DON'T LOOK UP

Written by
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Story by
Adam McKay and David Sirota
BLACK.
A tea kettle whistles.

OPEN ON:
Boiling water pours into a mug with a tea bag.
Raspberry JAM is spread on a piece of WHOLE GRAIN BREAD.

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE MAUNA KEA - NIGHT
PhD candidate KATE DIBIASKY, 26, dyed red hair, rides the fine line between geeky and alternative, walks up the stairs to a desk overlooking a giant telescope.
A CARL SAGAN action figure is positioned next to the computer.
Kate types coordinates. The TELESCOPE REPOSITIONS. AND THE ROOF OPENS revealing a starry night.
And for the final preparatory touch Kate puts her ear buds in and HITS PLAY ON HER PHONE.

MUSIC: WU-TANG CLAN AINT NUTHING TO F’ WIT by Wu-Tang Clan

Kate raps along under her breath. She also SELF BEEPS any questionable words without falling off the beat.

As we hear Kate rap we cut back and forth between Kate’s COMPUTER SCREEN SHOWING A HARD TO DECIPHER IMAGE and A STUNNING REAL LIFE VIEW SPACE THAT ENDS ON A LITTLE SPIRAL GALAXY.

She clicks several photos. QUICK TIME JUMP to her looking through photos but there’s....nothing.
Kate clicks through more photos. Still nothing.
She sees something else, a small smudge of light. Quickly she takes more pictures.

JUMP CUT: She walks over to a big screen and “stretches” the photo until a clearly visible “streak” is visible in the sky.
Kate gasps and steps back to confirm what she sees is real.
She stares, jaw dropped, at a giant screen of a comet.

CUT TO:
INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE - 2 IN THE MORNING - NIGHT

MUSIC: RIGHT THURR by Chingy

A “Party” is coming together with a group of 4 GRAD STUDENTS in their mid 20s, DANIEL, NISHA, OLIVER, WIN and their PROFESSOR from Michigan State, PROFESSOR RANDALL MINDY, 50s, Midwestern, bearded, not so ambitious since he got tenure.

RANDALL
This is nuts!! This is so crazy...

NISHA
I’ve got a hard cider and a bag of Crossbone Crunch!

WIN
It’s a party.

RANDALL
I’m just so, so thrilled for you
Kate.

(raises a glass)
To “Comet Dibiasky.” Right? Cheers!

Randall is transfixed by the pictures.

RANDALL (CONT’D)
It’s got to be an Oort cloud comet just based on where you saw it. Probably the last time it got this close to the sun was long before human civilization. Look at the arc on that thing. My god that’s amazing.

NISHA
How would we find out the comet’s velocity and orbit Professor Mindy?

RANDALL
What a great question. I haven’t done orbital dynamics since Grad school. The question is, “What would Carl Sagan do?” He would take it back to first principles.

Randall wheels over a white board. He begins to draw the XYZ Axis from FIGURE 1.

Daniel hands him a battered textbook.
RANDALL (CONT'D)
The topocentric vector is rho...
Kate, what are the initial coordinates?

Kate is on her laptop.

KATE
21....24...13...
Quick time dashes as Randall writes more and more equations on the board and flips through the textbook.

RANDALL
This is fun, huh guys?

KATE
67...
Wow, now you’re got me pumped.

WIN
Uh, Doctor Mindy, how many terms do you have to calculate to induce the FNG function?

RANDALL (CONT'D)
All right, um-- This is a good approximation according to Marsden eighty-five.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Now that we have the comets orbit. We will check the ephemeris. And that will give us the distance between the comet and earth.

Randall continues to map out the results on the white board.

KATE
Why does the ephemeris keep getting lower and lower?

Randall writes the last part of FIGURE 2.
And then finally...he writes “0.00”

His hand is frozen with the marker in it in front of the board.

KATE (CONT'D)
Professor Mindy?
(beat)
Professor Mindy?

Randall quickly erases the “0.00”
RANDALL
You know what guys? Let’s, uh, call it a night, huh?

WIN
But what’s the relative position?

RANDALL
I can’t figure it out, guys. Not tonight, sorry.

DANIEL
You know what, I’m beat.

NISHA
Me too.

DANIEL
Kate this was amazing.

The Grad students shuffle off. Randall hasn’t taken his eyes off the board.

RANDALL
Hey Kate?...you stay.

QUOTE AGAINST BLACK:

“I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather, not screaming in terror like his passengers.” - Jack Handey

INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER - MORNING
L/3 "NASA HEADQUARTERS, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLORIDA 10:42 AM"

DR. JOCELYN CALDER, early 50s and political player, comes walking down a hallway fast in a sharp business suit.

INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Calder takes the phone from a NASA SCIENTIST.

NASA SCIENTIST
Dr. Calder. A Michigan State Professor and his grad students are at Subaru--
DR. CALDER
(ignores him)
This is Dr. Calder. You’ve just
pulled me out of a meeting where I
had to tell my team we’ve lost 8
billion in funding.

RANDALL
I am so sorry Dr. Calder. But we
are seeing some awfully strange
orbital numbers on this comet we
just found. They should be in your
inbox.

Data and pictures are on the computer screen in front of Dr.
Calder. Dr. Calder takes a look.

DR. CALDER
Okay... Hmm...yeah, yeah, okay...
(beat)
Let me get Doctor Oglethorpe on the
line. Please hold.

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE – SAME TIME

RANDALL
I’m on hold... She’s calling a
Doctor Oglethorpe. Who is that?

Kate on her phone.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ, who is that? I’m
gonna put them on speaker.

Hold music plays.

KATE
Dr. Oglethorpe: the head of the
Planetary Defense Coordination
Office in Washington DC.
(and then)
Is that a real place?

An image of the actual Planetary Defense Coordination Office
logo appears on screen.

EXT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS, WASHINGTON DC – MORNING

L/3 “THE PLANETARY DEFENSE COORDINATION OFFICE (YES, IT’S A
REAL PLACE)
A collection of bland buildings in the Nation’s capital.

An African American man, late fifties, DR. CLAYTON “TEDDY” OGLETHORPE, whip sharp, seen it all, answers his phone as he walks into the building THROUGH A LIGHT SUN SHOWER.

DR. OGLETHORPE
This is Dr. Oglethorpe...

DR. CALDER
Yes, this is Jocelyn Calder from Kennedy Space Center.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Hey Jocelyn.

INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS – OFFICE -FLORIDA- DAY – CONTINUOUS

Dr. Calder reads more and more print outs.

DR. CALDER
Listen we got a sighting of an N.E.O. from Suburu Telescope.

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE – DAY – CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT ALL THREE CONVERSATIONS as Teddy makes his way into the building and waits for an elevator.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Ok, why didn’t you just report it to the Minor Planet Center.

DR. CALDER
The Professor and a bunch of Michigan State students who identified something big.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Really? How large?

DR. CALDER
(to the NASA Scientist)
How big we talking?

NASA SCIENTIST
We clocked it in at about 5 to 10 kilometers wide.

DR. CALDER
About 5 to 10 kilometers wide.
DR. OGLETHORPE
Uh...that’s a big boy.
(beat)
And was this Professor the one who
made the observation?

Randall chimes in.

RANDALL
Uh, hi, yes, Dr. Mindy. And no, PHD
candidate Kate Dibiasky found it, I
did the orbital calculations. I
study um, trace gases in dead
galaxies. I haven’t published in
awhile so you probably haven’t
heard of me - but that doesn’t
matter obviously - sorry.

DR. OGLETHORPE
And what are the most updated
estimates on its trajectory?

Kate does more calculations on her Matlabs.

KATE
I’ve been running it all day, I
keep getting the same result. A
direct hit of earth in 6 months and
14 days.

RANDALL
Me too.

DR. CALDER
Mathew, what are your calculations?

NASA SCIENTIST
Our scout program is saying...6
months, 14 days.

DR. CALDER
We’ve got 6 months and 14 days.

DR. OGLETHORPE
And it’s roughly 5 to 10 kilometers
wide. Which means...

RANDALL
...Isn’t that an extinction level
event?

A terrifying silence hits the room.
DR. CALDER
Well, let’s not be dramatic here.

DR. OGLETHORPE DR. CALDER (CONT'D)
Ok, first move is to get the Ok, let’s all calm down here!
school field trip out here to DC. I need the person who
first had eyes on the comet and the person in charge.

Kate and Randall look at each other.

DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)
Okay we need to share this data immediately with Cambridge, Cal
Tech and the I.A.U.

DR. CALDER
This is classified information Dr. Oglethorpe. I serve at the
discretion of the President and her policy is all priority intel goes
to her first.

KATE
Is this really happening?

DR. CALDER
Now let’s get the student and the dead galaxy Professor to Hickam Air
Force Base now.

They hang up. Terrified Kate looks to Randall who begins pacing around the room.

KATE
What the hell is happening?

RANDALL
Kate! This isn’t happening right? This isn’t real right? This is just some sort of alternate reality?
Kate say something!

Kate leans her head back.

KATE
I gotta go get high....

QUICK CUT:
EXT. HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE–HONOLULU–30 MINUTES LATER–NIGHT

Kate and Randall, each holding a mini suit case stand on the tarmac of a full on active air force base.

A CAPTAIN comes over to them yelling above the jets.

    CAPTAIN
    Word is I need you both in DC fast!
    Only plane we got going there is that one!

We see a C-5 Galaxy transport plane. The nose cone of the plane (the visor) is up as a line of trucks are being offloaded. The massive rear cargo bay doors are open.

    RANDALL
    Okay. I’m Dr. Mindy and this is–

    CAPTAIN
    Go! Go! Go!

He ushers them towards the massive plane.

    RANDALL
    Is there any customary seating--

INT. C-5 GALAXY PLANE – HOURS LATER

Kate and Randall sit in the vacant back of the plane. It’s like two football fields and is completely empty except for the two of them.

EXT. C-5 IN THE SKY – NIGHT TO DAY

EXT. JOINT BASE ANACOSTIA BOLLING – 7 HOURS LATER – 11 AM

C-5 lands.

Kate and Randall emerge from the open back of the huge plane to BLINDING LIGHT.

    CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE – 30 MINUTES LATER – DAY

Randall and Kate, both pulling their bags on wheels walk down a hallway and catch Dr. Oglethorpe and AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES, 61, a straight ahead General with a permanent resting smirk, mid-conversation.
AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
Brendan?

DR. OGLETHORPE
Yeah, Brendan.

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
Brendan. Oh you’d think he was--
It’s all politics Teddy.

Randall and Kate walk up.

DR. OGLETHORPE
You must be Randall and Kate. I’m
Dr. Oglethorpe but you can call me
Teddy.

RANDALL
I’m sorry, did you say your name
was....I should call you Teddy?

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
Yeah, you know we call him Teddy
because he ain’t no Teddy Bear.
General Themes, I’m the Pentagon’s
eyes on whatever this turns out to
be.

Everyone shakes hands.

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES (CONT’D)
The President is famously late. And
you’ve had a long flight so.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE - LATER - DAY

Randall, Kate, Dr. Oglethorpe and General Themes sit waiting
in the hall outside the Oval Office.

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
Michigan State...Spartans.

Kate nods.

KATE
Is that the oval office?

She points directly across from them.
AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
Yeah, that’s the Oval Office, yeah.
It’s a lot smaller than it is in pictures.

DR. OGLETHORPE
The President should be here shortly. She’s already been briefed, correct Scott?

General Themes nods.

Kate whispers to Randall.

KATE
Are we really about to tell the President of the United States that we have just over six months before mankind and pretty much all life on planet earth are completely destroyed?

RANDALL
That’s exactly what we’re about to do.

Kate motions for the WASTEBASKET and BEGINS TO THROW UP.

MAIN TITLE: DON’T LOOK UP

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY – A FEW HOURS LATER

Kate, Randall, Dr. Oglethorpe and Air Force General Themes are waiting... and waiting.

Finally a crisp and purposeful entourage makes it way around the corner.

IT’S THE PRESIDENT and her ADVISORS with Secret Service Detail.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Yes, I said law enforcement, but I didn’t want...You told me that he was clean.
The foursome stands to greet the President.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Hello Madam President. I’m Doctor Oglethorpe. I believe Jocelyn told you-

But THE PRESIDENT WALKS RIGHT PAST THEM and into the Oval Office.

DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT’D)
Hey, Jason? Jason?

A trailing advisor JASON, 33, is closing the doors.

JASON
What up yo?

DR. OGLETHORPE
C’mon Man. What the hell Jason? This is real world.

JASON
Yeah, I know we need five minutes. We’re having a problem with our Supreme Court Nominee. Five minutes. Thank you.

OVAL OFFICE DOORS CLOSE.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The foursome sits back down. They wait and wait.

THREE ASSISTANTS sing happy birthday to an assistant and leave balloons on the desk.

They continue to wait. Kate scrolls through her phone.

KATE
There’s a bunch of stuff about their Nominee not being qualified... But I don’t see any articles about our... thing.

Dr. Oglethorpe checks his phone too.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Social media’s going on and on about that singer Riley Bina and DJ Chello breaking up... That’s too bad... They seem like sweet kids.
RANDALL
I don’t know them. But that’s a shame. Kate do you know them?

KATE
Yes. But I really don’t give a shit right now.

Air Force General Themes returns from the coffee station with bags of Cheez-bits and bottled waters.

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
Sorry but they charge an arm and leg for this stuff. Ten a piece should do it.

RANDALL
Of course... I’ve got Kate as well. Here’s a twenty.

Randall gives him a twenty. Dr. Oglethorpe gives him a twenty as well.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Do you have change?

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
No. But I can ask the Marine at the-

DR. OGLETHORPE
Forget it.

After a beat of eating, Randall reaches into his jacket pocket and takes out a pill. He bites the tip off and swallows with water. Kate looks at him.

RANDALL
It’s a Xanax. I can only take a quarter or otherwise I get-

Kate takes the rest of the pill and dry swallows it.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Kate!

KATE
(mouths)
Thank you.

RANDALL
You know, you should be careful with that much.
INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - LATER

Shadows get long through the windows and eventually the OFFICE LIGHTS COME ON.

SFX: Air Force General Themes’ phone alarm goes off.

He immediately starts packing up his belongings.

    AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
    I’m very sorry. But I have to be in Okinawa by two o’clock tomorrow.

    KATE
    Really? Are you serious? This is... very important.

    AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
    I have to go quell the natives.

    DR. OGLETHORPE
    Tell your daughter I said hi.

They stand, shake hands and the General exits.

Dr. Oglethorpe, Kate and Randall sit back down and wait more.

It’s now fully dark outside.

Kate gets up and walks down the hallway.

There’s a coffee station with bottled water and snacks. She grabs a bottle and a bag of chips. An OFFICE WORKER is there.

    KATE
    Excuse me, where do I pay for this?

    OFFICE WORKER
    It’s free.

    KATE
    Really?

    OFFICE WORKER
    Yes. It’s the White House.

Kate returns to Randall and Dr. Oglethorpe.

    KATE
    The snacks are free.

    DR. OGLETHORPE
    What?
KATE
The General. He charged us for the snacks, but they’re free.

RANDALL
Oh gosh...

KATE
Why on earth would he do that?!

SUDDENLY THE OVAL OFFICE DOORS OPEN and the staff member from earlier, JASON, pops out.

JASON
Hey Peeps. It’s looking like it’s not happening tonight and I feel horrible, so we’re gonna put you up in a hotel somewhere-

RANDALL
Excuse me! Does the President know why we’re here?

He’s already closed the door.

KATE
You gotta be fucking kidding me?

RANDALL
They must not know why we’re here!

DR. OGLETHORPE
No, they know, they know. But you heard him. Be ready for tomorrow guys.

RANDALL
Do they know how long it took for us to get here?

CUT TO:

EXT. HACIENDA COURTS MOTEL - WASHINGTON, DC - LATER THAT NIGHT

It’s a rainy night. The traffic is nasty and honking.

INT. KATE’S ROOM - WASHINGTON, DC - CONTINUOUS

Kate talks to her boyfriend PHILLIP KAJ, 28. INTERCUT.
KATE
And then they made us wait for
seven hours. And they never even
called us in. I couldn’t believe it.

INT. WEBSITE OFFICES - MANHATTAN - SAME TIME

Phillip, still mad he didn’t get into Yale, is in the offices
of a news and culture website AUTOPSY. Despite the late hour,
the open concept office is full. TVs and screens everywhere.

PHILLIP
Of course they didn’t call you in,
Kate, have you watched any news
today?

KATE
No. I’ve been pretty... wrapped up
in our... project.

PHILLIP
Turn on your TV right now.
President Orlean is in the middle
of an all-time shit storm.

Kate does so. There’s CVN coverage about the President’s
Supreme Court nominee. It also plays in Phillip’s office.

ANCHOR 1
... Sheriff Wade Conlon was already
a controversial nominee with no law
degree and a record of shoot first
and ask questions later but with
his background as a nude life model
in college now coming to light, the
White House is in full crisis mode.

Kate stares at the tv in a daze.

PHILLIP
And get this, I found five former
students willing to go on record
that Conlon got noticeably aroused
when he posed for their drawing
classes.

INTERVIEW with SHERIFF CONLON, 60s, walking fast away from
the cameras.

SHERIFF CONLON (SOT)
I have no shame in what I did!
PHILLIP
Should I say “noticeably aroused” or “engorged?” I don’t want this to read like click bait. This is a real article.

Kate doesn’t respond

PHILLIP (CONT’D)
Kate can I get...something from you?

KATE
I’m sorry, I’m just out of sorts tonight.

PHILLIP
Can we just have this conversation because I feel like we’re skirting around this whole thing. Do you have an issue with my mom, is that what all of this is about, because--

CUT TO:

INT. RANDALL’S ROOM – SAME TIME

Randall is on the phone while the TV plays a CELL PHONE COMMERCIAL in the background an APPLE-like gravitas to it.

INT. MIDDLE CLASS HOME – LANSING, MICHIGAN – DAY

Randall’s wife, JUNE, 40s, earthy yet sharp. She’s clearly the rock of the family. INTERCUT

INT. MIDDLE CLASS HOME – LANSING, MICHIGAN – DAY

Randall’s wife, JUNE, 40s, earthy yet sharp. She’s clearly the rock of the family. INTERCUT

JUNE
And you can’t tell me what’s happening?

RANDALL
It’s just the protocol. Please don’t worry.

JUNE
Oh! Marshall got a 180 on his LSATs and we’re celebrating.
We see their sons EVAN, early 20s and MARSHALL, mid 20s who both look and carry themselves exactly like Randall.

RANDALL
Way to go Marshall! I’m proud of you buddy!

MARSHALL
Thanks Dad! Miss you!

RANDALL
How’s Evan feeling? Are the new meds working out?

EVAN
I’m a solid four!

JUNE
He’s a solid four!

RANDALL
Well, that’s uh, better than last month, right!

JUNE
Just remember to speak up in the meeting. You know get so quiet when it’s time to take credit.

INT. KATE’S ROOM - WASHINGTON, DC
Kate and Phillip are not in a full blown fight.

PHILLIP
--She asked if you were a lesbian. She did not say that you WERE a lesbian. It was a question-

KATE
Look, can I sit down to have lunch with your mom in like....7 months?

PHILLIP
7 months?! That’s weirdly specific and distant!

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - WASHINGTON DC - THE NEXT AFTERNOON
INT. OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Randall, his leg moving nervously, Dr. Oglethorpe and Kate sit in the Oval Office across from PRESIDENT JANIE ORLEAN, 60s.

President Orlean has bright blonde statement hair, remnants of a Long Island accent and behind her dozens of copies of her best selling “HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE NONE.”

Her Chief of Staff who we met yesterday, son Jason is there along with TWO OTHER AIDES in their 70s.

The President checks her phone and texts for a long beat while everyone waits. Finally she puts it down and addresses the room.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Okay, I heard there’s something about an asteroid or a comet you don’t like the looks of. Tell me about it and then tell me why you’re telling me about it. You’ve got twenty minutes.

RANDALL
Twenty minutes?

Teddy Oglethorpe looks at Randall.

DR. OGLETHORPE
That’s you Doc. Go.

Randall is very nervous.

RANDALL
Okay... okay, um, Madame President. Approximately, 36 hours ago PhD graduate student, Kate Dibiasky here... discovered a very large comet.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
(to Kate)
Oh! Good for you.

RANDALL
A comet 5-10 kilometers across, that we estimate came from the Oort cloud, the outer part of the solar system.
He pauses. Looks at his notes. Randall's hand shakes a little as he looks at his notes.

    RANDALL (CONT'D)
And uh, using Gauss' method of orbital determination and the average astrometric uncertainty of 0.04 arcseconds...

    PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Whoah, whoah. What the hell?

    JASON
I am so bored. Just tell us what it is.

    PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Knock that shit off.

    JASON
Seriously, stop.

    KATE
(cuts to the quick)
What Dr. Mindy is trying to say is that there is a comet headed directly towards earth.

He lays out the photos highlighting the blurry "streak." The President and Jason examine the pictures.

    KATE (CONT'D)
According to NASA's computers this object will hit the Pacific Ocean a sixty two miles due west off the coast of Chile.

    JASON
And then what happens? A tidal wave?

    RANDALL
No, it will be far more catastrophic. There will be mile-high tsunamis, fanning out all across the globe. If this comet makes impact, it will have the power of a billion Hiroshima bombs. There will be magnitude 10 or 11 earthquakes—
JASON
You’re stressing me out! You’re breathing weird. It’s just making me uncomfortable.

RANDALL
I’m sorry. I’m just trying to articulate the science.

JASON
I know but it’s like sooo stressful. I’m like tryin’ to listen-

RANDALL
I don’t think you understand the gravity of this situation. I’m trying to articulate it the best I can.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Madame President, this comet is what we call a planet killer.

RANDALL
That is correct.

President Orlean takes this all in.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
So how certain is this?

RANDALL
There is basically 100% certainty of impact.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Please don’t say 100%.

AIDE #2
Can we just call it a potentially significant event.

KATE
But it’s not “potentially” going to happen. It is going to happen.

RANDALL
Exactly, 99.78 percent to be exact.

JASON
Oh, great! So it’s not 100%.
DR. OGLETORPE
Scientists never like to say 100%.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Call it 70% and let’s move on.

KATE
It’s not even close to seventy percent.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
You can’t go around to people telling them there’s a 100% chance that they are going to die.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT’D)
And we should get our own scientists on this. No offense, but you’re just two people who walked in here with...

DR. OGLETORPE
Dr. Oglethorpe.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Dr. Ogilvy.

DR. OGLETORPE
I’ve been head of Planetary Defense at NASA for fifteen years. And Dr. Mindy is a tenured Professor of Astronomy at Michigan State where Ms. Dibiasky is a doctoral candidate.

JASON
I’m sorry, did you say Michigan State?

DR. OGLETORPE
They have an excellent astronomy department.

JASON
Come on bro...

KATE
Are you serious? Do you want to see my goddam SAT scores?
PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Okay, let’s bottom line this. What is this gonna cost me? What’s the ask here?

DR. OGLETHORPE
There are government plans in place. Actions we can take through NASA. Drones that can be outfitted with nukes to deflect and hopefully change the orbit of this comet. But we must act now.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Alright, alright, let me think here... When are the midterms?...

JASON
Three weeks.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Three weeks. If this breaks before then we could lose Congress and then there’s nothing we can do about this anyway.

JASON
It’ll be gridlock.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Exactly, the timing... it’s atrocious.
(breath)
At this exact moment... I say we sit tight and assess.

RANDALL
Sit tight and assess?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
And let’s get some Ivy Leaguers, no offense. And we will review the NASA plans.

DR. OGLETHORPE
I’d greatly appreciate it.

KATE
Am I to understand correctly that with all the information you’ve received today, you’re making the decision to “sit tight and assess?”
The President is barely paying attention as she searches drawer after drawer in her office.

JASON
Seriously. Who is she?

KATE
Who are you? Aren’t you her son?

JASON
I’m the Chief of Staff, Boy with a Dragon Tattoo, so I’m doin’ fine!

KATE
(whispers to Randall)
This place is a freak show.

RANDALL
I think what Ms. Dibiasky is trying to say is that the idea of sitting tight is an extremely dangerous idea.

President Orlean discovers a pack of smokes in her desk.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Oh! Oh!
(looks up to the heavens)
Thank you!
(back to the room)
Well at least one good thing happened today!

She pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT’D)
Funny story, when I ran for President I had to sneak cigarettes for the first month of the campaign. Photographs of me smoking were going for a hundred grand a shot. So I’m always hiding. But you know what? I got sick of it and I just said, I’m gonna smoke whenever I want to! And guess what happened? I went up three points in the polls.

JASON
People loved that she kept it real. They loved watching a smoke-show, smoke! I can’t think of another President that I’d want to see in Playboy.
PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Do you know how many “the world is ending meetings” that we’ve had over the years? Economic collapse, loose nukes, car exhaust killing the atmosphere, rogue A.I.

JASON
Drought, famine, plagues, population growth, the hole in the ozone, the rapture, alien invasion...

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Jason, hey! That’s enough. Read the room for once in your life.

JASON
Sorry, Mom.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
(exhales a giant plume of smoke)
The point is... I have a job to do.

RANDALL
You do understand that this is an apocalyptic event? This is a large celestial body headed towards our earth.

President Orlean makes her way over to Randall.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Dr. Mindy, I hear you! I hear you. You should be proud.

RANDALL
Thank you.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
I’m taking it very seriously. I’m taking it straight in the heart.

RANDALL
I am so glad to hear that. I am so glad.

They all stand to leave.

JASON
Hey gang, obviously everything we talked about in here is classified.
Jason motions to fist bump Kate.

JASON (CONT'D)
(to Kate)
Thanks for dressing up!

CUT TO:

INT. WASHINGTON UNION STATION - 40 MINUTES LATER

Kate and Randall followed by Teddy speed through the DC train station pulling their bags towards their track. Kate finishes a call on her cell phone.

RANDALL
So you’re saying we’re just going to leak it to the press? Isn’t that illegal?

DR. OGLETHORPE
Hell yes, we’re going to leak it. In case you didn’t notice, the White House just blew us off.

KATE
My boyfriend Phillip says he knows a reporter from the New York Herald we can talk to. “Adul Grelio.”

DR. OGLETHORPE
Good. That guy’s a heavy hitter. And I’ll reach out to more of the scientific community on the down low.

They’re getting on the train.

RANDALL
I just feel like this isn’t what I do.

DR. OGLETHORPE
You’re just telling a story! Keep it simple! And no math!

RANDALL
But it’s all math!

Train doors close.

CUT TO:
INT. GIANT CONVENTION CENTER - SAN FRANCISCO - DAY

A 10 STORY SCREEN SHOWS the ceiling of the SISTINE CHAPEL. PUSH IN TO GOD’S HAND TOUCHING ADAM’S.

MUSIC: BASH THEME

Liev Schreiber (V.O.)
It all started with a connection... A simple gesture that created so much.

GOD’S HAND TURNS revealing a CELL PHONE.

Liev Schreiber (V.O.)
So many choices. Sometimes it can even feel like too much. Until now.

The CELL PHONE GLOWS and then Adam’s hand turns revealing a SECOND CELL PHONE. PUSH IN TO THE SCREEN to see the texted words “Let There Be Life. BASH Liif.”

Liev Schreiber (V.O.)
Introducing BASH Liif. Liif without the stress of living.

The CROWD of 5 thousand TECH CONFERENCE attendees applauds heartily.

Female AnCr (V.O.)
Before we introduce the founder and CEO of BASH, please remember to avoid direct eye contact, sudden movements, coughing, or negative facial expressions. And now, Sir Peter Isherwell.

Three Children (AGES 8-9 African American, Asian American and Caucasian) enter the stage with Peter Isherwell, an ageless optimistic yet very shy man in a windbreaker.

Peter Isherwell
Hello everyone. All of my work has been driven by the inexpressable need for a friend who would understand of a friend to understand and sooth me. And you know, all those years of work have come to fruition... with BASH Liif. Our new BASH 14 point three phone is fully integrated into your every feeling and desire without you needing to say one single word.
Peter and the children hold up the new cell phone.

PETER ISHERWELL (CONT'D)
If I feel...

CHILD 1
Sad.

CHILD 2
Afraid.

CHILD 3
Or alone.

PETER ISHERWELL
...the BASH 14 point three phone
when set to Liif setting, instantly
senses my mood through blood
pressure, heart rates and-

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)
Your vitals show that you are sad.
This will cheer you up Peter.

“Here, this will cheer you up...” appears on the screen and a
VT of a puppy riding a rooster.

PETER ISHERWELL
...It also schedules a therapy
session with a nearby professional
so we can make sure this sad
feeling doesn’t return.

CHILD 2
May I say something Mr. Isherwell.

PETER ISHERWELL
No.

All of these functions play out on the screen behind him.

PETER ISHERWELL (CONT'D)
And to support BASH Liif I would
like to officially announce...

SMASH CUT:

INT. BACKSTAGE - 20 MINUTES LATER

Isherwell and the children exit to the backstage. A Junior
Executive, LINDA, takes their phones.
LINDA DICALIO
Give me the phones they’re not yours.

KIDS
Bye Mr. Isherwell... Bye Peter.

CHILD 2
I love you, Peter.

PETER ISHERWELL
(ignores the children)
Are we sure the video of the little girl singing is optimizing our pre-pubescent sense memory consumer sector? I find the bird quite threatening.

EXECUTIVE
We’ll cross check the data on that for sure.

Linda pulls Isherwell aside.

LINDA DICALIO
Mr. Isherwell, Paul DeBent wanted me to give you this. He got it from an astronomer friend of his in Mexico.

She hands him a PICTURE OF THE BLURRY COMET with “Direct hit” handwritten on it.

PETER ISHERWELL
Oh my.

INT. NEW YORK HERALD OFFICE

Now Randall and Kate are in a conference room at the Herald with the CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS, 51, two of the OWNERS and journalist ADUL GRELIO, 47, handsome and international.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
What other confirmation do we have on this Adul?

ADUL GRELIO
I’ve spoken to Dr. Oglethorpe in DC. He confirmed it and all the math. Plus I showed it to Dr. Franks at Columbia and he almost fell out of his chair.

(MORE)
ADUL GRELIO (CONT'D)
So I have to admit, I was very skeptical at first but this is all quite credible.

RANDALL
The calculations are all credible.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
Jesus. And the President really said to sit tight?

RANDALL
Yes, that’s correct.

KATE
Sit tight and assess.

MRS. TANKEN
She’s probably worried about the midterms.

The other owner BENJAMIN, 38, chimes in.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
We need to move fast. The Feds will claim breach of security so make sure these two get a pro bono attorney.

MRS. TANKEN
You can use my attorney.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
You can certainly afford it now.

RANDALL
(to Kate)
We have to hire a lawyer now?

Mrs. Tanken and Chief Editor begin bickering.

MRS. TANKEN
That wasn’t necessary.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
I think it was.

Randal interjects.

RANDALL
I’m sorry!

MRS. TANKEN
That was not called for.
RANDALL
I’M SORRY! How is it criminal if we just tell people, like the public, what we saw? And tell them the truth.

BENJAMIN
(re: Randall)
Make sure this one gets some kind of media training before he hits the shows. He seems a step slow.

RANDALL
What does that mean I need media training? What does tha-

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - 20 MINUTES LATER
Kate and Randall followed by Phillip, Kate’s boyfriend, are pulling their bags and looking for the Westin Hotel.

RANDALL
(reading his texts)
They want us on a show called The Daily Rip first thing in the morning tomorrow when the article comes out. What is the Daily Rip?

Phillip is now hunched over and hyperventilating.

PHILLIP
It’s the best show. Everyone wants to be on it. Brie and Jack, they have legendary chemistry. They asked me to go on it and I couldn’t sleep for two nights I was so excited. But they cut me for time. It still hurts to think about it.

RANDALL
I know what show you’re talking about. My wife loves that show.

PHILLIP
Can you just tell me what this is all about? Because you haven’t read my article about Conlon getting hard in the art class, and now Adul Grelio has come down from his mountain top for your thing and you won’t even give me a lousy pronoun.

Kate stops suddenly.
KATE
A comet bigger than the asteroid that killed the dinosaurs is headed directly at earth. If it isn’t deflected the entire planet dies.

Phillip is stunned. A PASSERBY stops.

PASSERBY
What did you just say?

KATE
It’s for a video game.

Passerby moves on.

PHILLIP
Are you being serious?

KATE
Yes.

PHILLIP
Oh my god.

Phillip hyperventilates and starts to walk into the street where he is almost hit by a car. Kate pulls him back.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)
Oh my god! What the fuck man?

RANDALL
(on his phone)
I love you too. Alright. Yeah.
(to Kate and Phillip)
Hey guys, we gotta keep walking.

EXT. SPACE - SAME TIME

THERE IS A BLINKING LIGHT MAYBE A COMET IN THE DISTANCE growing larger at an astonishing rate. Suddenly the light is upon us in a BLINDING MASSIVE FLASH.

WAVES crash against a giant rock. A lizard picks away at its skin. A hummingbird gets nectar from a flower.

EXT. NY CITY STREETS

Two garbage men collect trash from the street and toss it in the truck.
EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTAN - THE NEXT DAY

A 30 Rock type building. People bustling everywhere. A TOWN CAR pulls up and Randall and Kate get out. They are greeted by a TALENT P.A.

TALENT P.A.
You must be Dr. Mindy and Ms. Dibiasky. Jack and Brie are so excited to have you on the show.

RANDALL
Really? They know who we are?

INT. NEW YORK HERALD OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Chief Editor Paula Woods sits in her office with Adul Grelio.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
The White House is denying they even met with them.

ADUL GRELIO
Assholes will always be assholes.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - SAME TIME

Randall and Kate are led to the makeup room. The hallway is bustling. A tray of raw meat passes by. A poster hangs advertising the show “Secretly Poor.”

A groomer greets them.

GROOMER THALIA
Hi I’m Thalia. The Herald sent me to help with your wardrobe.

She holds up two fashionable outfits.

KATE
Oh, I’m not wearing that.

They sit in the hair and makeup chairs.

HAIR PERSON
(to Randall)
You actually have a great facial structure. What if we trim this beard down a little bit.
(to Kate)
I love your hair.
KATE
Thank you.
(to Randall)
Ok, so how are we going to do this?
I’ll talk about the discovery and
you talk about how urgent it is
that we take action-

RANDALL
(whispers)
How...how...how do we say it? I
mean, shouldn’t we practice it or
write it out beforehand?

He’s opening another FedEx package and takes a nibble of a
pill.

KATE
So I’ll start by describing the
comet discovery and then you talk
about what it means and how urgent
it is to take action.

RANDALL
But how do we... you know, how do
we say it? Shouldn’t we practice
it... or write it out beforehand?

HAIR PERSON
How about some water?

RANDALL
Yeah, some water would be great

Randall begins to panic and recites calming phrases and
tongue twisters to calm himself.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
You are here now. You are here now.
Eleven benevolent elephants. Eleven
benevolent elephants. Eleven
benevolent elephants.

Randall pulls out another xanax.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
I’m just gonna take some xanax. I
take it sometimes when I-

Kate sees an opportunity and grabs for the xanax.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Kate not this time. Not this time.
INT. LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

June Mindy, Randall’s wife and his two sons are up early eating eggs and waiting for the Daily Rip to start.

JUNE
He just needs to breathe. And speak up. You know?

MARSHALL
He’s got this. I know he does.

INT. STUDIO BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Randall is in the bathroom with his outfit having a full-on panic attack and taking deliberate deep breaths trying to calm down.

RANDALL
(groans)
Oh god.

Randall begins splashing water on his face.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
You are here now... You are here now...You are here now.

He goes for a paper towel that is stuck and begins to fight the machine.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

We meet our hosts: JACK BREMMER, 48, in the know but also a bit charmingly dumb and BRIE EVANTEE, 45.

JACK BREMMER
You gotta stop drinking the cheap shit.

BRIE EVANTEE
It was only two glasses.

JACK BREMMER
Yeah, two and half.

A studio manager

STUDIO MANAGER
Alright we’re twenty out, let’s make sure on our eyelines.

(MORE)
STUDIO MANAGER (CONT'D)
That we’re not looking at Jack and Brie. And…cue the package.

OPENING VT PACKAGE FOR THE DAILY RIP PLAYS

Brie gets a last look from Jack.

BRIE EVANTEE
(adjustling her breasts)
Ladies ok?

JACK BREMMER
(to Brie)
Yes.
(to camera)
Aw Brie, I’ve got something for you today. Listen to this. President Orlean’s Supreme Court nominee Sheriff Conlon has now been identified as appearing in a soft core porn cable show from the early 90s...

INT. LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

Randall’s family watches the Daily Rip.

MARSHALL
That’s Ridiculous.

INT. GREEN ROOM - SAME TIME

Randall, groomed and in his new stylish clothes, and Kate are seated and waiting their turn. There’s a YOUNG SINGER WITH AN ENTOURAGE also in the room. This is RILEY BINA, 25.

RANDALL
(whispers to Kate)
Is that Riley Bina?

Kate quietly nods.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Really?! She looks a lot smaller in person.

INT. CRAPPY APARTMENT - WASHINGTON DC - SAME TIME

Teddy is having coffee with the Daily Rip on the TV while petting his cat.
INT. GREEN ROOM - SAME TIME

A STAGE MANAGER pops in.

STAGE MANAGER
Hey Everyone. I’m Sean from the show. We’re gonna do, well Jack and Brie are gonna do like 10 on the SCOTUS nominee. Then Riley Bina, you come on...

RILEY BINA
And I can talk about my new single right? A portion of the profits goes to manatee sanctuaries.

STAGE MANAGER
Yes, but the break up first. And then Dr. Mindy and Ms. Dibiasky you both come on to talk about the planet you discovered.

RANDALL
Comet. We found a comet.

KATE
They know what we’re here to talk about right?

STAGE MANAGER
Of course. Jack and Brie love doing science segments. Just remember keep it light, fun. Jack and Brie love to have a good time.

Stage Manager exits.

RILEY BINA
You guys discovered a comet? That’s so dope. I have a tattoo of a shooting star on my back.

RANDALL
That’s terrific.

Long awkward pause. Randall can’t help himself.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
We heard about your break up too. We just want to say we’re very sorry, right? We’re very sorry you seem like a great person.
RILEY BINA
Why don’t you mind your own business you old fuck.

RANDALL
Oh. Okay.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - 30 MINUTES LATER
Jack and Brie are interviewing Riley Bina.

RILEY BINA
I’m not gonna lie, but my friends and my Vroom Vroom Army have been so amazing, so... I’m really grateful for that, but I can’t lie it’s been hard.

BRIE EVANTREE
You’re an inspiration. You’re really owning that pain. You know Jack, I feel like there’s some kind of conversation that we need to be having. Is there any message you want to send to your ex DJ Chello?

RILEY BINA
You know...

JACK BREMMER
If there’s something you want to say let’s say it right into this camera. Just tell him. As if that was him, you tell him exactly what you’re thinking.

RILEY BINA
Ok, um...Chell... I still love you... and after a lot of sleepless nights...three. I want to take you back.

BRIE EVANTREE
I’m sorry, wha-

RILEY BINA
Is that ok?

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME
June and her sons are watching. One of the sons is on Social media.
JUNE
Oh my god, you guys..

EVAN
Diddly just exploded. So did Vroom Vroom.

MARSHALL
Wait, BASH News just gave me 8 push notifications. And my phone purchased DJ Chello’s latest single. Without even asking. It just did that.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - SAME TIME

JACK BREMMER (SOT)
I’ve just been told we have DJ Chello live on a Mugg link!

DJ CHELLO is on a Skype type link.

DJ CHELLO (SOT)
(tearing up)
Hey baby doll, your kid messed up bad. Lady Baroque wasn’t wearing panties in the club that night. I just wasn’t thinking straight... and I made a mistake. But it’s you, it’s always been you.

RILEY BINA
I get it. It’s ok. I hooked up with her too at the Music Globes last year, right before I ran off with that power forward from the Nuggets. And none of that matters.

INT. AUTOPSY OFFICES - SAME TIME

Phillip watches the TV in the packed office.

DAMAIN
What about “Forget break up sex, try a break up relationship?”

AUTOPSY EDITOR
Oh that’s good.
PHILLIP
(can’t help himself)
10 Famous Second Chances for Two Timers, guys!

AUTOPSY EDITOR
Oh, there we go.

PHILLIP
It’s on a plate!

Phillip glances nervously at the TV.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - SAME TIME

DJ CHELLO
I was scared, but honestly I’m not scared anymore. My little bumble bee, will you marry me?

RILEY BINA
Oh my god, of course!

DJ CHELLO
Yes!!

RILEY BINA
Chel, of course. That’s sick.

INT. TEDDY’S APARTMENT - WASHINGTON DC - SAME TIME

Teddy is petting his cat.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Alright...DJ Chello.

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

Notifications are popping up on all their phones.

MARSHALL
It just bought another.

JUNE
Who are these people again?

MARSHALL
Mom they’re like the biggest names in--
INT. DAILY RJP - SAME TIME

Jack and Brie recovering from the proposal. Randall and Kate wait in the wings.

BRIE EVANTEE
Wow. The fireworks have certainly gone off today...

JACK BREMMER
Yes, they have. From a wedding proposal to a little science experiment, I’m gonna need a temple rub and a martini.

BRIE EVANTEE
Well, our last guests...

STAGE MANAGER cues Randall and Kate to take their seats.

STAGE MANAGER
(whispering)
Go, go, go!

BRIE EVANTEE
...have made a pretty big discovery in space. Astronomer Dr. Randall Mindy and PHD candidate Ms. Kate Dibiasky are here. Welcome.

JACK BREMMER
Can I just ask one thing before we go any further: is there life out there? Yes or no? Final answer.

RANDALL
Well we don’t have the data.
(being playful)
But sure. Why not. In the vastness of space, sure, aliens are real.

Kate gives Randall a quick sideways glance.

JACK BREMMER
See I knew it. I knew I would like this guy! See you owe me fifty bucks.

BRIE EVANTEE
Please don’t encourage him Dr. Mindy. We’ll never get out of here. Now, Jack was having some fun here..
INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

June and their sons watch their Dad.

EVAN
Dad looks great. Doesn’t he look good?

MARSHALL
They did something with his beard.

JUNE
He really does!

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

BRIE EVANTEE
Now Jack was having some fun about the aliens, whatever, but I’m told there’s a New York Herald story that has just come out that talks about a very serious discovery you two have made.

INT. TEDDY’S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Teddy watches nervous

DR. OGLETHORPE
Keep it right there, you’re doing good.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

RANDALL
That’s right Brie. Kate was observing supernovas on the Subaru optical telescope..

INT. AUTOPSY - CONTINUOUS

DAMAIN
Is that your girl?

Phillip nods.

DAMAIN (CONT’D)
Not bad.
INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

RANDALL
...when she made a breathtaking and once in a lifetime discovery.

JACK BREMMER
I had no idea that Subaru made telescopes.

BRIE EVANTEE
Incredible.

JACK BREMMER
So this is really exciting. Tell us what you found Ms. Dibiasky...

KATE
(a little awkward)
Well, I was monitoring exploding stars... to help measure the measurement expansion of the universe-

BRIE EVANTEE
For your PhD...

KATE
Right. But I saw something I didn’t recognize. It was a comet. A big one. And it’s headed directly at earth. And it very likely will hit.

JACK BREMMER
This sounds very, very exciting. Exploding stars. Like stars actually explode? Now how big is this thing? Could it destroy someone’s house? Is that possible?

RANDALL
Well Comet Dibiasky, which is what it will officially be named-

JACK BREMMER
After her?

RANDALL
Yeah after her.

JACK BREMMER                BRIE EVANTEE
Alright, Congratulations!      Oh! Congratulations!!
RANDALL
It’s somewhere between 6 and 9 kilometers across. So, it would damage the entire planet. Much more than a house.

JACK BREMMER
The entire planet. Ok, so while it’s damaging that, can it hit this one house in particular, that’s just off the coast of New Jersey? It’s my ex-wife’s house. I just need it to be hit. Can we make that happen?

Brie hits his arm playfully.

BRIE EVANTEE
Come on! You and Shelly have a great friendship! Stop! You need to Stop!

BRIE EVANTEE (CONT'D)
I apologize for him. He’s terrible!

KATE
(interrupting)
I’m sorry... Are we not being clear! We’re trying to tell you that the entire planet is about to be destroyed.

BRIE EVANTEE
It’s something we do around here to keep the bad news light.

JACK BREMMER
Helps the medicine go down. And speaking of medicine, tomorrow we’ve got a-

KATE
Well maybe the destruction of the entire planet isn’t supposed to be fun.

Everyone stops.

KATE (CONT'D)
Maybe it’s supposed to be terrifying... and upsetting... and maybe we’re supposed to stay up all night every night crying...

(MORE)
KATE (CONT'D)
when we’re all 100% for sure going
to fucking die!

She storms off.

RANDALL
Hey Kate-

KATE
Sorry!

There is a long silence.

INT. AUTOPSY - CONTINUOUS

Phillip and Damain stare at the tv horrified.

DAMAIN
Hey man, my brother has bipolar
disorder. If you ever need to talk
to anyone-

INT. DAILY RIP - SAME TIME

BRIE EVANTEE
Is she always like that? Was it
something I said?

Randall is totally on the spot. Finally after a painful beat
he opens his mouth...

RANDALL
Maybe I should have given her that
extra Xanax that I had.

Jack, Brie and the crew Erupt Into LAUGHTER.

JACK BREMMER
Listen, if you don’t have enough,
we all have enough around here!

BRIE EVANTEE
A spoonful of Xanax helps the
medicine go down!

JASON
That’s right! That’s good.

Brie gives Randall a quick intrigued glance.
BRIE EVANTEE
We’re gonna have to get you back.
(to the studio)
Is he a plant?!

JACK BREMMER
I knew I’d like this guy. I knew it!

BRIE EVANTEE
The handsome astronomer can come back anytime. Yelling lady, not so much.

JACK BREMMER
Join us tomorrow when our guest will be the man who many say will challenge President Orlean in two years, Senator Jeff Lerner.

BRIE EVANTEE
And wrongly convicted murderer Michelle Weems talks to us about her third place finish on Celebrity Dance Off.

JACK BREMMER
I thought she should have won. I really did.

BRIE EVANTEE
And I still think she’s guilty.

JACK BREMMER
That’s the Daily Rip guys!

BRIE EVANTEE
Have a great day!

STAGE MANAGER
And we’re out!

Everyone stands up and pulls off their mics.

RANDALL
That’s it? Did what we wanted to say get across?

JACK BREMMER
Yeah, yeah, you were great. But I think mullet girl she probably needs some media training.
RANDALL
Really?

JACK BREMMER
Yeah, terrible buddy.

BRIE EVANTEE
We usually get drinks at Aundrine’s after our 5 o’clock staff meeting. You know, it’s fun! You should come.

RANDALL
Oh I’ll have to see. Thank you for the invitation.

She gives him a hard look and then exits. The Groomer from the Herald is there.

GROOMER THALIA
You were awesome. Can I take a picture of you for my portfolio?

RANDALL
Of course.

She takes his picture.

GROOMER THALIA
Thank you!

INT. NEW YORK HERALD OFFICE – AN HOUR LATER – AFTERNOON

Randall, Kate, Adul, Chief Editor Paula Woods and the Herald’s MEDIA QUANT go through the numbers on a giant computer screen.

MEDIA QUANT
You can see this spike here is when Riley Bina asked to take DJ Chello back on the segment before you. We saw engagement across all social media platforms.

RANDALL
What about our story?

MEDIA QUANT
Randall and Kate your TV appearance got some nice traffic when Ms. Dibiasky cursed. But unfortunately there was an immediate backlash that quickly became a meme...
Screen shows VT of Kate next to Charles Manson reading, “CRAZY. It’s all in the eyes.” Another meme of Kate’s deformed face looking like a monster.

KATE  
Jesus. They just think I’m crazy.

RANDALL  
I mean look at that. That’s so unnecessary.

Another meme of Kate screaming paired with a wet cat.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS  
You can move on.

RANDALL  
Is that even allowed?

Another meme of Kate eating a baby, captioned, “Delicious!”

RANDALL (CONT'D)  
I think that’s photo shop Kate.

MEDIA QUANT  
Dr. Mindy on the other hand had very high favorables. VeganBabe wrote “Meooow. Me likey hunky Star Man” Some accounts called him “The Bedroom Eyes Doomsday Prophet” and “A.I.L.F.” which means “Astronomer I’d Like to Fuck.”

RANDALL  
I don’t see what that has to do with anything.

MEDIA QUANT  
Annnd that’s everything. We did not feature or push on any sites. And clicks overall were below basic weather and traffic stories.

Beat.

RANDALL  
So....that’s it?

KATE  
I knew it.

RANDALL  
That’s it!
Thank you Erin.
The Media Quant packs up. They all wait until she leaves.

RANDALL
I don’t understand. I don’t understand. Why aren’t people terrified! What do we have to say? What do we have to do?

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
Scientists in Mexico and Spain are currently going through the data. And South Korea has expressed concern.

RANDALL
Oh that’s great! South Korea.

ADUL GRELIO
Let’s not bullshit each other. Bottom line is you told us the science was 100% and it’s not. And now we look like idiots.

RANDALL
No, no, you tell me who said the science isn’t 100%-

KATE
Excuse me?

RANDALL
I want to talk to this person. You tell me who said the science isn’t 100%.

ADUL GRELIO
Dr. Jocelyn Calder the head of NASA just came out calling it “more near miss astronomy hysteria.”

KATE
She’s the one who told us not to tell anyone.

ADUL GRELIO
“More near miss hysteria!”

KATE
Is she even an astronomer?
ADUL GRELIO
She’s the head of NASA but maybe
she doesn’t know what she’s talking
about.

RANDALL
(off his phone)
Yeah, she’s the head of NASA but
she’s also a former
anesthesiologist and a President
Orlean super donor. It’s all
corrupt!

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS
The point is, Adul’s right, there’s
still serious debate. And now the
Herald has egg on its face.

ADUL GRELIO
We’ve taken this story as far as it
goes. I wish you a very pleasant
end of times.

Adul leaves.

RANDALL
It’s not a goddam story ok?

Paula leaves as well. Kate and Randall are alone. Randall
wipes makeup off his face with a tissue.

KATE
As of right now we have exactly six
months, ten days, two hours, 11
minutes and 41 seconds, until a
comet the size of downtown Denver
rips through our atmosphere and
extincts all life on earth.

RANDALL
When did you do those calculations?

Holds out her phone.

KATE
I put the moment of impact on a
diet app. So impact is when my diet
ends. Only I’m not on a diet, I’m
just crying five times a day.

Kate begins to cry.
RANDALL
Hey come on, come on, everyone
should be panicking right now.
Don’t cry.

KATE
I know...

A BASH push notification comes on her phone.

KATE (CONT'D)
That prick.

We see an article on Autopsy “YOU KNOW THE CRAZY GIRL WHO
THINKS WE’RE ALL GOING TO DIE? I ACTUALLY SLEPT WITH HER.” By
Phillip Kaj.

Randall walks over to look at her phone.

RANDALL
What happened?

KATE
Well I guess my boyfriend just
broke up with me.

RANDALL
What a day.

Randall puts his arms around Kate as she continues to cry.

BASH graphics whoosh across the screen.

People walking through Tokyo. An ant climbs on a twig.

KATE
You’re gonna die! And you’re gonna
die! And you’re gonna die!

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

A calm shot of planets in space. A large shadow darkens the
view.

CUT TO:

INT. CVN CABLE NEWS STUDIO
BLACK.
WE HEAR THE AUDIO OF A MAJOR NEWS STORY FADING IN.

ANCHOR 2
It started with a photo many
thought was an armpit or the chin
of a man with a strange beard...
But what’s emerging now is a
scandal that may rock the--

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - NIGHT

A reporter DALIA HENSFIELD, 43, in front of the White House fence.

DALIA HENSFIELD (SOT)
--President Orlean sent her Supreme
Court nominee Sheriff Conlon a cell
phone picture of her private part.

SOCIAL MEDIA MONTAGE: Shots of citizens protesting. People
posting opinions on social media.

SARAH BENTERMAN
Isn’t she the same person that said
if poor people don’t want to be
poor they should pick better
Lottery numbers? She actually said
that!

DALIA HENSFIELD
The source also confirmed that the
pair have been having an affair for
years--

EXT. DC HOTEL - NIGHT

SENATOR LERNER getting into a car addresses the press in a
white collared shirt.

SENATOR LERNER
Members of my party are currently
drawing up a formal censure of the
President.

INT. DR. MINDY HOME - DAY

Randall is on his home computer arguing with people on Diddly
(Twitter). He has grown into his Daily Rip look nicely.
RAN

DALL

My God honey, this guy doesn’t even know what a heliocentric orbit is and he’s calling me a crackpot. He says Jewish billionaires invented the comet so the government can confiscate our liberty and our guns. #DontBeScared.

June passes by the doorway.

JUNE MINDY
You’ve been on that site a lot lately.

RAN

DALL
I’ve got over a quarter million subscribers. I’ve got to use my voice to get the truth out there, right?

JUNE
I’m going for a walk if you want to come.

RAN

DALL
(talks while typing)
It’s called “the scientific method.” It’s what created the the computer you’re typing your half witted conspiracy theories on. What do you think about that?

JUNE MINDY (O.C.)
Randall!

RAN

DALL
Yeah, honey?

JUNE MINDY
Someone is here to see you!

RAN

DALL
Who?

INT. THE MINDY LIVING ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Randall enters and there are SEVEN FBI AGENTS in his living room and TWO BLACK SEDANS WITH HOOD LIGHTS FLASHING ON HIS FRONT LAWN.

RAN

DALL
Oh gosh! Right. Ok.
FBI AGENT
Are you Dr. Randall Mindy?

RANDALL
Yes, sir, I am.

EXT. MICHIGAN STATE CAMPUS - SAME DAY, SAME TIME
Kate is jogging across campus. A COLLEGE GIRL hanging out with friends yells at her as she passes.

COLLEGE GIRL
(mocking)
“We’re all going to die!!”

KATE
(like she’s said it a 100 times)
Fuck off please!

Suddenly A PASSING STUDENT, A BLIND MAN WITH A CANE, A COFFEE VENDOR reveal they are undercover FBI, tackle her and draw guns on her.

FBI AGENTS
FBI! Freeze! Get on your knees right now. Get on your knees! You are under arrest for breach of national security secrets!

KATE
(getting on the ground)
Jesus Christ! You could have just called me! Or showed up to my apartment.
(see more agents)
What are you dressed up as a blind guy?

EXT. “OFFICE 4 YOU” OFFICE BUILDING - D.C. - 1 HOUR LATER
Teddy Oglethorpe exits a rent by the day office space building holding his briefcase.

Suddenly THREE BLACK SEDANS screech up to the curb and FBI AGENTS point guns at him.

FBI AGENTS
FBI! Get down on the ground!
DR. OGLETHORPE
Okay... Be cool... I just have more
skin pigmentation than you because
your ancestors migrated to northern
Europe and developed lighter skin
so as not to get vitamin-

He slowly gets on the ground.

INT. BLACK SEDAN - SAME TIME

Kate is in the back seat of a black sedan driven by TWO FEDS.
She has a HOOD OVER HER HEAD.

KATE
Unless you two assholes are taking
me to the Bat Cave fuck you for
putting this hood on me!

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - SIX HOURS LATER - NIGHT

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Teddy Oglethorpe, Randall and Kate are seated in the hallway
outside the Oval Office. Two SECRET SERVICE AGENTS stand

guard.

Air Force General Themes, the General from their first White

House visit walks by with TWO CONTRACTORS.

KATE
Watch out for him. He’ll charge you

for free shit.

Jason, President Orlean’s son, peaks out of the Oval Office.

JASON

Gentleman, you can come in.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TEN MINUTES LATER

President Orlean and Jason speak to Randall, Teddy and Kate.

Dr. Calder is also there.
PRESIDENT ORLEAN
I think it was Winston Churchill, or maybe it was Bobby Knight, who said the great labor of leadership. Look there are times as a leader is to lay down ones yolk of pride and admit, that mistakes were made.

She exhales a plume of smoke and dies out a cigarette.

JASON
You were deceived, as was I, but the end result was, we had our scientists who went to the prestigious schools of Harvard and Princeton and... they confirmed the data. So we would like to offer you a Presidential apology.

RANDALL
Really?

JASON
And we are fully prepared to mobilize in an historic fashion to save this planet.

Randall and Oglethorpe look to each other and let out a huge sigh a huge relief. Everyone is celebrating.

KATE
So basically, what you’re saying is-

DR. OGLETHORPE
Hey. There’s no need. We all get-

KATE
- you’re about to lose the midterms because you got caught sending pictures of your cooch to your porn star Sheriff and now suddenly it’s to your advantage to act on the comet?

Beat.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
(mocking)
Right...

KATE
(big exhale)
Ok.

(MORE)
KATE (CONT'D)
Ok, I’m just so relieved that you guys are finally doing something...This has been really really hard.

RANDALL
This has been really really stressful.

DR. OGLETHORPE
It’s been a lot. I can agree.

Kate begins crying. Randall puts his hand on hers. Jason starts laughing at Kate.

JASON
Sorry, you just look so bad when you cry!
(to Jocelyn)
People are going to ask why we didn’t act earlier so we need you to take the hit on this.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Yeah...but we’ll take care of you down the road Jocelyn.

DR. CALDER
Of course Janie. I’ll resign in disgrace first thing tomorrow.

KATE
(under her breath)
Well that’s weird as hell.

RANDALL
Anesthesiologist.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
I am going to make a statement, a Presidential statement to the American people. We’re not going to tell the press about it ahead of time, so it will have the quality of a breaking news.

INT. OHIO LIVING ROOM - TWO NIGHTS LATER

A MOM(40s) AND HER TEEN DAUGHTER (14) watch TV. THE BACHELOR type show they’re watching is interrupted.

CLOSE UP: TV SCREEN: PRESIDENTIAL SEAL
ANCR (V.O.)
We interrupt this broadcast of
Jackpot Fiancé for an emergency
message from the President of the
United States.

EXT. WW 2 BATTLESHIP - NIGHT

President Orlean, at a podium in front of a WORLD WAR TWO
BATTLESHIP with American flags everywhere. It’s lit like a
movie. Behind her are Randall, Kate, Teddy and Jason. Jason
occasionally mouths the words of the speech along with his
Mom.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Citizens of the United States and
peoples of the world. I have just
been handed scientific findings
that confirm a worst case scenario.
An unprecedented comet 9 kilometers
wide is now on a direct collision
course with our cherished home:
planet earth. Estimated time of
arrival is approximately 5 months,
so we have some time.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK

CUT BETWEEN PLANNING AND THE EXECUTION of the media roll out.

JASON
We’ve already drawn up an emergency
Congressional spending bill.

EXT. BATTLESHIP - TWO NIGHTS LATER

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
I have already put together an
emergency spending package for
Congress-

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK

JASON
That the Senate and the House both
agreed upon.

RANDALL
That is great to hear.
EXT. BATTLESHIP

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
And that will enable NASA and our
great military to launch a
preemptive strike using
decommissioned Space Shuttles and
Satellites loaded with nuclear
explosives. We will knock Comet
Dibiasky off her course.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TWO NIGHTS PRIOR

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
But we’re gonna need a hero. A
pilot.

RANDALL
Shouldn’t the mission all be done
using remote technology?

DR. OGLETHORPE
Washington’s always gotta have a
hero.

EXT. BATTLESHIP - TWO NIGHTS LATER

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
... I have asked Medal of Freedom
recipient and outspoken Patriot,
Benedict Drask to undertake this
difficult and-

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TWO NIGHTS EARLIER

RANDALL
I’m sorry, isn’t he the mercenary
gentleman who screamed at all those
children on the White House lawn?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Yes, he was given the honor of
leading the Presidential Initiative
to get kids to exercise.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE FRONT LAWN 3 YEARS EARLIER - DAY

A HUNDRED CHILDREN between the ages of 8-11 are doing jumping
jacks on the White House Front Lawn while BENEDICT DRASK, 49,
leads them on.
BENEDICT DRASK
You goddam lard ass! You look like
a bunch of pussies!!

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TWO NIGHTS EARLIER

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
He’s just of a different
generation.

DR. CALDER
You know, I used to date him.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE FRONT LAWN 3 YEARS EARLIER - DAY

BENEDICT DRASK
You want to hear about the last
pussy I worked with in combat? You
ever see inside a man’s torso?

EXT. BATTLESHIP - NIGHT

Benedict Drask stands at attention in his private military
uniform and salutes.

BENEDICT DRASK
Benedict Drask reporting for duty
sir!

The President returns the salute.

BENEDICT DRASK (CONT’D)
Some are saying this is a suicide
mission. Well all I ask is if I get
snuffed make sure you all earn the
extra living my sacrifice gives
you.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TWO NIGHTS EARLIER

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Earn the extra living my sacrifice
gives you.

JASON
I wrote that line for him.

KATE
Isn’t that from Saving Private Ryan?
RANDALL
Yes!

JASON
No. It’s totally different.

EXT. BATTLESHIP - NIGHT

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
And special thanks go to the team of scientists behind me..

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASH BACK TWO NIGHTS PRIOR

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
We’re gonna need everybody’s help on this. Everybody. We all have to push out this message.

EXT. BATTLESHIP - NIGHT

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
-Dr. Teddy Oglethorpe, my African American scientist. Kate Dibiasky who the comet is named after. But please don’t blame her.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASH BACK TWO NIGHTS PRIOR

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Ms. Dibiasky, she connects with the disaffected youth and the mentally ill.

KATE
Thank you

DR. OGLETHORPE
We’ll do whatever we can.

RANDALL
As long as you do the right thing, we’re there for you.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Especially you Dr. Mindy. You poll much higher than your colleagues. It’s wild.
EXT. BATTLESHIP - NIGHT

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
And Dr. Randall Mindy, he will help us destroy our common enemy Dibiasky.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASH BACK TWO NIGHTS PRIOR

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Wonderful. Well, I think we’re done!

JASON
Let’s go!

They all stand to leave.

KATE
Can I say something?

JASON
Yeah, we’ve all been dying to hear what you’ve got to say.

KATE
I didn’t vote for you... But this is obviously much...much bigger than any of my misgivings. So I will be 100% behind this effort. No matter how offensive I find you.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Wow. That’s great.

JASON
You know I was the one who told the FBI to put the sack over your head. The FBI doesn’t do that. That’s CIA. But I made them.

KATE
I had a feeling. I really did.

JASON
It’s a good feeling, because that is what I did. And it’s very funny and cool.

Kate rolls her eyes.
EXT. BATTLESHIP - 2 NIGHTS LATER

President Orlean finishes her speech.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
And may Jesus Christ bless every
one of you. Especially the
honorable members of my party. We
will prevail.

MUSIC: SCORE: INSPIRING HORNS AND TIMPANIS.

Fireworks explode off the battleship

INT. CLOSE UP OF SOCIAL MEDIA FEEDS

DIDDLY FEED that dissolves into FRIEND POST that dissolves
into VROOM VROOM all buzzing about the comet: “Is this for
real?” “I’m scared.” “We’re gonna kick this comet’s ass!”
“That Dr. Mindy is fire hot.” “I hate that crazy chick.” “God
will protect us.”

RILEY BINA
You guys, this comet is seriously
stressing me out.”

OLDER TOUCH LADY
Comet’s coming. People gotta dig
in. We already got buyers for these
shovels on E-Market. Thousand bucks
a pop.

DALIA HENSFIELD
It’s a clean sweep for President
Orlean.

EXT. NEWS STAND AT TRAIN STATION - DAY

Magazine covers at a news stand (or online) show headlines
like “Earth’s Big Moment!” “Drask’s Miracle Workout” “How the
Comet Changes NFL Playoff Race!”

NEWS STAND GUY puts out new Time Magazines with a cover
showing President Orlean smoking a cigarette with the
headline “SMOKING HOT!”

Another magazine with Kate on the cover: Is She to Blame for
the Comet? And one of Randall “America’s Scientist”
EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - DAYS LATER

An Old SPACE SHUTTLE and MISSILES ARE BEING TOWED ONTO THE TARMAC. Crews are building launch platforms.

INT. KIDS SHOW STUDIO - DAY

Randall talks to SAMMY, a cute, famous kids’ puppet.

SAMMY
Hello, Dr. Mindy.

RANDALL
Hello Sammy.

SAMMY
Are you really a doctor?

RANDALL
No Sammy, I’m an astronomer.

SAMMY
What’s an astronomer?

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - DA

Randall speaks with Brie and Jack on the air.

JACK BREMMER
Dr. Mindy there is a lot of fear out there, America, around the world, parents don’t know what to say to their kids, what would you say to them to help them understand?

RANDALL
I’m sure many of us are frightened. But I can assure you our best and brightest are on the job. I’ve seen the science on this plan... and it is sound.

BRIE EVANTEE
I know your words are a great comfort to all of our viewers Dr. Randall. We thank you for your courage and service. I just like to say, whenever I feel afraid or alone, I think of you and I just feel... Better.
Randall looks down and Brie has put her hand on his thigh. He clearly has a hard on pushing against his pants.

INT. FANCY HOTEL - DAY

Randall and Brie Evantee walk down a hallway. Brie pulls Randall in for a kiss and they start having sex against the wall in a posh Manhattan hotel.

BRIE EVANTEE
Tell me we’re all going to die...

RANDALL
What?

BRIE EVANTEE
Tell me we’re all going to die...
Do it...

RANDALL
We’re all going to die...

BRIE EVANTEE
Ohhhh!!!!

INT. 24 HOUR GYM - SAME TIME

A LINE OF 9 GYM PATRONS all watch the announcement on their treadmill TV screens.

INT. PATRIOT NEWS STUDIO - DAY

Kate and Teddy being interviewed by a Hannity type DAN PAWKETTY, 55 and debating with a Texas CONGRESSMAN TENANT, 76.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT
So these two Marxists wave around the word “science” and we’re all supposed to do whatever they say? How do we know there even is a comet?

KATE
Mr. Pawketty, Congressman, this data has now been confirmed and peer reviewed by hundreds of world-renowned scientists.
CONGRESSMAN TENANT
And we’re supposed to trust you?
The comet’s got your name!

KATE
I don’t see the relevancy. That
doesn’t even make sense.

DAN PAWKETTY
Then why won’t you answer the
question?

KATE
Then what’s the question?

DR. OGLETHORPE
Grow up, here. This is ridiculous!

INT. HOTEL ROOM BEDROOM - NIGHT
Brie holds a glass of wine as she and Randall lay in bed post coital.

BRIE EVANTEE
I just realized we don’t really
know anything about each other.

RANDALL
True. Every time I ask about your
life you tell me about your
favorite restaurants.

BRIE EVANTEE
I despise the “get to know you”
part of relationships.

RANDALL
Oh, ok. I understand.

BRIE EVANTEE
Ok, let’s just get it all over and
done with: My Grandfather invented
the flash freezing process so I
come from grotesque money but I got
away from it by getting three
Master’s degrees. I’ve been
divorced twice. One was a Secretary
of State. The other a sport
fisherman. I’ve slept with two
former Presidents and I speak four
languages and own two Monets.

Randall sits up a little straighter.
RANDALL
Wow. Two former Presidents? Wow.
My turn? My Father was a middle
school geography teacher. My Mother
cut hair out of our kitchen. About
two years ago our family dog JoJo
died. Which was really emotional. I
can’t remember crying that much
ever. And, I finally got my Star
Wars poster signed by Mark Hamill.
It’s in the garage.

BRIE EVANTEE
Ok, Good. That’s done.
(beat)
Now where are we gonna go for
dinner tonight?

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. DC SKYLINE

JET PLANES RIP ACROSS THE D.C. SKY IN FORMATION WITH A
DEAFENING ROAR.

“GIANT LETTERS ACROSS THE SCREEN “LAUNCH DAY”

EXT. LAUNCH PAD - CONTINUOUS

12:24p EST. Two helicopters circle a giant MODIFIED SPACE
SHUTTLE preparing to launch

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - SAME TIME

MASSIVE CROWD WATCHING AND CHEERING ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE

SCORE: GLORIOUS

NEWS ANCHORS CHATTER (V.O.)
Not since D-Day have we seen such a
mass mobilization, our unions and
resources..

Hundreds of press report from around the world.

FRENCH REPORTER
I've just spoken to the
technical liaison-

HAITIAN REPORTER
The skies are clear and the
weather is temperate-
EXT. LAUNCH PAD - CONTINUOUS

NASA van pulls up, Drask exits van heroically in a space suit.

INT. BEDROOM - INDIA - DAY

CLOSE UP: An INDIAN TEEN watches on his phone in bed.

INT. SUDANESE LIVING ROOM - DAY.

A FAMILY IN THE SUDAN watch on TV

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONTINUOUS

MISSION COORDINATOR
Ok, here we go everyone! Let’s stay sharp!

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - DAY

President Orlean, Randall, Jason, Kate, Teddy, Air Force General Themes, THREE OTHER GENERALS and for some reason Brie Evantee are all crouched in the situation room looking at MONITORS SHOWING A MODIFIED SPACE SHUTTLE. It’s surrounded by an array of satellites and other Space Shuttles on the launch pad at Kennedy Center.

BENEDICT DRASK (O.C.)
(crackly on the radio)
What’s the hold up Mother Fuckers?
Come on, let’s fucking light this fire cracker. You think I’ve got all day.

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - 3 MILES AWAY - SAME TIME

A HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE watch from a distance with binoculars and phones raised.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (V.O.)
Commander Drask, this is your President speaking. Your nation thanks you. Your planet thanks you. Your God, and I, thank you.
INT. SHUTTLE - CONTINUOUS

BENEDICT DRASK
The only thanks I need is a shot of
Jack Daniels. And a couple of DUIs
to magically go away.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONTINUOUS

Mission control full of techies at screens coordinate the
launch.

MISSION COORDINATOR
This is Mission Control. All
indicators are coming up green.
This is a final warning to control
the launch pad.

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
(to Randall)
Your discovery led to this mission
and the chance to save earth. I
give you the honor.

Kate glances over at Randall. She sees he and Brie Evantee
are holding hands?

Randall takes an awkward sip of water.

RANDALL
Thank you Madame President.
Citizens of planet earth,
everything is theoretically
possible, until it is done. And
with that, we are a go for launch.

The room applauds.

Peter Isherwell, CEO of BASH enters the room.

PETER ISHERWELL
(looking down at his
phone)
Hello. Oh Brie, you look fabulous.
As always.

KATE
Should he be in here?
JASON
Yes, Peter’s a Platinum Eagle Donor
to the campaign. He has full
clearance.
(beat)
Molly kicking in. I timed that shit
perfect.

MISSION COORDINATOR (V.O.)
...3, 2, 1... liftoff!

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER – SAME TIME

The Shuttles and satellites shoot bright yellow and red flame
as they battle against the pull of gravity.

INT. SHUTTLE – CONTINUOUS

BENEDICT DRASK
(sing)
-come from Alabama with a banjo on
my knee. Hey!

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM – SAME TIME

Everyone cheers and high fives.

DR. OGLETHORPE
We didn’t lose any satellites.
Margin of error was for two to
malfuction.

PETER ISHERWELL
Madame President can I speak to you
outside for one second?

She’s engrossed by the screens showing liftoff.

RANDALL
The success probability has already
increased to 81%.

PETER ISHERWELL
(in his real voice)
Janie. Now!

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
I’m so sorry. Of course Peter.
INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE - SAME TIME

Drask shakes and rattles in the cockpit.

BENEDICT DRASK
And a big hello to that beautiful blue ball we call home. All those hard working white folks. God bless ya!

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - SAME TIME

The room listens uncomfortably.

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES
It’s just a different generation.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE - SAME TIME

BENEDICT DRASK
I also want to say hello to all the Indians out there. Both kinds. You know, the ones with the elephant, the ones with the bow and arrow. Hey, why haven’t you guys ever teamed up? How cool would that be? I also want to say hi to all the gays out there-

MISSION COORDINATOR (V.O.)
Uh, Commander. Booster ejection is imminent.

BENEDICT DRASK
Roger that.

INT. PICK UP TRUCK - DAY

A MEXICAN FATHER (51) AND SON (17) watch the launch on a cell in their truck behind a warehouse.

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - SAME TIME

The Shuttles and satellites approach the outer atmosphere.

BRIE EVANTEE
(in French)
Et les anges s’envolent vers le ciel...
RANDALL
Is that French?

BRIE EVANTEE
Yes, it means “And the angels soar to the heavens...” It’s from a 14th century French poem I studied at Dartmouth... Watching this made me think of it... And you.

Brie and Randall kiss. The room clocks it.

Kate stares at him hard. But then President Orlean walks back in looking solemn.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Everyone...I’ve just received some critical information concerning our mission.

CUT TO:

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - SAME TIME

MASSIVE CROWD WATCHING AND CHEERING ON THE SPACE SHUTTLE

Although it’s just a flaming speck in the sky, we see slowly but surely that THE LEAD SPACE SHUTTLE BEGINS TURNING. The crowd begins to chatter.

ONLOOKER
Hey! It’s looks like it’s turning around!

GUY
No it’s not! It’s a course correction! Pretty standard! I was in the Navy.

Nope. It’s turning around.

ONLOOKER
Nope! It’s turning around!

And now IT’S FULLY HEADED BACK TO EARTH along with the other shuttles and satellites. THE CROWD AND CROWDS ACROSS THE WORLD ARE SILENT AND CONFUSED.

ANCHORS CHATTER (V.O.)
There seems to be some confusion - I’m not gonna lie to you - This reporter is at a loss for words - It’s definitely turning around.
INT. MISSION CONTROL

Mission Coordinator turns around in his seat and addresses the rest of his team.

MISSION COORDINATOR
Does anyone know what the fuck just happened?!

CUT TO:

INT. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE - TWO HOURS LATER

Teddy, Randall and Kate are in a generic office. Teddy tries the door.

DR. OGLETHORPE
It’s still locked.

RANDALL
I don’t understand what could have happened. The mission was working. Everything was on track.

DR. OGLETHORPE
It could have been anything, guidance system could have malfunction, nukes destabilized. Myriad of things.

KATE
Who was that man who walked in when we were in the situation room? He looked familiar.

DR. OGLETHORPE
That was Peter Isherwell, CEO of BASH. And the third richest human ever.

RANDALL
He’s the guy that bought the Gutenberg Bible and then lost it.

The door opens. It’s Jason.

JASON
Sorry to keep you waiting, but the situation is extremely fluid.

(and then)
Dr. Randall, you’re now Chief Science Advisor to the White House...
RANDALL
What?

JASON
...and as such we need you for an emergency cabinet meeting right now where you will be fully debriefed.

KATE
What about us?

JASON
You don’t have the clearance for this, sweetheart. Don’t trip, got you some snacks. Waters.

Jason tosses everything on the floor.

RANDALL
You don’t need to throw it on the floor.

JASON
It’ll be 3-4 hours, tops.

KATE
What if we have to go to the bathroom!?

JASON
We’ll lay out some newspaper for you. Grab you a can of febreze.

RANDALL
I’ll be back.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Science tells the truth, Randall.

Jason begins to shut the door and then stops himself.

JASON
(to Kate)
Do you wanna come?

KATE
Yes!

Jason slams the door in her face.
INT. CABINET ROOM - 20 MINUTES LATER

President Orlean presides over a FULL CABINET MEETING with Randall, Jason, several Generals in attendance. Peter Isherwell stands behind the President.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Ladies and gentlemen what we and what the world thought was an impending and terrifying danger... is actually an astonishing opportunity.

SECRETARY OF STATE GLEESON BERKERS
Our allies are very confused and demanding answers Madame President.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Tell them to wait.
(moves on)
According to the most recent spectrometer reading of Comet Dibiasky made by astro-geologists at BASH cellular... we have discovered something. Something truly miraculous. Peter?

PETER ISHERWELL
Thank you, Janie. As some of you know the most valuable minerals in the world are fast becoming the ones used to make cell phones and computers: yttrium, terbium, osmium, dysprosium, and on and on. We’re running short. And the problem is exacerbated because China has her big panda paw firmly on almost all the mines that produce these valuable rare earth assets. So you can imagine, wow, just how happy we were at BASH when our astrogeologists that this comet hurtling towards earth actually contains at least thirty-two trillion dollars of these critical materials.

RANDALL
I’m sorry, I’m sorry, is that why you aborted this entire mission because you are trying to mine the comet?
PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Dr. Mindy, I think we should all questions until the end of the presentation and you might find that your questions are answered.

RANDALL
Yes, Madame President.

PETER ISHERWELL
When other metals are factored in this comet contains almost 140 trillion dollars’ worth of assets.

There’s some muttering and ooohs and ahhs in the room.

JASON
Buck Forty Trilly. Uh...

RANDALL
But what does any of this matter if we’re all going to die?

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
I was about to ask the same question Janie.

JASON
Oh no...what if we’re all rich! And we’re safe!

INT. WHITE HOUSE OFFICE – SAME TIME

Teddy and Kate have eaten the Cheez-Bits and drank the water. They stare off, half asleep and half stricken with stress.

KATE
I’ve gone over it again and again in my head and I still don’t get it. He’s a three star General. He works at the Pentagon. Why would he charge us for the free snacks?

DR. OGLETHORPE
One time I met Sting and I swear to God he farted right in front of me, didn’t even break eye contact, and didn’t even say excuse me. Thing is, he actually pulled it off. Because I still found him to be quite charming.

The door opens. It’s Randall.
RANDALL
Guys let’s go! We have to go! NOW!!

EXT. BOJO MAMBO’S SHRIMP - AN HOUR LATER - NIGHT

INT. BOJO MAMBO’S SHRIMP - CONTINUOUS

Seafood, cocktails. It’s Bojo Mambo’s, you know the vibe.

DR. OGLETHORPE
That’s insane. Completely insane.

RANDALL
I had the exact same reaction.

KATE
This is a 9 kilometer wide planet killer we’re talking about not roaming charges.

RANDALL
I’m as concerned and enraged as you, but they’ve got Gary Talcamont out of Stanford and Lisa Inez from Princeton on their team. This is cutting edge next generation technology they’ve created.

INT. CABINET ROOM - EARLIER

Isherwell, DR. INEZ, DR. TALCAMONT and a BASH designer show an impressive animation of featuring dozens of DRONES WITH DRILL TIPS and EXPLOSIVE CHARGES. President Orlean vapes while she listens.

PETER ISHERWELL
Obviously, one giant comet is a major and existential threat to our planet... But 30 smaller meteoroids we can handle. Our BEADS, which stands for BASH Explore and Acquire Drones, will attach to the comet and scan using Nano-technology developed by Nobel Prize winner Dr. Gary Talcamont here. And then we will then deploy Nobel and Polofsky prize winning scientist Dr. Inez’s micro targeted quantum fission explosives deep into the object. Dr. Inez, would you like to explain-
COMET has been scanned on a 3D grid. IN THE ANIMATION the
drones ATTACH USING THEIR DRILL BITS and BLAM!

DR. INEZ
Thank you Peter. We’ve been
developing phase fission reactions
in the CERN particle accelerator
that can splinter the comet into
smaller pieces with breathtaking
accuracy. These segments are then
steered and decelerated by each
BEAD into the Pacific Ocean for
reclamation by waiting US Navy
ships...

The animated drones then individually steer each piece of the
comet into the Pacific Ocean making a simple splash.

PETER ISHERWELL
And when these treasures from
heaven are claimed, poverty as we
know it, social injustice, lose of
biodiversity, all these multitudes
of problems will become relics of
the past and humanity will stride
through the pillars of Boaz and
Jachin, naked into the glory of a
golden age...

INT. BOJO MAMBO’S SHRIMP RESTAURANT – CONTINUOUS

DR. OGLETHORPE
And is this nano-tech work peer
reviewed?

RANDALL
I need to review the data but it’s
been modeled.

KATE
Has any of this been reviewed?

RANDALL
No.

INT. CABINET ROOM – EARLIER

PETER ISHERWELL
Interplanetary, interstellar,
intergalactic existence for the
human race.
The room applauds

INT. BOJO MAMBO’S SHRIMP RESTAURANT – CONTINUOUS

RANDALL
I understand the wealth that they
could extract from this comet. It
could end world hunger or...

Kate begins to laugh.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Oh, I see.

RANDALL
What? Why are you laughing?

DR. OGLETHORPE
So that’s the pretty bow they’re
putting around this line of
bullshit.

KATE
I bet they’ll say freedom and
puppies too.

RANDALL
You want me to quit the mission?
Ok, I’ll quit the mission. But you
have to understand, this is now
beyond our control. They have all
the power. So who do you want in
the actual room to make sure this
whole thing doesn’t turn out to be
a complete goddamn disaster?

KATE
I have news for you, it’s already a
complete disaster. They’re about to
let a comet the size of a mountain
hit the planet to jack up a cell
phone company’s stock!

Everyone at the bar and tables nearby is now looking at them.

DR. OGLETHORPE
(whispering)
You gotta take it down about four
or five notches now red.

The WAITRESS, 23, comes over.
WAITRESS
Were you just yelling about why they turned that mission around? Why were you talking about cell phones?

DR. OGLETHORPE
My friend was just theorizing as to what’s going on. We’re confused too.

WAITRESS
That’s an official looking White House badge you have on.

Randall is still wearing his White House laminate ID.

RANDALL
I don’t know why I have this on.

Randall quickly takes off the badge.

WAITRESS
Just tell us what’s going on.

Another GUY FROM THE BAR comes over.

GUY FROM THE BAR
I got three scared kids at home. How about you just tell us something?

A NEARBY DINER turns from a table near them.

RANDALL
I understand. I wish I could share information, but-

GUY FROM THE BAR
We’re people just like you. We deserve to know!

KATE
They’re right. They deserve to know. You wanna know what’s going on? Does everyone really want to know what’s going on?!

Now the WHOLE RESTAURANT is listening.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Kate don’t-
KATE
They found a bunch of gold and diamonds and rare shit on the comet and now they’re going to let it hit earth to make a bunch of rich people even more disgustingly rich!

Everyone freezes.

What the hell does anybody do with that information?

CUT TO:

EXT. BOJO MAMBO’S SHRIMP - 20 MINUTES LATER

People are SMASHING OUT THE WINDOWS ON THE RESTAURANT. 4 COP CARS are there with LIGHTS FLASHING. There’s a dumpster and a car on FIRE.

PATRONS
Fuck you! Ahhh!!! Assholes are gonna kill us all!... Tell us the truth!! Etc.

CUSTOMERS FIGHT WITH COPS. Others LOOT AND DRINK FREE LIQUOR.

Kate is in the back of a BLACK SEDAN with a HOOD OVER HER HEAD. Teddy and Randall talk to her through the car window.

RANDALL
I tried everything I could they won’t listen.

KATE
Surprise, surprise.

DR. OGLETHORPE
I’m starting to think you just like riling people up.

RANDALL
I’m so sorry Kate, really I am.

KATE
Oh Randall, god! Where’s Brie Evantee? Shouldn’t you guys be playing footsie at a restaurant that only serves cubes and foam?

DR. OGLETHORPE
Well she ain’t wrong. You did lose the thread in a big way.
RANDALL
And what do you suggest we do? An online petition, huh? You want to hold...Get a mob and hold up picket signs? You want to overthrow the government, I mean, look at this!

KATE
I can’t! My head is in a bag!

FEDERAL AGENT approaches.

AGENT
I’m sorry Dr. Mindy. White House wants her off the grid.

KATE
Wait! What does that mean? Hey! What the hell does that mean?!

THE CAR DRIVES AWAY. Teddy walks away from Randall.

RANDALL
Kate! Oh gosh Kate. Are you ok?

People are shouting in the streets!

RANDALL (CONT’D)
Teddy! Come on! What choice do I have?

DR. OGLETHORPE
A man’s always got choices!
(turns back to him)
Sometimes he’s just gotta choose the good one!

EXT. SCOTT AIRFORCE BASE - ST. CLAIR, ILLINOIS - MORNING

The HOOD IS REMOVED FROM KATE’S HEAD revealing she is in a small office with an air force base outside the window. A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY, 41 is in front of her with TWO SOLDIERS behind him. He reads a written statement.

FEDERAL ATTORNEY
Ms. Katelyn Dibiasky, the charges against you are violation of national security secrets, inciting a riot and destruction of private property owned by Bojo Mambo Shrimp LLC.
KATE
But I didn’t-

FEDERAL ATTORNEY
However, the Attorney General is
willing to not pursue prosecution
if you will agree to the following:
a suspension of all public media
appearances and incendiary language
relating to Comet Dibiasky and BASH
Cellular.

Beat.

KATE
Fine. Give it to me. I don’t give a
shit anymore.

She signs the agreement.

CUT TO:

EXT. ILLINOIS HIGHWAY - DAY
Kate is now in the back of a cargo van sans hood driving
along a long four lane highway.

EXT. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS ILLINOIS HOME - DUSK
Kate’s van pulls away as snow falls. She goes up to the front
door of a modest home and knocks.

Her MOM AND DAD, mid 50s and clearly traumatized by all of
this, open the door.

KATE
(breaks down in tears)
Mom... Dad... I’m so glad to be
home...

But they don’t open the door.

KATE (CONT'D)
Open the door...

DAD
No politics. None.

KATE
What are you talking about?
MOM
Your Dad and I are for the jobs the comet will provide.

DAD
The divisions in this country is bad enough. We don’t want more of it in our house.

INT. MIDDLE CLASS KITCHEN - DAY

TV COMMERCIAL: A worried HOUSEWIFE is in a kitchen. Her children run past.

MUSIC: Like a pharma ad: contemplative yet hopeful

HOUSE WIFE
Woah, slow down kids!
(to camera)
I worry about my kids and their future. Sure the jobs the comet will create sound great but what if it’s not safe?

Randall enters in a sweater and suit jacket. He is now fully a “star.” L3 “Dr. Randall Mindy. Senior White House Science Advisor

RANDALL
(very warm and sincere)
Right now millions of you are having these same questions and doubts about the approaching comet. That’s why BASH cellular in conjunction with the US Government is creating a new hotline, free of charge to answer your questions. And who knows, maybe, just maybe one of our scientists...

The Housewife is already on the phone talking and even smiles a little.

HOUSE WIFE
Thank you Sharon. That makes me feel so much better.

RANDALL
...can be that friend we all need to lean on during uncertain times.
ANCR (V.O.)
Call 1-(254)63-COMET for peace of mind. Offer only available to BASH customers. Details of your call may be shared with other subsidiaries to enhance your customer experience. Data and roaming charges apply.

CUT TO:

INT. THE WASHINGTON DC HYATT - A FEW NIGHTS LATER

A big, impressive suite with the lights out. We hear laughter and the door opens. It’s Randall, in a tuxedo and Brie Evantee in a stunning gown.

BRIE EVANTEE
So, I thought it was the ambassador. I was flattering him!

RANDALL
Well he was the waiter and now he’s got an ego the size of Texas.

They turn on the lights. JUNE, RANDALL’S WIFE IS ON THE COUCH WITH A BAG OF LUGGAGE NEXT TO HER.

RANDALL (CONT’D)
Oh my god. June. What are you doing here sweetie.

JUNE
I had a feeling something was going on.

RANDALL
Well you know we’re discussing important business. That’s what we’re doing.

JUNE
Oh yeah, that’s really very important.

BRIE EVANTEE
Can we just skip past this whole part please, where you get to feel self-righteous and we put our tails between our legs? It’s so boring.

JUNE
You want to skip the part where you feel bad for screwing my husband.
BRIE EVANTEE
Oh I don’t feel bad. Randall and I are having a wonderful time. So I think the question is: do we keep having a wonderful time or does he go back with you to Wisconsin? Or Montana? Or Michigan?

RANDALL
Michigan.

Beat.

JUNE
You know what? She’s actually right. That is the only question. So...

RANDALL
Well June, sweetie. Sometimes things in life, they’re, you know, complicated and they just-

JUNE
Oh, ok, that was fast. Before I go let me give you some instructions on how to take care of Randall-

She comes out of the bathroom holding a bunch of prescription pill bottles.

JUNE (CONT'D)
Here’s the Xanax he takes for his panic attacks...

She throws the bottle at them, pills fly everywhere.

JUNE (CONT'D)
Here’s the Zoloft he takes to curb the crashing depressions...

RANDALL
Not so much recently.

She throws the bottle. More pills fly.

JUNE
Oh, good for you! This is for his blood pressure. Restless Leg Syndrome. Appetite suppressant to counteract appetite gain from his other meds. And yeah, for America’s Sexiest Scientist, a bottle of goddamn Cialis!
The last bottle hits Randall right on the head.

JUNE (CONT'D)
Goodbye. Goodbye Randall! I’ll tell your sons Dad’s fucking the lady on our television!

RANDALL
June, I-

BRIE EVANTEE
I really thought for a second that was gonna work out.

They’re gone.

CUT TO:

INT. DRINK-MO STORE - ILLINOIS - CONTINUOUS

Kate, now a cashier at a giant Drink-Mo watches a CVN show. Phillip Kaj is a guest on the shoe.

PHILLIP (SOT)
...people, they want to manage the comet to create jobs. 37% don’t want the comet to hit. That’s actually down by three points. And 23%, they don’t think there’s a comet at all. And that number is way up.

INTERRUPTING VOICE
Not Bitcoin, Ratcoin. Ratcoin.

A SKATER PUNK, 24 with TWO FRIENDS. One of them wears a MISFITS jacket and they all have stickers and hand drawn stuff on their clothes. The main guy, YULE has half his hair cut off.

YULE
I’d like to buy these sunglasses.
(gets a good look at Kate)
Aren’t you that girl from live TV who said “we’re all gonna die”?

KATE
No.
(and then)
What’s your purchase?

He holds up his phone to her face. His lock screen is a meme of Kate from The Daily Rip.
YULE
Yeah, that’s you. It’s definitely you.

KATE
Yup. That’s me.

YULE
You are a stone cold legend. Word is bond.

FRIEND
I’ve got a picture of you on my board.

YULE
He’s got a picture of you on his fucking board.

KATE
Great. What’s your purchase? If you don’t have one you need to make room for the next customer in line.

There’s no next customer.

OTHER FRIEND
Can I touch your hair in a non sexual way?

KATE
Get the fuck away from me.

YULE
(to his friend)
Oh dude... have some...Call Diogo, he’ll freak out. Will you say hi to my friend? Dude, he’s obsessed with you. We love you. We don’t like... Can’t stand Orlean either.

His friend dials Diogo on FaceTime.

YULE (CONT'D)
YOOOOO. Yo, shut the fuck up. Check out who we’re with. What up??

A beat later.

YULE (CONT'D)
I mean, we have a purchase but we don’t have payment. Which is a metaphor on...
Yule holds open his jacket to reveal FOUR BOTTLES OF EXPENSIVE VODKA they’ve shoplifted.

YULE (CONT'D)
...cash?

Back to the CVN show. Kate turns around to listen.

CVN ANCHOR
Also, Phillip, I’ve been told that you wrote a book about your past relationship with Kate Dibiasky.

PHILLIP
Funny you should say that, I’m actually working on that now. It’s gonna be called, A Brush With The Devil, and it’s uh...

YULE
You calling security or something, with your eyes?

KATE
No, you’re free to go.

YULE
Just like that? You don’t give a shit do you?

KATE
(flat)
Sure I do. I care about the Drink-Mo guarantee of quality service.

FRIEND
We don’t give a shit either.

OTHER FRIEND
Not one single shit.

YULE
We hang and board behind the abandoned Burger Crown from seven to whenever. You should come hang if you want. If you’re not a fucking pussy.

Kate doesn’t respond.

YULE (CONT'D)
Fuck. Okay. Thanks.
Yule closes his jacket and they walk away. Kate watches them go but says nothing about the stolen liquor. The TV plays in the background.

CUT TO:

EXT. BASH AIRPLANE HANGAR - SAME TIME

INCOMPLETE DRONES WITH DRILLING ARMS AND WARHEADS ON THEM are being wheeled around the massive launch pad.

Randall and President Orlean land in a helicopter and walk over to a hangar.

A giant BEAD DRONE is in front of them.

PETER ISHERWELL
Okay, let me introduce you, uh, to mankind’s savior. The Bash Explore and Acquire Drone.

RANDALL
It’s incredible.

PETER ISHERWELL
It’s incredible, isn’t it? I call this one Primo the first. (laughs)
It’s like my first child. (speaking to drone) Primo, my boy. It’s your father, Cronos. (laughing)
Don’t be shy. Come on. You’re gonna be a God in the sky.

RANDALL
(laughs nervously) Are you at all concerned about the sync on the BEAD explosions? There are studies that show that the comet-

PETER ISHERWELL
Oh, Doctor. There are always questions and fears and...

Randall takes some papers from his jacket. Hands them to Isherwell.
RANDALL
Right. I have a report here from a
Dr. Inez if you’d just take a look
at this study.

PETER ISHERWELL
Oh, thanks...

RANDALL
Listen, a lot of my colleagues,
they’ve either been removed or
resigned from this project,
apparently for asking too many
questions about this mission here.
So I just wanna make sure that
you’re open to the scientific peer-
review process and you’re not
approaching this entire mission
like a businessman.

PETER ISHERWELL
What did you say?

RANDALL
I wanna know if you’re-

Beat. Uh-oh. Wrong thing to say. A hint of anger flashes in
Isherwell’s eyes.

PETER ISHERWELL
Did you call me a businessman?

RANDALL
You do own a corporate-

PETER ISHERWELL
You think I’m just a businessman?
Do you think you know me, Doctor?
Business? This is evolution. This
is evolution of the human species.
(To President Orlean)
What are you doing bringing this-
(Back to Randall)
Did you know that BASH has over 40
million data points on you and
every decision you’ve made since
1994, Doctor? I know when you have
colon polyps months before your
doctor does. You’ve got four or
five at the moment, actually. You
know, they’re not of concern, but
I’d have a checkup as soon as you
can.

(MORE)
PETER ISHERWELL (CONT'D)
But more importantly than that, much more importantly, I know what you are. I know who you are. My algorithms have determined eight fundamental consumer profile types. You are a Lifestyle Idealist. You think you are motivated by beliefs, high ethical beliefs, but you just run towards pleasure and away from pain. Like a field mouse.

RANDALL
(almost in a whisper)
I just want to make sure the science is sound on this project. I hope you understand -

Isherwell gets right in Randall’s face.

PETER ISHERWELL
Our algorithms can even predict how you’ll die with up to 96% accuracy. I looked you up after we first met. Your death was so unremarkable and boring... I can’t even remember what it said. Apart from one thing. You’re going to die alone.

Randall shakes his head.

PETER ISHERWELL (CONT'D)
Alone. If you’ll excuse me Madam President. I’ve got some work to do.

Isherwell leaves.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
What the hell are you doing? My God...

RANDALL
I’m trying to do my job.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
You are just so lucky Peter adores you.

President Orlean lights up a cigarette with a GIANT: “HIGHLY FLAMMABLE” warning sign behind her.

RANDALL
I wouldn’t-
PRESIDENT ORLEAN
You are with the grown-ups now
Randall.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD BURGER CROWN PARKING LOT - THAT NIGHT

About a dozen kids ages 16-25 are skateboarding and drinking
with music blaring.

Yule sits next to Kate who is drinking a beer.

YULE
I heard today on the corporate
owned news BASH got Orlean to pay
the Chilean government, if I’m
correct, 90 billion dollars to let
the tsunami hit off the coast of
the country. That sound right to
you?

FRIEND
You know Isherwell built an
underground bunker for him and all
his executives.

TEEN GIRL
No, I heard they’re building an
escape ship.

KATE
You guys, the truth is way more
depressing. They’re not even smart
enough to be as evil as you’re
giving them credit for.

Yule, clearly enamored, leans over and kisses Kate. She
pushes him back.

KATE (CONT'D)
Ugh! No.

More teens skateboard and a guy throws a glass bottle against
the wall.

Yule punches the air in frustration.

YULE
Fuck! You drive me fucking crazy,
Kate.

Beat.
KATE
Fuck it. We’re all gonna die.

They make out as the hardcore music plays and more kids break light tubes.

INT. KATE’S DIET APP

CLOSE UP of KATE’S DIET APP countdown showing 25 days until diet ends.

INT. MAKEUP ROOM - THE DAILY RIP - TWO DAYS LATER

CU of Randall’s face as makeup is being applied and hair is being styled. For the first time in a while he looks anxious. We hear the show from the monitor.

JACK BREMMER (O.C.)
The movie will be released the day that some believe Comet Dibiasky will impact the planet. And early word is it’s already a classic.

BRIE EVANTEE (O.C.)
Oh yes and what a stellar cast. I always love Devin Peters. He’s great in everything he does. What’s it called again?

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Show is in progress with Brie and Jack hosting.

JACK BREMMER
It’s called “Total Devastation.” It cost 300 million dollars to make. I mean these movies...

BRIE EVANTEE
It’s more than you earn!

JACK BREMMER
(laughs)
Tell me about it. And my friend Farley saw it and says it’s a ton of fun.

BRIE EVANTEE
Alright well, what Farley says goes.

(MORE)
BRIE EVANTEE (CONT'D)
But first, and you can tell by my smile, that America’s sexiest scientist is here. Dr. Randall.
Welcome.

Randall seems tense and awkward. The studio lights somehow brighter.

JACK BREMMER
Dr. Randall. How are you sir?

RANDALL
I’m good. Gooder... than good!

Tiny awkward beat. Tepid laughs from the crew.

BRIE EVANTEE
So Randall, we’re hearing there’s no comet, that there is a comet but it’s a good thing, or maybe it’s a bad thing. We are so confused.

BRIE EVANTEE (CONT'D)
So could you please help us out here, oh, wise scientist?

RANDALL
Well... uh... first and foremost, Brie, there most certainly is a comet.

BRIE EVANTEE
All right.

RANDALL
And we know that there is a comet because we have the data. There has been growing concern within the scientific community as of late. You see, the peer-review process is absolutely essential...

JACK BREMMER
Well listen, if BASH’s stock is any indicator, then we don’t have to worry about the peer review. It is going gangbusters. And listen, full disclosure, I bought as many shares as I could. I advise you to do the same.

BRIE EVANTEE
You are such a shameless capitalist.
JACK BREMMER
Said the woman who will be in the brand-new hot tub on my back deck when I put it in.

BRIE EVANTEE
He knows me too well. Dr. Randall, are you sure you’re okay? Do you want a glass of water?

RANDALL
I don’t feel so well...

BRIE EVANTEE
Okay...Well, we’re going to go to a commercial and come back-

RANDALL
NO please Brie, don’t cut away. Let me say something.

JACK BREMMER
Well you came to the right place. Because on this show, we like to say things.

RANDALL
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP BEING SO FUCKING PLEASANT!

Everyone goes quiet.

RANDALL (CONT’D)
I’m sorry. Not everything needs to sound so goddamn clever or charming or likable all the time. Sometimes, we just need to be able to say things to one another. We need to hear things. Look, let’s establish, once again, that there is a huge comet headed towards Earth. And the reason we know that there is a comet is because we saw it. We saw it with our own eyes using a telescope. I mean, for God’s sake, we took a FUCKING PICTURE OF IT! What other proof do we need? And if we can’t all agree at the bare minimum that a giant comet the size of Mount Everest hurtling its way toward planet Earth is NOT A FUCKING GOOD THING, then what the hell happened to us?

(MORE)
RANDALL (CONT'D)
I mean, my God, how do- How do we even talk to each other? What have we done to ourselves? How do we fix it? We should’ve deflected this comet when we had the fucking chance, but we didn’t do it. I don’t know why we didn’t do it.

Brie, Jack, and the crew stare at Randall with concern.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
And now they’re actually firing scientists like me for speaking out, for opposing them. And I;m sure many of the people out there aren’t even going to listen to what I just said because they have their own political ideology. But, I assure you, I am not on one side or the other. I’m just telling you the fucking truth.

BRIE EVANTEE
I think this would be a good time to establish that Isherwell and the President that there’s benefits to be had-

RANDALL
Right, well, the President of the United States is FUCKING LYING. Look, I’m just like all of you...I hope to GOD, I hope to GOD that this President knows what she’s doing... I hope she’s got us all taken care of. But the truth is, I think this whole administration has COMPLETELY LOST THEIR FUCKING MIND. AND I THINK WE’RE ALL GONNA DIE.

(softly)
Look, I just wanna go home. I just wanna go home more than anything.

(breathing heavily)
But if there is one thing, one thing that I pray that all of you hear from what I have just said...is that all of us, all of us-

EXT. STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

Randall is in the back of an FBI unmarked sedan with a HOOD OVER HIS HEAD. Brie Evantee gets in the back seat.
BRIE EVANTEE
Why did you do that? I really liked you. And I despise most people.

RANDALL
You know, I really thought I loved you.

BRIE EVANTEE
Really? Wow. That’s wild.

FBI AGENT gets opens Brie’s door.

STOCKY FBI AGENT
Ma’am. You need to go. We need to get this man off the grid.

Beat as Brie stares at the hooded Randall.

RANDALL
Are you still there?

BRIE EVANTEE
No.

She gets out of the car.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROOF OF A CLOSED BURGER KING - TWO NIGHTS LATER

Kate and Yule lay on the roof looking at the stars with a six pack.

KATE
I mean maybe he just gets off on power. Any kind of power. It’s like he knew eventually that I was going to find out the snacks were free. You know what I mean? So it was just a power play.

YULE
Yeah, guys are weird. I’m starting to think that all of this “end of the world” stuff is bullshit.

KATE
Well, it’s not. It’s definitely happening. I’ve seen it.
YULE
I feel like if God wanted to destroy the Earth, He would destroy the Earth.

KATE
You believe in God?

YULE
My parents raised me evangelical, and I hate them. But I found my own way to it. My own relationship. I’d appreciate it if you didn’t advertise it though.

KATE
I won’t tell anybody. I think it’s kind of sweet.

YULE
Wanna make out?

KATE
Yeah, why not?

YULE
Can you not say “why not.” It makes me feel like you don’t want it. It’s shitty.

KATE
Sure. Whatever.

YULE
That’s better.

They kiss.

EXT. EAST LANSING BUSY ROAD - SAME TIME

Randall is in a crappy Honda driving with a WHIP (UBER) LIGHT on his dashboard listening to Troubadour by George Strait and eating chips.

EXT. ABANDONED BURGER KING ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Kate and Yule are making out. And while they do Kate looks up in the sky and sees something... A twinkle.

KATE
Oh my God...
She pushes him off.

    KATE (CONT'D)
    Oh my God, that’s it! That’s the comet right there!

    YULE
    Where?

    KATE
    That’s the big dipper. That’s Venus. There’s the north star. Well what is that?

    YULE
    Oh shit.

EXT. EAST LANSING BUSY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly Randall sees something above him and STOPS HIS CAR.

    RANDALL
    What the hell?

Cars honk as RANDALL GETS OUT AND LOOKS UP AT THE NIGHT SKY. He sees the twinkling comet.

    RANDALL (CONT'D)
    There it is. There you are. There you are. Is anyone else seeing this? That’s it. That’s the comet! Look! It’s right there.

Cars are honking at Randall. People slowly get out of their cars and look at the sky in quiet wonderment. Randall gets on his phone and dials.

People keep staring at the small but bright fleck of the comet in the sky.

EXT. ABANDONED BURGER KING ROOF - CONTINUOUS

    YULE
    So that’s really it?... God... I just got really scared.

    KATE
    Exactly!

She takes out her phone and picks up the call.

Intercut between Kate and Randall on their phones.
KATE (CONT'D)
Dr. Mindy!

RANDALL
Kate!

KATE
Doc, you can see it!!

RANDALL
I’m looking at it right now, too. It’s unbelievable. It’s horrific, and it’s beautiful at the same time.
(to the crowd)
We’ve been trying to tell you! We tried to tell you this whole time. It’s right there! It’s... It’s right there, Kate.

KATE
Where are you?

RANDALL
I’m in Lansing, Michigan trying to fix things with June, but she won’t talk to me. Where are you?

KATE
I-

RANDALL
I’m gonna come find you, okay?

KATE
Well, I’m in Illinois. I could be ready by tomorrow. Yeah I’m-

YULE
(kneels down to pray)
Dearest Father, as a sinner I come to You for your grace and guidance...

RANDALL
(on phone)
They’re finally seeing it. They’re finally seeing it. THERE IT IS.

MONTAGE: The bright flash of the comet fills the screen. A woman in a coffee shop looks up in awe.
The side profile of a statue. Two hippos play fighting. A baby cooing. Crowd at a religious temple praying.

CUT TO:

INT. DIDDLY FEED - DAY

A video with Kate and Randall talking right into camera is being re-diddled like crazy. 100k shares... 1 mill... 5 mill

KATE (SOT)
Go outside - into your yard, on your roof, onto your sidewalk, and just look up into the sky...

RANDALL (SOT)
...The star’s going to appear fuzzy. It’s got a long streak coming off of it. That’s the comet’s tail.

KATE (SOT)
It’s real and it’s coming. If anyone tells you any different, they’re full of shit. Just look up into the sky!

MORE VIDEOS

OTHER VIDEOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE POSTED on Diddly, Vroom Vroom, Friend Post urging people to Just Look Up.

RILEY BINA
Guys, please just look up, okay?
Screw the manatees and just look up!

PEOPLE yell into their cell phones.

PEOPLE
Just Look Up!

Hearts, thumbs up, thumbs down, shares, smiley faces are clicked and dripped as comments and articles shoot around the world: “Holy shit. It’s real.” “Autopsy: President Orlean Plays Defense on the Comet” “Anyone else shitting themselves?”

INT. KIDS SHOW STUDIO - DAY

Randall is with SAMMY the puppet and two child actors.
SAMMY PUPPET
Dr. Mindy, the President’s plan to save Earth and make it so that we can all have a home is going to work, right?

RANDALL
Every single man, woman and child on this planet is going to die.

CHILD ACTOR
I don’t like him. He makes me sad.

RANDALL
I’m sorry about that.

PUPPETEER
Um, yeah, this is not what we rehearsed...

RANDALL
Kids, listen. You tell your parents that President Orlean and Isherwell are sociopaths and fascists!

INT. RALLY IN GIANT BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

President Orlean is on stage. Speaking to a crowd of 20 thousand supporters. Cheers and applause fill the stadium.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
You know why they want you to look up? Do you know why? Because they want you to be afraid! They want you to look up because they are looking down their noses at you. They think they’re better than you.

INT. COMPUTER SCREEN - DAY

Videos pop up on Vroom Vroom and a variety of other sites.

GUYS IN A HUDDE
Don’t Look Up! Don’t Look Up! Don’t Look Up!

DUDE ON DIDDLY
They want to rob you of your freedom. And that’s a fact!
MORE GUYS IN A HUDDLE
Don’t Look Up! Don’t Look Up! Don’t Look Up!

A live stream flooded with comments pops up with famous celebrity RAGHAV.

RAGHAV
The U.S. President, Orlean, has not included India or any other nation in the world to be a part of this mission.

Video of DUDE ON DIDDLY pops back up holding up the magazine with Randall on the cover.

DUDE ON DIDDLY
This dude is a known pornographer named Kip...

Another Diddly Video pops up of the FRENCH PRIME MINISTER.

FRENCH PRIME MINISTER
The United Nations have been considering its own deflective mission.

Back to RAGHAV.

RAGHAV
Just Look Up, for fuck’s sake!

INT. MOVIE JUNKET SET - DAY

DEVIN PETERS talks to an ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST with a TOTAL DEVASTATION poster behind him.

ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST
Now I know a lot of Hollywood is supporting the Just Look Up movement but I haven’t seen a pin like that.

DEVIN PETERS
Yeah, this pin points up and down. Because I think, as a country, we need to stop arguing and “virtue signaling.” Just get along.

ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST
That is sooo refreshing. I think we’re all tired of the politics.
DEVIN PETERS
Yeah. That’s why we made Total Devastation. It’s for everyone, you know? It’s a popcorn movie.

INT. RALLY IN GIANT BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

President Orlean is still on stage.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
You keep your eye on the road ahead, you put your head down. And you put one foot in front of the other, step by step. Day by day!

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

The sign outside of the stadium reads, “THE FOR REAL LAST CONCERT TO SAVE THE WORLD.”

Randall and Kate speak into the mic to 120 THOUSAND FANS CHEERING.

RANDALL
So we want to say something loud and clear. There is no safe way to bring this comet back to Earth and exploit it for profit. It cannot be done! Nations of the world, defy Orlean and BASH! Launch your own nuclear deflection mission now and save this planet!

KATE
And now, uh, Riley Bina with her special guest!

RANDALL
(whispering to Kate)
Yeah I forgot the name.
(back to the crowd)
Thank you!

Cheering. Lights come up. There’s live stream comments that pop up on screen. Crowd goes crazy. Riley Bina is there with her band in a stunning outfit floating down onto the stage.

THEY KICK INTO AN ORIGINAL SONG “JUST LOOK UP.”

Kate and Randall watch from just off stage.
INT. RALLY IN GIANT BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

President Orlean is still on stage. Jason is speaking to the crowd.

JASON
Is that a rock-solid ten smokeshow
of a President or what? If she
wasn’t my mother... There’s three
types of American people. There are
you, the working class. Us, the
cool rich, and then them. I’m
sorry, but we need them. We need
them because you build us up to
fight them. The working class, the
lower. You understand?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
No, I don’t get it.

JASON
Do you understand? I’m talking
about nutritionists. I’m talking
about personal trainers. People at
the spa, but not the ones that
check you in and not the masseuses
but they walk you down the
corridor. They’re there...

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

ORIGINAL SONG “JUST LOOK UP” continues. DJ Chello enters the
stage to rap his verse.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Dr. Oglethorpe and a crowd of students protest in the hallway
of an administrative building.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Divest from BASH when?

PROTESTORS
Divest now!

DR. OGLETHORPE
Divest from BASH when?

PROTESTORS
Divest now!

Teddy gets escorted out by campus police.
DR. OGLETHORPE
We will not be quiet!

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

ORIGINAL SONG “JUST LOOK UP” continues. DJ Chello wraps up his verse and Riley sings the bridge.

EXT. BANK - NIGHT

Cut to Kate and Yule spray painting “JUST LOOK UP” on the window of a bank as the song continues.

CUT TO:

INT. JUST LOOK UP HEADQUARTERS - 3 DAYS LATER

Dr. Oglethorpe picks up a call.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Hey, good afternoon, Adam. What do I owe the pleasure of this call?

His face falls.

DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)
What time?

Quick cut to VT: HELICOPTER FOOTAGE OF A GIANT CLOUD OVER A RUSSIAN BASE.

DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)
Well uh... well, thank you for calling.

He hangs up. A grim look on his face. The rest of the team continues to work. Kate looks up and walks over.

KATE
What? What?

Randall walks up.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Orlean and BASH cut Russia, India, and China out of the rights for the minerals. So they tried their own joint deflection mission.

(MORE)
DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)
But approximately 40 minutes ago a massive explosion was detected at the Russian’s Baikonur launch complex. It looks like the mission failed.

The bustling office goes quiet.

RANDALL
That’s it?

KATE
Wait, what do you mean “that’s it?” Teddy?

DR. OGLETHORPE
There’s still the BASH mission. It’s all we have now.

Randall walks away from Kate and Dr. Oglethorpe.

RANDALL
FUCK!!!!!

EXT. DON’T LOOK UP RALLY – GREAT LAWN, D.C. – THAT NIGHT

Congressman Tenant with Dan Pawketty, Jason Orlean, and KID ROCK (look alike) speak to a giant crowd wearing the “Don’t Look Up” red, white and blue caps.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT
These “Just Look Uppers” want millions of illegal Chileans to come across the border! Don’t Look Up! Don’t Look Up!

CRANE ARM DOWN to one LOYAL SUPPORTER, early 20s in a Don’t Look Up hat, as he looks back up over his shoulder for JUST A SECOND.

LOYAL SUPPORTER
What?
(and then louder)
What the hell is that!?

Crowd hushes and starts to turn around and look up. In the sky is a GIANT GLOWING BALL a fifth the size of the moon.

LOYAL SUPPORTER (CONT’D)
 Fucking lied to us!

Crowd starts to murmur. Jason runs up to the mic.
JASON

The President just texted me.
“Don’t trip. It’s all good. Don’t trip.”

The crowd shouts and boos over him. A BOTTLE HITS JASON in the head cutting him. More bottles and caps start to rain down.

JASON (CONT’D)
You cut my face, you fucking rednecks!

Jason storms off stage, clutching his face.

EXT. HIGHWAY - TWO DAYS LATER

Randall, Kate and Yule drive back to the Midwest. The highway is completely empty. A pack of deer sprint across.

YULE
Man, there hasn’t been a car in like, an hour.

RANDALL
Everyone’s watching the BASH launch.

KATE
And what are we doing again?

RANDALL
I already told you. We are going to go buy some groceries.

MUSIC: TILL THEN by the Mills Brothers plays on the radio.

Randall turns it up.

RANDALL (CONT’D)
The Mills Brothers. Great band. You know, Duke Ellington found this band. I think they were originally called the Four Kings of Harmony.

The song continues as they listen silently.

RANDALL (CONT’D)
“Till Then,” this is the song. It’s about soldiers going off to World War II and thinking about home. Listen to this part.
The song plays as Randall recites the lyrics.

    RANDALL (CONT'D)
    Although there are oceans we must cross and mountains that we must climb, I know every gain must have a loss. So pray that our loss is nothing but time.

    YULE
    Kate, I gotta ask you something.

    KATE
    What?

    YULE
    Dr. Mindy, can I be vulnerable in your car?

    RANDALL
    Yeah, go ahead.

    YULE
    I’ve met a lot of people, and I’ve never met anyone like you. And I feel a connection to you on a level that... I don’t know. I haven’t felt with anyone else. And going out on a limb, but would you want to spend more time together? Maybe even get engaged or something?

Kate smiles to herself and chuckles.

    YULE (CONT'D)
    Are you laughing? No?

    KATE
    I’m smiling. Well sure, why not?

    RANDALL
    Wow. Well this is sweet. This is pretty sweet.

Quick cut to a CU of the comet, hurtling over the screen.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - SAME TIME

President Orlean, Jason and Peter Isherwell in the command center.
PRESIDENT ORLEAN
And you read the tea leaves for Dr. Mindy. You showed him the
algorithm. You really shook him with that information. How he was
going to die.

PETER ISHERWELL
Yeah, it is shaking.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
It got me so excited to know about
my own death. I don’t think I want
to know. Yes, I do. I want to know.

PETER ISHERWELL
You’re going to be eaten by a
Bronteroc. We don’t know what it
means.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
A what?

PETER ISHERWELL
A Bronteroc.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Oh.

The FLIGHT DIRECTOR calls out the mission.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
Okay people, we have clear skies
and are a go for the BEAD launch.
Madam President?

President Orlean puts on her head set.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Citizens of Planet Earth. Now...

INT. SUPERMARKET - MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

Randall, Kate and Yule are grocery shopping.

RANDALL
Look at this, Kate. They have wild
salmon. Look at the difference
between that and the farm-raised
stuff. You see how that looks
just... I don’ know. Looks fake,
right?

(MORE)
RANDALL (CONT'D)
Hey, why don’t you go find some...
what are the little potatoes
called, the tiny ones?

KATE
Fingerling potatoes?

RANDALL
Yeah, let’s get-

YULE
I fucking love fingerling potatoes!

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - SAME TIME

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Do you want to say something too?

JASON
Yeah. What up, world? Jason Orlean,
Chief of Staff. United States. I’ve
been noticing a lot of prayers
recently for people during this
time, and I commend that. But I
also wanna give a prayer for stuff.
There’s dope stuff, like material
stuff. Like sick apartments and
cars and clothes and shit.

Cut to a U.S. Soldier watching on a small TV.

Then to a family in a modest kitchen with a TV that is
staticy.

JASON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
That could all go away, and I don’t
wanna see that stuff go away.

A giant crowd watches a projected screen of the launch in a
park.

JASON (V.O.)
So I’m gonna say a prayer for that
stuff. Amen.

INT. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS HOME - GEORGIA - DUSK

A family of 5 watches TV with a grim seriousness.
ANCHOR (V.O.)
Just a quiet trepidation among this much smaller crowd... I can hear the sounds of some people praying.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER – SAME TIME

PETER ISHERWELL
Okay, Anderson. Let’s go get it.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
Yes, sir. Here we go, people. 10, 9, 8...

Quick cuts to a woman watching her TV on the verge of tears. Another woman looks up into the sky. Cars honk. A baby cries. A full church of people pray. A street riot.

EXT. THE MINDY HOME – LANSING MICHIGAN – NIGHT

Randall with Kate and Yule behind him carrying lots of groceries approach his family home. He knocks.
June answers the door and sees Randall.

    RANDALL
    Hey.

    JUNE
    Hi.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER – MOMENTS LATER

    FLIGHT DIRECTOR
    Liftoff!

Monitors show the BEAD drones lift off. President Orlean and Jason watch in awe.

EXT. THE MINDY HOME – LANSING MICHIGAN – NIGHT

    RANDALL
    We got some groceries.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER – SAME TIME

Monitors show the BEAD drones flames under tail lifting off. One screen shows a drone explode.
JASON
Yo, what was that?

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
We’ve lost BEAD number 12.

Another MISSION TECH yells out from across the room.

MISSION TECH
BEAD number 22 failed to launch.

PETER ISHERWELL
It’s fine. We anticipated a margin of error. Everything is fine!

EXT. THE MINDY HOME – LANSING MICHIGAN – SAME TIME

RANDALL
I was hoping we could have a family dinner.

Randall’s sons are inside in the living room watching the launch.

EVAN
Hey Dad!

MARSHALL
Hey it’s Dad! Dad!

Long beat as June considers.

RANDALL
What do you say?

June nods.

JUNE
Yeah.

RANDALL
Thank you... this is Kate.

YULE
Nice to meet you, I’m Yule. I’m FirePuma142 on Twitch. You game?

KATE
I’m really doubtful she knows.

JUNE
Who said I game?

Randall holds up a bouquet of flowers.

RANDALL
I got these for you.
JUNE
Thank you, that’s really sweet, honey.

Randall hugs June for a long time.

RANDALL
I’m so sorry. You have no idea. I really am.

JUNE
I know. I’ve missed you.

RANDALL
I missed you so much.

JUNE
When we dated in college I fucked Aaron Tran.

RANDALL
Oh?

They hug again.

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

Turkey is being put in the oven. Stuffing made. Kate is putting a dry rub on the Salmon. Yule is dicing carrots. The table is set.

Teddy pops in holding a bottle of wine.

DR. OGLETORPE
Heyyyyy everyone! Sorry I’m late but not empty-handed.

Randall embraces him. June says hello.

EXT. DEEP SPACE - CONTINUOUS

The drone satellites tear towards the heavens.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - TWO HOURS LATER

The BEAD drones approach the comet.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
BEADS have approached optimal escape velocity.

(MORE)
FLIGHT DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
They’re now approaching Comet Dibiasky and are ready for attachment mode.

The BEADS spread out and their hooked drill arm extends. TWO MORE OF THE BEADS FAIL TO ATTACH and spin away from the comet into each other EXPLODING.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
BEADS 8 and 27 are lost due to lateral control malfunction.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Okay so now, Peter, we’re six drones down. Is this thing still gonna work?

PETER ISHERWELL
Well, the engineer’s assured me that yes, 24 drones is enough.

JASON
How many can we lose?

PETER ISHERWELL
(hesitates)
How many more?

INT. CVN STUDIO - SAME TIME
Harrison Telms reports on the launch.

HARRISON TELMS
We’re being told that several of the BEADS have exploded on launch.

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME
Randall turns off the news coverage in the living room and goes back to where the group is seated for dinner. A beautiful turkey and salmon, carrots etc. on the table. The Mindy’s and Kate, Yule and Teddy all take their seats.

RANDALL
Teddy, you’ve got the head seat right there.

DR. OGLETHORPE
You’re way too kind, Randall. Thank you.
RANDALL
Cheers everyone, huh?

KATE
Cheers. Thank you so much for having us.

JUNE
Thank you for being here. It’s so special.

EXT. SPACE - 20 MINUTES LATER

A CU of the comet. Remaining BEAD drones are attached. They drill into the comet.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR (V.O.)
Commence simultaneous explosive separation stage...

This is it. The BEADS EXPLODE IN A GIANT FLASH.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - MISSION CONTROL - SAME TIME

Everyone is super tense. President Orlean gasps as the explosion occurs.

INT. MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - 20 MINUTES LATER

DR. OGLETHORPE
Beautiful.

RANDALL
Thank you, pal.

JUNE
It really is. And it’s really good to have you home.

KATE
Dr. Mindy got really famous.

RANDALL
(smiling)
Oh. Oh yeah, I forgot about that. That’s right, okay. I was on magazine covers and everything. I know. I’ll take your shots.

Everyone laughs. Randall kisses June.
JUNE
I love you.

RANDALL
I love you, too.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - MISSION CONTROL - SAME TIME

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
Still waiting for a full status report on the explosive devices.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
(just to Isherwell)
President Xi of China just texted me. The comet is still whole.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
We’re seeing four misfires and sync was off...

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
(just to Isherwell)
It’s still intact...

PETER ISHERWELL
Okay... We’re all fine. Everyone’s fine. If you’ll excuse me. Nature calls. I’m going to the restroom for a moment.

Isherwell leaves the room.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Yes, I think that I should also step out to the restroom for a moment.

She also leaves.

JASON
(to President Orlean)
Should I...?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
No I’ll be right back.

The Flight Director turns to where the President should be. Only Jason is there.
FLIGHT DIRECTOR
(to Jason)
Sir, the President. We need to know
what the mission status is.

JASON
She’s coming right back.

A Command Tech stands up.

COMMAND TECH
Screw this! I’m going to see my
husband!

She runs out. Some other people start to run out too.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR
Sorry, I’ve got a 20-year-old
daughter. I’ve got to go see her.

The rest of the crew clamors in panic.

MAN
I’m doing an 8-ball!

INT. PRESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

President Orlean is on her satellite phone.

INT. THE MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - CONTINUOUS

Randall moves towards their phone. INTERCUT

RANDALL
I got it!

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Hello. There’s a ship.
(let’s it sit there)
In case we were wrong. And clearly
we were wrong.

RANDALL
Of course you have a ship.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
It holds 2,000. It has state of the
art cryo-chambers and it’s set to
find the nearest earth like planet
in a goldilocks zone. There’s room
for you and one other. Brie, your
wife. Your call.
RANDALL
I’m good, but thank you for the offer. You have fun with Jason.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Jason?

She realizes who he is talking about.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT’D)
Oh shit.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS
Jason is still seated. The control center is almost empty.

JASON
She’s coming back.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT
Frightened neighbors watch the comet in the sky.

INT. MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - MOMENTS LATER
Everyone at the table has joined hands and are giving thanks.

EVAN
I’m thankful for that night I fell asleep out in the backyard. Woke up face-to-face with a baby deer.

RANDALL
I remember that.

EVAN
Yep. It was the best day of my life.

Randall and June kiss.

KATE
I’m grateful...
(long beat)
I’m grateful we tried.

Beat.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Man, oh, man, did we try.
RANDALL
Well, we’re not the most religious here in the Mindy household... but, um, maybe we should say “amen”? Should we do that?

JUNE
Don’t look at me. I don’t know how to... What, do you just say, “Amen?” I don’t...

YULE
I got this. I got it.
(into a beautiful prayer)
Dearest Father and almighty creator, we ask for your grace despite our pride, your forgiveness despite our doubt and most of all, your love to soothe our fears in these dark times. May we face your divine will with courage and open hearts of acceptance. In your name... Amen.

DR. OGLETHORPE
Damn. Yule’s got some church game.

KATE
That was... beautiful.

CUT TO:

INT. CVN STUDIO – SAME TIME
Harrison Telms reports.

HARRISON TELMS
The comet remains intact.

A few CREW MEMBERS RUN past camera.

HARRISON TELMS (CONT'D)
We just never...

He shakes his head. The set is empty.
INT. PATRIOT NEWS STUDIO - SAME TIME

DAN PAWKETTY
Of course, there’s only one story
everyone’s talking about tonight.
Topless urgent care centers.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - OVERHEAD - 20 MINUTES LATER

We pan over New York City which is in chaos. Traffic, fires,
violence, sex, etc.

INT. MANHATTAN BAR - SAME TIME

Jack sits drinking a giant tumbler of tequila at an empty bar
with chairs knocked over and the bar mirror cracked.

Brie enters looking disheveled.

JACK BREMMER
Sit. We can fuck... or pray?

BRIE EVANTEE
Honestly I’d rather just drink and
talk shit about people.

Jack goes to pour Brie a drink. She takes the bottle from him
and downs it.

EXT. FRONT LAWN OF A HOME - SAME TIME

Drask is firing a machine gun at the sky and screaming. When
it’s out he takes out his hand gun and fires it at the sky.

BENEDICT DRASK
AHHHHH!!! You’ll never take me
alive!

EXT. PLANET EARTH - 30 MINUTES LATER

The COMET BEGINS ENTERING EARTH’S ATMOSPHERE WITH INCREDIBLE
VELOCITY (30 THOUSAND FEET A SECOND). Violent RIPPLES SPREAD
OUT and a bright light flares from the FIRE CREATED BY THE
FRICITION OF ITS ENTRY.

As the comet makes impact, intercut shots of people watching
in shock and disbelief. A couple has sex. A Vegas wedding. A
baby taking a bath. A polar bear jumping to a new ice cap. A
bee flying in a garden.
INT. MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is enjoying dessert. The HOUSE IS NOW SHUDDERING.

MARBALL
I’m going to have some more of that apple pie. It’s really good.

KATE
It’s actually store bought, but you really can’t tell.

DR. OGLETHORPE
If I’m being really honest, which at this moment why not, I like the junky taste of store bought better than homemade.

RANDALL
You gotta be kidding me.

DR. OGLETHORPE
No, I’m not kidding.

JUNE
I know what he means. It’s a childhood memory thing or something-

EXT. OPEN SKY - CONTINUOUS

THE COMET RIPS THROUGH THE SKY LIKE FABRIC BEING TORN.

EXT. PLANET EARTH

The COMET is a fiery behemoth in the sky. People run and flee. Fiery explosions rain down.

INT. THE MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - CONTINUOUS

THE HOUSE IS SHAKING VIOLENTLY.

KATE
This coffee doesn’t taste store-bought. Is it?

RANDALL
Never. I always grind my own beans.

MARBALL
Yeah, Dad’s kind of a coffee nut.
YULE
Every time you have coffee, you have to grind your own beans?

JUNE
It’s true. Randall is very particular about his coffee.

KATE
I can get that way about tea.

RANDALL
The thing is, we really did have everything, didn’t we? I mean, when you think about it.

BOOM. We go SLO MO as the room collapses and disintegrates.

EXT. SPACE

SPACE SHOT OF EARTH AS THE COMET IMPACTS. GIANT PLUMES OF MAGMA SHOOT INTO THE SKY.

SHOCKWAVES SPREAD ACROSS THE PLANET.

A CHUNK OF THE EARTH SPLITS OFF.

Incredible amounts of DEBRIS, ROCK, CARS, DIRT, AND TREES PLUME OUT in the massive explosion.

We weave and snake through pieces of buildings, Kate’s diet app announces her diet is over, a photo of President Orlean and Steven Segal. We catch a glint of metal...

Amidst the chaos ONE SPACESHIP NAVIGATES ITS WAY OUT.

As it passes us by a small BASH logo is visible on its side.

It soars out into the infinity of space. Leaving behind the new comet field that used to be planet earth.

EXT. NEW PLANET - 22,740 YEARS LATER - DAY

The SHIP ENTERS THE ATMOSPHERE AND LANDS IN A CLEARING OF BRIGHT GREEN AND PURPLE GRASS surrounded oddly shaped but verdant trees.

A group of 7 HALF DEER/HALF BIRDS leap past frame.

The door on the ship OPENS with a hiss.
INT. SPACESHIP - CONTINUOU

PAN past all the cryo-chambers showing the names of their occupants: INTER-BANK Jill Arnold, TEXCON OIL Ted Biles, VENDEL LOBBYING Lewis Grandy

The cryo chambers calculate and finally OPEN.

EXT. NEW PLANET - MOMENTS LATER

Slowly the naked and dazed CEOs, Lobbyists and Elected Officials begin to emerge from the ship. Most are in their late 60s and 70s. They groan, stretch and wipe their eyes.

Isherwell checks an atmospheric gauge.

PETER ISHERWELL
Oxygen is higher than on earth by 9 percent everyone so you might feel a bit light headed.
(checks more data)
Cryo-chambers were 58 percent successful which is much better than anticipated.

President Orlean, nude and with a lower back tattoo of a string of roses and guns, is there.

JANIE ORLEAN
We only had 47 dead in our section, so...

PETER ISHERWELL
(looking around at the world)
I think this will work quite well. Quite well indeed...

PRESIDENT ORLEAN
Goodness. Look at that beautiful animal. I wonder, are those feathers or are they scales or-

President Orlean walks toward a feathered bear type creature 20 yards away. It immediately ATTACKS and kills her.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)
(horrific scream)

CONGRESSMAN TENANT
What is that thing?
PETER ISHERWELL
I believe that’s called a Brontaroc. Uh... whatever you do don’t pet them!

The Bronterocs run towards them in a pack as we pull out.

END.

AFTER CREDITS

EXT. EARTH - DAY

There is rubble everywhere. Ash falls from the sky. Everything is devastation.

Some rubble moves and a cut and dusty Jason Orlean emerges. Slowly he stands.

He might be the last living human.

JASON
Mom... Mom!!!!!

He looks around and pulls out his phone.

JASON (CONT’D)

What’s up, y’all? I’m the last man on Earth. Shit’s all fucked up.
Don’t forget to like and subscribe.
We out here. Mom!

OUT