

**DON'T LOOK UP**

Screenplay by

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Story by

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OPEN ON: QUOTE AGAINST BLACK:

"The end of the world will be legal." - Thomas Merton

CUT TO:

EXT. THE MAUNA KEA TELESCOPE ARRAY - HAWAII - DUSK

The world famous telescopes of Mauna Kea sit on a mountain on Hawaii's Big Island framed by a brilliant orange sunset.

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE - CONTINUOUS

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, are winding down the day.

RANDALL

Knock... knock...knock...knock...  
knock... knock...

NISHA

Is a gravitational burst at the door?

RANDALL

Knock... knock... knock-

DANIEL

Wait! Is a pulsar at the door?

RANDALL

Very good Daniel!

OLIVER

Some pulsars emit double pulses.  
That's why I didn't get it.

RANDALL

True Oliver but the vast majority  
emit single pulses.

NISHA

I've got one!  
(fast and whispered)  
Knock, knock knock knock knock  
knock knock knock knock knock knock  
knock knock knock...

OLIVER

What are you even doing?

RANDALL

If I'm right it might help to be in a water tank a mile underground to get this one.

WIN

Are Neutrinos at the door?

NISHA

Yes!

RANDALL

Good one Win.

WIN

Oh! I've got one:  
Knock..... Ka-blaaammmmmmm!!!

Silence.

RANDALL

Uh-oh. Make sure you're a few hundred trillion kilometers away when you open that door...

NISHA

A Supernova!

OLIVER

I knew that but I didn't want to wreck it for everyone.

PhD candidate KATE DIBIASKY, 26, dyed red hair, rides the fine line between geeky and alternative, enters.

KATE

Hey guys.

NISHA/DANIEL

Hey Kate! Hey!

RANDALL

There she is. The woman of the hour. Holder of another half night of time on one of the most powerful optical telescopes on the planet: Subaru.

WIN

How goes the supernova hunt Kate??

KATE

I got good data last time. I'm hoping tonight's the night.

(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

If I get lucky my findings could help more accurately measure the expansion of the universe! A girl's gotta dream right?

RANDALL

That's the beauty of science Kate. There's no luck! Follow your evidence.

OLIVER

(know it all)

I'd say the odds of you doing a better job than Nobel Prize winners at Hubble are improbable at best.

KATE

(under her breath)

You're improbable at best Oliver.

OLIVER

What did you say?

RANDALL

Alright gang! Let's clear out. I think we're officially in Kate's hair. Happy hunting Ms. Dibiasky! And don't forget to check your standard stars.

KATE

Goodnight.

Everyone exits. Their conversation echoes down the hallway.

DANIEL

Knock knock.

NISHA

Who's there?

(no response)

Who's there?

RANDALL

I think a black hole is at your door Nisha.

NISHA

I love being around you Professor Mindy. You know so much!

RANDALL

I've just been around awhile that's all.

WIN  
Are you blushing Dr. Mindy?

RANDALL  
I don't think so. Am I?

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE - CONTINUOUS

Quick cuts as Kate prepares a BAG OF GREEN TEA AND A CUP.

The WATER BOILS. Tea is STEEPED.

Raspberry JAM is spread on a piece of WHOLE GRAIN BREAD.

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.

KATE  
(to herself)  
Come on... just a little explosion.  
That's all. Just two stars  
exploding with the force of 10  
trillion trillion tons of TNT...

She clicks several photos. QUICK TIME JUMP to her "stretching" the photos on a big screen to look for signs of a supernova. But there's... nothing.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Shit.

JUMP CUT: Kate stretches another picture. Still nothing.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Shit, shit, shit. ...Huh.

She sees something else, a small smudge of light. Quickly she takes more pictures.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Okay... Okay... Be cool Kate. You  
are a calm and cool scientist...

JUMP CUT: She stretches and sequences them until a clearly visible "streak" is visible in the sky.

KATE (CONT'D)  
Holy shit... Holy shit!!

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE - 2 IN THE MORNING - NIGHT

MUSIC: YOU GOT TO BE THE ONE by the Chi-Lites

A "Party" is coming together with Professor Mindy and the grad students.

RANDALL  
Comet Dibiasky. It definitely has a  
ring to it.

WIN  
I found four beers and three Diet  
Sparkles in the back fridge! It's a  
party!

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

Randall is transfixed by the pictures.

RANDALL  
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. Amazing.

KATE  
The crazy thing is I found some  
more detections of it from my  
observing runs a few months ago.  
But my code wasn't looking for  
something moving. When I saw it  
tonight I almost started  
hyperventilating!

OLIVER  
 (jealous)  
 Maybe they ought to call it the  
 "Kate got lucky" comet.

KATE  
 Or we can call it "Discovered while  
 Oliver's smug ass was sound  
 asleep."

DANIEL  
 Please name it that Kate. For real,  
 do it.

RANDALL  
 I'm just so thrilled for you Kate.  
 I remember when I published my  
 first paper on the gaseous  
 properties of dead small galaxies  
 back in 04. It was such a rush.

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. But we've got a six-hour  
 progression from tonight, a set  
 from a few months ago... Win see if  
 they have a copy of a celestial  
 mechanics textbook back there.

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)  
 Okay. Gauss' method is a good place  
 to start...We'll set up the  
 coordinates like this.. The  
 topocentric vector is rho... Kate,  
 can you double-check the average  
 astrometric accuracy?

Kate is on her laptop.

KATE  
 0.04 arcseconds.

RANDALL

We've got a pretty good arc on this thing... So the iterations are converging nicely.

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

OLIVER

I hate to be the guy who asks "do we have to know this for the test?" But do we have to know this for the test?

KATE

What is the comet's orbit relative to earth?

RANDALL

Hmmm...interesting. Now that we have the comets orbit. Let's just check the ephemeris. That will tell us the distance between the comet and earth.

NISHA

Kate, how cool would it be if you could see it in the night sky? You'd be famous!

He types into the computer and writes down the results. The distance between the earth and the comet gets lower and lower.

RANDALL

Well this is very interesting.

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

Professor Mindy?  
(beat)  
Professor Mindy?

RANDALL

Alright everyone... Time to go back to sleep.



WIN

But what's the relative position?

RANDALL

I can't figure it out. Sorry guys.

DANIEL

(yawns)

Let's hit it. I'm wiped. That was awesome.

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

RANDALL

Kate you stay.

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. I thought you should hear this. A Michigan State Professor and his grad students are at Subaru and they saw-

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 because Congress wants an aircraft carrier that's ALSO a submarine. So this had better be damn important.

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... Okay... You've definitely found something large here... But I'm no expert on comets.

(beat)

Let me get Doctor Oglethorpe on the line. Please hold.

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE - SAME TIME

RANDALL

I'm on hold... He's calling a Doctor Oglethorpe. Who is that?

Kate on her phone.

KATE

Dr. Oglethorpe: the head of the Planetary Defense Coordination Office in Washington DC.

(and then)

Is that a real place?

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... Hey Jocelyn... I see.. Why didn't they just report it to the Minor Planet Center?... Really? How big?

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

Dr. Calder reads more and more print outs.

DR. CALDER

Mathew thinks this one is at least 5 kilometers wide...Possibly 10.

INT. SUBARU TELESCOPE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

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

DR. OGLETHORPE

That's a big boy. And was this Professor the one who first made the observation?

RANDALL

Uh, Dr. Mindy, hi, and no, PHD candidate Kate Dibiasky saw it... I study um, trace gases in dead galaxies. I haven't published in awhile so you probably wouldn't know 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 keep getting the same result. Direct hit of earth in 6 months and 14 days.

DR. CALDER

Mathew?

NASA SCIENTIST

That's exactly what our Scout program is saying.

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.

KATE

I feel sick.

RANDALL

But these are just early calculations I did. They can't be right.

DR. CALDER

Okay let's all stay calm. What's the protocol for this situation Dr. Oglethorpe?

DR. OGLETHORPE

First move is to get the 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)

Is anyone else in the loop on this?

RANDALL

No. I had the other Grad students go back to the dorm and the night shift crew left an hour ago.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Okay we need to share this data immediately with Cambridge, Cal Tech and the I.A.U.

DR. CALDER

Whoah, whoah. 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.

DR. OGLETHORPE

But if these numbers are right-

DR. CALDER

The administration's policy is clear. Now let's get the student and the dead galaxy Professor to Hickam Air Force Base now.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Okay... You heard the woman. Let's get moving.

They hang up. Terrified Kate looks to Randall who looks fairly terrified himself.

KATE

What the hell is happening?

RANDALL

We should, um, probably pack up and let the others know to fly back to Michigan without us.

QUICK CUT:

KATE TAKING A HIT OF WEED ON A ONE HITTER

**OPENING CREDITS BEGIN**

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.

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 a perfectly cut in half Abrams TANK.

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.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - 30 MINUTES LATER - DAY

Some tourists and souvenir stands outside. A BEARDED PROTESTOR holds a sign "THE METRIC SYSTEM MURDERED MY SON." TWO WOMEN PROTESTORS hold signs "THE CENSUS STEALS PEOPLE'S SOULS!"

INT. WHITE HOUSE - SAME TIME

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

DR. OGLETHORPE

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

RANDALL

Teddy?

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES

Yeah, because he's no Teddy Bear. General Themes, I'm the Pentagon's eyes on whatever this turns out to be.

Everyone shakes hands, sits.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Is Jocelyn coming?

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES

I don't think so. She's doesn't want to end up in the President's crosshairs.

KATE

Excuse me. I'm sorry. Is that the oval office?

She points directly across from them.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Yes. The President should be here shortly. She's already been briefed, correct Scott?

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES

That is correct.

Kate speaks 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 turns to her left and DISCREETLY THROWS UP IN A WASTEBASKET.

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.

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)

What the hell Jason? This is real world.

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

JASON

I'm sorry. Give us five minutes.  
Our Supreme Court nominee is in  
trouble.

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.

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

GENERAL THEMES

Does anyone want a bottled water or  
some snacks?

TEDDY

Thanks Scotty. I'm guessing these  
guys are starving.

Kate scrolls through her phone.

KATE

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

Dr. Oglethorpe checks his phone too.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Nothing here either. 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.

RANDALL

I was just making small talk.



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 a fortune for  
 this stuff. Ten a piece should do  
 it.

RANDALL  
 Of course... I've got Kate as well.

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 see if the front desk  
 does.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
 Forget it. Get me back some other  
 time.

After a beat of eating, Randall checks his phone again.

RANDALL  
 I guess this DJ Chello posted  
 pictures of him with someone named  
 "Lady Baroque"... That's why Riley  
 Bina broke up with him...

Randall looks at Kate who looks straight ahead.

RANDALL (CONT'D)  
 Point being there's nothing about  
 us.

Another beat of waiting. 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 (CONT'D)  
 It's a Xanax. I can only take a  
 quarter one or I fall asleep.

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

RANDALL (CONT'D)  
 Oh. Okay.

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? What for? I mean, this is-

DR. OGLETHORPE  
It's fine Scott. We have all the  
information we need for the  
President.

RANDALL  
Thank you General. And thank you  
for the Cheez-bits and bottled  
water.

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.

KATE  
I'm getting more water if anyone  
wants some.

RANDALL/TEDDY  
No thank you... I'm good.

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. The balloons on  
the desk are now drooping.

KATE  
The snacks are free.

DR. OGLETHORPE

What?

KATE

The snacks are free but the General charged us. Why would-

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

JASON

I'm so sorry guys. It's not happening tonight.

RANDALL

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

He's already closed the door.

KATE

They're really not going to see us? Are you fucking kidding me?

DR. OGLETHORPE

You heard him. First thing tomorrow. Get some sleep and be at your sharpest.

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

We waited 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 see you. Have you watched any news today?

KATE

No. We'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.

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

SHERIFF CONLON (SOT)

Life models are an important part of our nation's rich artistic history. I have no shame in what I did! That's all I have to say!

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. It'll be up on Autopsy tomorrow!

Kate turns off the TV with the remote.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Should I say "noticeably aroused" or "engorged?" I don't want this to read like click bait. This is a real story. Or what about "unabashedly erect?" ... Kate?

KATE

I'm sorry, I'm just out of sorts tonight.

PHILLIP

Alright. You're definitely in a mood. And I have no idea what the hell I did wrong so I'm going to hang up before this detonates.

KATE

Yeah. That's probably a good idea.

PHILLIP

Okay. But here's a crazy idea that just came to me: what if sometimes our relationship was, oh I don't know, fun? Wouldn't that be something?

He hangs up. Kate just stares off. She starts to cry hard for a second but sucks it in.

KATE

No. No.

She reaches into the Motel drawer and takes out the bible. She opens it and a packaged condom falls out.

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.

MUSIC: CALL ME ballad cover with strings.

LIEV SCHREIBER (V.O.)

Faster, better, easier. That's what you demand. Which is why BASH cellular was the first to bring you 8G. Allowing you to make a call from up to a mile below the earth's surface. Then we brought you Vroom Vroom, the only social media site where everyone is popular. And coming soon: an even faster, better, easier way of life with a new platform that will change everything. BASH. Leave the innovation to us.

Then a REALITY SHOW comes on.

RANDALL

Hey honey... Yes, they couldn't see us today so we're in a motel for the night...

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

Just remember to speak up in the meeting tomorrow. You know how you get quiet when it's time to take credit.

RANDALL

I will sweetie. How are the boys?

We see their sons EVAN, early 20s and MARSHALL, mid 20s who both look and carry themselves exactly like Randall.

EVAN

MARSHALL

Hey Dad.

Love you! Hey Dad!

RANDALL

Love you!

JUNE

Marshall got a 180 on his LSATs and we're celebrating.

RANDALL

Way to go Marshall! I'm proud of you buddy! How's Evan feeling? Are the new meds working?

JUNE

Evan! How are you feeling today?

EVAN

I'm a solid four!

KEITH OLLENS

Hey Randall!

DR. KEITH OLLENS, 51, the dashing head of the astronomy department is there too.

RANDALL

Is that Keith?

JUNE

Yes. He just found out they're doing an episode of NOVA about his work on supermassive black holes.

RANDALL

Congratulations Keith!

On the other end Keith leans into the phone.

KEITH OLLENS

Thanks for taking over that field trip for me Randall!

RANDALL

What? Of course Keith. Although it was an observing run not a field trip.

JUNE

Bye sweetheart. We're going to eat some pizza. Lots to celebrate.

(Keith says something and everyone laughs)

JUNE (CONT'D)

Oh my God Keith just said the funniest thing!

RANDALL

Honey you know the Xanax I carry around just in case? I lost it. Do you think you can overnight me- Hello?

He realizes she's already hung up and then sees a text from Dr. Oglethorpe: JUST CONFIRMED TRAJECTORY. 99.78% WILL HIT EARTH BARRING INTERVENTION. GET SOME SLEEP.

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.

Teddy Oglethorpe looks at Randall.

DR. OGLETHORPE

You're up Doc. Go.

Randall is very nervous.

RANDALL

Okay... okay, um, 36 hours ago a graduate student, Kate Dibiasky here... discovered a large comet, 5-10 kilometers across, that we calculate is from the Oort cloud, the outer part of the solar system.

He pauses. Looks at his notes. Looks up. The President gives him a "go on" look. 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... we then asked the question: what does Marsden 1985's iterative numerical method tell us about the heliocentric orbit of the-

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Whoah, whoah. What the hell?

JASON

Seriously. Stop it.

RANDALL

What?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Knock that shit off.



KATE

(cuts to the quick)

Dr. Mindy is trying to say the comet is headed directly at earth.

RANDALL

Yes, uh, that's correct. In roughly over six months without intervention the comet will wreck catastrophic and irreversible damage to the earth's entire ecosystem.

DR. OGLETHORPE

And I've confirmed all of this data myself using NASA computers. Dr. Jocelyn Calder is also aware of the situation.

Half beat.

JASON

Okay. Can we see it?

AIDE #1

We're going to need visual confirmation.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Yes, we have extensive optical images taken by Ms. Dibiasky here from the Subaru telescope...

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

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

I don't know what I'm looking at. I see some arrows and a smudge.

KATE

It's a comet and 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

Well yes, but many tsunamis, each of them hundreds of meters tall, fanning out across the globe in all directions. Not to mention massive unprecedented earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. And worst of all the debris from the impact would eject into the atmosphere heating it up to 500 degrees celsius upon reentry cooking all life larger than a field mouse.

DR. OGLETHORPE

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

President Orlean takes this all in.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

How certain is this?

RANDALL

There is basically a 100% certainty of impact.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Please don't say 100%.

AIDE #2

It's a potentially significant event.

KATE

But it's not "potentially" going to happen. It is going to happen.

RANDALL

Well it's 99.78 percent to be exact.

JASON

So it's not 100%.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Scientists never like to say 100%. Every data set contains at least a small degree of uncertainty.

JASON

He just said it's 100%.

RANDALL

Well there could be an interstellar collision or the comet could melt at an accelerated rate.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Call it 70% and let's move on.

KATE

It's not even close to seventy percent. I'm sorry but are we not being clear?

JASON

Considering it looks like someone wiped snot on your picture 70% is pretty generous.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

The point is you can't go around telling people there's a 100% chance they will die.

JASON

Sixty percent as a working number.

RANDALL

Wait. What?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

And we should get our own scientists on this. No offense, but you're just two people who walked in here with...

DR. OGLETHORPE

Dr. Oglethorpe, I've been 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

Michigan State?

DR. OGLETHORPE

They have an excellent astronomy department.

JASON

If you say so.

KATE

Are you serious? Do you want to see our goddamn SAT scores?

DR. OGLETHORPE

Easy now.

JASON

Cornell Business school class of '05.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Okay, let's bottom line this. So what's the ask here? Why isn't this Chile's problem or a private sector issue?

RANDALL

With all due respect, this will affect the whole planet, not just Chile. The impact is a global event. Over 7 billion people will die.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Madame President 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 respectfully, 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

We're also getting absolutely crucified because our SCOTUS nominee popped a woody in front of an art class 40 years ago...

(MORE)

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

We can't let this get political...  
But at the same time it's entirely  
political. God, the timing really  
is atrocious.

(breath)

At this exact moment... I say we  
sit tight and assess.

RANDALL

Sit tight and assess?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

If there's two things voters hate  
it's math and bad news. This is  
both.

KATE

You want us to sit tight?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Just for three weeks. Until the mid  
terms. We hear you and we will take  
action when the time is right.  
Meanwhile we get some of our people  
on it. Some Ivy Leaguers, no  
offense. And we review the NASA  
plans.

OLD AIDE #1

We just cut NASA's budget to pay  
for the Trident Sub Aircraft  
Carrier.

JASON

It's a sub that once it surfaces  
opens up to become an aircraft  
carrier. It's going to kick major  
ass.

KATE

Hold on. I want to make sure I'm  
understanding this: is the decision  
being made right now to "sit  
tight?"

JASON

Seriously. Who is she?

KATE

Who are you? Aren't you her son?

JASON

I am also the chief of fucking  
staff, Miss State School.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Shut up Jason.

JASON  
I'm sorry Mom.

RANDALL  
The idea of sitting tight seems very dangerous. The fact is the closer the distance the more energy intervention requires.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Well in my experience facts are just opinions for fancy people. We are the White House and we will handle this. But we will do it when it is best for the nation. Not for you.

President Orlean takes a pack of smokes out of her desk and lights one.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)  
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. Until finally I got sick of it and just started... smoking. Whenever I wanted. And guess what happened? I went up three points in the polls.

JASON  
People loved that she was real. She's a rock star.

AIDE #1  
It was really something.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Do you know how many "the world is going to end meetings" we've had in the last two years?

AIDE #2  
A lot.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
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

Okay. That's enough Jason. Read the  
room for once in your life.

(exhales a giant plume of  
smoke)

The point is... I have a job to do.  
And that job is to not slam the  
brakes on the whole country every  
time someone gets spooked by some  
numbers. But we hear you, we will  
vet the science, focus group the  
talking points and in the end we  
will do what's best. And that is a  
promise.

JASON

We got this. For real.

RANDALL

Well that's good to hear.

KATE

Focus group the talking points?

JASON

Who said anything about focus  
groups?

KATE

Didn't she just say-

Dr. Oglethorpe stands up.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Madam President, eventually there  
are other people who are going to  
see this. There's a group in Mexico  
using the 10-meter in the Canary  
Islands...

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Don't worry. We'll handle them.  
We've got the nukes.

(wrapping it up)

Okay, let's do the pictures. I'm  
late for the NCAA championship  
softball team.

A PHOTOGRAPHER steps out of the side door and takes a series of rapid fire pictures.

JASON

And gang, obviously everything we've discussed here is classified.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Randall, Kate and Teddy walk away down the hallway.

DR. OGLETHORPE

No one say a word. Not a goddamn word until we're clear.

They walk silently for a beat.

KATE

Did we just get blown off? They blew us off didn't they?

DR. OGLETHORPE

Wait until we're clear.

RANDALL

When's clear? What just happened?

KATE

Wasn't her son the host of Celebrity Matchmaker?

DR. OGLETHORPE

Wait until we're clear.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOJO MAMBO'S SHRIMP RESTAURANT - AN HOUR LATER

INT. BOJO MAMBO'S - WASHINGTON DC - SAME TIME

Randall, Kate, and Teddy Oglethorpe are eating seafood and having beers and a glass of white wine.

KATE

Why is this place clear?

DR. OGLETHORPE

No self-respecting NSA officer's gonna tell his superior he put a wire in a Bojo Mambo's.



RANDALL

Do I smell? I was sweating so much.

KATE

No. You're fine.

RANDALL

It's hard for me to talk about  
but... sometimes I get panic  
attacks.

KATE

No shit.

RANDALL

That's a mean thing to say.

KATE

I'm sorry. Okay?  
(back to it)  
So what do we do? We have to leak  
this right? There's no way we "sit  
tight." That's insane.

RANDALL

Are we sure they weren't taking us  
seriously? It wasn't the response I  
was hoping for but... are we sure?

DR. OGLETHORPE

I've been blown off by the very  
best. The kind of blow off where  
you don't realize it til a month  
later. And they aren't even close  
to the best. So yeah, we got blown  
off.

RANDALL

So then we leak it. We have no  
choice. Right?

DR. OGLETHORPE

Hell yeah, we leak it. No question.  
But you two need to get your asses  
ready for the churn.

RANDALL

Wait. What's the churn?

DR. OGLETHORPE

The big chatter, the beast... the  
24 hour news cycle. It's no joke.

KATE

We'll be fine. People need to know this right now.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Listen, years back I had about five years in this town where I was hot shit. An asteroid had blown up over Russia and I was hitting all the daily news shows, being quoted left and right. And then I was testifying before Congress and this old road apple of a Representative from Texas was questioning me.

QUICK FLASH OF A CONGRESSMAN'S HAND AND MOUTH SPEAKING INTO A MIC AT A HEARING. ANOTHER CONGRESSMAN NEXT TO HIM.

DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)

I knew he was an idiot so I trapped him. Got him to admit on camera he had no idea who Isaac Newton was. He thought he was a black activist from the 60s. And the clip got shown everywhere.

Waitress comes by.

RANDALL

May I have another ice water.

Kate slams her wine.

KATE

I'll have two more wines. And don't make that judgey face please.

DR. OGLETHORPE

And then for the next three years my entire career came apart. I went backwards and backwards. My wife even left me for a wide receiver from the Eagles. Handsome son of a bitch. Ran a four four. Point being I had no idea what had happened. And one day a package shows up at my divorced guy apartment and inside was Sir Isaac Newton's The Principia.

FLASH of the book being unwrapped from tissue paper.

DR. OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)  
 With a note from that old road  
 apple Congressman: "Hope the fall  
 didn't hurt your ass too much."

RANDALL  
 Jesus. That's awful.

KATE  
 Thanks for the pep talk. I feel  
 great now.

Teddy gets up and puts a few twenties on the table.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
 The point is you gotta be smart.  
 You're about to leak classified  
 materials against a President whose  
 base thinks when she pisses there's  
 a cork popping sound.  
 (and then)  
 Oh wait! This commercial kills me.

The TV by the BAR plays: A HUSBAND is binging eating right  
 out of his OPEN FRIDGE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT in a dark  
 kitchen.

LIGHTS COME ON and it's his WIFE. He is caught with his mouth  
 full of PIE.

WIFE (SOT)  
 How's the new diet going?

Beat.

HUSBAND (SOT)  
 Meow?

Teddy and some of the people at the bar LAUGH hard.

ANCR (SOT)  
 Land Trust insurance. Because  
 sometimes plans don't go as  
 planned.

KATE  
 If we stand here laughing at  
 insurance commercials for one more  
 second I'm going to fucking SCREAM.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
 We're going. We're going.

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.

KATE

No, I can't tell you. You just have to trust me. Okay, see you soon.

(hangs up)

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 ma-

Train doors close.

As the train pulls away there are a series of ADS WITH A FEW WORDS ON EACH: "IN THE BEGINNING" "GOD SAID" "LET THERE BE LIIF"

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: Philip Glass meets Timberland.

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. Images flash of families, a baby being born, a child riding a bike, a girl with her prom date and on and on getting faster and faster...

LIEV SCHREIBER (V.O.)

Family. Business. Love. Social  
Media. Shopping. Mental Health.  
Spirituality. Dating. Sports.  
Medicine. Friendship. Laughter.  
Love. News.

(and then)

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.)

And now Chief Operating Officer and  
founder of BASH: 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. As some of you know  
I sometimes struggle with public  
speaking because of an early  
childhood trauma that to this day I  
still cannot speak of. But thanks  
to the "spokesman" mode on my BASH  
phone I can share my traumatic tale  
with as the Beatles wrote "a little  
help from my friends."

He clicks a button on his phone. The children each have ear buds in one ear.

CHILD 1

When I was a small child on a  
family safari I watched my parents  
be eaten by a Tiger.

CHILD 2

For some reason after hours of devouring my Mother Linda and Father Ted, the massive beast simply walked right past me and back into the jungle.

CHILD 3

Ever since the day when that bloody faced tiger walked calmly past me...

PETER ISHERWELL

... I have struggled with human interaction. So I thank these children from my Wishing Well Foundation for helping me to express myself. Each of them has also lost their family from traumatic events.

CHILD 2

And because of the struggles I have with communication from my terrible experience I never got to have one thing you all take for granted:

PETER ISHERWELL

...a friend to blow out the candles on my birthday cake with.

Voice recognition appears on the screen: "I want a birthday cake."

BASH PHONE VOICE (V.O.)

Peter Isherwell wants a birthday cake.

PETER ISHERWELL

All of my work has been driven by the want of a friend to understand me and sooth me. And finally my 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.

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  
...my BASH phone when set to Liif  
setting, instantly senses my mood  
through blood pressure, heart rate  
and search preferences...

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 CUTE LITTLE GIRL singing a song comes up.

It then posts the video on Vroom Vroom social media and  
orders the original song for purchase.

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

CHILD 1  
And orders Mr. Isherwell a Whip  
ride to take him to the  
appointment.

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

PETER ISHERWELL  
And to support BASH Liif I would  
like to officially announce that we  
have just made over 400 billion  
dollars in major acquisitions of...

CHILD 1/CHILD 2/CHILD 3  
...news, media, private hospitals,  
retail outlets, pet stores, book  
stores and delivery services.

Logos for companies appear on the screen behind him. Dozens  
and dozens.

A DELIVERY MAN in a blue polo holding a cake with a lit  
candle on it enters.

DELIVERY MAN

Excuse me! Did someone order a  
birthday cake?!

Peter walks up to the edge of the stage and smiles and  
giggles at his cake.

CHILD 2

Happy.

CHILD 1

Happy.

CHILD 3

Happy.

He blows out the candle. The crowd breaks into thunderous  
applause.

SMASH CUT:

INT. BACKSTAGE - 20 MINUTES LATER

Isherwell and the children exit to the backstage. A HANDLER  
ushers the children off.

EXECUTIVE

That was stellar Peter. And truly  
moving.

HANDLER

Come on kids. Let's get you back in  
the van.

A Junior Executive takes their phones.

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE

Give me the phones. They're not  
yours.

KIDS

Bye Mr. Isherwell... Bye Peter...  
We love you.

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 her eyes  
disconcerting.



EXECUTIVE

We'll cross check the data on that for sure.

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE

I've never cared for her.

TECH JOURNALIST APPROACHES ISHERWELL.

TECH JOURNALIST

Peter, hi. Kendra Drake from Download. Are you concerned about the costs of materials for the new 14.3? At 1900 dollars a phone how can BASH sell enough to support the Liif platform?

PETER ISHERWELL

Who is this? There are no questions scheduled for the backstage moment.

The Executive forcefully ushers the Journalist away.

EXECUTIVE

This is not aggressive... I am handling this well.

TECH JOURNALIST

Just because you're saying it doesn't mean it's true.

A JUNIOR EXECUTIVE in stylish glasses pulls Isherwell aside.

JUNIOR EXECUTIVE

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. BALTHAZAR RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

Kate, Randall and journalist ADUL GRELIO, 47, handsome and international, sit eating fries and salads. THE PICTURES OF THE COMET ARE ON THE TABLE.

ADUL GRELIO  
You'll have to give me a second...  
This is a lot to take in. This  
can't be real. It just can't.

RANDALL  
It's absolutely true. These  
photographs and our data have been  
verified by NASA high ranking  
officials.

Kate hands Adul a thumb drive.

KATE  
Here's a thumb drive with all the  
calculations on it. I don't know  
how sharp your celestial mechanics  
are, but it's basically the most  
terrifying shit I've ever seen.

Randall opens a FedEx envelope and takes out a single Xanax  
and bites off a quarter of it. Kate snatches the rest of the  
pill and downs it.

RANDALL  
Please stop doing that.

KATE  
No.

ADUL GRELIO  
Can I contact this NASA official?

RANDALL  
Yes, of course. His encrypted  
contact information is on the zip  
drive.

ADUL GRELIO  
And I'll need to verify this with  
an outside scientist.

RANDALL  
Of course.

ADUL GRELIO  
(looking at the pictures)  
I just don't get it. How is the  
whole world not screaming about  
this?

INT. NEW YORK HERALD OFFICE - 90 MINUTES LATER

Now Randall and Kate are in a conference room at the Herald with the CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS, 51, two of the OWNERS and Adul Grelio.

RANDALL

A few scientists are aware but the highly specialized equipment needed to observe it have kept the circle tight.

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. I was very skeptical at first but this is all quite credible.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

Jesus. And the President really said to sit tight?

RANDALL

That's correct.

MRS. TANKEN

Of course she did. Probably worried about the midterms.

Everyone's CELLS BUZZ.

ADUL GRELIO

What is this?

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

We've been bought by BASH cellular?

One of the owners MRS. TANKEN, patrician with a hearing aid, is clearly caught off guard.

MRS. TANKEN

We did not want you to find out this way Paula. But revenue was not sustainable. Isherwell guaranteed us editorial control.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS  
And no one felt the need to confer  
with me?

The other owner BENJAMIN, 38, chimes in.

BENJAMIN  
You know how these things go Paula.  
If it had leaked we would have  
looked desperate. Which we are.

ADUL GRELIO  
Hey. We've got the biggest story  
since the Pentagon Papers in front  
of us. Can't this boardroom BS  
wait?

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS  
Okay, okay. Adul's right. 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.

ADUL GRELIO  
Stop it Paula.

RANDALL  
Excuse me. How is it criminal to  
just tell people what we saw?

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

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.

PHILLIP  
I just don't understand why you  
can't tell me what this is about?  
(MORE)

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

I mean you haven't read my piece on Conlon getting hard in front of the art classes, it featured on Diddly for an hour this morning by the way, 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

Oh my God... You're serious aren't you? But that can't be... Oh my God... Oh God...

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

KATE

Phillip!!

Randall's phone buzzes.

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 show. It's the one everyone wants to be on... Brie and Jack... they have legendary chemistry...

(MORE)

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

I almost went on once 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.

Phillip almost gets hit by a car again but Kate pulls him aside.

RANDALL

(on his phone)

Hey buddy. It's Dad. Can you tell your Mother to send me two pills this time?

EXT. SPACE - SAME TIME

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

EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTAN - THE NEXT DAY

A 30 Rock type building. "The Daily Rip" T-shirts for sale in the gift store window. 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. This way please. Jack and Brie are so excited to have you on the show.

RANDALL

Really? They know who we are?

TALENT P.A.

(after a beat)

I'm sorry. I was raised super religious and I don't ever lie. Jack and Brie don't know who you are.

KATE

Well praise Jesus.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - SAME TIME

Randall and Kate are led to the makeup room. A young GROOMER covered in tattoos meets them.

GROOMER THALIA

Hi I'm Thalia. The Herald sent me to help with your wardrobe.

She holds up two fashionable outfits.

RANDALL

Hi. I'm Randall. This is Kate.

KATE

No. I'm not wearing that.

They sit in the hair and makeup chairs.

HAIR PERSON

(to Randall)

You actually have a great facial structure. Do you mind if I trim this beard? And maybe put a little product in your hair?

RANDALL

Sure. If you think it looks nice.

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?

KATE

What do you mean? We just say it.

Kate reaches for the pill but Randall puts it in his shirt pocket first.

RANDALL

We're basically delivering the most devastating and traumatic news possible.

KATE

Screw it. I'll just say it.

HAIR PERSON

What are you on the show for again?

KATE

We found a cure for hair loss.

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. Breathe and sit up straight...

MARSHALL

He's going to be fine Mom.

EVAN

How serious is this comet?

JUNE

He said it's a potentially very significant event.

INT. STUDIO BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Randall is in the bathroom with his outfit taking deliberate deep breaths trying to calm down.

RANDALL

You are here now... You are here now...

INT. AUTOPSY OFFICES - SAME TIME

Phillip, eating a Danish, watching the TV in the packed office.

PHILLIP

(to someone across the room)

My girlfriend is going to be on the Daily Rip... Yeah, it's a pretty big story... Kate, her name is Kate... Is she hot? What are you a frat guy from 1990?..... But yes, she is.

INT. NEW YORK HERALD OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Chief Editor Paula Woods is on the phone. Adul Grelio sits in his office.



CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS  
 Okay then... If that's your  
 statement that's your statement.

She hangs up.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS (CONT'D)  
 White House is denying they even  
 met with them. Says Mindy and the  
 PHD student aren't credible and  
 Oglethorpe is looking for some  
 publicity to boost his career.

ADUL GRELIO  
 Assholes.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

OPENING VT PACKAGE FOR THE DAILY RIP PLAYS and we meet our  
 hosts: JACK BREMMER, 48, in the know but also a bit  
 charmingly dumb and BRIE EVANTEE, 45.

JACK BREMMER  
 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 called "Satin Sheet Nights."  
 This story just keeps going and  
 going doesn't it Brie?

BRIE EVANTEE  
 It's certainly got stamina. And  
 have I seen Satin Sheet Nights? No  
 comment. Do I think President  
 Orlean's nominee is toast? Yes  
 comment. And the comment is "you're  
 damn right I do."

JACK BREMMER  
 Not so fast. Party support is still  
 strong. In fact, a recent  
 Pranlassen poll shows Sheriff  
 Conlon went up a point since  
 yesterday...

BRIE EVANTEE  
 Which is pathetic.

JACK BREMMER  
 So it looks like President Orlean's  
 Sheriff may make it to high noon  
 yet.

INT. CRAPPY APARTMENT - WASHINGTON DC - SAME TIME

Teddy is having coffee with the Daily Rip on the TV while working on his laptop. Lots of pictures of his kids and one framed game photo of an Eagles player are the only decoration in his apartment. He talks to his CAT who walks across the back of the couch.

DR. OGLETHORPE

You hear that Re-run? That's the calm before the storm of all storms.

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.

KATE

You actually look good Dr. Mindy.

RANDALL

What? Oh, thanks.

A STAGE MANAGER pops in.

STAGE MANAGER

So Jack and Brie are doing 10 on the SCOTUS nominee. Then Riley Bina, you come on...

RILEY BINA

Okay. 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.

RANDALL

Is that Riley Bina?

KATE

I think so.

STAGE MANAGER

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  
Excuse me. Do the hosts know what  
we're here to talk about?

STAGE MANAGER  
Of course. Jack and Brie love doing  
science segments.

Stage Manager exits.

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

RANDALL  
That's terrific. I'm sorry about  
your break up by the way. You seem  
like a wonderful person.

RILEY BINA  
Well maybe you should 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.

BRIE EVANTEE  
I know you've been through a lot...

RILEY BINA  
It's been hard. My friends and my  
Vroom Vroom Army have picked me  
up... but still... I'm not gonna  
lie, I've been down.

BRIE EVANTEE  
Is there any message you want to  
send to your ex DJ Chello?

RILEY BINA  
Yes there is... Chell... I still  
love you... and after a lot of  
sleepless nights... I want to take  
you back.

BRIE EVANTEE

Wait a minute! He cheated on you  
and you want him back?

JACK BREMMER

Whoah! DJ Chello, I hope you're  
watching. You're a very, very lucky  
man!

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

June and her sons are watching. One of the sons is on Social  
media.

EVAN

Oh my God, Diddy just exploded. So  
did Vroom Vroom.

MARSHALL

BASH News just gave me 8 push  
notifications. And my phone  
purchased DJ Chello's latest  
single... What the hell? It just  
did that without asking...

JUNE

Who are these people again?

INT. TEDDY OGELTHORPE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

Teddy sips his coffee as he watches Riley Bina.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Good for you little lady.  
Forgiveness is the whole damn game.

JACK BREMMER (SOT)

I've just been told we have DJ  
Chello live on a Mugg link!

DJ CHELLO 26 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 that night at the club...  
and I got stupid. But it's always  
been you girl. Always

INT. AUTOPSY OFFICES - SAME TIME

Autopsy already has a full staff meeting as the show keeps playing.

RILEY BINA (SOT)

Aw Chell, I know how that girl works it. I hooked up with her at the Music Globes last year. Right before I ran off with that power forward from the Nuggets. It's all just drama. But I want you to be my happy ending.

AUTOPSY EDITOR IN CHARGE

Sonya you see if you can get a quote from Lady Boutique... Damain, get a list going: "Celebs who got it right the second time."

DJ CHELLO (SOT)

Hey my little bumble bee... will you marry me?

RILEY BINA

Aw Chell. Yes. Hell yes.

PHILLIP

And hey, I hear there's another big story coming up.

DAMAIN

What about "Forget break up sex, try a break up relationship?"

PHILLIP

(can't help himself)  
10 Famous Second Chances for Two Timers?

Phillip glances nervously at the TV.

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - 10 MINUTES LATER

Brie and Jack come back from commercial.

BRIE EVANTEE

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

JACK BREMMER

This show has been intense. I 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.

RANDALL  
Hello. Hi.

KATE  
Thank you for having us.

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 that's not really my field of  
study. But there have been hundreds  
of exo-planets discovered lately.  
(being playful)  
So sure. Why not. Aliens are real.

Kate gives Randall a quick sideways glance.

JACK BREMMER  
I knew it! I knew it! I like this  
guy!

BRIE EVANTEE  
Please don't encourage him Dr.  
Mindy. You'll regret it!

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

June and their sons watch their Dad.

EVAN  
Dad looks good. Doesn't he look  
good?

Keith Ollens enters the house.

KEITH OLLENS

Sorry I'm late! Wow. Randall looks great!

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

BRIE EVANTEE

Now Jack was having some fun about the aliens 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.

RANDALL

That's right Brie. Kate was observing supernovas on the Subaru optical telescope when she made a breathtaking and once in a career discovery.

JACK BREMMER

That sounds very exciting. Please tell us what you saw Ms. Dibiasky...

KATE

(a little awkward)

Well, I was monitoring for exploding stars... to improve the measurement of the expansion of the universe... but I saw something I didn't recognize. It was a comet. A big one. And it's... headed right at Earth. It's really likely to hit.

JACK BREMMER

Now how big is this thing? Could it damage say, someone's house?

RANDALL

Comet Dibiasky, which is what it'll be named officially, is somewhere between 6 and 9 kilometers across. So, it'll damage much more than a house.

JACK BREMMER

Can I somehow get it to just hit my ex-wife's house? Would that be possible?

Brie hits his arm playfully.

BRIE EVANTEE

Stop it! You and Shelly have a great friendship!

JACK BREMMER

In fairness I did pay for the house the comet would hit!

BRIE EVANTEE

I apologize for him. He's terrible!

KATE

(interrupting)

I'm sorry... But do you understand what we're talking about?... We're talking about the entire planet being destroyed.

Brie and Jack freeze. So does PHILLIP WATCHING AT AUTOPSY.

BRIE EVANTEE

We're just having a little fun. It's something we do around here to keep the bad news light.

JACK BREMMER

Helps the medicine go down. And speaking of medicine we've got a two part-

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 incredibly terrifying... and upsetting...and maybe we're supposed to stay up all night every night crying... when we're all 100% for sure going to fucking die!

She storms off. There is a long silence.

BRIE EVANTEE

Is she always like that?

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



RANDALL

What's that commercial, where the guy is put on the spot? You know... Meow?

(alt)

I guess I should have let her have that Xanax.

Jack, Brie and the crew ERUPT INTO LAUGHTER.

JACK BREMMER

I knew I liked him! I knew it!

Brie gives Randall a quick intrigued glance.

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. And word is he's going to show us how to make his legendary risotto.

BRIE EVANTEE

Yummm. 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.

STAGE MANAGER

And we're out!

Everyone stands up and pulls off their mics.

JACK BREMMER

You were great. And don't worry about your friend cursing. We've got tape delay. She was a piece of work though!

BRIE EVANTEE

We usually get drinks after our 5 o'clock staff meeting at Aundrine if you want to stop by...

RANDALL

Thank you... I'll have to see.

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. Brie is back.

BRIE EVANTEE

I just had that terrible feeling that I was too subtle for my own good. Did it come across I'd sleep with you?

RANDALL

Um, now that you're saying it now I guess it did.

BRIE EVANTEE

Good.

She walks away.

RANDALL

Wait, did you see where the young lady I was with went?!

EXT. MANHATTAN BUILDING - 20 MINUTES LATER

Randall is chasing down Kate.

RANDALL

Please slow down Kate! Just hold up.

She keeps walking but slows.

KATE

This is deranged. We have an actual scientific warning that can save billions of lives and I just had to try and impress the popular kids at the local mall.

RANDALL

We said it though. The message is out there! The article is published. We did the show.

KATE

No one heard what we said!

PASSERBY gives Randall the thumbs up.

PASSERBY

Loved you on the Rip Doc!

RANDALL

Thank you!

(back to Kate)

People did hear us. And hey, they certainly heard you!

Kate considers this.

KATE

Really?

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

I apologize. In my business you don't see "bomb engagements" like this very often. That's what we call them: bomb engagements. And that one... is a beaut.

Beat as he admires it.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

Erin, let's move on.

He moves to the next page with various graphs and stats.

MEDIA QUANT

Okay, the Herald article did get some pick up in certain scientific circles... And in some religious and fringe end times sites.

ADUL GRELIO

Nothing says journalism like "End times sites."

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 cursing and then Michael Jordan crying. Another meme "The winner of craziest bitch on the internet goes to..."

KATE

Jesus. They just think I'm crazy.

MEDIA QUANT

Views on Ms. Dibiasky's appearance were definitely polarizing. Negative comments ranged from "This white bitch is cancelled!" from YOL9 and "Miss Dye job's shitty dye is melting her brain." from DaKween438

RANDALL

I like your hair...

KATE

Stop it.

MEDIA QUANT

Other more positive comments were "She's nuts but I'd smash that." from Proud2BProud483 and "If we're all gonna die can I do her in a tub?" from TricksAre4Me, quite a popular influencer. Someone started a parody account called "Crazy Freak Out Chick" that immediately got 8 thousand followers-

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

You can move on.

## 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." Pardon my language. Annd that's everything. We did not feature or push on any sites. And clicks overall were below basic weather and traffic stories.

Beat.

RANDALL

That's it?

KATE

I knew it.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

Thank you Erin.

The Media Quant packs up. They all wait until she leaves.

RANDALL

So people didn't really hear what we said.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

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

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

But the science is solid.

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. Is she even an astronomer?

RANDALL

(off his phone)

She's a former anesthesiologist and a President Orlean super donor.

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

Autopsy just called me Chicken Little with a jawline. Which is mostly very insulting. We've taken this story as far as it goes.

Adul leaves.

CHIEF EDITOR PAULA WOODS

The only good news is the story fell so flat the White House isn't crying breach of national security. And you were quite charming Dr. Mindy.

He 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...

EXT. SPACE - SAME TIME

We pan up from EARTH and see a twinkling in the distance.

KATE

... until a comet the size of downtown Denver rips through our atmosphere and extincts all life on earth.

INT. NEW YORK HERALD OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

RANDALL

When did you do those calculations?

Holds out her phone.

KATE

I just put the impact moment on a diet app. So impact is when my diet ends. Except I'm not dieting. I'm crying five times a day.

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 TOLD US WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE? I USED TO DATE HER." By Phillip Kaj.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORT IN SHANGHAI - DAY - A WEEK LATER

Shipping containers are lifted and moved from massive stacks. One container with a BASH logo on it is lifted revealing Peter Isherwell, his CFO, A TRANSLATOR and Junior Executive mid stride.

A Mercedes speeds towards them and a CHINESE TELE-COM EXEC and one CHINESE GENERAL exit the vehicle with two armed GUARDS.

PETER ISHERWELL

Hello. I appreciate you keeping this meeting private.

TRANSLATOR

(repeats in Mandarin)

CHINESE GENERAL

(in Mandarin)

Why is he looking away from us? I do not trust this man.

CHINESE TELE-COM EXECUTIVE

Why do you not make eye contact with us?

TRANSLATOR

(in Mandarin)

Mr. Isherwell watched his twin drown in front mere inches away from him when he was a teen. The trauma is still with him everyday.

CHINESE GENERAL  
(in Mandarin to the Exec)

CHINESE TELE-COM EXEC  
The General says you may proceed.

PETER ISHERWELL  
Tell them I want a partnership.  
BASH now owns 21 percent of the US  
media. That includes news,  
streaming and films...

TRANSLATOR  
(repeats in Mandarin)

CHINESE TELE-COM EXEC  
(in English)  
And you want part ownership in our  
Brazilian yttrium, terbium and  
dysprosium mines for your cell  
phones? And the African cobalt  
mines?

PETER ISHERWELL  
That's correct. Our Liif platform  
will disrupt a minimum of seven  
industries. With access to your  
mines we could have half the planet  
on it within five years.

CHINESE GENERAL  
(gives a fairly long  
answer in Mandarin)

TRANSLATOR  
He says they want 185 billion cash,  
four board seats and editorial  
control over all BASH media.

PETER ISHERWELL  
That's absurd.

TRANSLATOR  
(tells General in  
Mandarin)

CHINESE GENERAL  
(responds in Mandarin)

CHINESE TELE-COM EXEC  
He says you forget who has the  
advantage. Your country betrayed  
its workers so that the very few  
may be very wealthy.

(MORE)



## CHINESE TELE-COM EXEC (CONT'D)

Now we make your phones, your cooking utensils even the silky clothes your women wear when you make love to them. We do not need you. Because we already own you.

They walk away.

PETER ISHERWELL

That is very disappointing.

BASH CFO

Sorry to pile on, but news of the Chinese's rejection of our partnership offer leaked. Our stock is already down six percent.

PETER ISHERWELL

How could it have leaked? It just happened right now.

The sound of the little girl singing is heard on Peter's phone.

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 Orlean administration to its core as Midterms approach... Dalia Hensfield is live from the White House...

CELL PHONE PHOTO PIXELATED AND SHADOWY.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - NIGHT

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

DALIA HENSFIELD (SOT)

Darren, just minutes ago an unnamed administration official told me, "Yes, it's true. President Orlean sent her Supreme Court nominee Sheriff Conlon a cell phone picture of her privates. They've been having an affair for years and just had sex yesterday in the Situation Room." Many believe this could hurt the President with the evangelical vote and cost her party the House. This is Dalia Hensfield with your BASH Cellular Scandal of the day.

BASH graphics whoosh across the screen.

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. It is time we restored dignity to the White House. Now if you'll excuse me I have a costume party fundraiser at a haunted house I have to attend.

REVEAL that he is dressed as a pirate and holding a pirate hat.

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.

RANDALL

Oh my God sweetie, this guy doesn't even know what a heliocentric orbit is and he's calling me a crackpot. He says Jewish billionaires made up the comet to steal everyone's guns..

June passes by the doorway.

JUNE MINDY

You've been on that site a lot lately.

RANDALL

I've got over two hundred thousand subscribers. I have to use my voice to get the word out.

(talks while typing)

It's called "the scientific method." It's what made the computer you're typing your half formed ideas into right now.

JUNE MINDY (O.C.)

Randall!

RANDALL

Yes?

JUNE MINDY

Someone is here to see you!

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.

RANDALL

Hello.

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! You are under arrest for breach of national security secrets!

KATE  
 (getting on the ground)  
 Jesus Christ! You could have just  
 called me!  
 (sees more agents)  
 You pretended to be a blind guy?  
 Was that exciting for you? You got  
 to play dress up?

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 D  
 poisoning... That's all...  
 Otherwise we're exactly the same...

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.

RANDALL  
What's this about?

DR. OGLETHORPE  
No idea. But that flash mob of G-  
Men they hit us all with makes me  
think they're trying to leverage us  
into something.

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  
Guys. 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  
Look there are times as a leader  
when one must admit that they've  
made a mistake... and pride must be  
put aside.

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

JASON  
We've had several scientists from  
Harvard and Princeton confirm your  
data. This is an official  
Presidential apology. And we are  
prepared to mobilize in an historic  
fashion to save this planet.

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  
 Yes. That's right.

KATE  
 (big exhale)  
 I'm just glad you're finally going  
 to do something... Jesus... This  
 has been really really hard.

She gets a little teary-eyed but fights it back. Randall puts  
 his hand on hers.

JASON  
 Jesus.

RANDALL  
 It's been stressful for all of us.  
 Carrying this knowledge around...

JASON  
 Dr. Calder people will ask why we  
 didn't act earlier so we need you  
 to take the hit on this.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
 Needless to say 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.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
 So what are we talking about Madame  
 President? International joint  
 action? NATO? A U.N. initiative?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
According to our scientists the  
comet has already passed inside the  
orbit of Jupiter.

RANDALL  
That's correct, yes.

JASON  
So the optics are perfect.

KATE  
And by "optics" you mean reality?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
I'm going to read a statement to  
the American people. We'll give no  
notice to the press so it will have  
the quality of a breaking  
emergency...

INT. OHIO LIVING ROOM - TWO NIGHTS LATER

A HUSBAND AND WIFE (40s) AND THEIR TEEN DAUGHTER (14) watch  
TV while they eat and the daughter is on her phone. 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.

INT. 24 HOUR GYM - SAME TIME

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

INT. BEDROOM - INDIA - DAY

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

D70

INT. SUDANESE LIVING ROOM - DAY.

D70

A FAMILY IN THE SUDAN watch on TV

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 people of the world. I have just been handed scientific findings that confirm a worst case scenario. An unprecedented comet 9 kilometers wide is on a direct collision course with our cherished home: planet earth...

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK

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

JASON

We've already drawn up an emergency spending package for Congress-

EXT. BATTLESHIP - TWO NIGHTS LATER

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

- an emergency spending package that will allow NASA in conjunction with our great military to launch a mission using decommissioned Space Shuttles and Satellites loaded with nuclear explosives to knock Comet Dibiasky off course-

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TWO NIGHTS PRIOR

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

And we'll need a hero. A pilot.

RANDALL

Shouldn't the mission all be done using remote technology?

DR. OGLETHORPE

They 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 lead this dangerous and critical mission-

INT. OVAL OFFICE - TWO NIGHTS EARLIER

RANDALL

Isn't he that crazy mercenary who cursed at those kids?

JASON

He's also the guy who went into southern Pakistan without any authorization and killed Mussad Al Tabad.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Drask was given the honor of leading the Presidential Initiative to get kids exercising and let's just say he's from another generation.

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

Eleven! Twelve! Come on! You can do better than that! You look like a bunch of f-

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)  
Thank you for this honor Madame  
President. 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

JASON  
I wrote that line for him.

KATE  
Isn't that from Saving Private  
Ryan?

JASON  
No. It's totally different.

EXT. BATTLESHIP - NIGHT

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
And special thanks go to the team  
of scientists behind me who were  
the first to raise the alarm about  
this looming threat. Dr. Teddy  
Oglethorpe, Kate Dibiasky who the  
comet is named after. But please  
don't blame her. And the great and  
beloved Dr. Randall Mindy. Who will  
help us destroy our common enemy  
Dibiasky.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - FLASH BACK TWO NIGHTS PRIOR

JASON  
And yeah, because you all were on  
this early you have a ton of  
credibility so we'll need the three  
of you to be the face of this. That  
means interviews, appearances and  
total support for this  
administration.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Especially you Dr. Mindy. You poll  
much higher than your colleagues.

RANDALL  
Thank you...I guess.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

But Teddy is good for diversity and Ms. Dibiasky actually connects with disaffected youth and portions of the prison population.

KATE

Thank you.

DR. OGLETHORPE

We'll do whatever we can.

JASON

Great. Then let's get-

KATE

Can I say something?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

(annoyed)

Go ahead.

KATE

I didn't vote for you... Frankly I find your policies of serving the rich over the needy and blaming people of different races and religions reprehensible... But this is obviously much...much bigger than any of my misgivings. So I will be 100% committed to this task. No matter how offensive I find you.

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

Well that feeling was correct. Because I did it.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Good then we're all on the same page.

EXT. BATTLESHIP - 2 NIGHTS LATER

President Orlean finishes her speech.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

... I will be addressing the U.N. tomorrow in an emergency session. Although I am the leader of this nation, it is with the cooperation of the entire world that we shall confront this challenge. Unified and together. Thank you. And may Jesus Christ bless every one of you. Especially the honorable members of my party and our brothers and sisters in Israel.

MUSIC: SCORE: INSPIRING HORNS AND TIMPANIS.

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." "Get a free large fries when you say the word 'comet.'" An Autopsy story: "32 Facts About the Comet that Will Make You Go 'Gulp.'" by Philip Kaj.

INT. BEDROOM - SOUTH KOREA - NIGHT

A SOUTH KOREAN 12 YEAR OLD watches and types away on her phone.

NEWS ANCHOR MONTAGE (V.O.)

It's a speech that sent shockwaves around the world... Several religious groups have claimed it's God's wrath for the NBA not saying the Lord's Prayer before games...They're calling the haircut "The Randall" after Dr. Randall Mindy. And millions are getting it... The first pictures of the comet have emerged and it's a big one!

INT. DISHWASHING AREA OF A RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

CU: THE FIRST FAIRLY CLEAR PICTURES BEGIN TO EMERGE OF THE COMET. A FLARE OF WHITE AGAINST THE BLACK OF SPACE.

DISHWASHERS and WAITERS all look at their phones.

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" "Are Sheriff Conlon and President Orlean F Buddies?" "Jason Orlean Wants To Save Mankind (and meet the right girl)" "How the Comet Changes NFL Playoff Race!"

NEWS MONTAGE (V.O.)

The U.K. France, India, Germany and even Iran have immediately pledged support...Is Kate Dibiasky to blame for the Dibiasky comet? Older Americans sure think so by an overwhelming margin according to...

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.

EXT. GUN STORE - DAY

Long line of WHITE MEN wait to buy guns.

NEWS MONTAGE (V.O.)

Gun stores are running out of guns. And Kal-Mart stores have no more shovels.

EXT. KAL-MART - DAY

An OLDER TOUGH LADY is being interviewed. Her husband holds 7 shovels. A few SHOPPERS in the background wheel out carts full of toilet paper.

OLDER TOUGH LADY

Comet's coming. People gotta dig in. We already got buyers for these shovels on E-Market for a thousand bucks a pop. It's called the free market baby. You don't like it move to Seattle!

INT. THE DAILY RIP STUDIO - DAY

Randall speaks with Brie and Jack on the air. The crawl underneath has stories about the comet as well as a story "MICHELE WEEMS ARRESTED AGAIN FOR MURDER" and "SENATOR LERNER PLEDGES TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT ORLEAN "DESPITE THEIR DIFFERENCES." And "ALL STAR POINT GUARD PAUL FRANKLIN DOESN'T BELIEVE COMET IS REAL"

RANDALL

We're all 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. It will work.

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. Whenever I feel afraid 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.

JACK BREMMER

Financial expert Franklin Hanes joins us next. Find out why he thinks the comet will be good for your 401K and could lead to some fantastic real estate bargains.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Sheriff Conlon is being sworn in as the newest Supreme Court Justice by the Chief Justice while President Orlean looks on. She winks at him.

SHERIFF CONLON

I swear to uphold the laws of the Constitution to the best of my abilities and will serve the court-

INT. FANCY HOTEL - DAY

Randall and Brie Evantee have sex standing up in the hallway of 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's BASH PHONE SHOWS A TEXT "Hey love, Keith, the boys and I thought you were great on the show. Cheering you on from Michigan! Love, June."

RANDALL

We're all going to die...

BRIE EVANTEE

Ohhhh!!!! Tell me how we're going to die!!

RANDALL

Uh, the comet will hit off the coast of Chile at 116,000 miles per hour...the force of the explosion will send flaming debris raining down across the planet...The sun will be blocked out destroying the food chain and ushering in a new ice age.... Ohhh!!!

BRIE EVANTEE

OOOhhh!!!

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

Well, actually Mr. Pawketty, Congressman, this data has now been confirmed and peer reviewed by hundreds of world-renowned scientists. So it's not just according to us.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT

And we're supposed to trust you?  
The comet's got your name!

KATE

That doesn't even make any sense.

DAN PAWKETTY

Then why won't you answer the  
question?

DR. OGLETHORPE

This is ridiculous. Other than a  
few crazy videos on Me-Screen  
there's no credible scientists  
arguing the comet isn't real.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT

Don't talk down to me. Last I saw  
of you Dr. Oglethorpe your career  
in DC was sinking faster than a  
lead canoe.

MOMENTS LATER: Teddy and Kate are leaving the studio.

DR. OGLETHORPE

You did good. Kept it professional.

KATE

Why did he say that about your  
career? Is he-

DR. OGLETHORPE

Yup. That's the guy. It's okay.  
Water under the bridge. Water under  
the bridge.

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?

RANDALL

Well Sammy, we look up in the sky,  
and study the universe.

SAMMY

Dr. Mindy, I don't want to look up  
in the sky.

RANDALL

Why Sammy?

SAMMY

Because I am afraid of the big  
comet.

RANDALL

It's ok to be afraid Sammy. Even I  
get scared sometimes, but I  
promise, a lot of really smart and  
brave people are going to make sure  
we're all safe.

SAMMY

Thank you Dr. Mindy. I feel sooo  
much better knowing all those  
scientists are working hard to keep  
us safe!

MUSIC: A SONG

SAMMY (CONT'D)

WE ALL GET SCARED SOMETIMES  
ESPECIALLY AROUND BEDTIMES  
BUT THE COMET WON'T GET US  
BECAUSE BRAVE PEOPLE WON'T LET US  
GET HURT  
SO HAVE SOME YUMMY DESSERT  
AND A TICKLE OR TWO!!!

Randall tickles Sammy.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY

President Orlean, Randall, Jason and Kate walk down a  
hallway.

JASON

The anti-taxers in Congress want something in exchange for this comet spending bill. And so do the religious folks.

KATE

How about not dying?

JASON

Why are they here?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

I'll give them a 5% tax cut for people making over 10 million a year and a bill that gives patients full disclosure of their Doctor's background.

RANDALL

Isn't that the law that says any Doctor who is gay must tell all patients?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

We need that spending bill. It's time to grow up gang.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Brie and Randall have lunch with A TALENT AGENT: KATHY LOGOLOS, 42. A total killer who is old friends with Brie.

KATHY LOGOLOS

The quick pops on talk shows are great but we need to get Randall out there as a paid speaker. The Big Banks and Tech Companies will pay a 100 grand a pop for you right out of the gate.

BRIE EVANTEE

I make 150 thousand and I'm the worst. My last one was for Evergreen Bank and I ended by saying "always reach for your dreams." How terrible is that?

RANDALL

I don't totally understand why I need an agent. Isn't the idea to just inform people about what's going on?

KATHY LOGOLOS

You weren't kidding Brie. He's adorable. Also LTD Sedans has a new electric car and they want someone who projects intelligence and sex appeal. I already said you'd do it.

BRIE EVANTEE

I'm ordering the oysters.

KATHY LOGOLOS

You're a genius.

RANDALL

Wait, but I don't want to do a car commercial.

BRIE EVANTEE

No one "wants" to do a car commercial sweetie. But when they ask you say yes.

KATHY LOGOLOS

Besides Albert Einstein did commercials for Volvo.

RANDALL

Is that true?

KATHY LOGOLOS

It might be. Let's get the oysters and some more wine and decide if we care or not.

EXT. EAST LAWN - TWO DAYS LATER

President Orlean signs the bill into law with Randall behind her.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

This may be the bill that saves mankind.

Everyone applauds.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

And also gives tax relief to high earning job creators... and religious freedom to medical patients.

Slightly confused applause.

INT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER MEDICAL CENTER - DAY

Drask sits shirt off on an examination table. A PHYSICIAN, 31, approaches.

BENEDICT DRASK

Let me save you save you some time  
on the physical Doc. Just write  
"ticker's still ticking."

PHYSICIAN

Mr. Drask I'm Doctor Ginnerson. And  
according to federal mandate 38-D9  
I must inform you that I had  
several homosexual encounters in  
college.

BENEDICT DRASK

What the fuck?

EXT. D.C. HOTEL - NIGHT

Cable reporter Dalia Hensfield does a live shot from outside the busy hotel. CRAWL at the bottom of the CVN screen: "END TIMES CULTS FLOCK TO CHILE'S BEACHES " "TELESCOPE SALES ARE AT AN HISTORIC HIGH" "RILEY BINA AND DJ CHELLO SET WEDDING DATE: APRIL 11" "PLANS FOR A "MEOW" TV SHOW IN THE WORKS."

DALIA HENSFIELD

And it was a clean sweep for  
President Orlean's party in the  
midterms giving her a super  
majority in both the House and the  
Senate. And a record setting 98  
percent approval rating. Some even  
think the President could win the  
Nobel Peace Prize. Which would be  
remarkable for a leader who once  
said waterboarding is "no worse  
than when the masseuse goes too  
hard on you."

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

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

INT. CABLE NEWS STUDIO - DAY

Kate is on CVN cable news with host HARRISON TELMS, 50.

KATE

The plan seems solid but we need to be prepared for all outcomes. What we're talking about Harrison is the future of life on this planet.

HARRISON TELMS

Interesting. Well let's check our viewer poll. Is the future of mankind at stake?

GRAPHICS come up: 38% Yes, 47% NO, 15% UNDECIDED

HARRISON TELMS (CONT'D)

And it looks like our viewers do not agree with you.

KATE

That's great. But science is something that transcends opinion so I'm not sure what the point of that poll is.

HARRISON TELMS

Coming up next: Riley Bina and DJ Chello have officially split up. Details are sketchy at the moment. We are hearing that Lady Baroque is not involved.

(and then to Kate)

Are you team Bina or team Chello?

KATE

I really haven't been following- I don't care.

HARRISON TELMS

Okay. We'll be back to discuss this after the break.

They go to commercial break. The Meow commercial plays on the studio monitor.

HARRISON TELMS (CONT'D)

A word of friendly advice. Maybe you would get your message across more effectively if you didn't act like you're better than everyone.

KATE

But my "message" is about the possibility of all of mankind dying. I'm frightened. As we all should be.

HARRISON TELMS

You just did it again. Thanks for coming on.

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

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 so let's just get it all over with now: 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. Now you.

Randall sits up a little straighter.

RANDALL

Um, okay... my Dad was a middle school geography teacher. My Mother cut hair out of our kitchen. I have two kids. My youngest struggles with mood swings. My wife teaches disabled children ceramics. Last year we put a new deck on our house. Which was surprisingly hard. We never quite got the stain right. Two years ago our dog JoJo died after eating a lot of chocolate. That was really emotional. And, oh yeah, I have a Star Wars poster signed by Mark Hamill.

BRIE EVANTEE

Good. That's done. Where should we eat tonight?

RANDALL

Do you ever get afraid? I mean what if the mission goes wrong...? Sometimes I think about what will happen to us...

Brie gets up and goes into the bathroom where she turns the shower on.

BRIE EVANTEE

There's a new place on 73rd. Everything they serve is a cube. I think it's called Telekinesis. Let's give it a whirl!

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

NASA van pulls up, Drask exits van heroically in a space suit. Two techs walking to the space shuttle.

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)

This is Benedict Drask on the launch pad and ready for a go.

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.)

This is your President Commander Drask. Your nation thanks you. Your planet thanks you. And your God, Jesus Christ thanks you.

Hundreds of press report from around the world.

FRENCH REPORTER

I've just spoken to the technical liaison from NASA who assures me the mission is a go and the probability of success is extremely high. Dr. Randall Mindy also released a statement saying that he has the utmost confidence in the engineers and scientists who have put thousands of man hours into planning this mission. President Orlean says there is no better person to lead this mission than the astronaut, Gary Drask.

HAITIAN REPORTER

The skies are clear and the weather is temperate and the conditions seem perfect for launch. I'm not going to lie, I personally am afraid and concerned but ultimately hopeful that today will be one of the greatest days in the history of mankind. If you are with your family, hold them tight and tell them that you love them. Even if you don't. And God Bless President Janie Orlean and the United States of America.

\*

EXT. TOKYO CENTER CITY - SAME TIME - NIGHT

A HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE WATCH on giant screens.

EXT. CAIRO EGYPT - SAME TIME - DAY

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WATCH GIANT SCREENS.

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. I repeat, we are approaching countdown.



INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
 Dr. Randall Mindy 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  
 Thank you Madame President.  
 Citizens of planet earth...  
 commence countdown.

MISSION COORDINATOR (V.O.)  
 Launch mission array in 10, 9, 8...

Peter Isherwell, CEO of BASH enters the room.

PETER ISHERWELL  
 Hello all.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
 Hello Peter.

PETER ISHERWELL  
 Hi Brie! You look lovely as always.

KATE  
 Should he be in here?

JASON  
 Yes, Peter's a Platinum Eagle Donor  
 to the campaign. He has full  
 clearance.

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...

MISSION COORDINATOR (V.O.)  
 We have successful liftoff. I  
 repeat: we have successful liftoff.

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  
malfunction.

RANDALL  
Mission success probability has  
already increased to 81 percent.  
This is good. This is very good.

Peter Isherwell pulls the President aside.

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

She's engrossed by the screens showing liftoff.

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

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
I'm so sorry. Of course Peter.

JASON  
Mom, where are you going?

She's already exited with Peter.

KATE  
Are you worried she's going to fuck  
him? Your Mom gets around doesn't  
she?

JASON  
Screw you.

But when Jason turns away he has a hurt face.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE - SAME TIME

Drask shakes and rattles in the cockpit.

BENEDICT DRASK  
6 minutes from main engine cut off.  
Everything is A-OK. Just wanna say  
hello to everyone on earth.  
(MORE)

BENEDICT DRASK (CONT'D)

All the proud white folks, the Mexicans, great food. The Arabs, at least the ones who don't act all crazy. The Fairies, the Chinamen, your babies are really cute. And the negroes. Especially when you're calm and not all jacked up and-

MISSION COORDINATOR (V.O.)

Uh, Commander. Booster ejection is imminent. Let's keep com on mission.

BENEDICT DRASK

Roger that. One last hello to Dr. Ginnerson. Duncan I'm thinking about that dinner we had last night. It was really special.

INT. PICK UP TRUCK - DAY

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

EXT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE SITUATION ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Long shot down the hallway: Peter Isherwell explaining something to President Orlean. She attempts to jump in but he cuts her off.

PETER ISHERWELL

There are moments where risk and opportunities collide with incredible force. It is in those moments in which diamonds and rubies are created Janie.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Peter. I can't. The whole world is watching.

PETER ISHERWELL

Then show them who you are. Show the world your place in history. You are more than a portrait in a museum or a school named after you. Do this Janie and they will name the country after you.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Oh Jesus. My face feels hot. Are we really going to do this?

PETER ISHERWELL  
The day you were born it was  
already done.

INT. WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM - SAME TIME

The Shuttles and satellites approach the outer atmosphere.

BENEDICT DRASK (V.O.)  
(on his radio)  
So far so good. Just another day at  
the office!

JASON  
I wrote that.

KATE  
Isn't that just something people  
say? How can you write that?

BRIE EVANTEE  
(in French)  
Et les anges s'envolent vers le  
ciel...

RANDALL  
What does that mean?

BRIE EVANTEE  
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.

RANDALL  
When I look at your eyes... I can't  
look away.

Brie and Randall kiss. The room clocks it.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
(under his breath)  
Well okay. It's a party.

KATE  
(to Air Force General  
Themes)  
Can you hand me a water?

AIR FORCE GENERAL THEMES  
(hands her the water)  
Of course.

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

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Everyone...I've just been given  
some critical information  
concerning our mission.

CUT TO:

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 has there been a  
moment - today we are one planet,  
one people-- proving that when we  
unite mankind can do great, great  
things!

Although it's just a flaming speck in the sky, we see slowly but surely that THE LEAD SPACE SHUTTLE BEGINS TURNING.

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

GUY  
No it's not! It's a course  
correction! Pretty standard!

Nope. It's turning around.

ONLOOKER  
Nope! It's turning around! He  
deployed his capsule!

ANOTHER ONLOOKER  
What the fuck?!

A MOM  
It's definitely turning around! It  
is! See how the flame is in a  
different direction than it was  
before!

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 -  
Perhaps a malfunction - No details  
as of yet - Radio contact has  
ceased and Mission Control has gone  
to a different channel-

## 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. The mission was  
working. Everything was on track.

## DR. OGLETHORPE

Had to be a computer malfunction.  
Or maybe the nukes destabilized.

## 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. He saw his wife fall into a  
wood chipper and hasn't spoken  
since.

The door opens. It's Jason.

## JASON

I'm very sorry for keeping you in  
here but the situation is extremely  
fluid.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

(and then)

Dr. Randall, you're now Chief  
Science Advisor to the White  
House...

RANDALL

What? Okay. But we need to know why  
the mission was turned around.

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

I'm sorry. You don't have the  
clearance for this meeting. Here  
are some bottled waters and  
crackers.

RANDALL

I'll be back. I'm sorry about this.

An ASSISTANT hands them the snacks. Then closes the door.

KATE

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

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)

(MORE)

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

According to a recent spectrometer reading of Comet Dibiasky done by astro-geologists at BASH cellular... we have discovered 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. China has a strong hold on the mines that produce these valuable rare earth assets. But we have determined that this comet has at least eighteen trillion dollars of these critical materials.

RANDALL

Wait. So the mission was aborted for rare minerals?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

There's more. In addition, this Near-Earth Object also contains 30 trillion dollars in gold, platinum, palladium, billions of tons of pure water, and assorted heavy radioactive minerals.

PETER ISHERWELL

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

There's some muttering and oohs and ahhs in the room.

JASON

Woow.

RANDALL

But what does any of this matter if it destroys the whole planet?

SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

I was about to ask the same question Janie.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Please give us just a little credit gang. We have a plan.



PETER ISHERWELL

That's right. A safe and dare I say brilliant, plan that will protect earth and transform the future of mankind forever.

TWO BASH employees are setting up a large computer screen.

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 and I still don't get it. He's a three star General. He's from the Pentagon. Why would he charge us for the free snacks?

DR. OGLETHORPE

People are weird. One time I met Sting and I swear to God he farted right in front of me and didn't even say excuse me. Thing is, he pulled it off.

The door opens. It's Randall.

RANDALL

Okay, let's go. Hurry.

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.

KATE

It won't work.

RANDALL

Listen, I was furious they halted the mission too. And then the BASH team showed us the science and I'll be damned if it's not truly impressive.

KATE

We're talking about a 9 kilometer wide planet killer not roaming charges.

RANDALL

They have 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

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.

DR. TALCAMONT

Thank you Peter. Our nano scanners assume a near liquid form and are able to completely scan the comet's integral structural points within a second of initial contact.

PETER ISHERWELL

We will then deploy Nobel and Polofsky prize winning scientist Dr. Inez's micro targeted quantum fission explosives deep into the object...

COMET has been scanned on a 3D grid. IN THE ANIMATION the drones ATTACH USING THEIR DRILL BITS and BLAM!

DR. INEZ

... That's right 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 once this treasure from the Heavens is claimed poverty as we know it will become a relic of the past and mankind will enter a golden age of opportunity and innovation.

The room applauds.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

And Dr. Mindy we would like you to join our research team of over a dozen Nobel Prize winning scientists.

RANDALL

Well I'll need to review all of this science first. I have many, many questions. But... clearly I having nothing but respect for Dr. Inez and Talcamont.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

This is an historic moment. Opportunity is knocking. Let's have the courage to open the door.

JASON

Of course we're opening it right? How can we not?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Shhh. Let the question hang in the air so the listener can answer it themselves.

## INT. BOJO MAMBO'S SHRIMP RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

DR. OGLETHORPE

Hold on, hold on. This comet is moving at 52 kilometers per second. That's 116,000 miles per hour. How are you gonna navigate a drone to hit the comet on the precise spot that'll split it up exactly the way we need?

RANDALL

Talcamont has developed nano-tech sensors in conjunction with MIT. They form a full structural analysis the second they make contact.

DR. OGLETHORPE

And is this nano-tech work peer reviewed?

RANDALL

I need to review the data but it's been modelled.

KATE

Has any of this been reviewed?

RANDALL

No. But what choice do we have?!

KATE

That's it. I'm out.

DR. OGLETHORPE

So am I.

RANDALL

My exact job is to ask the questions you're asking! If the answers are unacceptable I'm the one who stops this.

KATE

And what happens when you start getting some answers you don't like? You going to go up against a 600 billion dollar corporation and the whole US Government?

RANDALL

At least I'm in the room! What are you going to do on the outside?

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Hold up some protest signs? Start an online petition? Besides, their lives and their family's lives are at stake too.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Lots and lots of money makes people do real short sighted stuff. Seen it over and over and over...

RANDALL

This money is for the whole world. Poverty will cease to exist. This could eliminate wars, starvation, everyone will have healthcare and clean water.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Oh. So that's the pretty bow they're putting on this dangerous bullshit. Give me a break Doc.

RANDALL

So if I leave then who's there to make sure this whole thing doesn't turn into a disaster? Answer me. Who?

KATE

I hate to break it to you but it's already a 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. If the White House hears we're yelling classified materials out in a Bojo Mambo's Shrimp they'll put you, and I mean specifically you, in Leavenworth.

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.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Just tell us what's going on. We deserve to know.

Another GUY FROM THE BAR comes over.

GUY FROM THE BAR

These people know what's going on?

A NEARBY DINER turns from a table near them.

NEARBY DINER

I heard them talking. They definitely know some things!

GUY FROM THE BAR

Hey, I got three scared kids at home. How about you just tell us something?

RANDALL

We can't say anything. I'm sorry.

GUY FROM THE BAR

We're people just like you. We deserve to know!

DR. OGLETHORPE

Sir, there are national security laws in place that we must observe for the good of-

KATE

Screw this. 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-

CUSTOMERS

Yes! Just tell us! Etc.

KATE

They found out there's a bunch of gold and diamonds and other rare shit in the comet and now they're going to let it hit earth so a bunch of rich people can get 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

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.

DR. OGLETHORPE

I'm starting to think you just like riling people up Red.

RANDALL

I'm so sorry Kate.

KATE

Don't you have another talk show appearance to do? Where's Brie Evantee? Aren't you having dinner with her and Harrison Telms?

DR. OGLETHORPE

The girl ain't wrong. You lost the thread in a big way "Dr. Randy."

RANDALL

So you want me to just quit and leave the future of life on earth to Jason Orlean?

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

I didn't turn that mission around!  
Now the only chance we have is to  
make sure this one works!

FEDERAL AGENT approaches.

AGENT

I'm sorry Dr. Mindy. White House  
wants her off the grid. Now.

KATE

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

THE CAR DRIVES AWAY. Teddy walks away from Randall.

RANDALL

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!

INT. PATRIOT NEWS STUDIO - NEXT DAY

President Orlean is having a one on one interview with Dan  
Pawketty in a book lined study.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Dan, millions of working people  
around the world are hungry and  
struggling to pay their medical  
bills. I truly believe God has sent  
us a miracle.

DAN PAWKETTY

The courage it must have taken to  
turn that spaceship around... God I  
admire you.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

When it comes to jobs for the  
American people it's a very easy  
decision.

The President takes out a cigarette. Dan Pawketty lights it.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

But I'm also a Mother. And as a  
Mother safety comes first.

(MORE)



PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

And this mission will harm no one... and benefit everyone.

INT. GIANT MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE - SAME TIME

Kate is in the back of the massive transport plane with the hood still over her head flying to God knows where.

INT. PATRIOT NEWS STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

DAN PAWKETTY

What about this wing nut Kate Dibiasky that's all over the internet yelling in Shrimp restaurants? She's got some people awfully upset.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

She's obviously severely mentally ill. And word is her Father had to go into rehab in 2009. They've suffered enough.

DAN PAWKETTY

You always take the high road. I love that about you.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

All I know Dan is that when God sent manna down from heaven to the Israelites Moses didn't try and deflect it. Or hide from it. They picked it up and they ate it.

She has a large ash on her cigarette. Dan holds his coffee cup out and she taps her cigarette into it.

DAN PAWKETTY

So true. I've also heard some people, some very credible people I might add, say that there isn't a comet at all. That it's a hoax made up by fat cat astronomers. How do you respond Madame President?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Look, I'm no scientist, so I have no possible way of answering that question.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

But make no mistake about it, if  
extremist radical scientists are  
lying to us to push their agenda  
they will be locked up for a long  
time.

Dan takes a sip of his coffee.

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. Kateland 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

Give it to me. I don't give a shit  
anymore.

She signs the agreement.

CUT TO:

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

(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." L/3 "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 for the next month free of charge, BASH cellular in conjunction with the US Government is offering a free hotline connecting you with experts to answer your questions. As a scientist nothing brings greater comfort than knowledge. 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 1-800-428-6483 for peace of mind. Roaming and data charges apply.

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.

INT. UNIVERSITY HALL - DAY

Hundreds of students are doing a sit in at the University President's office. They chant and hold signs "EARTH ALWAYS HAS FOUR BARS!" "OUR CHILDREN WANT A PLANET NOT 6G! Dr. Oglethorpe speaks into a bullhorn.

DR. OGLETHORPE

I am ashamed that my alma mater still invests in BASH cellular and supports this madness!

STUDENTS

Divest from BASH when?

MORE STUDENTS

NOW! DIVEST NOW!!

Two POLICE OFFICERS take Dr. Oglethorpe away.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - DAY

Jason and Randall stand against the back wall as President Orlean fields questions.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Go ahead Vince. Make it quick please. You always talk so slow.

REPORTER WITH BEARD

How to do you respond to the letter signed by over five thousand international scientists against the mission to harvest the comet?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Sounds like a bunch of scientists jealous they weren't chosen to work on this historic mission. They didn't make the cut. They should quit whining.

(moving on)

You! No, not you. The skinny one.

SKINNY REPORTER

Is there a backup plan if this plan goes wrong?

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Of course there's a backup plan. And honestly it's so strong we considered making it THE plan but the one we chose was too good. Dr. Randall?

RANDALL

The President is correct Christy. Our back up plan accounts for two dozen low probability events. The stakes are too high not to account for any eventuality.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

At a certain point you just have to trust us folks. There's no way around it. Yes, go.

REPORTER WITH BIG HAIR

This is a question for Dr. Mindy. Dr. Mindy do you 100% stand behind the science of this plan?

JASON

That's a dumb question. Why would he be up here if he didn't!

REPORTER WITH BIG HAIR (CONT'D)

Can Dr. Mindy answer?

\*

RANDALL

I do. But science is an ongoing process of inquiry. And the stakes are too high to be complacent.

EXT. STYLISH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Randall and Brie, both in tasteful designer clothes leave a restaurant. 6 PAPARAZZI and a TMZ REPORTER with a VIDEO CAMERA follow them.

TMZ REPORTER

Hey Dr. Mindy, hey Brie. Are you guys dating?

BRIE EVANTEE

Our relationship is strictly professional!

RANDALL

Sorry guys! We're just friends! I'm happily married!

They get into a BLACK TOWN CAR that drives away.

INT. CVN CABLE NEWS STUDIO - DAY

STORIES ACROSS THE BOTTOM CRAWL: "FAMED MEOW ACTOR ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS AND NARCOTICS" "LADY BAROQUE FACES SOCIAL MEDIA BACKLASH FOR COMMENTS ABOUT POL POT" "NEVER HITTERS CLASH WITH DIGNIFIED BOYS" "COMET DENIER WINS CELEBRITY DANCE OFF"

HARRISON TELMS

Joining us now is Philip Kaj from Autopsy who has been handicapping the back and forth on the comet debate since day one. Philip what are today's numbers telling us?

Phillip Kaj is on the feed from the Autopsy offices.

PHILLIP (SOT)

Thanks Harrison. Well the latest Trenk poll show 40% for managing the comet to create jobs. 37% never want the comet to hit, which is down three points, and 23% don't believe there is a comet at all. And yes that number is way up.

HARRISON TELMS

And why have the Never hitters lost so much ground?

PHILLIP

If you look inside the numbers their message is just too extreme for moderates in the Midwest. Voters don't want to hear about 7 billion people dying, the whole food chain collapsing... the sun being blocked out for years and years... bringing in a new ice age...

Philip gets a little lost in the reality.

HARRISON TELMS

What about the Impact Deniers? They seem to be gaining a lot of momentum lately.

PHILLIP (SOT)

That's right Harrison. The Impact Deniers led by Congressman Louie Tenant are tapping into a grassroots anger with the system. Benedict Drask himself just gave a Com-denier speech that has the whole movement buzzing on their website of choice: Dark 9.

CELL PHONE VT: Drask talking to a few hundred people in a park with Tenant and Dr. Ginnerson behind him.

BENEDICT DRASK (SOT)

I got right up there to the edge of space... And I didn't see anything! And why? Cause there's nothing up there to see!

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 do you mean?

MOM

Your Dad and I are for the jobs the comet will provide.

DAD

The division in this country is bad enough. We don't want it in our house.

KATE  
But that's not-

DAD  
No politics. That's the only way  
you moving in here will work.

KATE  
(truly tired now)  
Fine.

They open the door and Kate hugs them. They hug her back.

MOM  
I know it's been hard...

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  
...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)  
June. What are you doing-

JUNE  
I had a feeling something was going  
on.

RANDALL  
I'm busy. This is important work.

JUNE  
Yes it certainly is.

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



JUNE

So you want to skip the part where you feel bad?

BRIE EVANTEE

Oh I don't feel bad. Randall and I are having a wonderful time. And so there's only one question: do we keep having a wonderful time or does he go back with you to Michigan?

Beat.

JUNE

You know what? She's actually right. That is the only question.

RANDALL

June... I-

JUNE

Well that was fast. But 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 that hit him sometimes...

RANDALL

Actually not as much lately-

She throws the bottle. More pills fly.

JUNE

This is for his blood pressure. Restless Leg Syndrome. Appetite suppressant to counteract appetite gain from his other meds. And yes, a bottle of goddamn Cialis!

The last bottle hits Randall right on the head.

JUNE (CONT'D)

Goodbye Randall! I'll tell your  
sons Dad's fucking the lady on our  
television!

The door opens and Dr. Keith Ollens is there.

KEITH OLLENS

Are you ready to go June?

RANDALL

You and Keith. I always knew it.

KEITH OLLENS

Randall, are you serious? You've  
met my partner Paul a dozen times.

RANDALL

I thought... he was a business  
partner.

BRIE EVANTEE

Oh that's a shame. For a second it  
seemed like this was all about to  
work out quite nicely.

JUNE

Let's go Keith.

They're gone. Brie rubs Randall's shoulders.

BRIE EVANTEE

This will feel shitty for about 12  
hours and then it will pass. I  
promise.

Randall's BASH phone plays the little girl singing Puff the  
Magic Dragon.

BRIE EVANTEE (CONT'D)

Well that's sweet.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS TOWN - FEW DAYS LATER.

A town that's seen better days. Car with a bumper sticker of  
an American flag with "THESE COLORS DON'T RUN FROM A STUPID  
COMET!"

A store has a sign "Never Hitters NOT Welcome!" Another store  
has a heroic picture of President Orlean shooting the comet  
with a machine gun.

Two TEENS in President Orlean's shirts and/or hats watch a Drask Dark 9 video on their phones.

INT. DRINK-MO STORE - ILLINOIS - CONTINUOUS

Kate, now a cashier at a giant Drink-Mo watches a CVN show hosted by Dalia Hensfield with Teddy Oglethorpe arguing against SENATOR SCOTT LERNER.

SEN. LERNER (SOT)  
... Over 200 trillion in wealth created. Homelessness, water, healthcare... Fixed worldwide.

DR. OGLETHORPE (SOT)  
You know full well that BASH owns Comet Dibiasky. The people don't get one pebble of it even though we're footing the bill.

SEN. LERNER (SOT)  
Doctor, people are tired of you Never Hitters and your divisiveness. Americans want to harness the comet for its riches AND make safety a priority by building sea walls.

DR. OGLETHORPE (SOT)  
What about the fact that you've taken over three hundred thousand dollars in BASH campaign contributions in the last five years Senator?

SENATOR LERNER  
I'm pro-business Doctor. I'm not a socialist. I have no problem with BASH's success but I do believe they need to include us in the conversation.

INTERRUPTING VOICE  
Excuse me?

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  
Aren't you that girl that yelled "we're all gonna die" on live TV?

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

YULE  
 Yes you are.

His friend holds up his phone with Kate on the Daily Rip.

KATE (SOT)  
 We're all going to fuckin die!

KATE (CONT'D)  
 Yup. That's me.

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

FRIEND  
 I've got a sticker of you on my  
 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.

YULE  
 You don't give a shit do you?

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

Yule holds open his jacket to reveal FOUR BOTTLES OF  
 EXPENSIVE VODKA they've shoplifted.

FRIEND  
 We don't give a shit either.

OTHER FRIEND  
 Not one single shit.

KATE  
 Well good for you.

YULE

We hang and board behind the  
abandoned Burger Champ from seven  
to whenever. You should come hang.

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.

ANCHOR 2 (V.O.)

BASH telecom shares are now up a  
whopping 520% for the year. And in  
other news the President says the  
millions of illegal immigrants  
fleeing Chile and headed to our  
border will be treated as an  
invading army...

CUT TO:

EXT. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER - FLORIDA - 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 are  
greeted by Isherwell.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Hello Peter! We are very excited to  
see these drones everyone is  
talking about.

PETER ISHERWELL

Hello Janie. Dr. Mindy. We have one  
entirely completed. It's quite the  
marvel.

They walk over to a hangar.

RANDALL

I've been meaning to ask you both  
Peter, Madame President, why won't  
you disavow Congressman Tenant and  
the impact deniers? Millions of  
people are starting to believe it.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Randall, contrary to popular belief  
I don't control Congressman Tenant.

RANDALL

The White House visitor's log shows he's met with you four times just this past week.

PETER ISHERWELL

(chuckles lightly)

You'll have to pardon my amusement but I do love seeing Janie put on the spot.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Randall's a worrier. He just needs to start worrying about the right things.

A giant BEAD DRONE is in front of them in the hangar. An incomplete one is next to it.

PETER ISHERWELL

I give you mankind's savior. The Bash Explore and Acquire Drone.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

My oh my. It is something.

RANDALL

Wow. It certainly is.

PETER ISHERWELL

I call this one Primo for first. He's my beautiful baby boy.

RANDALL

I have a question. Are you concerned at all about the sync of the phase reactions? I hear there are some questions.

PETER ISHERWELL

There are always questions and fears Dr. Mindy. But the sort of vision we're following doesn't wring it hands like a worried housewife.

RANDALL

It's just that Dr. Inez showed me this modeling data that suggests the sync of the explosions may be flawed.

Randall takes some papers from his jacket. Hands them to Isherwell.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

Apparently debris from the comet  
may affect the communication links.  
And as you know without proper sync  
the mission won't-

Isherwell hands the papers back to Randall.

PETER ISHERWELL

Sadly Dr. Inez is no longer with  
us. It turned out she was  
associating with some radical Never  
Hitler activists.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Fortunately we didn't miss a beat.  
Former head of NASA Dr. Jocelyn  
Calder is now in charge. She gets  
the big picture.

RANDALL

It's just that Dr. Calder is a  
medical doctor, not a physicist...  
and a dozen other scientists have  
been removed or have resigned from  
this project for asking questions.  
This mission has zero margin for  
error. I need to know you're acting  
as a scientist and not a  
businessman.

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

PETER ISHERWELL

You're worried I'm just a  
businessman?

RANDALL

I just want to-

PETER ISHERWELL

Do you think you know me Doctor? Do  
you? BASH has over 40 thousand data  
points on you and every decision  
you've made since 1994. I can tell  
you what you'll buy your son Evan  
for his birthday in six years.

(MORE)

PETER ISHERWELL (CONT'D)

I know that right now you have colon polyps that are not an immediate danger, but should be removed in 2-3 years. But most of all I know what you are. My algorithm has identified 8 consumer profile types. You are a Lifestyle Idealist. You think you are motivated by beliefs but you just run from pain and towards pleasure. You'll take a stand when it's safe but ultimately you chose the path life conveniently provides. Like a field mouse.

He gets right in Randall's face.

PETER ISHERWELL (CONT'D)

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... I can't even remember what it said.

He steps back.

RANDALL

(almost in a whisper)

I just want the science to be sound.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

How will I die Peter? I'd like to know.

PETER ISHERWELL

You'll be smothered. In 4 years. By a friend. Now if you'll excuse me, there's much work to be done.

He walks away and greets Dr. Calder in the distance.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

What the fuck was that?

RANDALL

I'm trying to do my job.



PRESIDENT ORLEAN

You're lucky Peter adores you.  
Otherwise you'd be on an  
unregistered plane to a black site  
facility 1 minute ago.

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. These are hard but  
necessary decisions. Stop  
grandstanding like a teenager and  
step the hell up. Goodbye  
sweetheart.

She kisses him on the cheek, throws her lit cig and walks  
away.

Randall steps out the cig and then looks up to see Orlean  
joining Peter Isherwell and Dr. Calder. He looks down at the  
report he's holding in his hand.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD BURGER KING PARKING LOT - THAT NIGHT

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

MUSIC: EKULU's "The Ruminator"

Yule passes the bottle of vodka over to Kate who takes a hard  
swig.

YULE

I heard today on the corporate  
owned news BASH got Orlean to pay  
Chile 90 billion for the tsunamis  
that are gonna wreck that country.  
And their shady ass President took  
it.

FRIEND from the Drink-Mo chugs a beer.

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. Them and all their rich friends'll just fly off and start a whole other earth.

SHORT GUY

You gotta stop listening to your uncle. He's on Meth.

TEEN GIRL

No he's not. He just drinks a lot of Red Bull and reads a lot.

YULE

I don't think the thing's even gonna hit. Orlean just scared us all so she could get her approval ratings up.

Kate takes another swig of vodka.

KATE

You want to know the real truth?

Everyone quiets.

KATE (CONT'D)

They're not even smart enough to be as evil as you're giving them credit for.

FRIENDS

Damnn... ain't that the truth... Sad but true.

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

KATE

Nope.

Yule punches the air in frustration.

YULE

Ahhh!! You make me crazy!!

Beat.

KATE

Fuck it. Why not.

They make out as the hardcore plays and some kids break old light tubes.

EXT. SPACE - SAME TIME

POV from the comet moving towards a small blinking blue/green planet in the distance.

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 a classic.

BRIE EVANTEE (O.C.)

What a stellar cast. I always love Devin Peters. 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. And my friend Farley saw it and says it's a ton of fun.

BRIE EVANTEE

Coming up in the next hour: We'll do a deep dive on the tragic descent of the "Meow man" Pete Cintell into drugs and depression. Such a shame. But first, and you can tell by my smile, Dr. Randall is here.

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.

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. Please help us oh wise scientist. You're our only hope.

She winks at him with her upstage eye.

RANDALL

Well... uh...first and foremost, there most certainly is a comet. There are, of course, many conspiracy theories out there, so people need to check their sources and be careful where we get our information...

JACK BREMMER

Are you okay Doc?

RANDALL

(trying to cover)

I'm fine... I just... Well, let's just say it's not a good idea to eat airport sushi before going on national television...

Tepid laughs from the crew.

BRIE EVANTEE

Dr. Randall, our viewers are dying to know how the mission is going. We know you're involved with every detail. Plus you're so darn cute.

RANDALL

Thank you. The truth is there's been growing concern out there in the scientific community that our peer review process has not been --

JACK BREMMER

(Keeping the energy up)

Well, if BASH's stock price is any indicator, it seems to be going gangbusters. And I'm not going to lie. I bought a few shares myself.

BRIE EVANTEE

You are such a shameless capitalist, Jack!

JACK BREMMER  
 Guilty as charged! But you'll be  
 the first one in the new hot tub  
 I'm putting in on my back deck.

BRIE EVANTEE  
 He knows me too well. Are you okay,  
 Dr. Randall?

RANDALL  
 I don't feel so well...

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

RANDALL  
 DON'T CUT AWAY!

BRIE EVANTEE  
 (sotto voice)  
 What are you doing love?

JACK BREMMER  
 You heard the man. He had some bad  
 sushi.

RANDALL  
 I just have to say something.

JACK BREMMER  
 (laughing)  
 Well fortunately this is a show  
 where we say things. Some say I say  
 too much! But it pays the bills.

RANDALL  
CAN YOU PLEASE STOP BEING SO  
FUCKING PLEASANT!

Everyone goes quiet.

RANDALL (CONT'D)  
 Not everything has to be  
 charming...or clever...or likable  
 ...We have to, we just have to, be  
 able to hear things...bad things or  
 confusing things...They're called  
 facts for a reason! Facts don't  
 always feel good. Or sell  
 insurance. Or phones. And they  
 don't always make you feel  
 safe...This is NOT A DEBATE!  
 (MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

There is a huge fucking comet headed this way. It's real, and it doesn't give a goddamn what you think.

BRIE EVANTEE

But the President and Isherwell said that maybe we can benefit from the rare miner-

RANDALL

They're fucking lying! The science is not sound! And when scientists speak up they fire them! The fact is we don't really know how to bring a comet the size of a mountain down to Earth. We just don't! They should have deflected it, and we had the chance, but we didn't do it! And I'm not saying this because I'm on one side or another. I'm not a radical or a moderate; I'm not here to get clicks or likes or whatever... I'm just telling you the observed science. And I'm sure everyone's going to think I'm taking a "stance" and that I'm too "extreme." But I'm just like all of you...I hope to GOD this Administration is right, that they're not blinded by wealth or their political party. I hope to GOD I'm wrong on this, I really do, but the truth is, I think they've completely lost the fucking plot...I used to think that people who actually studied and learned things for a living had some value or worth in our culture...And I just want to go home. More than anything. But I can't sit here for one more second and act like a fucking salesman. We must first AGREE that this comet is real, first and foremost, and you know why? Because we all saw it with our own goddamn eyes through a goddamn telescope! And if you people can't acknowledge at the bare minimum that a giant comet about to slam into us at 116,000 miles per hour is not a GOOD thing, then what the hell happened to us?

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

I mean, honest to God. What have we done to ourselves? And how do we fix it? I don't know...if there's one thing that I pray you all remember from anything I've said it's this: We must, every one of us, immediately start to--

Randall sees the Meow commercial playing on the studio monitors.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

What the hell?

BRIE EVANTEE

We cut you off and went to commercial a long time ago, honey.

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

I was in love with you.

BRIE EVANTEE

You were? Wow.

STOCKY FBI AGENT gets behind the wheel.

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. The car pulls away.

INT. THE MINDY HOUSE - LANSING - THE NEXT DAY

An unseen person watches the news. CVN with Harrison Telms.

HARRISON TELMS (SOT)

In breaking news, Federal Prosecutors are considering pressing charges against disgraced scientist Randall Mindy after uncovering evidence he is connected to a radical Never Hitter group-

There is a knock at the door.

REVEAL JUNE, RANDALL'S WIFE walking to the door.

Randall is there looking like hell.

RANDALL

Please June. Can we just talk for-

Without saying a word SHE CLOSSES THE DOOR AND WALKS AWAY.

HARRISON TELMS (SOT)

Recent polling now shows 42% convinced there is no comet at all. And 7% believing that the comet is a promotional stunt for the Devin Peters movie Total Devastation...

June turns off the TV.

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. Whether it's being a General or charging people a lot of money for free snacks.

YULE

I don't know but I bet all of this comet stuff is nothing. My Dad said it's just like Y2K.

KATE

It's definitely coming. I saw it.

YULE

How do you know what you saw?



KATE

Because I was an astronomer. I used coordinates and a map of the solar system and equations.

YULE

I don't know... You can say that but at the end of the day you were looking through a tube at the sky.

KATE

So you're an impact denier? Wow. Fortunately I don't give a shit...

YULE

Besides, only God can destroy the earth.

KATE

You believe in God?

YULE

My parents are evangelicals. So yeah... I guess I do. Even though I hate them. I don't go around advertising it though. I mean, don't tell anyone.

KATE

It's okay. I won't. It's actually kind of sweet.

(then)

When I was 9 years old my Dad took me to a seafood chain restaurant and I asked him if there was a God... and he mouthed "no."

YULE

That's terrible.

KATE

I thought it was cool at the time. Now I don't know.

She takes a pull of her beer.

YULE

Wanna make out?

KATE

Yeah, why not?

YULE

Can you not say "why not" before we  
kiss every time. It's kind of  
shitty.

KATE

Sure. Whatever.

YULE

That's better.

They kiss. 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)

That's it! That's the comet right  
there!

YULE

Where?

KATE

See? That's the big dipper. That's  
Venus. There's the north star. Well  
what is that?

EXT. EAST LANSING BUSY ROAD - SAME TIME

Randall is in a crappy Honda driving with a WHIP (UBER) LIGHT  
on his dashboard. Suddenly he 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.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

There you are. There you are!

He sees the twinkling comet.

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 dials.

YULE

Who are you calling?

EXT. BUSY EAST LANSING ROAD - SAME TIME

Cars are honking at Randall. He is dialing Kate.

RANDALL

KATE

Kate?! You can see it!Randall! You can see it!!

DIDDLY FEED

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

KATE (SOT)

Just go into your yard or on your roof or on the sidewalk and just look up north in the sky...

RANDALL (SOT)

...and then a little bit east if you're in the northwestern hemisphere. It looks like a streak, that's the comet's tail.

KATE (SOT)

It's real and it's coming. Anyone who says otherwise is full of shit. Trust your eyes.

MORE VIDEOS

OTHER VIDEOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE POSTED IN MANDARIN, FARSI, SPANISH AND on Diddly, Vroom Vroom, Friend Post.

FRENCH REPORTER

For the first time, Comet Dibiasky is visible to the naked eye in the night sky. This dramatic sight, is causing widespread concern and chaos around the globe. Today in Paris 100s of thousands of people took to the street demanding action to divert the comet.

The commercial ACTOR from the Meow commercials pops up.

MEOW ACTOR (SOT)

I refused to do more "meow" commercials because it typecast me and ruined my career... I've been in a deep depression. But if this gets a 100 thousand shares I'll do it! Just look up!

Hearts, thumbs up, thumbs down, shares, smiley faces are clicked and dinged as comments and articles shoot around the world: "Holy shit. It's real." "I just see a twinkle. So what?" "Autopsy: President Orlean Plays Defense on the Comet" "Anyone else shitting themselves?" "This is more Never Hitter Lies!"

STOCK FOOTAGE: VT. MASSIVE STREET PROTEST IN PARIS. CROWD CHANTING "JUST LOOK UP!"

EXT. CHINESE PARK - DAY

Three OLDER CHINESE MEN look at their phones.

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

A TEENAGER looks at his phone with a fish tank and heavy metal poster behind him.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

10 PEOPLE yell into a cell phone.

PEOPLE

Just Look Up!

INT. MOVIE JUNKET SET - DAY

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

ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST

First off I saw an early cut of the movie and it is quite a ride!

DEVIN PETERS

Thank you so much. It was quite a ride making it, that's for sure.

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 it points down. Because this country needs to stop arguing and "virtue signaling" and just get along.

ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST

That is sooo refreshing. I think we're all tired of the politics.

DEVIN PETERS

That's why we made Total Devastation. For everyone to enjoy.

INT. MEOW GUY'S HOUSE - DAY

The commercial actor is back.

ACTOR (SOT)

... Meooow?

More likes, shares, retweets, thumbs up, positive comments.

INT. CVN STUDIO - NIGHT

Harrison Telms hosts his show.

HARRISON TELMS

They're calling it the biggest worldwide music event ever. The Just Look Up concert will be held in Wembley stadium with artists including Jason Dak, Three Ton Credit Card Tray and Riley Bina expected to perform. Bina has become a big supporter of the Just Look Up movement. No word on whether or not her ex-fiance DJ Chello will appear.

INT. KIDS SHOW STUDIO - DAY

Randall is with SAMMY the puppet.

SAMMY PUPPET

But we're all going to be okay  
right Dr. Randy?

RANDALL

Well Sammy, even though I'm an  
astronomer, sometimes I learn new  
things. And what I'm currently  
learning, is that unchecked power,  
and extreme wealth, distorts  
people's view of reality. And  
that's what happened to our  
leaders. And if we don't wake up  
fast, every single one of us is  
going to die.

PUPPETEER

Um, that wasn't what you said in  
rehearsal...

INT. PATRIOT NEWS STUDIO - DAY

Randall arguing with Congressman Tenant as Dan Pawketty  
hosts. He's not smooth anymore. He's fiery.

RANDALL

But the comet is visible  
Congressman. And there are serious  
questions about the science behind  
this BASH mission. We need full  
transparency or else President  
Orlean needs to be removed.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT

See Dan, this is what these "Just  
Look Uppers" do. They want to  
control everyone. Tell em where to  
look. How to look. How to think.

DAN PAWKETTY

It's a fair point Doctor. What  
about freedom?

RANDALL

Wow. I just realized you really  
believe what you're saying. That's  
truly terrifying.

(changes gears)

Congressman can I ask you a  
question?

CONGRESSMAN TENANT

Sure hot shot. Fire away.

RANDALL  
Who is Sir Isaac Newton?

DAN PAWKETTY  
Now come on Doctor. I think-

Teddy watches from the studio floor.

RANDALL  
Hold on Dan. Let him answer. Who is  
he Congressman?

The Congressman looks frozen. He still doesn't know.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT  
Well look now... I could ask you  
some stuff too...

Dan Pawketty is confused by the Congressman's hemming and hawing.

DAN PAWKETTY  
Congressman... Just answer him. Who  
is Sir Isaac Newton?

CONGRESSMAN TENANT  
Well he's that fella. The one....  
That sings the... Rocketman. And  
the Candle in the Wind.

DAN PAWKETTY  
Wait. Do you mean Sir Elton John?  
Are you putting me on?

The Congressman stands up, rips off his mic and leaves.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT  
I've got a bad connection over here  
Dan, sorry!

Teddy has a tear coming down his cheek.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
(to himself)  
That comet could strike me dead now  
and I'd die happy...

INT. RALLY IN GIANT BASKETBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

President Orlean is on stage. Speaking to a crowd of 20  
thousand supporters.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

You know why they want us to look up? Because they want us to be afraid! Because they think they're better than us! They do!

CROWD

Boooooo!!!!

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

That's right. But when you walk the road of freedom, the road of jobs and God, you don't look up. You keep your eyes down on that path and you put one foot in front of the other, step by step, each and every day! And you don't do it for promotions or a big paycheck, you do it because that's what Americans do!

CLOSE UPS of chanting faces young and old.

CROWD

DON'T LOOK UP! DON'T LOOK UP!

Someone hands Orlean a red, white and blue hat with "Don't Look Up!" written on it. She puts it on.

CROWD (CONT'D)

DON'T LOOK UP! DON'T LOOK UP!

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Three GUYS in "Don't Look Up" hats yell into a cell phone.

3 GUYS

Don't Look Up!

EXT. STADIUM - NIGHT

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

RANDALL

Hello! I'm Randall Mindy.

KATE

And I'm Kate Dibiasky.

The crowd cheers.



RANDALL

How great were Velcro Jesus and  
Pootchie Q?

(applause)

They told us a billion people are  
watching this concert. So we just  
wanna say to all of you loud and  
clear...there is no safe way to  
bring this comet back to Earth, and  
exploit it for profit! It cannot  
be done!

The fact is, we have tried to work  
with this administration, but they  
didn't listen. They didn't listen  
to us, or the thousands of  
scientists who have objected to  
this insane mission. So who are you  
going to stand with: the scientific  
community, or a dictatorship and a  
corrupt corporation?

KATE

We need national strikes now. Shut  
down the economy until President  
Orlean is impeached, and the BASH  
mission is taken over by sane  
individuals. And throw your BASH  
phones into the toilet!

RANDALL

Look it's real simple. Unless we  
wake up, as a wise woman once said,  
"We're all going to fucking die."  
This administration is risking  
billions of lives with their  
autocratic new world ideology!  
It's time we LOOK UP to reality, we  
LOOK UP to science, and we LOOK UP  
to the fact, that this government  
has put profit above the lives of  
the people!

Cheering. Lights come up. Crowd goes crazy. Riley Bina is  
there with her band in a stunning outfit.

THEY KICK INTO AN ORIGINAL SONG "JUST LOOK UP."

DJ Chello enters the stage on the mic.

DJ CHELLO

Hey baby. It's me and I want you  
back. I've been a stone cold  
fool...

The crowd goes crazy as he spits rhymes and he and Rina reunite.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

A BASH phone is thrown into a toilet by an ACTIVIST WOMAN in her 20s who then turns to camera (another non-BASH phone).

ACTIVIST WOMAN  
Screw BASH! And screw Orlean!

INT. MAKEUP ROOM AT A TV STUDIO - DAY

President Orlean is getting makeup put on while watching Randall and Kate at the Riley Bina concert on her phone.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Son of a bitch.

She calls someone.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)  
Don't call me Mommy. That's gross.  
Let Tenant know we need to step up  
our attacks on the Professor and  
Marianne. They're starting to make  
some real noise... No, if you throw  
them in Guantanamo they'll become,  
what'd you call it? Martyrs. Let  
the crazies do the work for us.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A ME-TUBER in a "Don't Look Up" hat spews conspiracy theories and attacks Randall and Kate with crazy accusations.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Three police officers subdue a man and a woman, 20s, in JUST LOOK UP shirts and regalia and arrest them.

INT. KATE'S DIET APP

CLOSE UP of KATE'S DIET APP countdown showing 5 days, 3 hours, 48 minutes and 11 seconds until diet ends.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Randall and Kate sit across from Senator Lerner.

SENATOR LERNER

I am truly disgusted by the President embracing these lunatic anti-comet theories.

RANDALL

Well that is SO good to hear. Now we need to impeach President Orlean immediately and take control of the mission to fragment the comet not mine it.

KATE

And we need every nation in the world to launch their nuclear weapons as well. It's too late to completely stop the comet but we can still save billions of lives.

SENATOR LERNER

I completely agree. That's why we're proposing legislation that will provide incentives to sea wall companies and funding for middle class families to build bunkers.

RANDALL

That's it? Incentives?

KATE

Do you understand we have no time? None.

SENATOR LERNER

Look the idea of impeachment polls very poorly. We have to be practical here. This isn't a time for purity tests. Would either of you be willing to host a fundraiser so we can take on Orlean?

RANDALL

Let's get out of here. This is a waste of time.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

People run back and forth as sirens blare in front of a wall of "Just Look Up" posters covered in graffiti.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Kate speaks into a cell phone.

KATE

We've got to shut down the economy.  
Shut down the corrupt governments.  
This is life and death. Throw your  
BASH phones away. Delete your Vroom  
Vroom accounts. If your news is  
trying to act like there are two  
sides to this turn it off! The  
death of 7 billion people is not a  
legitimate point of view! It's  
fucking insane!

MONTAGE:

MASSIVE WORLDWIDE PROTESTS in Tokyo, New York, Mumbai,  
Kinshasa, Madrid, Sidney, Moscow. Crowds, banners, police  
spraying people with hoses and tear gas.

HUGE CACOPHONY OF SOUNDS, voices, screams, social media ALL  
CUT OFF BY A PHONE BEING HUNG UP.

INT. JUST LOOK UP HEADQUARTERS - 3 DAYS LATER

Teddy has just hung up the phone. A grim look on his face.

KATE

What's wrong?

DR. OGLETHORPE

Orlean and BASH cut Russia, India,  
and China out of the rights for the  
minerals. So they tried their own  
deflection mission. But  
approximately 40 minutes ago a  
massive explosion was detected at  
the Russian's Baikonur launch  
complex. It looks like the mission  
failed.

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

The bustling office goes quiet.

RANDALL

Then that's it.

KATE

Wait, what do you mean "that's it?"

RANDALL

It's over.

KATE

What are you talking about?

DR. OGLETHORPE

It's simple physics. Force,  
distance and velocity. Randall's  
right. It's over.

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 illegals to come across  
the border!

DAN PAWKETTY

You want to know my opinion? They  
want no borders and no laws folks!  
That's a fact!

CROWD

Boooo!!!!

CONGRESSMAN TENANT

They think science is more powerful  
than God!

DAN PAWKETTY

The Just Look Uppers want to tell  
you what to do! Because they think  
you can't think for yourself! Well  
I want you to boo them and then  
chant Don't Look Up! Do it now!

CLOSE UP OF booing people's faces with Don't Look Up hats on.

CROWD

BOOOOO!!!!

(chants break out)

DON'T LOOK UP! DON'T LOOK UP!

CRANE ARM DOWN to one LOYAL SUPPORTER, early 20s in camo and 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.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT

Alright now, settle down everyone... What's going on?

In the sky is a GIANT GLOWING BALL a fifth the size of the moon.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT (CONT'D)

Jesus... What the hell is that?

DAN PAWKETTY

Oh shit.

Crowd starts to murmur. Jason runs up to the mic.

JASON

People! Listen! It's okay! Yes, that's the comet but we have a plan!

A BOTTLE HITS JASON in the head cutting him and knocking him down. More bottles and caps start to rain down.

JASON (CONT'D)

You stupid hicks! You cut my face!

EXT. HIGHWAY - TWO DAYS LATER

Randall, Kate and Yule drive back to the Midwest. The highway is completely empty.

YULE

There's no cars.

RANDALL

Everyone's watching the BASH launch.

KATE

And what are we doing again?

RANDALL  
I already told you. We are going  
grocery shopping.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - SAME TIME

President Orlean, Jason and Peter Isherwell in the command  
center. The FLIGHT DIRECTOR calls out the launch.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR  
We have clear skies and are a go  
for the BEAD launch.

President Orlean puts on her head set.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Citizens of the world. Now we usher  
in a new era of economic  
opportunity for the world. May God  
bless you all. Except for France  
and the UK. And India.

INT. SUPERMARKET - MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

Randall, Kate and Yule are grocery shopping.

KATE  
But I still don't understand why  
we're-

RANDALL  
Look at this. I think this salmon  
is real salmon. Not farm raised.  
(and then)  
Kate can you find some sweet  
potatoes?

Yule shoves a steak in his pants.

INT. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS HOME - GEORGIA - DUSK

A family of 5 watches TV with a grim seriousness. The comet  
is visible in the day sky and is huge.

ANCHORS (V.O.)  
The BEADS are a go for launch...  
There's not as much excitement as  
the last launch. Just a quiet  
trepidation... I can hear people  
saying prayers in the crowd.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR (V.O.)  
10, 9, 8...

INT. HOME IN NAIROBI - DAY

A FAMILY watches grimly on their LAPTOP.

EXT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - DAY

Randall with Kate and Yule behind him carrying lots of groceries approach his family home. He knocks.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

FLIGHT DIRECTOR  
Liftoff!

Monitors show the BEAD drones flames under tail lifting off. One screen shows a drone explode.

JASON  
What just happened?

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. We're fine everyone!

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. But the mission is still proceeding. A NASA spokesperson when asked to comment referred us to a BASH spokesperson who told us that BASH is committed to customer service, affordable monthly plans and the survival of mankind.



EXT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The drone satellites tear towards the heavens.

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - MOMENTS LATER

June answers the door and sees Randall.

RANDALL

Hi. I thought we could have a family dinner. We got a turkey and some salmon.

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.

JUNE

When we dated in college I fucked Aaron Tran.

Randall stands firm. Finally June opens the door.

YULE

I'm Yule. You, uh, may know me by my Twitch handle FirePuma142.

KATE

Odds are super low she knows you by FirePuma142.

Randall hugs June for a long time.

RANDALL

I'm so sorry...

EXT. DEEP SPACE - TWO HOURS LATER

The BEAD drones approach the comet.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR (V.O.)

BEADS are ready for attachment...

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 (V.O.)  
BEADS 8 and 27 are lost due to  
lateral control malfunction.

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.

There's a knock at the door and Teddy pops in holding a bottle of wine.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
Heyyyy everyone! Sorry I'm late.

Randall embraces him. June says hello.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - AN HOUR LATER

PUSH IN on Isherwell, President Orlean, Jason all stressed.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
We're six drones down now. Can this still work?

PETER ISHERWELL  
Engineers assured me that yes. 24 drones are enough.

JASON  
How many more can we lose?

Isherwell doesn't answer.

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - SAME TIME

Dinner is cooking. Randall's sons and Teddy watch news coverage in the living room.

EXT. SPACE - 20 MINUTES LATER

Remaining BEAD drones are attached.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR (V.O.)  
Commence simultaneous explosive separation stage...

This is it. The BEADS EXPLODE IN A GIANT FLASH

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN

A beautiful turkey and salmon, carrots etc. on the table. The Mindys and Kate, Yule and Teddy all take their seats.

DR. OGLETHORPE  
This looks beautiful.

JUNE  
It certainly does. And it is nice to have you home.

KATE  
Yeah. Randall got really famous.

RANDALL  
Is that what happened?

June and Randall kiss.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - MISSION CONTROL - AN HOUR LATER

Everyone is super tense.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR  
Still waiting for a full status report on the explosive devices.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
(just to Isherwell)  
Chinese President just texted me. The comet is still whole.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR  
We're seeing four misfires and sync was off...

PETER ISHERWELL  
It's okay. We'll be fine. If you'll excuse me. I'm going to the restroom.

Isherwell leaves the room.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
I should go too...

She also leaves.

INT. MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - 20 MINUTES LATER

Kate looks out the window at the sky.

KATE

It's still there.

RANDALL

I don't want to talk about any of that anymore. Let's just enjoy this meal together.

DR. OGLETHORPE

Best idea I've heard in a long time.

JUNE

Should we go around and all say what we're thankful for?

RANDALL

Absolutely.

INT. CVN STUDIO - SAME TIME

Harrison Telms reports.

HARRISON TELMS

We are being told that the comet is still whole. A few pieces have broken off as a result of the explosion but the comet is still intact.

A few CREW MEMBERS RUN past camera.

HARRISON TELMS (CONT'D)

It's clear now that for the past six months we have, I have, not done my job. I just never imagined. I never imagined... this. And I should have...

He walks off. The set is empty.

EXT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - SAME TIME

TWO HELICOPTERS LEAVE THE SPACE CENTER.

ANCHORS (V.O.)

The BEAD drones did not break apart the comet. I repeat did not... We're being told the Presidential helicopter has left Kennedy Space Center... The comet is still moving at a great velocity-

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Frightened neighbors video with their phones the comet in the sky.

INT. MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone at the table has joined hands and are giving thanks.

RANDALL

I'm thankful to be with the woman I love and my beautiful sons again. Honestly... I'm just so thankful.

DR. OGLETHORPE

I'm thankful I got to know you fine people. I truly am.

KATE

I'm thankful...  
(long beat)  
At least we tried.

Beat.

RANDALL

Do we say Amen? I'm not the most religious guy.

YULE

I got this.  
(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 sooth 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.

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

The Flight Director turns to where the President should be. Only Jason is there.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR

Sir? Where is the President? We need to know what the mission status is.

JASON

She'll be back.

A Command Tech stands up.

COMMAND TECH

Screw this! I'm going to see my husband!

He runs out. Some other people start to run out too.

INT. THE MINDY HOME - LANSING MICHIGAN - MOMENTS LATER

Teddy is on the phone in the kitchen.

DR. OGLETHORPE

I just wanted to tell you and the kids that I've never stopped loving you. But I understand why you stopped loving me- What's that?.... Really?... Well it means everything for me to hear that baby. Everything...

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - OVERHEAD - 20 MINUTES LATER

We pan over New York City which is in chaos. Traffic, fires, violence, sex, etc.

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. I had to call your home line.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)

Cell service is down everywhere.  
How about that? Land lines win in  
the end.

RANDALL

We're sort of eating right now  
Janie.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

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 600. It has state of the  
art cryo-chambers and it's set to  
find the nearest earth like planet  
in a goldilocks zone. I don't know  
why I'm calling you but I am.  
There's room for you and one other.  
Brie, your wife. Your call.

RANDALL

I think I'm good. But you and Jason  
enjoy your new world.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN

Jason?

INT. BASH LAUNCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Jason is still seated. The control center is almost empty.  
The Flight Director turns to Jason.

JASON

She's coming back.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR

I'm sorry. I've got a 20-year-old  
daughter I have to see.

He bolts. Jason is alone.

JASON

She's coming back.

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 pours her a drink. She downs it.

JACK BREMMER

Wanna have sex... or pray?

BRIE EVANTEE

Honestly I'd rather just drink and talk shit about people.

JACK BREMMER

That sounds perfect. What do you think of that new junior executive network hired?

BRIE EVANTEE

Clueless and obedient. The perfect hire. Like a blank eyed mule.

JACK BREMMER

She'll be VP of content in a year.

INT. AUTOPSY OFFICES- SAME TIME - NIGHT

Phillip is checking his Diddy account on his computer where his piece "Pray, Have Sex or Murder: What's the Best Way to Greet the End of the World?" is getting thousands and thousands of hearts and shares.

PHILLIP

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Hey everyone! My piece is going viral!

He looks around and the place is empty.

PHILLIP (CONT'D)

Is anyone here?!

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 FRICTION OF ITS ENTRY.



INT. MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is enjoying dessert. The HOUSE IS NOW SHUDDERING.

MARSHALL

I'm going to have some more of that apple pie. It's really good.

KATE

It's actually store bought.

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

Oh no. Teddy. That's crazy. Homemade is the best.

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. - INDIA - DAY

The COMET is a fiery behemoth in the sky. People run and flee.

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!!!

Finally Dr. Ginnerson comes out of the house.

DR. GINNERSON

Just come inside Benny. Let's be together.

INT. UPSCALE LIVING ROOM - MANHATTAN

Riley Bina is in DJ Chello's arms in a big cushy loveseat.

RILEY BINA

Here we are heart to heart facing  
the end.

DJ CHELLO

And I wouldn't want to be with  
anyone else. I love you forever  
girl.

His phone buzzes. Riley grabs it.

RILEY BINA

I got it. What's your pass code?

DJ CHELLO

Give it to me. I'll type it in.

RILEY BINA

Why do you care? Just tell me the  
numbers.

DJ CHELLO

Because it's my phone. It's my own  
personal business.

RILEY BINA

Are you afraid I'll see something?  
We're about to die together!

DJ CHELLO

That doesn't mean I can't have some  
privacy! Maybe you should trust me  
for once in your goddamn-

INT. THE MINDY DINING ROOM - MICHIGAN - CONTINUOUS

THE HOUSE IS SHAKING VIOLENTLY.

KATE

This coffee isn't store bought is  
it?

RANDALL

Never. I always grind my own beans.

JUNE

It's true. Randall is very  
particular about his coffee.

## YULE

How do you grind coffee beans at-

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, PEOPLE AND TREES PLUME OUT in the massive explosion.

We weave and snake through pieces of buildings, a hunk of gold from the comet, a copy of President Orlean's best selling "HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE NONE", a skateboard, half a whale etc until 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.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE - 180 YEARS LATER

The ship navigates past a giant exploding galaxy. And towards a sparkling array of stars.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPACE - 3543 YEARS LATER

The spaceship cruises past a black hole devouring an asteroid field.

EXT. SPACE - 6788 YEARS LATER

The ship now dented and dirty is orbiting a planet that has a blue green hue to it.

EXT. NEW PLANET - 22,740 YEARS LATER - DAY

The SHIP ENTERS THE ATMOSPHERE AND LANDS IN A CLEARING OF BLUE 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 - CONTINUOUS

PAN past all the cryo-chambers showing the names of their occupants: TED BILES-CEO INTER-BANK, HARRY TELT -CEO OF I.G.T., PETER ISHERWELL -CEO OF BASH, MICHELLE YAO -CEO OF MCKINSEY, JANIE ORLEAN -PRESIDENT OF USA, KID ROCK - MUSICIAN, CONGRESSMAN TENANT -etc.

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

There are 54 dead in there. And we lost the entire Goldman Sachs pod.

LOBBYIST

Is that good news or bad news?

Some chuckles.

PETER ISHERWELL

Pods 3 and 6 were destroyed roughly thousand years ago to a meteor storm.

OLD BILLIONAIRE  
I saw the frozen eggs and semen are  
preserved and safe.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT  
There's fruit on these trees.  
(he takes a bite)  
Delicious.

PETER ISHERWELL  
(looking around at the  
world)  
I think this will work quite well.  
Quite well indeed...

PRESIDENT ORLEAN  
Look at that beautiful creature.  
How striking...

President Orlean walks toward a feathered bear type creature  
20 yards away. It immediately ATTACKS and kills her.

PRESIDENT ORLEAN (CONT'D)  
(horrific scream)

KID ROCK  
Holy shit. That's nasty.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT  
What is that thing?

PETER ISHERWELL  
I believe that's a Brontaroc.

OLD BILLIONAIRE  
Where are the engineers and  
laborers? I want a house.

PETER ISHERWELL  
They were on pod 3. They're all  
dead.

OLD BILLIONAIRE  
I'll give anyone who builds me a  
house ten million dollars.

CONGRESSMAN TENANT  
Hell I'll give 20 million.

PETER ISHERWELL  
I'm offering a billion.

OLD BILLIONAIRE  
5 billion.

PETER ISHERWELL  
20 billion.

They continue on with no takers 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!!!!!!

OUT