

LAST CHANCE

"THE PILOT"

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ATOMIC MONSTER/BLUMHOUSE
2026

THE PASSENGERS

JORDAN (*think Glen Powell*) - The Hero. Charismatic, instinctive, and determined to keep people together when everything unravels.

VIK (*think Dev Patel*) - The Bystander. Compassionate, haunted, and pulling at the threads of his own morality.

COURTNEY (*think Margaret Qualley*) - The Survivor. Military background. Sharp, tough, and emotionally guarded.

IAN (*think Steven Yuen*) - The Skeptic. An abrasive, analytical asshole.

AUGUST (*think Bill Camp*) - The Sage. Genial and adaptable, a steadying presence.

SHELLY (*think David Schwimmer*) - The Everyman. Affable, uses humor as a shield, but ultimately a moral anchor for others.

DOUGLAS (*think Paul Rudd*) - The Cynic. Selfish, status-driven, with a complicated sense of family obligation.

AVA (*think Sydney Sweeney*) - The Manipulator. Douglas's daughter. Wears a mask of empathy that hides her true intentions.

ISAAC (*think Austin Abrams*) - The Outcast. Douglas's son, socially awkward and volatile, desperate for validation and easily provoked.

RIVER (*think Zendaya*) - The Innocent. Raw-nerved, fiercely maternal, struggling with fear and a recent trauma.

27F (*think Julianne Moore*) - The Enigma. Withdrawn and fragile, a symbol of the group's disorientation.

ERICA (*think Kerry Washington*) - The Authority. Powerful, polished, and accustomed to command.

OVER BLACK. The HUM of an AIRPLANE ENGINE. Then -- *K'THUNK* --

SMASH TO:

A man (30s, Indian). His head lolls. This is VIK.

K'THUNK

Vik's out cold in a window seat. In the back of an **AIRPLANE.**

K'THUNK

Vik's head SLAMS against a window shade, and he jolts awake.

Disoriented, Vik opens the shade. The harsh LIGHT of DAY hits him. He tries to rise, but a FASTENED SEATBELT yanks him back. As he gets his bearings and absorbs his surroundings:

A MASSIVE passenger plane. 3 x 4 x 3 seating arrangement.

And the cabin is empty. Vik is the only passenger.

The plane RATTLES again. A tense BEAT as he unbuckles the seatbelt and looks around.

VIK

Hello...?

Nothing. It dawns on Vik to jab the CALL BUTTON above.

VIK (CONT'D)

HELLO?

Vik looks back to the GALLEY. A *ghost town.*

WHUMP! A sharp dip throws Vik off balance. Then, fuck it. Vik moves down the aisle to...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D - CONTINUOUS

A LONE PASSENGER, male, is slumped in the middle seats.

VIK

Hey... hey!

As Vik approaches, the plane PITCHES to one side -- *THUD* -- Vik grabs the seatbacks for purchase.

VIK (CONT'D)

HEY!

Vik reaches the man, (50s, Yarmulke-clad, we'll know him as SHELLY) and grabs him by the shoulder.

VIK (CONT'D)
Hey, wake up...

Nudges harder. The yarmulke falls. *Is this guy... dead?*

Vik puts both hands on Shelly, gives him another shake --

VIK (CONT'D)
Yoooooooo! WAKE--

SHELLY GASPS AWAKE! Vik jolts back as --

SHELLY
GAH! What are you, who are --
(looks around)
--How did I, where am I?

Vik doesn't have answers.

VIK
We. Where are we? I don't--

THE PLANE LURCHES. Shelly's head SMASHES against the TV SCREEN on the seatback in front of him.

SHELLY
AAAAGH!

His nose gushes blood.

VIK
Shit, shit, are you...
(calls out)
HEL--
(stops, then)
I'll-- one sec...

Vik knows: *he's the help*. No choice, he rushes to --

INT. THE PLANE - BATHROOM

Vik opens the lavatory door. Finds a TISSUE DISPENSER. Grabs some when a VIOLENT QUAKE knocks him into the wall.

Vik finds his balance. Catches his REFLECTION in the MIRROR.

VIK
(deep breath, then)
It's okay, you're okay. You're--
(another breath, then)
(MORE)

VIK (CONT'D)

--How the hell did you get here?
What's going on? Why can't you
remember...

(dawns on him, then)

...Olivia.

-- But a WOMAN'S SCREAM from beyond the door stops him. Then, NEW VOICES. SHOUTING, CRYING OUT, scared and helpless. There are others and now they're awake as well. Vik exits out to --

INT. THE PLANE - GALLEY - CONTINUOUS

--a woman (20s) GRABS Vik. She WAILS in terror, wild-eyed. This is RIVER. As the plane continues to SHAKE.

RIVER

Help! Someone took him. Someone --
oh God, someone took my baby!

As Vik searches for words, River pulls up her shirt to REVEAL crude C-Section stitches below her navel!

RIVER (CONT'D)

HELP ME! FIND HIM!

The cabin SHUDDERS. Vik looks past River and sees more PASSENGERS in a cacophony of confusion.

VIK

My God...

An EXTENDED NOSEDIVE sends everyone into WHITE HOT PANIC. MORE SCREAMS.

One woman (30s) holds onto seatbacks and climbs toward Vik from the cabin zone up ahead -- She has a ticking DIGITAL CLOCK strapped to her like a suicide vest. Meet COURTNEY.

She locks eyes with Vik. Her lips are moving but Vik can't make out the words amidst the din until he hears, too late:

COURTNEY

--Behind you!

Vik turns -- a BAR CART CAREENS toward him and River. Vik shoves River out of the way just as the cart PLOWS into him and -- CRUNCH -- knocks Vik out.

SMASH TO BLACK.

...

... And then, a hazy, kaleidoscope POV comes into focus. A liquor bottle shatters on concrete. Suddenly --

SMASH TO:

INT. THE PLANE - GALLEY/CABIN ZONE C - DAY

-- a MAN'S HAND grips Vik's shoulder and rips him back to reality. Vik looks up at JORDAN (30s, Glen Powell-y, heroic).

The plane has leveled off but still JOLTS, PITCHES, and SHAKES. Unrelenting throughout.

JORDAN

Hey! Dude! You hurt? Injured?

Vik takes himself in. He's okay, but--

COURTNEY

He's scared.

Jordan hoists Vik up --

JORDAN

(to Courtney)

You're not?

(to Vik)

I'm Jordan. That's Courtney.

VIK

Vik.

JORDAN

Let's stick together, Vik. Better than being scared alone. Right?

Vik nods -- *sure, yeah, maybe* -- and moves with Jordan and Courtney out of the galley when --

PILOT (OVER PA SYSTEM)

(rote, flat)

Folks, we're experiencing some chop here. Please return to your seats and fasten your safety belts.

BING-BING. Vik sees the SEATBELT sign FLASH.

VIK

(to Jordan and Courtney)

Wh-- where are you going?

JORDAN

Flight deck. Pilot's up there.

A BEAT. Instead, Vik finds a middle section seat and straps in. Jordan doubles back, but --

COURTNEY
(to Jordan)
Leave him. Keep moving.

JORDAN
(nods to Vik)
I get it.

As Jordan and Courtney continue, STAY WITH Vik who turns to see... a female FLIGHT ATTENDANT (50s), two seats over.

VIK
Hey! What the hell is going on?

Stockstill, the Flight Attendant stares straight ahead with a blank, zen-like expression.

VIK (CONT'D)
Did you hear me? I said...

Vik notices she's SCRATCHING the back of her hand, incessant, scraping the flesh. Vik swallows. Looks up the aisle toward --

-- Jordan and Courtney, who've reached --

INT. THE PLANE - GALLEY/CABIN ZONE B

-- the plane BANKS A HARD RIGHT. They're both thrown against a BOARDING DOOR. Jordan sees the WINDOW RATTLE. As he helps Courtney up, he clocks...

... down the galley, DOUGLAS (50s, expensive suit and tie) drags AVA (20s, influencer-y) into a LAVATORY --

DOUGLAS
In here!

AVA
Wait! what about--

-- Douglas slams the door shut. A moment later, ISAAC (20s, incel-y), bangs on the door --

ISAAC
DAD! Ava! Let me in! HEY!!!

Jordan and Courtney soldier on to --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A - CONTINUOUS

Business class. A BAR and STAIRWAY that leads to an UPPER DECK. And a very odd sight...

COURTNEY

Ookay...

...IAN (30s, Korean) and AUGUST (60s, frumpy) HANDCUFFED together on either side of the STAIRWAY RAILING. Each man grips the bannister as the plane cants and jostles.

AUGUST

Thank God, you gotta get us...

But Jordan and Courtney beeline past them.

COURTNEY

Hold on!

IAN

...Are you serious?

AUGUST

Looks like it.

STAY WITH Jordan and Courtney. The plane PITCHES UPWARD. They white-knuckle seatbacks to keep from falling.

At last, they near what should be the flight deck but find...

...A COAT CLOSET. *Shit.*

COURTNEY

Must be a 747. Cockpit's upstairs.

They head back toward the stairs when --

PILOT (OVER PA SYSTEM)

Friendly reminder from the flight deck: stay seated 'til we're out of this rough air. Thank you.

As if on cue: The plane BANKS LEFT. Ian and August are flung sideways, tethered to the railing by their cuffs.

IAN/AUGUST

AHHHHH!

JORDAN

They need our help. C'mon.

COURTNEY
 (hesitates, then)
 ... You heard the pilot.

Courtney straps in. Jordan shakes his head and moves to Ian and August.

JORDAN
 Let's get you two outta this.

IAN
 Glad you could find the time.

AUGUST
 (sincere)
 Thank you, friend.

Jordan tries with all his might to pull the railing from the stairs to free Ian and August, but it won't budge.

JORDAN
 Damn it.

After more effort --

PILOT (OVER PA SYSTEM)
*Again, folks, for the safety of
everyone on board, please find a
 seat and strap in.*

A warning punctuated by UNYIELDING TURBULENCE and...

...the *BING-BING!* of the SEATBELT SIGN.

ON JORDAN as he eyes the sign. *BING-BING!*

The fastened seatbelt.

BING-BING!

... and something dawns on Jordan.

JORDAN
 (to Ian and August)
 Sit tight! I'll be back!

Ian and August watch Jordan leave them, helpless...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C

As the plane BANKS, PITCHES, and QUAKES -- Vik grips the arm rests, heart-racing. Then he sees --

JORDAN
EVERYONE! STAY IN YOUR SEATS.

Vik watches Jordan fight to keep his balance, tear down the aisle, shred open a curtain and disappear into CABIN ZONE D.

Vik eyes the Flight Attendant. Still scratching the back of her hand... drawing blood.

Then, Vik sees Jordan emerge, arm around Shelly who clutches his still-gushing nose. Jordan drops Shelly into a seat a few rows ahead of Vik.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
(to Shelly)
Stay here! Strap in!

Then Jordan locks eyes with Vik. Nods at him. *It'll be okay.*

As Vik watches Jordan go...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE B/GALLEY

Jordan returns, head of steam. Sees River and Isaac still standing. He barks at them --

JORDAN
SEATS! NOW!

River obliges while Jordan locks eyes with Isaac.

ISAAC
(re: the bathroom)
My dad and sister are in there!

Jordan nods. *On it.*

As Isaac scrambles to a seat, Jordan braces himself against the plane's relentless motion and BANGS on the door.

JORDAN
HEY! YOU HAVE TO GET IN A SEAT!

INT. THE PLANE - BATHROOM

Douglas and Ava crunched together.

DOUGLAS
No! We're safe in here!

JORDAN (O.S.)
 Listen to me. No one's safe until
 we're *all* in a seat. *I think.*

As that sits... And they silently debate what to do...

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 Please! I need you to trust me.

AVA
 (to Douglas)
 ...Daddy?

Suddenly -- a violent JAG tosses Ava against the mirror.
 GLASS SPIDERWEBS.

DOUGLAS
 AVA!

INT. THE PLANE - GALLEY

Jordan waits. The plane RATTLES. Then...

...Douglas opens the door with an injured Ava in tow.

JORDAN
 Here, let me--

DOUGLAS
 --Don't touch her. I've got it.

Douglas guides Ava to a pair of seats behind Isaac, stumbling
 and falling on the way.

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
 (to Ava, re: her injury)
 It's not that bad. Sit, sit.

As they buckle up, Douglas feels his son Isaac's glare. And
 avoids eye contact, ashamed.

Meanwhile, Jordan scans the rest of the plane. *CLICK -- CLICK*
 -- *CLICK*. Everyone is strapped in.

JORDAN
 (to himself)
 Okay. Here we go.

Then -- *CLICK!* -- Jordan buckles in too...

... And waits for relief... BUT the turbulence persists. *That*
should have worked. Then, Jordan realizes --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A

Ian and August grip the railing. They GROAN in pain as they're tossed like rag-dolls when Jordan returns. Takes in the scene, trying to come up with a solution --

COURTNEY

Hey! Captain America!
 (as Jordan looks over)
 The galley! A fire extinguisher's
 strapped to the bulkhead!

MORE VIOLENT SHAKES. Feels like the plane might come apart.

Jordan heads back to the galley, finds the FIRE EXTINGUISHER, and hauls it toward Ian and August.

JORDAN

Hands on the floor! Don't move!

AUGUST

What're you--

CABIN LIGHTS FLICKER. Jordan SLAMS the butt of the extinguisher against the chain that connects the cuffs -- CLANG!-- But there's no effect.

IAN

Won't work. They're high security
 cuffs.

JORDAN

Alright... what about... maybe
 we...

Another BEAT. Then, another idea. Jordan takes the butt of the extinguisher and -- WHAM! WHAM! WHAM! -- smashes it into one of the bannisters until the center is dented and bowed out just a few inches. Maybe enough for someone to --

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Squeeze through!

Slender Ian looks at portly August -- *Fuck, Jordan means Ian.*

JORDAN (CONT'D)

You can do this.

IAN

Shit. Alright...

Ian slips his head through first. Then rotates his body sideways. Can't quite slide his shoulders past.

JORDAN

Arms above your head. I'll pull.

Ian does so as Jordan grabs him by both biceps and *PULLS* --

IAN

GAHHHHH!

Ian's shoulders press against metal as Jordan strains.

IAN (CONT'D)

Stop! My shoulders! STOP!!!

JORDAN

No! We can't! This is the only way.

Jordan tugs harder. Ian SCREAMS as his body CRACKS and POPS.

AUGUST

Almost there! You got it!

Ian lets out one last GUTTURAL SCREAM and then pops through. Jordan falls onto his back and they both sprawl to the floor.

JORDAN

C'mon, get in a seat. NOW!

All three scramble to their feet and then, at last, Jordan, Ian, and August all takes seats. *CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!*

A tense beat and... the plane levels off. Turbulence ceases. INTERCUT every character's reaction/relief as --

PILOT (OVER PA SYSTEM)

Sorry 'bout that, folks. Some rough skies there. Could be a smooth ride from here on out. But that depends on you. So, as we approach our cruising altitude, feel free to stretch your legs and move about the cabin. Get to know everyone on this plane. Everyone. And from all of us here at Meridian Airways: enjoy your flight.

BING! The FASTEN SEATBELT LIGHT goes OFF and --

LAST CHANCE

ACT TWO**INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C**

Vik tries to breathe, white-knuckles the arm rests, when --
-- a HAND grabs him by the shoulder.

SHELLY

Hey!

Vik turns to see Shelly, both nostrils plugged by tissues.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

I found those tissues.

(then)

The others are gathering. You wanna
come?

(off Vik's nod, then)

And her?

Vik looks over at the Flight Attendant. Still borderline
catatonic and scratching what's now a deep gash in her hand.

VIK

She hasn't said a word. Been like
that since I sat down.

SHELLY

(to the Flight Attendant)

Hey... HEY! Do you know what's
going on?

(off her silence)

Everyone copes different. Let's go.

Shelly starts off. Vik follows after as they move into --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE B

SHELLY

By the way, I'm Sheldon Salka.
Shelly. I'm from Queens.

VIK

Vik Patel. Los Angeles.

SHELLY

Say, Vik. You know this airline?

Shelly taps a SEATBACK SCREEN as they press on. A MERIDIAN
AIRWAYS LOGO floats, pong-like, haunting. On every screen.

VIK
No, I don't. You?

Shelly shakes his head, "no." Just then --

ISAAC (O.S.)
Hey! Where are you guys going? What
the hell is happening here?

They turn to see Ava, Isaac, and Douglas in middle seats.

SHELLY
Some people up there are trying to
figure that out. C'mon.

Isaac rises, but Douglas puts a hand on his shoulder.

DOUGLAS
Don't.
(off Isaac's look)
Isaac.

Isaac relents. As Vik and Shelly move on, STAY WITH Douglas, Ava, and Isaac. Douglas turns to --

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
Ava, how's your head? Lemme see...

But Ava hears River WAILING nearby. She rises to help --

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
*Ava. Stay together. We don't know
what this is. Or who they are. All
we've got is us. Family first.*

Ava ignores him and goes over. Douglas turns back to Isaac.

ISAAC
*Family first? Like when you and Ava
locked me out of the bathroom?*

Douglas watches Isaac head to business class. He passes Ava who is now at River's side. STAY with them.

AVA
Hey. Are you okay?

RIVER
I... was... pregnant... before I
woke up on this plane.
(reveals cesarean scar)
None of us are okay.

Ava's at a total loss. OFF that ominous note...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A

Isaac catches up to Vik and Shelly, who stand back as --

IAN
(re: handcuffs)
I told you. We woke up like this.

JORDAN
How'd you know they were "high-security" cuffs?

IAN
'Cuz I'm FBI.
(hard stare, then)
Behavioral Analysis Unit. Violent
Crimes. Philly FO. My badge
number's 9471623

AUGUST
Huh, you're from Philly? Me too.

COURTNEY
Both from Philly, woke up 'cuffed
together, what are the odds?

JORDAN
Enough. We don't have the time to
keep going and back forth like
this.

VIK
What do you mean? *We don't have the
time?*

SHELLY
You know something we don't?

JORDAN
... Maybe. I mean, I think... I
think we stopped that turbulence.

IAN
What the hell does that mean?

JORDAN
When we all sat down. Strapped in.
Suddenly it just stopped. It was
like...

ISAAC
...we were playing a game?

JORDAN

Exactly. You heard the pilot.
*"Could be a smooth ride... but that
 depends on you...?"* Like he's
 taunting us.

AUGUST

Or testing us. But why?

As that hangs...

VIK

Maybe the flight attendant knows.
 (off their looks)
 There's one in 27F.

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C - MOMENTS LATER

The Flight Attendant (aka 27F) stares past the inquisition --

JORDAN

Why are we here?
 (off her silence)
 ... Who do you work for? ... What
 is Meridian Airways? ... Hello?

AUGUST

Miss? What's wrong with your hand?

SCRATCH. SCRATCH. SCRATCH... Vik eyes her bloody wound. He
 sits down beside her, as --

IAN

HEY. DO YOU HEAR US? SPEAK ENG--

COURTNEY

--Stop. She's in shock.

Vik clasps his hands around hers. The scratching stops.

VIK

Shelly, got any more tissues?

Shelly hands some to Vik who places them over the wound on
 27F's hand. He helps elevate her hand and apply pressure.

VIK (CONT'D)

Keep applying pressure on it. And
 keep it elevated.

Vik's small kindness breaks 27F's trance. She turns to Vik.

27F
Thank you, *Doctor...*

VIK
Patel. But, call me Vik, please.

JORDAN
And I'm Jordan. And you are...?

27F
I... uh...

Clearly, 27F is struggling to even think of that.

AUGUST
Take your time, Miss. Everyone's head is a little fuzzy.

27F
No. It isn't like that. I don't-- I can't remember... *anything*. My name. My-- How I got here. Why I'm wearing this. It's all... blank.

A quiet BEAT as that lands. Then --

ISAAC
Sick. Amnesia. Like some MK-ULTRA government op. DARPA's got this--

SHELLY
--Ugh. Zip it, Reddit.

27F
I'm sorry. I'm-- I-- I--

JORDAN
Don't worry. We'll figure this out.
(then)
Let's start simple. Does anyone remember anything before they woke up on this flight? Anything at all?

As Vik considers that...

EXT. PARK - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A JUMBO JET roars overhead, as --

-- Vik, in MEDICAL SCRUBS, watches it go by. He's on his back, splayed on top of a TALL CLIMBING STRUCTURE in a playground, clutching a LIQUOR BOTTLE in a BROWN BAG.

A far cry from the clean cut Vik in present day, this Vik is unshaven, disheveled, drunk... broken.

Vik polishes off the bottle and tosses it. He watches it shatter on the concrete below.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Vik enters and trudges toward a CASHIER. Indicates--

VIK
That Wild Turkey. And one of those.

Vik nods toward a PREPAID PHONE hanging behind the Cashier.

The Cashier rings up the phone, then eyes Vik as he rings up the Wild Turkey. Vik stares back, no shame. Doesn't care.

PRE-LAP the RING of a phone...

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Vik swigs from a new BROWN BAG. Holds the PREPAID PHONE to his ear and waits until--

VIK'S EX-WIFE (ON PHONE)
Hello?

Vik just listens. Doesn't respond.

VIK'S EX-WIFE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Hello? Hello...?
(BEAT, she sighs)
Vik, I know it's you. I can hear you breathing.
(off Vik's silence)
Please stop calling on his birthday. Anthony doesn't need this. I don't need this. These last two years, we've been... We're... better off. Without you. Really.

The call ends. Vik takes that in. Pockets the phone.

INT. VIK'S CAR - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Vik slumps into his CAR and starts it. "Africa" by Hall & Oates is on the radio. His Wild Turkey rides shotgun.

HALL & OATES

... My baby went to Africa/
With a make up man and love-sick
lover...

Vik puts it into drive and starts out of the parking lot. So much on his mind. So much weighs on him. His life, his choi--

-- CRASH!!!

Vik's blindsided. Another CAR just smashed into his. Hard.

Hall and Oates warbles as Vik gets his bearings. Checks himself. Not dead. No blood. No broken bones. A mirac--

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Oh my God, are you okay? Hello?
Sir? I swear I didn't see you --
don't move. Are you okay??

Finally, Vik looks over and sees the WOMAN. 30's, quirky cool, and outside of his window. She approaches, frantic.

WOMAN

Shit, shit, I am so sorry. Shit.

VIK

I'm okay. It was accident.

WOMAN

You could've died. I could've died.
We could've di--

VIK

But we didn't. I'm fine. Really.

WOMAN

And you're sure, you're...?
(sees his scrubs)
Oh. You're a doctor. You'd know.
(then, pulls out her CELL)
I'll call the police, we'll--

VIK

--No, no, not necessary. Let's--

WOMAN

--I don't know, this is pretty bad,
it's probably a good idea if...

She trails off. Vik sees that she's seen something:

The brown bag in the passenger seat.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
... or maybe not. Cops suck. Maybe just call a tow? Right?

VIK
... Thank you.

Then, as Vik gets out of the car and tells her again --

VIK (CONT'D)
Thank you...

WOMAN
... Olivia. Hi. Nice to meet you.

VIK
Hi. I'm Vik.

BEAT. They both digest the scene. Busted cars. Onlookers. An otherwise quiet Los Angeles night. Then...

OLIVIA
*... Gonna take a while for the tow to get here, probably. You hungry?
 (re: a CORNER TACO STAND)
 Wanna grab a taco?*

OFF Vik and Olivia. A meet cute. Of sorts...

CUT TO:

A CABINET opens. Vik rummages through looking for supplies in the galley. CUT AROUND THE PLANE as Shelly, Isaac, Ian and August, and 27F do the same --

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C

Jordan rallies the troops --

JORDAN
*We don't know how long we're gonna be on this plane. Or why, or who put us here. But I can't sit and wait for something else to happen. Neither should you.
 (then)
 We need to gather whatever supplies we can find: Food, first aid, blankets, tools. Weapons.
 (then)
 (MORE)*

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Courtney, the Doc, and I will head to the cockpit. For answers.

VIK

Whoa. Why me?

JORDAN

Just in case...

(off their looks)

The pilot might not answer our questions....

COURTNEY

...Willingly?

JORDAN

And if we have to make him... he might need medical attention.

(to Vik)

Sorry, Doc. You're coming with us.

OFF Vik, on the spot and called to action...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A - MOMENTS LATER

WITH a nervous Vik and Courtney at the bottom of the stairs. Courtney tugs at the COUNTDOWN CLOCK. It won't budge.

VIK

So... there anything you wanna get off your chest?

COURTNEY

(smirks, then)

I just wanna go home.

(then)

And you? Anyone "down there" worrying about Dr. Vik?

Just then, Jordan lands, FIRE EXTINGUISHER in hand.

VIK

What's that for?

JORDAN

(mimes swinging it)

Part of that "just in case" I was talking about. You ready?

Courtney nods. Vik doesn't. As they stalk upstairs...

JORDAN (CONT'D)
 Hey, Courtney, how'd you know we're
 on a 747?

COURTNEY
 ... You could say I'm a pilot.

JORDAN
 Enough of a pilot to fly this bird?

COURTNEY
Just in case?

Vik, Jordan, and Courtney arrive at --

INT. THE PLANE - UPPER DECK - FIRST CLASS - CONTINUOUS

Six LUXURY SUITES, three on either side. All the suite doors
 are closed. They creep toward --

THE FLIGHT DECK

Vik hangs a couple feet back. Courtney and Jordan reach the
 COCKPIT DOOR. Jordan KNOCKS with a fist -- *BANG--BANG--BANG.*

JORDAN
 Captain! We need to talk!
 (nothing, bangs harder)
 Hey! Hey! Open up!

Still nothing. Jordan's about to bang again but stops
 himself. Tries a gentler approach --

JORDAN (CONT'D)
 Look, we just... why are you doing
 this? Please.

Silence. Jordan slumps, frustrated. Vik clocks a KEYPAD
 beside the cockpit door, indicates --

VIK
 What about that keypad?

Jordan's about to try it when Courtney stops him.

COURTNEY
 Don't. Three failed attempts and
 the cockpit door locks *permanently*
 'til the plane lands.

Just then a -- *THUD!* -- from behind STARTLES the group.

It came from one of the suites. Looks traded.

VIK
Is someone ther--

Jordan puts a hand up to quiet Vik.

JORDAN
(sotto, to Vik)
Keep trying the cockpit.

Jordan wields the extinguisher. Signals Courtney to follow.

Jordan and Courtney stalk toward the suites. Tense. On edge.

Vik BANGS on the cockpit door.

VIK
Hey! Hey! OPEN UP!

Jordan hoists the extinguisher. Motions for Courtney to open the first suite door. She slides it open --

-- Nobody inside. As Vik SLAMS his fist on the door again --

VIK (CONT'D)
Hello? We know you're in there!

Courtney opens another suite --

-- empty. Then -- THUD -- from the suite right behind them.

Jordan and Courtney wheel around. Jordan motions for Vik to stop banging. They hear it again -- THUD!

Jordan raises the extinguisher again. Courtney slides the suite door open REVEAL --

-- an empty suite. Something rolls to Courtney's feet: A YELLOW AFFIRMATION BALL (*think a magic 8-ball with a SMILEY FACE on the back, but instead of predictions... you get it.*)

Jordan lowers the extinguisher.

VIK (CONT'D)
What is that?

Courtney picks the affirmation ball up, shakes it and turns it over. It reads: **"YOU'RE A WINNER!"**

COURTNEY
An affirmation ball.

Jordan checks another suite, Courtney shakes: **"NICE OUTFIT!"**

VIK
What's it say?

Courtney shakes the ball again: "**HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?**"

COURTNEY
What's it matter?

JORDAN
Doc's right. Could be a clue.

Jordan slides the last suite door open --

-- AND A WOMAN IN A POWER SUIT CHARGES OUT WITH A BROKEN LIQUOR BOTTLE AND JAMS IT INTO JORDAN'S NECK!!!

POWER SUIT
AHHHHH!

She pulls the bottle free and staggers back as Jordan grasps at his neck. Falls to the ground. Blood spurts.

COURTNEY
JORDAN!

Power Suit backs into a corner clutching the broken bottle. Defensive posture. Like a caged animal.

POWER SUIT
STAY BACK! BOTH OF YOU!

Courtney drops to Jordan's side. Doesn't know what to do. She looks up at Vik who's shell-shocked.

COURTNEY
You're a doctor! DO SOMETHING!

Vik snaps out of it. He rushes to a nearby suite. Grabs a BLANKET. Then kneels by Jordan and tries to cover his wound.

He applies pressure, but blood seeps through. Jordan coughs up more.

VIK
Just... hang on. It'll be...

Jordan grabs Vik's arm. Looks up at him. Their eyes meet. Jordan tries to choke out words, but there's only more blood.

A moment passes between them... and JORDAN DIES. OFF this --

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT./EXT. VIK'S CAR/STREET - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

A now clean-shaven, clear-eyed Vik sits in the driver's seat. He's in a better place. Not so rock bottom-y.

Vik eyes a SHABBY HOUSE on a street corner. Taps the steering wheel, nervous.

Then -- BUZZ -- a TEXT from OLIVIA: **Start the car.** Vik does. The engine hums. Another TEXT: **Play this.**

A MUSIC PLAYLIST is attached. Titled: "**Getaway Music.**" Vik grins and hits play -- Hall and Oates's "You Make My Dreams Come True." Hmm, kind of a strange choice --

-- and just then, Olivia bursts out of the shabby house, cradling a BEAGLE. She Walter Payton's for Vik's car. But --

-- a NAKED MAN is in pursuit. This is Olivia's ex-boyfriend --

BODHI

Livy, you bitch! Get back here!

VIK

Shit...

-- as Olivia jumps in the front seat with the beagle --

OLIVIA

Go go go!!

Vik tears down the street, leaving Bodhi in his rearview.

TIRES SCREECH as Vik turns a hard right. Tears down another street and then... pulls the car over. The beagle WHINES.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

What are you doing? Keep going.

VIK

You said your ex wasn't home.

OLIVIA

Semantics! Vik, babe, Ringo belongs to me. Can we please litigate this later, right now we gotta--

BODHI (O.S.)

Hey! Give me my Goddamn dog back!

Bodhi has cut through a yard and now sprints to a stop in front of the car, blocking their path. Bathed in headlights.

OLIVIA

Floor it.

(off Vik's hesitation)

Bodhi doesn't actually care about Ringo. He'll move. Babe...

A BEAT, as Vik considers. Then, Vik kills the engine.

VIK

... I'm sorry.

Vik reaches for Ringo. Finally... Olivia hands him over, disappointed, but understanding. STAY WITH Olivia as --

Vik gets out of the car, Ringo in his arms. Approaches Bodhi.

VIK (CONT'D)

She's... passionate. You know.

Bodhi takes the dog from him. And PUNCHES Vik in the face.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE PARKING LOT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Vik's got a nasty gash on his forehead and a black eye. Olivia ices the eye with a FROZEN TV DINNER. Finally...

VIK

... Hall and Oates. For our getaway music? Really?

OLIVIA

Duh. H and O are the shit. They've got a song for every occasion. Breakups, makeups, fresh starts, bar mitzvahs.

Vik grins, smitten.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Why didn't you just keep going? Ringo coulda been ours.

VIK

(considers, then)

If we got a dog, I'd want it to be ours-ours. Like, really ours. No ex's. No baggage. Something pure. For us, 'cause... I love you.

(MORE)

VIK (CONT'D)
 (a BEAT, as it hangs)
 Look, you don't have to say it--

Olivia drops the frozen meal and kisses Vik. OFF the frozen dinner, stained with Vik's blood --

INT. THE PLANE - UPPER DECK - PRESENT

Vik's in shock. He stares at his bloody hands, ears ringing. Looks back at Jordan's dead body. Then, he snaps to--

COURTNEY
 Hey. HEY. Look at me. We're not the ones who did this. We woke up here. Just like you. We're all scared, we're--

POWER SUIT
 (brandishes broken bottle)
 We? How many of you are there?

COURTNEY
 Twelve.

VIK
 Eleven.

Vik gets up from Jordan's dead body. Approaches. Power Suit points the broken bottle at him.

COURTNEY
 Easy, easy. You think I'd strap a clock on myself and play victim after getting you on this plane?

POWER SUIT
 ... I don't know you. Or him.

VIK
 And we don't know you.
 (then)
 What's the last thing you remember before waking up here?

There's a BEAT. And then Power Suit softens, as --

POWER SUIT
 It was late. My driver dropped me off at home. I got inside and before I could turn on the light, someone grabbed me from behind. Threw a bag over my head. Then everything went black.
 (MORE)

POWER SUIT (CONT'D)

(then)

Next thing I know I'm on the floor
right where...

She indicates Jordan's dead body. Drops the broken bottle.

POWER SUIT (CONT'D)

God, I'm sorry. I'm... about your
friend. I'm sorry. I was-- trying
to defend myself. It's not the
first time someone's come after me.

COURTNEY

Not the first time? Who are you?

ISAAC (O.S.)

Senator Erica Ashford of Ohio.

Everyone turns to see Isaac and Shelly at the top step.

SHELLY

We heard screams. Lots of them.

(then, re: Jordan)

Is he...?

(off Vik's nod, re: Erica)

And did she...?

ISAAC

...that's on brand.

(off their looks)

Remember that Senate aide who got
hit-and-run'd two blocks from her
townhouse?

ERICA (fka POWER SUIT)

I had nothing to do with that.

ISAAC

Suuure. Just like you have nothing
to do with the thousands who've
died thanks to the red tape you cut
Big Pharma on your last floor vote,
you right wing, deep state psycho.

COURTNEY

Enough.

(to Erica)

You're a Senator?

ERICA

Down there. Up here, I'm a hostage.
Like all of you.

A BEAT, as the tension shifts to what they'll do next --

SHELLY
 So, who's gonna break the news
 about Jordan?

All eyes land on Vik. Off Vik's confusion --

COURTNEY
 People trust doctors...

As Vik takes that in --

IAN (PRE-LAP)
 Why should we trust you?

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C

Ian sits next to 27F, cuffed to August who tries to find a comfortable position between standing or sitting.

27F
 I don't... I mean, why should any
 of us trust each other?

AUGUST
 She has a point...

IAN
 (to August)
 Can you not...
 (back to 27F)
 It just seems convenient you can't
 remember shit, when you're wearing
 a flight attendant's uniform.

August shifts again, pulling Ian with him. Ian glares.

AUGUST
 Apologies. My sciatica.

IAN
 (to 27F)
 Hold out your arms. Palms up.

27F sighs and obliges. Ian reaches for her wrists, yanking August with him. He winces and pulls Ian's arm back.

IAN (CONT'D)
 Damn it!
 (to 27F)
 One second.
 (to August)
 C'mere.

Ian pulls August away from 27F and out of earshot.

IAN (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm using an interrogation technique to see if she's lying. But it won't work without your cooperation, bro.

AUGUST

Ah, good cop/bad cop?

IAN

"Good cop/bad cop?" Are you L.E...?

AUGUST

... August. You never asked my name. And I'm an engineer.

Ian sizes August up. Knows he's been too curt with him.

IAN

I'm Ian. Look, August, for the foreseeable future, we're partnered up. For better or worse. More than anyone else on this plane, you and I have to work together.

AUGUST

An imperative agreed upon, Ian.

IAN

Then, for right now, follow my lead. Physically, I mean.

They return to 27F.

IAN (CONT'D)

Let's give this another go.

27F extends her hands. August moves with Ian as he grabs both her wrists. Finds her pulse, but something catches his eye--

IAN (CONT'D)

Your fingers...

27F looks at her fingertips: an unnatural purplish-blue.

IAN (CONT'D)

What's wrong with them?

27F shakes her head. *No clue*. She's unnerved, frightened.

Just then -- Douglas exits a lavatory and bumps past August, who stumbles, tugging Ian with him. FOLLOW Douglas into--

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D - CONTINUOUS

Douglas looks around. No one else in this section. *Nice.*

He plops down in a seat. Checks the seatback pocket. Nothing. He looks at the SEATBACK SCREEN: The MERIDIAN AIRWAYS LOGO floats across. He reaches out to tap the screen... and...

... a typical interface including MOVIES. Douglas scrolls through a list of GENRES -- ACTION, COMEDY, DRAMA, HORROR -- he lands on something that piques his interest. Taps it.

"CON AIR" plays on the seatback. As Douglas settles in --

-- River bursts into the cabin, from ZONE E, as Ava trails. A head of steam, River opens and inspects an overhead bin.

AVA

River. Slow down. You'll pop your stitches.

RIVER

My son is *on this plane*. So either help me, or leave me alone.

Ava concedes. Starts opening bins too when Douglas reaches out and grabs her by the wrist.

DOUGLAS

What the hell are you doing? Don't get involved with these people. We can't trust them.

Ava's about to push back when -- a sharp EEEEE feedbacks over the PA system.

Then, all of the SEATBACK SCREENS play an IN-FLIGHT VIDEO:

A PILOT in UNIFORM strolls through an active airport, LUGGAGE in tow. (**NOTE: Every gate number is 48*)

PILOT (ON SCREEN)

Welcome to your Meridian Airways flight...

INTERCUT AROUND THE PLANE AS THE VIDEO CONTINUES --

PILOT (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

We hope you've enjoyed your journey with us so far. For your safety -- and our interest -- a Glock 9 millimeter has been stowed under seat 27F. Where your floatation device should be.

(MORE)

PILOT (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

(then)

Douglas, you have a choice: One of your kids, Ava or Isaac, must die. For every minute you fail to choose, this aircraft will ascend four thousand feet...

FIND: Isaac, frozen. As are Vik, Courtney, Shelly, and Erica.

PILOT (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

Thanks for flying with us. You have choices for air travel. And then you have Meridian Airways.

The Pilot smiles. CAMERA HOLDS on him too long. Then the NUMBER 48 flashes on screen, and -- the SCREENS go black.

A long silence. All eyes on Isaac. *What can they say?* Doesn't matter, as Isaac beelines down the stairs to --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A/B - CONTINUOUS

-- not stopping --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C

-- and sees Ian retrieve the GLOCK from 27F's seat, but blows straight past him --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D - CONTINUOUS

-- and finds an ashen Douglas and horrified Ava.

ISAAC

...Dad?

(off Douglas's silence)

DAD!

AVA

No, no, no...

As Ian, August, 27F and River arrive --

DOUGLAS

I-- I don't-- It's-- This is...

COURTNEY (O.S.)

What are you going to do?

REVEAL: Courtney, Vik, Erica, and Shelly land. The entire group is together for the first time.

DOUGLAS

What do you mean? What does that mean? What's--

-- without warning the plane pitches upward and ascends four thousand feet. Chaos. People SCREAM. Most grab hold of seats and stay upright. August falls, dragging Ian down with him.

IAN/AUGUST

AAGH!/Shit!

Then... the plane levels off. As everyone rights themselves.

COURTNEY

Douglas...

DOUGLAS

... No. Way. I'm not killing one of my children. Plane's going up, not down. We're not gonna crash, so--

COURTNEY

43,000 feet. "Coffin corner."

(off Douglas)

A commercial plane's nav fails and we fall out of the sky so fast we'll literally break apart before we even hit the ground.

VIK

How much time do we have until...?

COURTNEY

Based on cloud cover... four to five minutes.

(to Douglas)

So what are you going to do?

AUGUST

You can't ask-- We can't ask him to do this...

(off everyone's silence)

Can we? Are we?

SHELLY

There's gotta be another way.

Everyone searches for answers. Douglas racks his brain --

DOUGLAS

What about the pilot? Maybe we can reason with him. Talk him down.

VIK

We tried. He won't even answer.

DOUGLAS

Then we bribe him. I've got money.

VIK

So does whoever put us here.

DOUGLAS

Then, shit I don't know. Break the door down. Find a way in!

RIVER

And then what?

VIK

(re: Courtney)
She's a pilot.

IAN

Great. I'll take out the pilot.
(then, to August)
You're an engineer. You take out the door.

VIK

(to Courtney)
You can fly this plane, right?

COURTNEY

... For a price.

That stops everyone cold.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

Ten of you. Ten million dollars is fair. Figure each of your lives is worth a million.

Looks traded. *No fucking way.* Vik locks eyes with Courtney. Just then, the plane ascends another four thousand feet. Everyone holds on tight until the plane levels off.

IAN

You sociopath.

COURTNEY

That your professional assessment?
(then)
Ten million. I fly the plane.
(eyes her clock, shrugs)
The. Clock. Is. Tic--

DOUGLAS

--Done. I told you. I have money.
(doubles down)

I'm a partner at Stonebridge
Capital. It's a multibillion dollar
hedge fund. You save us? I'll wire
the money. Tax free. I promise.

(off Courtney)

If I'm gonna trust you, you're
gonna have to trust me.

Courtney nods. *Fine, fair enough.* She turns to Isaac, sees --

COURTNEY

Set your watch to four minutes. If
we're not back by then...

(turns to Ian and August)

You two still coming?

As Ian and August move toward Courtney, River and 27F join.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

You both engineers too?

RIVER

If anyone knows where my son is,
it's that pilot.

27F

If anyone knows what happened to
me...

As they head for the cockpit, Ian hands Douglas the GUN.

IAN

Four minutes...

STAY WITH Douglas, Ava, Isaac, Vik, Shelly, and Erica.
Douglas looks down at the weapon, hand trembling. Then looks
back at his kids. He turns to Vik of all people --

DOUGLAS

Help me.

OFF Vik, at a loss --

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. EMPTY HOME - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Like seriously, super-duper, emp-ty. Kind of creepy...

... except for... A RECORD PLAYER. A needle falls on a RECORD. Hall and Oates's "Goodnight and Good Morning" spins.

EXT. STREET - DAY (FLASHBACK)

QUICK CUTS: a U-HAUL VAN pulls in front of a CRAFTSMAN. The ROLL-UP DOOR RATTLES OPEN. Lots of BOXES. FURNITURE. All the fixings. REVERSE TO: Vik and Olivia, and it's move in day.

INT. EMPTY HOME - DAY - MONTAGE (FLASHBACK)

As the song continues, a MONTAGE follows that shows these lovebirds starting a life together. Boxes pile up. Some are unpacked. Furniture is placed. And re-placed. And re-placed again. Vik and Olivia smile, laugh, dote on one another...

LATER THAT NIGHT

Vik and Olivia have a taco picnic on the floor while the record plays. Life is goood. As Vik eyes Olivia and grins...

OLIVIA

What? What's that look for?

VIK

Best. Taco. Ever.

OLIVIA

First taco in our first home.

VIK

First home? You're already thinking about the next one?

OLIVIA

Not sure yet. For now, I'm just thinking 'bout al pastor.

(between chews)

And about the first shower I'm going to take in our first home.

VIK

Want some company?

OLIVIA

After you take your first shower in our first home. Moving days are...

VIK

(sniffs himself)

... That bad, huh?

OLIVIA
Little bit.

She gets up and kisses his forehead as she passes.

VIK
I'll unpack some more.

OLIVIA
I love you too.

Olivia heads off. Vik looks around. Where to start?

QUICK CUTS: Vik unpacks a BOX labeled **PLATES**. Puts them away. Then, opens a BOX that says **CUTLERY**. That too, finds it's place. Then, he picks up a HEAVY BOX.

OLIVIA'S KITCHENWARE. Vik opens it... and it's not kitchenware. It's sixty COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS, stuffed into the box.

He looks to the bedroom/bathroom. Hears the SHOWER. Then looks back to the box. **OLIVIA'S KITCHENWARE**. Hmmmm...

Vik considers.. and then picks up one of the notebooks. Flips through the pages. And sees... a single phrase written over and over. Nothing else. Just --

ONE MAN'S HELP IS ANOTHER MAN'S HELL.

Over. And over. And... Every single page. Every notebook.

Vik eyes it, disturbed. When -- he hears the shower stop.

What will he do?

... Vik closes the notebook. Doesn't want to look further. Or ruin a good thing. Cuz that's who he is, and that's safe.

Then, Vik puts it back in the box. As --

HALL & OATES (ON RECORD PLAYER)
Goodnight and good morning./
Goodnight and good morning./
Morning, morning...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D**

The SECOND HAND of ISAAC'S WATCH --

-- *TICK. TICK. TICK...*

Isaac, Vik, Shelly, and Erica watch Douglas clutch the gun and pace, sweating, scared, as --

-- Ava white-knuckles a seatback. Isaac stares at his watch.

TICK. TICK... Vik goes to speak, but Shelly stops him. *Don't.*

Douglas's eyes dart between his children *TICK. TICK. TICK...*

AVA

How much time is left?

Before Isaac can answer --

-- THE PLANE ASCENDS.

INT. THE PLANE - THE FLIGHT DECK

Courtney clutches a FIRE EXTINGUISHER as she, Ian, August, River, and 27F brace themselves against the walls.

When the plane levels off -- *SMASH! SMASH! SMASH!* -- Courtney SLAMS the extinguisher against the door's handle repeatedly.

IAN

Keep trying.

(to August, re: smashing)

You got anything better yet?

AUGUST

I'm still thinking...

RIVER

What about the gun? Shoot the lock.

Courtney gives up on smashing the door.

COURTNEY

Door's bullet-proof.

27F

Are you sure we can't try the keypad?

COURTNEY

I told you. We don't know the six-digit code.

AUGUST

I *could* try to override it. *Maybe*.

IAN

In *maybe* 3 minutes? With what? Are you *maybe* hiding a screwdriver? Do you *maybe* know which wires to cut?

AUGUST

(tight)

You're not helping.

OFF this hopeless moment --

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D

TICK. TICK. TICK... Douglas wipes a flop sweat from his brow. He looks down the aisle to check for Courtney...

ERICA

... She's not coming.

DOUGLAS

Sorry-- And who are you?

ERICA

Does that matter? If you don't choose, we all die.

Looks traded as that hangs. *Everyone knows she's right.*

Isaac looks at Douglas, then back at Ava, mind racing.

ISAAC

Dad...

(re: Ava)

...She *is* adopted.

OFF Ava, stunned and enraged --

INT. THE PLANE - THE FLIGHT DECK

RIVER

What if we guessed the code?

AUGUST

Six digit code? That's one million possible numerical combinations.

(MORE)

AUGUST (CONT'D)

It'd take twenty-three days to iterate them all.

COURTNEY

And we only have three tries before the system locks us out for good.

RIVER

We can't do nothing. Someone has to step up. Make a decision.

Courtney's eyes land on Jordan's dead body.

COURTNEY

Jordan would've figured out the code. He knew we had to all be in seats to make the turbulence stop. That it was a game: The seatbelt sign, the pilot's warning. It was all there.

-- THE PLANE ASCENDS... As everyone braces themselves again, something dawns on 27F... When the plane levels off --

27F

What if we already know the code?
(off the group)
Numbers have been staring at us the whole time. Row 27: Where the gun was hidden and where I woke up. 48 was all over that in-flight video.

IAN

That's four digits... what's the last pair of numbers? What should we have seen this whole time?

27F

(thinks, then)
Us... after we first woke up, the pilot said "get to know everyone" on this plane. There are-- were 12 of us. So. 27, 48, 12?

COURTNEY

It's worth a shot.

27F punches the numbers into the keypad. **27 - 48 - 12**. And...

A RED LIGHT BLINKS. *Shit*.

IAN

Maybe it's chronological?
Passengers, seat, video.

27F tries: 12 - 27 - 48. RED LIGHT.

COURTNEY
Last chance...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D

Ava and Isaac scream over each other, overlapping --

AVA
...even said that -- that you even
thought it -- just shows you...

ISAAC
What--deserve to die? Nobody
deserves to die, Ava --

AVA
-- I didn't say that --

ISAAC
-- you didn't have to! But if we
have to make a choice --

AVA
-- WE don't have to make a choice --

ISAAC
-- then let's make a choice --

DOUGLAS
Enough! Both of you-- *SHUT UP!*

They do. But their eyes argue and plead for their lives...

ERICA
... They're right. You have to
decide. Or you lose them both.

DOUGLAS
... I-- I can't-- I...

SHELLY
How much time is left?
(off Isaac's silence)
Isaac.

ISAAC
... Seventy seconds.

Suddenly --

DOUGLAS

Ava.

*Holy. Shit. Douglas chose. But then --**-- THE PLANE ASCENDS.***INT. THE PLANE - THE FLIGHT DECK**

IAN

Less than a minute. Try something.
Anything.

AUGUST

Maybe the order's still off. 48 was
on the gates before the pilot
mentioned the gun.

27F

So, 12, 48, 27?

No objections. 27F reaches for the keypad but --

RIVER

Wait!

(then)

Not 12. 13. 13 passengers. My son.
My baby's on this plane. I know it.

27F sees the fierce look in River's eyes. Believes her.

She enters the code: **13 - 48 - 27**. And...GREEN LIGHT -- *CLICK* -- The door unlocks.

IAN

Holy...

AUGUST

...shit.

Courtney grabs the fire extinguisher again.

COURTNEY

Open it.

As Ian opens the cockpit door...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE D

Douglas raises the gun and points it at a now-weeping Ava.

AVA
Daddy... don't...

DOUGLAS
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Douglas puts his finger on the trigger and --

ISAAC
You have to.

-- lowers the weapon. *He can't do it*. He sets the gun down.

THE PLANE ASCENDS.

VIK
This is it...

And Courtney charges in --

SHELLY
What happened up there?

-- picks up the gun --

COURTNEY
Who'd he choose?

ERICA
The daughter.

-- and SHOOTS Ava.

DOUGLAS
NO!

... the plane levels off.

A long BEAT... Then...

DOUGLAS (CONT'D)
You killed my daughter!

He starts after her. Vik and Shelly hold him back when --

ISAAC
Dad... Look.

Douglas turns to see Ava get up. She looks fine. No gunshot wound. Nothing.

AVA
Am I...?

ERICA
You're... you're okay. How...?

COURTNEY
(eyes the gun)
Blanks.

DOUGLAS
What. Is. HAPPENING?!

INT. UPPER DECK - THE COCKPIT

27F, River, Ian, and August take in the near-empty space.

No pilot. No controls. Only two massive servers with a large HAL-like BLUE LIGHT pulsating in the center.

RIVER
... So who's flying the plane?

TIME CUT TO:

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A

The whole group listens as --

COURTNEY
It's being operated remotely.
There's no way to take control.
We're stuck here until... this
ends.

SHELLY
So... it's an AI? Can an AI fly a
plane?

ISAAC
Ask Senator Deep State. She and her
fascist cronies voted to deregulate
the whole industry.

Isaac approaches Erica, amping up.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
You're in on this aren't you?

ERICA
In on what?

ISAAC
Oh please, this is some-- some kind
of government op, right?
(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

You-- you-- planned all of this...

I mean--

(grabs Erica)

But we're on to you. So just-- just admit it. Game's over!

Erica shoves him off.

DOUGLAS

Isaac...

Douglas grabs Isaac's arm, but he pulls away and spirals --

ISAAC

Don't touch me! DON'T!

(then, back at it)

Or maybe this is all one of those bullshit prank streams? Right?! --

DOUGLAS

--when's the last time you took your--

ISAAC

--Like: *Gotcha! You're on Kick!* Or a study. Rats in a maze, ya know? Or-- no, I know, it's a goddamn simulation! This plane? Fake! That Jordan hero-dude? Prolly an NPC.

Isaac approaches Courtney. Rips the gun from her.

COURTNEY

Hey--

ISAAC

--It's all zeroes and ones. This gun's a prop. Blanks! Not even... Zeros and ones--

He puts the gun to his head --

COURTNEY

-- *No, wait--*

-- and *BANG!* --

-- Not a blank this time! Isaac's head spatters across his father and his body THUDS to the floor! And off this...

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. THE PLANE - UPPER DECK**

Vik eyes the blood-stained carpet where Jordan died. All the other passengers are with him as Shelly and Erica place Isaac on a lie-flat seat inside of one of the SUITES.

Grieving, Douglas reaches for Ava's hand, but she pulls away.

Courtney, Ian, and August place Jordan in another suite.

They cover both bodies with BLANKETS. *What now? Finally...*

...Shelly bows his head. Recites the Mourner's Kaddish prayer in Hebrew --

SHELLY

*Yit-gadal v'yit-kadash shmay raba.
B'alma dee-v'ra che-ru-tay, veyam-
lich mal-chutay...*

All heads now bowed except for Erica who takes in Jordan's "tomb." A pang of guilt. Then something catches Erica's eye:

27F's fingertips: Purplish-blue. *Hmmm.*

SHELLY (CONT'D)

*...b'chai-yaychon uv'yo-maychon uv-
cha-yay d'chol beit Yisrael ba-
agala uvitze-man ka-riv. Ve'imru
amen...*

The prayer continues over...

INT. THE PLANE - LAVATORY/GALLEY

Ian wipes away tears. Splashes water on his face with his free hand. His cuffed wrist pressed against the ajar door.

SHELLY (V.O)

*...Y'hay shmay raba me'varach le-
alam uleh-almay alma-ya...*

Ian exits. Looks away from August, embarrassed about crying.

AUGUST

It's natural. I won't tell anyone.

IAN

... Thanks.

August enters the lavatory. Closes the door as best he can.

He starts to do a quick wash-up. Struggles to remove his shirt with one hand. But manages to.

REVEAL HIS BACK IS SCARRED with what look like HASHMARKS.

SHELLY (V.O.)
*...Yit-barach v'yish-tabach, v'yit-
 pa-ar v'yit-romam v'yit-nasay...*

INT. THE PLANE - UPPER DECK

Douglas and Ava have a final moment with Isaac's body.

DOUGLAS
 I'm sorry.

AVA
 You made your choice.

In other words: "fuck you." Douglas slumps off. Ava watches him go. She waits a few BEATS and then enters THE SUITE.

She touches Isaac's wrist, seems tender for a moment, until... she removes his watch.

Ava pulls the CROWN on the watch, sets it to a particular time and then -- *CLICK* -- the back opens to REVEAL:

A HIDDEN COMPARTMENT. Ava retrieves a SCRAP OF PAPER with RANDOM WORDS scrawled on it. As she studies the words...

...the Kaddish comes to an END.

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE C/GALLEY

Shelly rummages until he finds: MERIDIAN AIRWAYS STATIONARY -- paper and pen. River approaches with Shelly's YARMULKE.

RIVER
 I found this under a seat. I have a friend who's...

SHELLY
 ...a rabbi from Queens?

Shelly takes the yarmulke. Dons it. Nods, grateful.

RIVER
 That was beautiful. The prayer you did for them.

SHELLY

The Mourner's Kaddish. It's the Jewish prayer for the dead.

RIVER

Do you have a prayer I can say for my son? Like... for a miracle.

As Shelly consider this...

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE B

27F sits alone, feeling lost. She eyes her blueish-purplish fingertips, when Erica approaches.

ERICA

I might know something. About what happened to you.

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE A

THE YELLOW AFFIRMATION BALL lolls against a wall. Vik picks it up. Shakes it. The message that comes up gut punches him --

"ONE MAN'S HELP IS ANOTHER MAN'S HELL."

Vik stares into it, unsettled.

CUT TO:

A MONITOR. A CAMERA FEED from inside the affirmation ball: Vik's stare. REVEAL: The monitor is one of many in --

INT. SOMEWHERE - MONITORING HUB

Think the TRUMAN SHOW. *Every inch of the plane is surveilled.*

Watching it all is... THE "PILOT" from the in-flight video.

The Pilot picks up a MULTI-LINE DESK PHONE with PROGRAMMABLE KEYS. Each BUTTON has the NAME of a PASSENGER labeled beneath: **COURTNEY. JORDAN. DOUGLAS**, etc... He presses **VIK**.

CUT TO:

EXT. VIK AND OLIVIA'S HOME - DAY

A FLIP PHONE RINGS on a PATIO TABLE outside. Olivia's "ex," BODHI, picks up, looking very different from the flashback. Clean cut. Suit and tie. What the hell is he doing here?

BODHI
Yeah? ... She's inside.

INT. VIK AND OLIVIA'S HOME - DAY

MOVERS in CLEAN GEAR pack everything up -- everything. Plastic wrap each piece of furniture. Bleach the floors. Wipe down the walls. *There will be no trace of life here.*

REVEAL: Olivia oversees it all as a MOVER approaches.

MOVER
This all goes to staging, right?

OLIVIA
... No. Burn it.

The Mover gets back to work. As Olivia watches her life with Vik being erased, she clutches at something in her pocket --

A DIAMOND RING. She eyes it, inscrutable.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. VIK AND OLIVIA'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

That same DIAMOND RING in Vik's hand. Vik eyes himself in a mirror. Yep, he's about to pop the question.

OLIVIA (O.S.)
Dinner's ready, babe.

VIK
Be right there!

Vik tucks the ring in his pocket. A deep breath. He's about to head out when his CELL BUZZES.

A CALL from: LORI. Vik reacts, concerned...

INT. VIK AND OLIVIA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Vik sits with Olivia. An incredible spread on the dining room table. Linen tablecloth. Candles lit. Special occasion for sure, but Vik's demeanor is... off.

OLIVIA
So... a year ago. Totaled my Kia Sportage. And traded it in for you.
(off Vik's silence)
No regrets.
(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 (nothing, finally)
 Helloooo. Vik?

VIK
 Sorry I'm just...

He trails off. She doesn't know why, but has an idea.

OLIVIA
 Hey. It's okay. Don't overthink it.

VIK
 Overthink it? What do you mean...?

OLIVIA
 I know about the ring, Vik. Just ask me. I'll say yes.

VIK
 Oh. I...

OLIVIA
 I'm sure you wanted this to be a surprise, but I know how in-your-head you get about stuff like this and... ask me. Will I marry you?

A long BEAT. Vik wants to say the words, but he... can't.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 Unless...

VIK
 No, no. It's not that. I... I just got call from Lori. It's Tony's birthday today. Lori hasn't let me talk to him since we split, but every year, on his birthday I call anyway. Just... to try.

(then)
 This year I didn't. So she called. Wanted to make sure I hadn't...

OLIVIA
 ...Killed yourself?
 (off his stare)
 What happened? Tell me about the accident. All this time, and you've never said--

VIK
 --Tony was five. And... I took him to the park. The one on Hazeltine.
 (MORE)

VIK (CONT'D)

He wanted to climb this tall
honeycomb structure thing. He
couldn't really do it on his own,
so I said I'm help him...

(then)

But first, I needed to... I went
back to my car. To sneak a drink.
It was only--I thought he'd be...

(then)

Then I heard screaming. Other
parents. Kids. When I got back,
Tony was... on the concrete... A
body shouldn't look like that.

Olivia's gutted. At a loss. What does she say to that?

VIK (CONT'D)

That's why Tony's in a wheelchair.
Why I don't talk to my family.

(then)

Olivia, I can't propose to you
because I'm not a good person.

OLIVIA

Stop. Look at me. I love you.

Olivia's eyes plead, but --

VIK

What I did to my son. That's who I
am. I'm not gonna change. I can't.

Olivia nods, sad, but accepting. She gets up from the table
and walks away. STAY WITH Vik.

He stares at the candles. For an uncomfortable BEAT...

...until...

...A TASER is jammed into his neck.

Olivia stands over him. Stuns Vik into unconsciousness.

OLIVIA

You can change, Vik. You will.

With Vik passed out, Olivia sits down at the table and pulls
out a pen and what looks like a PICTOGRAM from her pocket.
She unfolds it to REVEAL--

A sort of CHECKLIST: FOUR FRAMES. Simple, clean, linework
illustrations. The first three have a CHECK MARK beside them:

- A MAN and WOMAN stand beside a car wreck ✓
- A MAN carries a beagle. ✓
- A MAN opens a moving box of NOTEBOOKS. ✓

Olivia's pen hovers over the fourth and final image:

- A MAN holds an engagement ring.

Olivia TICKS a BOX beside it. Then makes a call on her CELL:

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
He's ready. Come get him.

CUT TO:

INT. THE PLANE - CABIN ZONE E (PRESENT)

Vik is alone in the seat where he first woke up, AFFIRMATION BALL in hand. Still shaken.

COURTNEY (O.S.)
You look like you've seen a ghost.

Vik sees Courtney standing in the aisle.

VIK
Could you have flown the plane?

COURTNEY
I'm a drone pilot, so... maybe.
Could you have saved Jordan's life?

VIK
Well, I'm a veterinarian. So... no.
(then)
What was the money for?

Courtney doesn't answer, but there's a pang of sadness.

VIK (CONT'D)
I get it. I don't know you and you don't know me, but if we're gonna get through this, we might as well start opening up to each other.
(off her stare)
I remember what happened to me before... *this*. I was tased. By the woman I love... Or loved. So, I'll play these games. Enough to find a way off this plane.

COURTNEY

And then what?

Vik doesn't answer. But his eyes flicker with determination.

Courtney nods. Takes the affirmation ball from Vik. Shakes it: "**BE YOURSELF!**" She shakes her head and shows it to Vik.

Vik smirks. Then grabs the ball from her... and heaves it against the back of the galley wall.

It SMASHES into pieces on the floor, but they both notice... a crack in the wall. As if it's a facade.

They trade looks. Is there something more behind it?

QUICK CUTS: Courtney and Vik tear at the crack... Rip pieces of the "wall" off until... they REVEAL... a DOOR.

COURTNEY (CONT'D)

This isn't a 747. This plane's...
been made to look smaller.

VIK

Why would they-- how much bigger is
it?

BEAT. They trade looks. *Only one way to find out.* Courtney reaches for the handle of this mysterious door --

VIK (CONT'D)

Courtney. Wait--

-- *FWOOOSH!* -- The door suddenly flies open! A HAND reaches out, grabs Courtney, and pulls her into darkness!

-- Vik freezes, aghast as --

-- *BING-BING!* THE FASTEN SEATBELT SIGN GOES ON, and --

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE