then --

LEX

Listen, there's a Syrian kid who  
needs to be picked up for  
questioning. I'll call you with  
details. Jake, you'll run point.

WALDEN

I thought I was running point.

LEX

I changed my mind.

CONTINUED: (2)

WALDEN

Is this because I took the 'under'  
on Jana?

JAKE

Shut it, Walden.

WALDEN

Who's sending us in, CIA? Homeland?

LEX

That's none of your business, you  
racist. Like my relationship.

As he walks off...

INT. F-TRON DATA RECOVERY - LOBBY VESTIBULE - DAY

Jana walks up to the front window of her workplace - a data  
recovery company. The rooms are cold, sterile, and sanitized.  
She knocks on the window.

The entrance is separated from reception by an Access Control  
Vestibule (aka "mantrap"). The Receptionist, SUZY (30), opens  
a window. Suzy is funny and feisty, Jana's best friend.

SUZY

Thought you had the day off?

JANA

Jerry Blanchard's fried motherboard  
was calling out to me.

SUZY

Did the move go okay?

Jana puts her belongings through the window. Doesn't respond.

SUZY (CONT'D)

Ahh, Jana, again?

JANA

I had a moment of doubt.

SUZY

Your life is a moment of doubts.

JANA

Thanks. Great pep talk.

She steps through the metal detector. As she does, her phone  
(which Suzy now has) starts ringing.

CONTINUED:

SUZY  
Your cell phone --

JANA  
Leave it.

SUZY  
It's Lex.

JANA  
Don't. I'm not kidding.

SUZY  
(pretending she'll answer)  
Poor Lex. Just a guy who loves a  
girl who loves to leave.

JANA  
Suzy, I swear to god --

The phone stops RINGING. Suzy opens the door to the mantrap,  
finally allowing Jana passage.

SUZY  
You know they have therapy for this  
kind of stuff, right?

JANA  
Who needs that when I've got you?

She leans over and SMOOCHES Suzy's head. Suzy waves her off.

SUZY  
Eh, germs --

Jana kisses her all over her face. This is their thing.

SUZY (CONT'D)  
Stop it --!

Jana moves on, passing a co-worker, DENNIS (35).

DENNIS  
Hey, Jana. McKinley Research is  
sending over their central  
processor today. Someone dumped  
coffee all over it.

JANA  
Can't wait, Dennis.

She keeps moving. Outside the windows of the high-rise  
office, we see EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL.

INT. POLICE STATION - DESK - DAY

Jake sits at his desk on his phone. His computer plays city surveillance footage of outside the hospital.

JAKE

Yeah, they sent the traffic feed.

*Sayid comes out of the hospital with Adnan. An old NISSAN comes driving up. Sayid gets in. FREEZE on the license plate.*

JAKE (CONT'D)

I'll get the address.

EXT. GEORGIA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT - DAY

Lex exits the building, on the phone with Jake.

LEX

You know the drill. Health EIS officers will meet you there.

JAKE

Please tell me this isn't some kind of Ebola thing.

LEX

It's not Ebola. They don't know what it is.

JAKE

No cause for concern there. You coming?

LEX

Can't. I'm headed to the CDC. The Feds want to talk to me.

JAKE

Why?

LEX

I dunno. I was kind of joking around in the briefing earlier. Probably wanna put me in my place.

Jake scrolls through the footage. Notices the RED SATCHEL in Sayid's hands. Freezes the image. ENLARGES IT. Curious.

LEX (CONT'D)

Listen. I don't know where Jana is.

CONTINUED:

JAKE

She's fine. She's at work.

LEX

Happy she's answering one of our calls. Be happier if it was mine.

JAKE

She's just being Jana, man. She'll come around.

LEX

Yeah, well maybe this time I won't.

JAKE

You want me to call bull on that or you wanna call it on yourself?

(then)

I gotta go. Keep me posted on the mystery flu.

EXT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - DAY

Katie has successfully wrangled the kids back on the bus.

KATIE

Thirteen, fourteen, fifteen. Okay, we're all here.

Britney SNEEZES. ECU on her hands as she wipes her nose.

BUS DRIVER

It's her hay fever. Here.

He pulls out a kleenex pack from his pocket. Katie passes it back. The driver starts up the bus, when --

DR. BOBBY WALKER (O.S.)

Hey, stop! STOP!

Two SECURITY GUARDS bang on the door. Dr. Walker BOARDS the bus as the doors HISS OPEN.

DR. BOBBY WALKER (CONT'D)

Excuse me, I'm sorry, but I have to ask you all to come back in.

KATIE

We're already late --

CONTINUED:

DR. BOBBY WALKER  
I know. But I can't let you go.  
Please. We'll explain once  
everyone's back inside.

KATIE  
(disturbed, hiding it)  
You heard the doctor. Looks like  
our field trip has been extended.

The kids, sensing trouble, exit much more orderly this time.  
The bus driver holds his hand out, stopping Britney.

DR. BOBBY WALKER  
You too, sir.

The Driver reacts in surprise, then concern, as he unbuckles.

QUENTIN  
Mom...

KATIE  
Quentin, stay with me.

She's not just his teacher, she's his mother. She reaches for  
his hand, when Bobby STOPS HER.

DR. BOBBY WALKER  
It's better if you don't touch.

Katie looks at him. His face is anxious. All traces of his  
earlier charisma gone. As she lets the kids get led off...

EXT. CDC - DAY

Lex sits on a bench on the campus of the Center for Disease  
Control. He absentmindedly toys with his phone. Pulls up  
JANA. Decides against dialing.

Sabine Lommers sits down next to him.

LOMMERS  
Major Carnahan. Thank you for  
meeting me.

LEX  
You can call me Lex. You seem  
important enough.

LOMMERS  
I certainly act like it, don't I?  
(a disarming smile)  
Lex.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

LOMMERS (CONT'D)

I asked for you because you strike me as someone who could be a benefit in this situation. People seem to like you, and I need that.

LEX

Why?

LOMMERS

Because things are about to get messier. We just locked down a hospital. There will be anxiety. Unrest. Situations like this are made or broken by the civilians' response to authority. I need someone on the street who can keep people calm.

Lex eyes her. Gauging her level of bullshit.

LEX

No offense, Ms. Lommers --

LOMMERS

Sabine. Please.

LEX

Sabine. Keeping people calm is my job. So I'm not so sure what you're asking here.

LOMMERS

There are gonna be a lot of opinions flying around. The CDC, their credibility took a few hits during the Ebola thing. Social media will break this story before we do, and then once the press gets a hold of it, well, we'll need a face, a man of the people. Someone they inherently want to trust.

Lex eyes her. Suspicion nagging at him.

LEX

Lemme ask you a question. This kid, if he wasn't Middle Eastern, would we be taking all these precautions? Because if you want me out there as the 'man of the people', that's the kind of thing they're gonna wanna know.

CONTINUED: (2)

LOMMERS

It's because he's Syrian that there's an elevated concern about bio-terrorism, yes.

(then)

I recognize that there's a lot happening behind closed doors here, Lex. But if I can count on you, your access will grow in direct proportion to your cooperation.

LEX

Sounds like a bribe.

LOMMERS

It's an incentive. No one likes to be the one left in the dark.

She talks a good game, but something isn't sitting right.

LEX

I've been doing this job for twelve years. The reason people like me is 'cause I'm fair, I'm honest, and I got a great jump shot. I won't lie to them.

LOMMERS

I'm not asking you to lie. I'm asking you to be on my side. Represent my message.

LEX

Is your message the truth?

LOMMERS

It's what's in the best interest of the public to hear.

LEX

*(that's what I thought)*

Yeah. Well, you should find yourself another mouthpiece.

He stands, ready to walk away, but she stops him. An edge.

LOMMERS

I've been doing my job as long as you've been doing yours. I've seen smallpox scares, SARS panic, West Nile. Most are news for a day, a week, maybe, until people find a Kardashian to distract them.

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (3)

LOMMERS (CONT'D)

But I've never seen anything like this virus before. How we handle it, how we handle ourselves, will determine whether or not we survive it. So think about this while you're sitting up there on your moral high horse: if we blow this, it's not just a hospital in your little corner of Atlanta that's in jeopardy. It's global.

Warning delivered, she walks off, leaving him troubled.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. F-TRON DATA RECOVERY - DAY

Jana rips open the plastic on packaged DISPOSABLE COVERALLS outside a 'clean room'. Suzy still has her phone.

SUZY

I don't get why you'd let him go.

JANA

I'm not letting him go.

SUZY

Yeah, ten missed calls? You're on the run, Jana. Like Julia Roberts in that wedding movie.

JANA

It was perfect the way it was. Why mess it up by living together?

SUZY

It's called commitment.

JANA

You should talk. I saw you flirting with Dennis in the lunchroom. Think his wife believes in commitment?

Jana finishes covering herself in the protective gear, heads for a hermetically sealed work space.

SUZY

I didn't say you should be like me.

JANA

Then why give me a hard time?

She hits a button. The outer door slides open. She steps inside another mantrap and the door closes behind her. Small nozzles spray her down with air from head to toe.

SUZY

Because I know your game. Just like in the group homes. Don't get too close because they're either gonna give you the boot, or you're gonna get taken away. Our crap-ass childhoods play out in every relationship you've ever had. Jake, I got. He had his own stuff. But Lex, he's a good one.

CONTINUED:

Jana steps into the bare cleanroom. A LAPTOP lies on the table, its motherboard separated. Tools next to it. As Jana heads for it, A TAP on the window.

JANA  
Suzy, honestly --

She looks up to see Suzy holding up her cell to the glass window. LEX is calling again.

SUZY  
Wanna make it eleven?

Jana stares down at her newly sanitized uniform. Sighs.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. CDC CAMPUS/INT. F-TRON DATA RECOVERY - DAY

Lex is outside, stealing a private moment on the phone. It RINGS and RINGS. He paces. Ready to give up, when --

JANA (FILTERED)  
Hi.

A dozen emotions cross his face. Relief. Frustration. Worry.

LEX  
Hey...

He exhales. Now that he has her, he doesn't know what to say. Finally Jana speaks. She's outside the clean room. Stripping off her sanitized gloves.

JANA  
So. I'm a jerk, huh.

LEX  
I didn't mean to get so angry --

JANA  
It's okay. I would've too, in your shoes.

LEX  
I just...I love you. Too much, I guess.

On her end, she smiles. She loves him too.

JANA  
No such thing. I just need to learn how to let you, you know?

CONTINUED:

There's so much to say, but also --

LEX

Listen, there's some stuff going on by your neighborhood. A possible outbreak. The stuff they're saying, I don't like it. I think you should stay with me in Edgewood until they get it sorted out.

JANA

I haven't heard anything about it --

LEX

You will. The media will be all over it soon. I'm breaking a hundred rules by talking to you, but it's a little too close to home, ya know? I kinda want you outta there.

Jana listens intently. Then, finally, smiling.

JANA

You unleashed a virus to get me to move in with you?

LEX

Hah. Yeah. Clever bastard, huh?

JANA

Yeah, okay. I'll go to your place.

LEX

You will?

JANA

I will. I love you. I'll go.

A smile breaks across his face.

LEX

Good.  
(very happy)  
Good.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - LOWER LEVEL - DAY

An abandoned wing of the hospital. Storage, decaying old exam rooms, etc. Katie's STUDENTS run around. She's on the phone.

CONTINUED:

KATIE

A potential exposure, that's all they said. Britney had the sniffles, so they took her for observation, but her mom's boyfriend -- the bus driver, yeah -- said she's got hay fever. They said to keep everyone 4-6 feet apart.

(as a kid runs by her)

Owen, no running -- you guys, settle down, I'm talking to Principal Watkins. Owen, no touching either.

She passes BERT (the rat man), who is also on the phone.

BERT

It should just be a few more hours. But I won't be able to make Micheline lunch. Could you help?

EXT. ATLANTA - STREETS - DAY

Teresa heads for the metro station as she talks. She sighs.

TERESA

Did you try to call my mom?

INTERCUT:

BERT

She's busy at the store, she said.

TERESA

Too busy to feed her elderly mother? Classy.

BERT

Teresa. We both know your mama's missin' a chip where those things are concerned. But help an old man out, okay, my sweet princessa?

Teresa sighs. Eyes the time on her phone.

TERESA

Sure, Grandpa. I'll handle it.

She hangs up, texting XANDER. "Got delayed. You go ahead. I'll catch the 5:30. Love you." As she walks, she passes:

JAKE. Coming around the edge of a black CARGO VAN. He opens the doors. SIX MEN in full tac-gear are huddled inside.

CONTINUED:

JAKE

The doctors told Lex it only seems to be spread through fluids. Blood, sweat, semen, urine. Put gloves on and lower your visor. Don't touch them if you can help it.

All of the men put on gloves and helmets as Jake walks towards the apartment. A local EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OFFICER (male, 50) approaches, tying on a medical face mask.

EIS OFFICER

Officer Riley? Jim Banks, EIS. You take the lead. Not sure who these people trust less, doctors or cops.

Jake ignores the cultural slur, rings the buzzer. A Syrian man, RADWAN (40's) answers the door. Shocked, then nervous.

JAKE

Atlanta PD. Do you speak English?

RADWAN

(slightly broken accent)  
Hello. Yes I do.

JAKE

Great. Do you know this person?

Jake holds up a photo print out of the Sayid camera footage.

RADWAN

I don't recognize him.

JAKE

(sighs)  
I'm sure that seems like the smart answer, except that your car was used to pick him up from Emory hospital on Tuesday.

Jake points to his car in front of the building. Radwan's wife comes up behind him, adjusting her head scarf properly.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Look, sir, I'm not Immigration. As you can see, I'm accompanied by the Health Department. We've been asked to bring him in as it pertains to a potential viral outbreak. I'm sure our presence here seems suspicious, but we do not mean you any harm. Your friend's health is at risk.

(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAKE (CONT'D)

And maybe yours too, and your family's.

Radwan considers this. Looks at his wife.

RADWAN

He's my nephew.

JAKE

Okay. Good. Thank you.

(then)

You need to step back and stay 4-6 feet away from us at all times.

Thank you. I appreciate it.

He enters, lowering his visor. The EIS officer follows.

INT. RADWAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The men file into the living room, passing the kitchen. A small FAMILY is gathering for lunch.

RADWAN

Could you take your shoes off?

JAKE

It's an emergency, unfortunately.

(to the family)

Hello, I'm with the Atlanta Police, I need to speak to Sayid -

One woman starts yelling in Arabic. Adnan is there, angry --

ADNAN

Don't you police have crimes to solve? He's just a kid.

JAKE

(ignoring him, to Radwan)

When did he arrive in the country?

RADWAN

Monday.

JAKE

How?

(off his hesitation)

C'mon, man, we gotta trust each other if we're gonna do this right.

EIS OFFICER

We need to know who he came into contact with.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

EIS OFFICER (CONT'D)  
Immigration officials, fellow  
passengers, ticket handlers...

JAKE  
You watch the news, you see what's  
happening in Africa. We need to  
trace your nephew's steps.

RADWAN  
(reluctant)  
He flew in the hold of a cargo  
plane. His father got him on the  
plane, I got him off.

The woman starts yelling again. Adnan SHUSHES her.

ADNAN  
Hush, Auntie. I said HUSH.

RADWAN  
Those militant groups, they were  
trying to recruit him. He wanted to  
come to America, to his family.

JAKE  
Yeah, that's great, but we need to  
know who he's been in contact with.

RADWAN  
He hasn't left the house except to  
go to the hospital. The flight, it  
took a lot out of him. He was  
dehydrated, malnourished. Had a  
cold, but nothing more.

Nearby, Jake sees the RED BAG from the surveillance video.

RADWAN (CONT'D)  
Adnan and I took him to the  
hospital. No one else has gone  
anywhere.

JAKE  
What's in that bag? That red bag?

ADNAN  
His belongings.

The Auntie keeps crying.

JAKE  
Ma'am, please. We just need to talk  
to him.

CONTINUED: (2)

Adnan indicates for Jake to follow him down the hallway.

INT. RADWAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Jake enters the bedroom with Adnan to find Sayid on the bed with his GRANDMOTHER (70's) looking after him. His eyes rimmed in red. Snot-nosed. He looks terrible.

ECU ON: A bead of sweat dripping down Sayid's forehead. The woman tries to wipe his forehead dry.

JAKE

Hey, hey. Tell her she can't touch him. He's infectious.

EIS OFFICIAL

We'll need to take him with us.

Sayid panics, starts to scramble back. Jake pulls out his gun. The Grandmother starts SCREAMING at him in Arabic. Adnan yells back at her. The noise is relentless.

JAKE

Stop screaming. I'm just trying to -

ECU on the Grandmother as she SNEEZES. Sayid BOLTS. Jake panics, takes a step back to avoid touching him.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Dammit, I'm trying to help you.

At the door, WALDEN sees Sayid racing for him. His VISOR hasn't been put in place as he lingers on the porch.

WALDEN

Son of a bitch --

He fumbles with his visor, but the gloves make it difficult. Just as Sayid is getting within literal spitting distance --

WHAM! Jake tackles him from behind by his feet. As he FALLS, we watch BEADS OF SWEAT fly towards Walden's face.

Walden finally gets his visor down JUST AS THE SWEAT HIT HIS FACE SHIELD. RACK FOCUS from the sweat to his terrified eyes.

Jake stares at him, breathing heavily. Bullet dodged. Barely.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT./INT. - RADWAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

As the family cries and yells in the bg, Jake cuffs Sayid and leads him out. He passes his guys and more EIS OFFICERS.

JAKE

Seal the house. Health department protocol says to home quarantine. Don't get near 'em. Put your damn visors down like I told you.

(to Walden)

Bag his stuff, the red satchel in there. No one leaves, you got it? And keep grandma sealed off from everyone else. She's sick.

He pushes Sayid into the van. As he slams the doors --

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - DAY

A NEWS REPORT plays in the lobby. The afternoon ANCHOR talks sports scores, etc. Nothing out of the ordinary.

The TWITTER FEED still runs. Buried within the tweets, one that says "Husband stuck at hospital. Guess date night's off. What's on TV tonight?" Another says: "Why are there so many police hanging around Emory Midtown?"

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - LOWER LEVEL - DAY

Katie is still on the phone.

KATIE

Yes, Mrs. Bledsoe, everyone's fine. Antony has his inhaler. No, please don't come. They won't let you in, they've sealed the whole place for a few hours, just to be safe.

(listening)

We're in an old wing, we're fine.

Owen comes up to her. Waving for her attention.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Yes, I know, it's a little nerve-racking. I'll keep you posted.

(hanging up)

Owen, four-to-six feet. What's up?

OWEN

I want to see the rats too.

CONTINUED:

KATIE

No one's seeing the rats, Owen. The rats are probably the last thing they want us to see right now.

OWEN

Then why did Quentin and Thomas get to go on a tour?

KATIE

Is that what they said?  
(off his nod, anxious)  
Stay here. I mean it.

She hurries off down the hallway.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - ISOLATION WARD - DAY

Sayid is in isolation. Feverish, sweaty, terrified. Outside, Jake talks to Dr. Cannerts. He holds a wrapped item.

JAKE

EIS is with the family. At least three of 'em have had direct contact. I think one is sick.

DR. CANNERTS

They'll assess the situation and make decisions accordingly.

JAKE

What happens to the healthy ones stuck in there with them?

Beat.

DR. CANNERTS

If proper protocol is followed, the situation should stay in control.

Jake takes in the implications of that statement. Then, handing the bag over --

JAKE

I grabbed this. It's the stuff the guy carried with him. Thought it might be something. I'm gonna head to the precinct --

DR. CANNERTS

Actually, I think it would be wise, considering the contact you had, if you stayed here a while.

CONTINUED:

JAKE

I had my visor on. Gloves. No fluids got near me --

DR. CANNERTS

Just as a precaution. I'm sure there's nothing to worry about.

Rattled, Jake nods. From offscreen --

KATIE

Excuse me. Officer.

(as they turn)

Sorry. I'm looking for my son and his friend. They went looking for the rats in the research labs...

Her voice trails as she sees Sayid behind the glass.

DR. CANNERTS

I'm sorry, this is a private floor.

JAKE

I'll help her.

He turns to go, but Dr. Cannerts stops him.

DR. CANNERTS

Officer...4 to 6 feet. Both of you, gloves and masks, please.

Jake nods. Steals a final glance at Sayid as he moves towards Katie. Passing her, he nods towards a box of exam gear as he pulls on his police issued gloves. Curt.

JAKE

Not a good time to let your kid go wandering off.

She stares after him, offended. A beat, then follows in spite of herself. Grabbing gloves and a mask as she goes.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Jana unchains her bike. Leaving a voicemail message.

JANA

Suzy, it's me. I couldn't find you. I'm headed to Lex's. Believe it or not, I'm taking your advice for the first time since we were twelve.

As she shoulders her bag, grabbing her helmet --

CONTINUED:

JANA (CONT'D)

And hey -- when you go home tonight, actually go home, okay? Lex said there's some bad stuff happening around town. Don't stay out with Dennis. Not tonight.

She hangs up, pulling her bike off the rack. Heading out.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - DAY

Katie and Jake hurry down the hall.

KATIE

All these hallways look the same.  
(off his silence)  
That guy back there, is it bad?  
I've got fifteen kids here. I feel like I should know if it's bad.

JAKE

4-6 feet, Miss.

KATIE

And my son, Quentin, I didn't let him run off. He was obsessed with the rats. I was talking to parents.

Jake just walks ahead, his mind racing with his own problems. They approach the end of a hallway. RESTRICTED DOORS separate them from the next area. Just then, an ORDERLY exits.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Excuse me. We need to get in there -

ORDERLY

It's restricted.

JAKE

We're looking for a couple of young kids. Boys.  
(looks to Katie)  
Around how old? Six? Eight?

KATIE

Eleven.

JAKE

Eleven. They'd have been heading for the research labs.

KATIE

Can we just take a quick look?

CONTINUED:

ORDERLY

I can't let you in there --

KATIE

(moving closer to him)

Please, I just need to look.

ORDERLY

Hey, four to six feet --

KATIE

(moving even closer)

The officer and I were just in the same hall as the infected man.

Better not get too close.

JAKE

Miss. Hey. Miss.

Katie doesn't stop. The Orderly looks at Jake, wtf?

ORDERLY

You're a cop, man.

JAKE

Whaddya want me to do, shoot her?

Finally the orderly whips his pass off and chucks it at her.

ORDERLY

I ain't dying for this job.

Katie grabs his pass and lets herself through the doors. Moving with purpose. Jake hurries to catch up.

JAKE

You're a piece of work.

KATIE

Four to six feet, please.

Katie and Jake search the hallway. They pass by a windowed room. Inside a HAZMAT SUITED DOCTOR is performing an autopsy.

Katie GASPS, stepping back, accidentally stumbling into Jake's arms. She quickly separates, getting her distance, as she sneaks another peek in through the small window.

There are two bodies lying side by side. Dr. Rita Hamel and another BODY. The Hazmat-suited doctor looks up towards the window, sensing something. But Jake and Katie are long gone.

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. CANNERTS (PRELAP)  
We have an update.

INT. CDC - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Lex enters a briefing room, this one is higher tech. Multiple SCREENS. Packed with officials. Dr. Cannerts is on SKYPE.

DR. CANNERTS  
At 1500 hours, our Patient Zero  
took a turn for the worse.

INTERCUT:

INT. HOSPITAL - SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE - DAY

*Sayid SCREAMS and SHAKES in his isolation room. The Hazmat-clad doctor tries to get control of him.*

DR. CANNERTS  
His symptoms escalated to what I  
can best describe in laymen's terms  
as rabid.

*Sayid fights off the Hazmat Doctor, knocking him down. He starts RUNNING INTO THE WINDOW. Blood SPRAYING everywhere.*

DR. CANNERTS (CONT'D)  
At 1627 hours, Patient Zero began  
hemorrhaging. This was followed by  
a series of seizures.

*Suddenly Sayid STOPS. His eyes widening as BLOOD STARTS STREAMING FROM THEM LIKE TEARS. He drops to the ground, his whole body shaking in seizure.*

DR. CANNERTS (CONT'D)  
At 1629 hours, Patient Zero was  
pronounced dead.

*Finally, the seizures STOP. Sayid lies still. Dead.*

DR. CANNERTS (CONT'D)  
Soon after, Dr. Hamel succumbed.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNIT - DAY

A protective-suited Dr. Cannerts watches as Dr. Rita Hamel stares up at him, bloody and broken. A final death RATTLE and she's gone. Dr. Cannerts gently closes her eyes.

CONTINUED:

DR. CANNERTS (V.O.)  
Her boyfriend died shortly after.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE - DAY

*Footage of a MAN coming up behind Dr. Hamel as she does her charts. He kisses her from behind, surprising her.*

It's the same body Katie and Jake saw in the autopsy room.

DR. CANNERTS (V.O.)  
According to EIS, several inside the home of the man we now know as Sayid Nassir became symptomatic over the last several hours. This confirms our assessment that Sayid is indeed Patient Zero.

INT./EXT. RADWAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Officer WALDEN stands outside on guard. Inside, EIS officers in protective wear tend to Radwan, Adnan and others who all exhibit flu symptoms. Adnan is furious. Yelling.

ADNAN  
This is crap. He was fine. Just a bad cold. You did this.  
(wracked with coughs)  
He was just a kid who wanted a better life...

INT. CDC - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Lex watches as Sabine Lommers enters the room. Looking grave.

DR. CANNERTS  
Given this information, I'm afraid I must declare the virus as highly communicable, rapidly accelerating, and fatal in 100% of its victims.

As the room erupts in murmurs of anxiety...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - RESEARCH LABS - DAY

CLOSE ON THE RATS. Bert has two rapt audience members in Quentin and Thomas as he explains --

BERT

My wife Micheline gives them names.  
This is Liesl. Rolf. Justin Bieber.

Katie enters the room. Relief and anger.

KATIE

Quentin -- what did I say about  
sticking close?  
(to Bert)  
I'm sorry for the bother, sir.

BERT

No bother. Nice to have company.  
They were good. Followed the rules.  
4-6 feet. No touching.

KATIE

Thanks.

She steps back, gesturing for Quentin and Thomas to leave.

QUENTIN

Thanks, Bert. Freaky mask, mom.

She had forgotten it was there. She follows them into the hallway, where Jake stands. As they take off --

KATIE

Quentin --

QUENTIN

Four to six feet, I got it.

She watches him go, exasperated. Jake watches her. A slight smile. She pulls her mask down. Tired, but relieved.

KATIE

Don't ever have children. Unless  
you do. In which case, sorry.

He grins, shakes his head. She eyes his bare ring finger.

KATIE (CONT'D)

Eternal bachelor, huh?

CONTINUED:

JAKE

I guess you could say that.

KATIE

So could his father. Still can.

He eyes her finger. Also bare.

JAKE

You seem kinda young to have an eleven year-old.

KATIE

Life is full of surprises, right?

(then)

I'm Katie.

She smiles. Warmth behind her weary eyes.

JAKE

Jake.

He holds out his hand, then pulls it back, realizing. They have to laugh at the awkwardness of not being able to touch.

DR. BOBBY WALKER (O.S.)

There you are.

They turn to find Bobby Walker heading their way.

DR. BOBBY WALKER (CONT'D)

So listen, they're officially putting the hospital on lockdown.

JAKE

We already were on lockdown.

DR. BOBBY WALKER

Yeah, this is, well...they don't want anyone leaving for 48 hours.

KATIE

Forty-eight hours?

DR. BOBBY WALKER

We have cots and stuff they're setting up in your wing for the kids. Plus gloves and masks.

Bert has appeared in the door to his lab.

BERT

I need to get home to my wife.

CONTINUED: (2)

DR. BOBBY WALKER

It's only two days. You have any family that can check in on her?

(off his anxiety)

Look, I'm not gonna lie to you. This is a...unique situation. But we're in good hands. We just have to trust the system, follow the rules, and everything will be fine, right??

But his last word is cut off when he SNEEZES. Everyone instinctively takes a step back. Staring at him in horror.

Jake puts himself in between Katie and Bobby.

JAKE

Get Dr. Cannerts. Now.

(to Bobby)

You. Don't take one step.

As Katie hurries away, Jake slowly raises his mask back up.

LOMMERS (PRELAP)

Dr. Cannerts, are you any closer to defining the virus?

INT. CDC - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Lex looks around. The room seems suddenly nervous.

DR. CANNERTS

The scientists I have been consulting with believe it to be a mutated version of H7N2. It appears the genome has been deliberately manipulated into a more aggressive human virus. We discovered a vial in Patient Zero's belongings that had traces of a biological agent.

(holds up the red SATCHEL)

We must assume he brought it into the country, and into the hospital, where he infected Dr. Hamel.

LOMMERS

(stepping forward)

Given the threat of bio-terrorism, this is now a matter of National Security. As such, I recommend we take more extreme containment measures in order to protect the citizens of this city from further exposure.

CONTINUED:

LEX

Just how extreme are we talking?

LOMMERS

(ignoring him)

At this point, protocol demands we release any non-essentials from the room while Federal, State and Local Health confer with the Governor's office and the Chief of Police. That would be you, Major.

People start getting escorted out of the room, Lex among them. He looks back at Lommers in frustration. Her look back says it all: *if you're not on my side, you're shut out.*

EXT. ATLANTA - DAY

Jana rides the streets on her bike. Heading back the way she came. Earphones in, moving through the stopped traffic. There's a blockade up ahead. Odd. She takes another street.

EXT. METRO STATION - DAY

Pregnant Teresa stands on the Metro platform with her suitcase. She's also on the phone.

TERESA

It's all good, Grandpa. Yeah, she tipped me \$5. Maybe she thought I was the delivery guy. I gotta go. I'm catching the train to Macon to see Xander. Our little secret?  
(beat)  
I will. I know. I love you too.

She hangs up. Her TRAIN pulls in, but just as it stops, inexplicably it starts up again. Leaving the station before the doors unload any passengers.

Teresa looks around at the commuters, confused. Suddenly a dozen POLICE enter the station. Directing people to evacuate.

EXT. CDC - CAMPUS - DAY

Sabine Lommers moves quickly across campus, surrounded by several officials. Lex is on their bench. He stands.

LEX

Ms. Lommers. I asked what your intentions are for our city.

CONTINUED:

LOMMERS

It's Dr. Lommers, actually, since you're insisting on remaining formal. And you don't fall within protocol, Major Carnahan --

LEX

Screw protocol. You want me out there representing your message? You want me on your side? Fine, I'm on your side. Tell me what you're doing.

Lommers looks at him, smiles, knowing she's won this round.

LOMMERS

Glad to hear we're finally on the same team, Major. Follow me.

LEX

Where are we going?

LOMMERS

To prepare the press conference where we explain to the people of Atlanta that in order to stop the spread of this virus, we will be taking measures we haven't had to take in this country for over a century. We'll be instituting a *cordon sanitaire*.

LEX

What the hell is that?

LOMMERS

We'll be putting a section of the city under complete quarantine.

Off Lex as he stares at her in horror.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

AERIALS OF ATLANTA AS NIGHT SETS IN.

NEWSANCHOR (PRELAP)

In some rather troubling news, it appears Midtown Atlanta is the center of a deadly viral outbreak. In moments we'll be live on the steps of the CDC for a statement.

EXT. ATLANTA STREETS - NIGHT

Lex stands on the edge of Piedmont Park, two dozen of his COPS re-directing traffic. Leaving a message from his phone.

LEX

Jana. Things have gotten a little crazier since we talked -- I don't know what time I'll be home. But you have the key. Don't stop at your place to get your stuff. Don't waste any time. Just go straight to mine. You'll be safe there. Call me as soon as you get in, okay?

His call-waiting BEEPS. He switches over.

LEX (CONT'D)

Jake, buddy, I need you out here.

INTERCUT:

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - LOWER LEVEL - NIGHT

Jake is PISSED as he keeps his distance from Bobby Walker.

JAKE

I can't leave. I'm stuck.

LEX

You're inside the quarantine?

JAKE

I'm in the middle of the damn hot zone, Lex. Some guy just sneezed four feet from my face.

LEX

(worried)

Listen, I have an in with the government. Maybe --

CONTINUED:

JAKE

They're not gonna let me out, Lex.  
I had contact with patient zero.  
It's the freakin' zombie apocalypse  
up there in the isolation rooms.  
I'm not getting out.

Jake is starting to panic.

LEX

Jake. Just stay calm. Follow the  
protocol --

JAKE

Screw you, man. You're the one who  
sent me in here.

He hangs up. Pissed. Sees Katie down the hall, having  
returned with Dr. Cannerts. Unable to control his anger, he  
PUNCHES a door open, disappearing into the darkness. She  
watches him go. Concerned for him.

BACK WITH LEX as the weight on Jake's words land on him.

EXT. CDC - NIGHT

Lommers is on the steps of the CDC with the Governor and the  
Chief of Police, among others, giving a press conference.

LOMMERS

It's a matter of simple precaution.  
With the Governor at the helm,  
local and state officials as well  
as law enforcement will be  
outlining the proper measures.

EXT. ATLANTA STREETS - NIGHT

Teresa is on her phone as she walks.

TERESA

Where are you?

EXT. ATLANTA STREETS - NIGHT

Xander stands before a line of cops. Unable to pass.

XANDER

I was gonna meet you for the 5:30  
but I couldn't get past Piedmont.

CONTINUED:

TERESA

They shut down the trains. I don't understand what's going on --

A COP CAR drives by TERESA, broadcasting on a megaphone.

COP (VIA SPEAKER)

Keep 4 to 6 feet away from each other. It is imperative that you stay inside. Remain in home quarantine. Call the Georgia Department of Public Health for further instructions.

TERESA

Xander?

She's genuinely scared. Xander steels himself.

XANDER

Go back to your mom's. I'm coming to get you.

He hangs up. Heads for the line of cops...

INT. F-TRON DATA RECOVERY - NIGHT

A TV plays to an empty room in Jana's darkened workplace. Underneath, the TWITTER FEED is going crazy. *"My kid is in Midtown on a field trip." "Just got turned away from my exit. Where am I supposed to sleep?" Bible passages. Etc.*

LOMMERS (ON TV)

A *cordon sanitaire* is an admittedly controversial action, but they've had success with it in Africa in terms of containment. The Governor and the President are in full support. It's only forty-eight hours. A minor inconvenience compared to what it could be if we do not take an aggressive stance on containing this virus.

The CAMERA finds a dim light burning at the end of the office hall, where Suzy and a man (DENNIS) are having sex in the office kitchen, oblivious to the goings-on outside.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - ISOLATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jake, visor down and gloves on, stands outside the isolation room staring at Bobby. As if glimpsing his own future.

CONTINUED:

He finally walks away, passing TWO MORE ISOLATION ROOMS. One is getting scrubbed and cleaned by Hazmat-suited orderlies. The next contains BRITNEY, the 11-year old with hay fever. She looks bored and restless, but perfectly healthy.

Her mother's boyfriend, the BUS DRIVER, sits on the phone.

BUS DRIVER

I'm telling you, honey, she's fine.  
Her allergies cleared right up when  
she got into isolation.

As Jake continues on...

EXT. ATLANTA - STREETS - NIGHT

As Jana approaches Piedmont Park, she realizes that barbed wire has been put up to stop people from passing. She looks around. Confused. People are out of their cars. Angry.

LOMMERS (V.O.)

Each access point to the exposure  
area will be cordoned off.

INT. GROCERY MART - NIGHT

Teresa's mother Leanne watches the goings-on on the television. A MAP appears superimposed over Lommers' head.

LOMMERS

The borders being Piedmont Park,  
14th Street, Freedom Parkway and  
the 75/85 freeway.

The door OPENS. Teresa enters. Behind her, in the streets, the sounds of another COP ANNOUNCEMENT.

POLICE (VIA SPEAKER)

...Avoid contact. Stay inside....

Leanne looks at her daughter, shocked to see her.

LEANNE

Grandpa told me you were leaving.  
You were supposed to get out. Why  
didn't you get out?

Leanne moves towards her, reaching out, but Teresa takes a quick step back. Leanne halts. Hurt. Teresa explains --

TERESA

The police. They said avoid  
contact. 4-6 feet...

CONTINUED:

As mother and daughter stand, separated...

LOMMERS (V.O.)

Given the data we've gathered, the incubation period is anywhere from 16 - 48 hours after exposure.

INT. EMORY MIDTOWN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

LOMMERS (V.O.)

It can only be passed through fluids. Blood, mucus, urine...

Katie sits on a cot, watching her son play with his friends. They've managed to make a game out of keeping 4-6 feet apart. Worry etches her face. She looks up. Jake is in the doorway. They exchange looks. He takes the cot across from her. 4-6 feet away. He gives her a wan smile. She smiles back.

LOMMERS (V.O.)

Once we're 48 hours disease free, our lives can go back to normal. Until then, have faith in the authorities and know that everyone is working to keep everyone safe.

EXT. PIEDMONT PARK - NIGHT

A group of POLICEMEN unroll BARBED WIRE FENCING along the park's perimeter. Lex manages the crowd.

LEX

It's just temporary, if you all could please step back --

The people trying to get past him get aggressive. "*My dog's home.*" "*I have nowhere to stay.*" Etc.

LEX (CONT'D)

People, trust me, you do not want back in to this part of the city. Stay back, please. Find somewhere to stay for the next forty-eight hours. The city crisis center can help you make arrangements. I know it's an inconvenience but it will be worth it. It's only 48 hours...

As Lex manages the escalating CHAOS, he spots JANA, on her bike. On the wrong side of the perimeter.

LEX (CONT'D)

Jana. JANA!

CONTINUED:

But she can't hear him with her headphones. Suddenly the crowd SURGES around him, blocking him off. He fights his way to the front line. His eyes scan the crowd.

LEX (CONT'D)

Dammit.

He moves quickly, trying to keep her in eyesight. He sees her turn her bike around, pedaling the other way.

LEX (CONT'D)

No -- JANA.

He reaches for his phone, dialing. Watching as she rides off, headphones firmly implanted in her ears. He eyes the fence, ready to hop it, when he sees a teenager STRUGGLING in the chokehold of another COP.

LEX (CONT'D)

HEY --

He pulls the cop off the kid. It's XANDER.

XANDER

He won't let me through --

LEX

(to the COP)

He's a kid. Take a walk.

The cop moves back into crowd control. Lex looks to Xander.

LEX (CONT'D)

I can't let you in there, I'm sorry. It's for your own good.

XANDER

My girl's in there --

Lex stares at him. Realizing their shared predicament.

LEX

So is mine. But if I let you cross that line, I'm risking your life. And if we let anyone out, we're risking the lives of everyone in this city. I can't be that person. I can't let you be that person. Do you understand?

Xander nods, on the verge of crying from anger and fear.

CONTINUED: (2)

LEX (CONT'D)

We have to trust the doctors.  
They'll find a way to stop this.  
Everything will be fine.

He leads Xander away, unaware that his heroic actions have been captured on VIDEO by a nearby REPORTER...

EXT. CDC - NIGHT

Lommers completes the press conference.

LOMMERS

With communication, trust and  
cooperation, this will be over  
before it begins. Thank you.

Suddenly images from the chaotic teaser RACE PAST OUR SCREEN in a series of super-speed shots, telling us that the chaos is far from over, as we --

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT