

Scene 12

*It is the middle of the night. Allisyn paces the room hysterically. She calls Ben and Abbas's cell phones repeatedly- trying to reach them by Skype and text, as well, but gets no answer. She's on Skype with Edward.*

*begin*

**EDWARD:**

Allisyn, I assure you- I'm doing everything I can.

**ALLISYN:**

The Embassy? You've called the Embassy?

**EDWARD:**

They're moving as quickly as possible.

**ALLISYN:**

God, damn it- why isn't anyone talking?

**EDWARD:**

Give them a chance to do their jobs, Allisyn.

**ALLIYSN:**

It's been almost five hours, Edward.

**EDWARD:**

Try to remain calm.

**ALLISYN:**

I was on the phone with him and there were gunshots and now I can't reach either of them—how fucking calm would you be?

*(Beat)*

**EDWARD:**

Mehreen?

**ALLISYN:**

She's called her contacts at the hospital. Nothing yet.

*Short silence.*

**EDWARD:**

I'll call the White House if I need to, Allisyn. Let's give it til morning.

*There's a knock on the door.*

**BEN:**  
*(Knocks off-stage)*  
Allisyn?

**ALLISYN:**  
Ben?!

*She runs to the door.*

**BEN:**  
I'm OK. I'm OK.

**ALLISYN:**  
He's here, Edward. He's here.

*She hangs up the phone.*

**ALLISYN:**  
Oh, thank God.

*She holds onto him.*

**ALLISYN:**  
Why the hell didn't you call me?

**BEN:**  
Khan told me to ditch my cell.  
He said he'd call you.

**ALLISYN:**  
Khan? He didn't call----. What about Abbas? Why didn't *he* call?

*Ben pulls up a chair next to her on the bed.*

**BEN:**  
He didn't make it, Allisyn.

**ALLISYN:**  
No....no, no, no.

**BEN:**  
He was killed, Allisyn. I'm sorry.

**ALLISYN:**  
Wait, wait... I don't understand.

**BEN:**  
Some guys- they pulled up in a car behind us. They pushed us off the road. Abbas got out and tried to talk to them- they seemed to know each other.

**BEN (cont'd):**

He turned to get back in the car, they shot him in the back of the head and sped off.  
It was very fast. I don't think he was in any pain.

*(Beat).*

**BEN (cont'd):**

Al?... Allisyn. *(beat)*

I know he was your friend, I'm sorry.

**ALLISYN:**

You just left him there? In the street?

**BEN:**

Of course, not...I called Khan. He promised me he'd take care of his body.  
But he was gone, Allisyn.

**ALLISYN:**

They just got married this summer.

**BEN:**

He was proud to do the work he did. You know that.  
We'll call Edward and see what the protocol is in terms of helping them.

*Allisyn collects herself.*

**ALLISYN:**

You didn't have to come here. Thank you.

**BEN:**

I wanted to tell you in person.

*(beat)*

It was the right thing to do.

*Ben walks to the table and finds a printout of the story.*

**BEN:**

You included Sharif's statement?

**ALLISYN:**

Mehreen gave it to me.

**BEN:**

Mehreen? I thought you said she was out?

**ALLISYN:**

She was. We spoke a few hours ago. She signed off on it.  
Edward's running it on the front page tomorrow.

*She pulls up the PDF of the completed report with both of their names on it.*

**ALLISYN:**

We good to go?

*(Ben nods).*

*She hits send and texts Edward: "Run it." The screen shows the up-loading document.*

**BEN:**

Listen, I'm gonna head back to the airport. Try to get a flight back to Cairo.

*He reaches in his bag.*

**BEN (cont'd):**

This is for you.

*He hands her Samira's scarf.*

**ALLISYN:**

Abbas is dead, Ben.

**BEN:**

He knew what the risks were. Abbas knew.

**ALLISYN:**

We tell ourselves that, don't we?

**BEN:**

We live with it, Allisyn.

*She holds the scarf in her hands.*

*(beat)*

**ALLISYN:**

It was me. It wasn't Melissa. It was me.

**BEN:**

What?

**ALLISYN:**

It was - easier. So I said it happened to her instead.

**BEN:**

Allisyn, Allisyn....  
*(he takes her face in his hands)*  
The whole story you told me?

**ALLISYN:**

All true. Just- the other way around.

**BEN:**

I'm... so sorry.

**ALLISYN:**

I know.

**BEN:**

I wish you'd told me.

**ALLISYN:**

I wish a lot of things, too, Ben.

*(beat)*

What was I supposed to do?

Let you fall in love with a damaged, defective woman who can't even have children?  
Who puts all her energy into her work because that's all she has?

**BEN:**

You have no idea what I want. Other than you. That, I think, I have made clear.

**ALLISYN:**

And you would've stayed?

**BEN:**

I don't know what I would've done, Allisyn. But I'm here right now.

*(beat)*

**ALLISYN:**

Every day I take off all my clothes and stand in front of my mirror. And I search my body for where the bruises were- the parts of my skin that are still a different color than the rest. I didn't want them to leave me. Those scars and bruises. I needed them to be there. They were all I had. What they took from me- you can't see it. And that terrifies me.

**BEN:**

You need me to see it?

**ALLISYN:**

No, I need to see it, Ben. Me. So I don't forget.

*end*  
*She gets light headed and has to sit down.*

*(Beat)*

**BEN:**

You know, I met this woman in Cairo. She showed up to cover a story with me. And from the second she got there, all I wanted was to be next to her. The way she looked and talked. Goddamn it- she was smarter than me. We made love for almost two weeks. She started to tell me things about her life- her parents and family. Really open up. She had her own shit. I knew that. But I was more honest with her than any woman for as long as I can remember. And you know what she did? She left me. She got up in the night, without a single word of explanation, and she left. Didn't just leave *me*- but left the country. I had to call Edward and ask if something had happened to her. When I found out that she'd asked to be reassigned- I was knocked out. And when I realized she wasn't going to give me the explanation that I was looking for- you know what I did? I forgave her. And *then* when I realized that she had actually sabotaged the promotion I busted my ass for- which would've allowed us to be together- I forgave her *again*. Because as much as I wanted her- and still want her- I can't let that claim me. I forgave her for *me*.

*She cries.*

**BEN (cont'd):**

You're the strongest woman I've ever known.

**ALLISYN:**

I did call. Last summer. I called from the airport. It went straight to voicemail. I was hoping you'd tell me to come back.

**BEN:**

Should I stay?

*Allisyn shakes her head no.*

**ALLISYN:**

I think I need to go home for a while.

*(beat)*

**BEN:**

The Times is lucky to have you.

**ALLISYN:**

No, *home*. To Melissa. She's due any minute.