



**"Colonial Day"**

**Fully Collated**

**September 14, 2004**

**Written by  
Carla Robinson**

**Episode # 11 / T1811**

# BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

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### REVISION HISTORY

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COLOR</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
8/2/04	White	1-54
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9/8/04	Cherry Revisions	41A, 41B

# BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

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## CAST

Commander William Adama

President Laura Roslin

Capt Lee Adama

Lt Kara Thrace

Col Saul Tigh

Gaius Baltar

Chief Galen Tyrol

Lt Sharon Valerii

Number Six

Gaeta

Helo

Billy Keikeya

Playa Palacios

Tom Zarek

Sekou Hamilton

Ellen Tigh

Marshall Bagot

Wallace Gray

Leon Grimes

James McManus

Sarah Porter

Spectator #1

Valance

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## SETS

### BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

Adama's Quarters  
Baltar's Lab  
Jr Officers' Quarters

### COLONIAL ONE

Laura's Quarters  
Inner Office  
Laura's Office

### SPACE

Exteriors  
Cloud Nine  
The Fleet

### MISC

INT. SPACE SHIP - Storage Area  
INT. ASTRAL QUEEN - Control Room

### CAPRICA

Exteriors  
Delphi Spaceport  
Delphi Spaceport - Outbldgs.  
Hill Outside Delphi

### CLOUD NINE

Interiors  
Ballroom  
Restaurant & Bar  
Conference Room  
Diplomats' Hall  
Unisex Bathroom

### Exteriors

Lawn  
Rose Garden  
Plaza

'Colonial Day'

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE - THE FLEET

We're TRAVELLING BACK THROUGH the fleet, heading for a large DOMED SHIP near the rear of the formation. As we travel, we hear a BUZZ, a few POPS and CRACKLES and we begin to realize that we're hearing the ragged start-up of a WIRELESS TALK SHOW.

VOICE (WIRELESS)

--art yet? Getting a baseline sig-  
BUZZZZZ--ait. Test-test. Okay, I  
think we're--CRACKLE-CRACKLE--got  
it. Test-test. There. Frak--  
we're on, we're on. Go!

MOVE IN on the domed ship -- CLOUD NINE.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

Live, from Cloud Nine, the most  
luxurious cruise ship in the fleet,  
it's *The Colonial Gang*!

EXT. CLOUD NINE - ROSE GARDEN - DAY

On a blue sky with brush strokes of white clouds. TILT DOWN TO REVEAL: the Colonial Flag fluttering from a flagpole, a banner proclaiming, "Welcome Quorum Delegates," and finally three broadcast journalists sitting on a stone bench amid a riot of colorful flowers. They wear headsets and lean toward mics. They include: the host, JAMES MCMANUS -- a bombastic blowhard - - and his two panelists, PLAYA and HAMILTON. There's also an ENGINEER, trying to keep the show on the air with the makeshift equipment available: wires snake through the garden, connecting bulky consoles and transmitters.

MCMANUS

The new talk show that brings you the inside scoop on the fleet's movers and shakers. I'm James McManus, formerly of the Caprica Times. With me are two of the only remaining legitimate journalists left in the universe: Playa Palacios, veteran commentator for the Picon Star Tribune, and Sekou Hamilton, former editor of the Aerilon Gazette.



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2 INT. SPACE SHIP - STORAGE SPACE - CLOSE ON BRIEFCASE 2

Made of BLACK POLYCARBONATE. A MAN'S HANDS carefully place a thin layer of PACKING FOAM backed with DARK X-RAY ABSORBER into it. REVEAL A WORK BENCH, with a small WIRELESS on it.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

As most of you probably know, Cloud Nine was damaged during the Cylon attack and had to be evacuated. With repairs now complete, President Roslin has picked it as the site for an historic gathering: the first meeting of the Interim Quorum of Twelve, which will coincide with Colonial Day, the 52nd anniversary of the signing of the Articles of Colonization.

Next to the wireless rests a dark gleaming PISTOL with a SILENCER. The MOLDS it was made from lie beside it. The male hands pick up the pistol and break it like a shotgun, revealing an OVER AND UNDER BARREL (like a Derringer) and two dull black composite BULLETS. The hands strip the weapon down into the dual silencer, receiver, and barrel assembly. All the components are made of CERAMIC.

3 EXT. CLOUD NINE - ROSE GARDEN - DAY 3

The Colonial Gang continues its broadcast.

MCMANUS

As we speak, survivors from each of the Twelve Colonies are selecting delegates for the Interim Quorum and excitement is running high in the fleet over what some are calling a tangible sign of the rebirth of democracy in the post-holocaust era.

(points his finger)  
Playa, weigh in!

PLAYA

According to Press Secretary Billy Keikeya, the Interim Quorum will have the power to write laws, create a budget, and approve Presidential appointments. Laura Roslin should be applauded for restoring the system of checks and balances--

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

MCMANUS

Give me a frakking break!

PLAYA

Loud-mouthed demagogues like you,  
Jim, who have been calling Laura  
Roslin a fascist, owe her an  
apology.

MCMANUS

WRONG! All of the delegates  
selected so far are Roslin cronies.  
A puppet Quorum that will rubber-  
stamp every edict this power-mad  
school teacher...

INT. SPACE SHIP - STORAGE SPACE - ON CASE - AS BEFORE

The bottom of the case now sports another thin layer of foam.  
The man's hands slip the pistol parts into custom cutouts.

HAMILTON (WIRELESS)

How can you say that when only half  
of the Quorum has been selected?

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

I predict every single last one of  
them will be Roslin lackeys, hand-  
picked by the power behind the  
throne: Presidential advisor,  
Wallace Gray. Gray orchestrated  
this hype-happy publicity stunt to  
boost Roslin's popularity.

The hands place the four bullets into slots in the foam.

EXT. CLOUD NINE - ROSE GARDEN - DAY

The Colonial Gang continues their debate.

PLAYA

Oh, come on, Jim. Wallace Gray's  
no prince of darkness.

HAMILTON

He's helped Roslin regulate the  
internal economy, made sure vital  
food and medical supplies were  
fairly distributed



6 INT. COLONIAL ONE - LAURA'S OFFICE - CLOSE ON WIRELESS 6

As it broadcasts the talk show.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

... He's a fatuous gas bag who's  
made a fortune through kickback  
deals that members of this Quorum  
profited from.

REVEAL a disgusted LAURA as she turns the wireless off.

LAURA

(to herself)

Freedom of the press.

WALLACE GRAY (60s) appears in the doorway with a lop-sided  
grin. He projects cool authority and a healthy dose of self-  
deprecating humor.

GRAY

Madame President, the fatuous gas  
bag would like a few minutes of  
your time.

LAURA

Absolutely. Come on in. How does it  
feel to be a celebrity?

Gray ENTERS and sits down with a leather case.

GRAY

Love it. They'll probably start  
calling me a fascist next.

LAURA

No, I'm the fascist. You just stick  
with being the gas bag.

An anxious Billy bursts into the room, and makes a beeline  
for the wireless.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

BILLY

Madame President. You'll want to hear this.

He snaps on the wireless.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

...believe this stunning development -- The people of Sagitaron have selected their representative for the Quorum of Twelve. Tom Zarek.

LAURA

My gods.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

The question now being hotly debated in the fleet: Who is Tom Zarek? Freedom fighter or ruthless terrorist?

GRAY

He's a terrorist, who are they kidding?

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

Hamilton, weigh in!

BILLY

He's got quite a following out there.

HAMILTON (WIRELESS)

Tom Zarek incited a prison riot that resulted in kidnapping, attempted rape, and a death.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

WRONG! Charges trumped up by the government to discredit a man who has dedicated his life to the disenfranchised. What -- hold on folks, I'm getting a news bulletin...

GRAY

Zarek blew up a government building, how can he sit on the Quorum of Twelve?

There's a pause and a crackle of STATIC from the wireless. The phone RINGS and Billy picks it up.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: (2)

BILLY

(to phone)

Yes? Just a moment.

(to Laura)

Madame President -- it's Commander Adama.

Laura takes the phone.

LAURA

Commander?

INTERCUT:

6A

INT. ADAMA'S QUARTERS

6A

ADAMA in his quarters listening to the same broadcast.

ADAMA

You can't let a terrorist sit in government.

LAURA

Sagitaron law allows a prisoner to regain citizenship once he's served his time.

ADAMA

Tom Zarek represents a danger to the security of this fleet. I can bar him from travelling to Cloud Nine on that basis alone.

LAURA

People are already calling me a fascist. The last thing I need right now is you acting like the head of my personal goon squad.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

And we're back! Hold onto your undershorts, folks! We've got a live feed from the Astral Queen, where Tom Zarek is about to make a statement.

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7 INT. ASTRAL QUEEN - CONTROL CENTER - CLOSE ON TOM ZAREK 7

TOM ZAREK leans into a mic with the fire of an evangelist.

ZAREK

Citizens of the Twelve Colonies, I am humbled and moved by this great honor. I will be a voice for those who have gone too long unheard by a government that serves only the privileged and the powerful, that turns a blind eye to the needs of the weak and the poor...

8 INT. COLONIAL ONE - LAURA'S OFFICE 8

Laura, Gray, and Billy listen to the broadcast.

ZAREK (WIRELESS)

But Roslin and her confederates will no longer be able to ignore us.

LAURA

(quiet)

Oh, I'm not going to ignore you, Tom.

9 INT. SPACE SHIP - STORAGE SPACE - ON CASE - RESUME 9

The assassin carefully QUICKGLUES a stiff layer of polycarbonate backed with more X-RAY ABSORBER over the tray of gun parts. It looks like an empty case again. Taps it.

ZAREK (WIRELESS)

People of the fleet, look up. The winds of change are blowing. A new era is about to dawn.

Satisfied it will hold, the man puts a SHAVING KIT and some CLOTHES inside. He snaps the case shut.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10

OMITTED

10

11

OMITTED

11

12

INT. GALACTICA - BALTAR'S LAB - CLOSE ON SAMPLE TUBE

12

An eyedropper slips two drops of reagent into it. A weary  
BALTAR sighs.

KARA (O.S.)

Hey, Doc.

Baltar finds KARA standing in the doorway, CANE in hand.

BALTAR

Lieutenant Thrace, to what do I owe  
this honor?

KARA

Our shuttle leaves for the Cloud  
Nine at oh-five-twelve tomorrow.  
Don't be late.

BALTAR

"Our" shuttle...?

NUMBER SIX slides into view.

NUMBER SIX

A surprise getaway? Just the two  
of you?

KARA

Yes, I'll be handling your  
security.

BALTAR

I see. Security for what?

KARA

You haven't heard? It's all over  
talk wireless.

BALTAR

Not much of a talk wireless fan  
really -- bunch of low-brow rabble-  
rousers and agitators

(CONTINUED)



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CONTINUED:

KARA

You've just been selected as  
Caprica's delegate to the Quorum of  
Twelve.

BALTAR

Me?

KARA

Guess you got the super-genius  
vote. No accounting for taste.  
Congratulations.

BALTAR

Thank you, but... politics?  
Interminable speeches, dreary  
ceremonies --

NUMBER SIX

Parties full of young women drawn  
to men of power...

BALTAR

But when the people call, you must  
serve.

13

EXT. SPACE - CLOUD NINE

13

The SHIP dwarfs the SHUTTLES angling toward its docking port.  
It features an immense enclosed dome, like the sphere of an  
observatory, but completely sealed.

14

EXT. CLOUD NINE - ROSE GARDEN - DAY

14

Lee and Kara come up a flight of stairs into the garden. Kara  
leans over to inhale the scent of a flower.

KARA

My Gods. I almost forgot what they  
smell like.

LEE

(squints at the sky)  
Can't remember the last time I felt  
sunlight on my face.

Kara casts a professional eye over the garden. There's a  
GARDENER working in the flower beds and a few other people  
strolling on the paths.

(CONTINUED)

Kara steps up on a curb to look over a hedge at the horizon. She discovers the brilliant sky ends in a set of spotlights illuminating a CYCLORAMA. We realize the sky is fake.

KARA

Could've done a better job with the horizon.

She turns back to survey the garden.

(CONTINUED)

KARA (cont'd)

Security's gonna be a bitch.  
Thousand different hiding places  
for a sniper. How many people are  
we dealing with?

LEE

Five hundred plus. Each colony's  
sending a delegation of leading  
citizens.

KARA

Great. Herds of lookie-loos, any  
one of whom could be a Cylon.

LEE

Toasters aren't our only problem.  
Don't you pay any attention to  
politics?

KARA

Nope.

Kara, now behind Lee, notices a HOSE on the ground, flowing  
with water where the gardener left it to water some roses.

LEE

Lotta unrest out there.

KARA

Then why's Roslin insisting we let  
so many people come?

Kara surreptitiously picks up the hose.

LEE

The President thinks it's important  
they have an opportunity to observe  
their government in action.

KARA

So basically, she's already running  
for re-election.

Kara sticks the hose down the back of Lee's pants. Lee jumps,  
yanks it out. Turns the hose on her. Kara SHRIEKS playfully.  
Off the two of them carrying on like a couple of kids.

15 EXT. CLOUD NINE - ELEVATOR - DAY

15

CLOSE ON BLACK BRIEFCASE: REVEAL it being thrust onto the X-RAY CONVEYOR. It vanishes into the machine.

A COMPUTER SCREEN sees nothing but clothes and the shaving kit in the case as it passes through.

SECURITY AGENT #1 (O.S.)  
Clear. Welcome to Cloud Nine.  
Hope your stay will be a pleasant one.

VALANCE (O.S.)  
Me too.

ON THE BRIEFCASE as the man's HANDS pick it up and carry the case past a MARINE GUARD to an elevator. The man enters the elevator with the briefcase.

PLAYA (PRELAP)  
The atmosphere is electric as Quorum members arrive with their delegations.

16 INT. CLOUD NINE - PLAZA - DAY

16

The elevator doors open and the UNIDENTIFIED MAN with the briefcase enters the plaza. We stay on the briefcase and never see the man's face. The place is packed with CITIZENS, POLITICOS, and JOURNALISTS. Playa stands nearby, speaking into her mic.

PLAYA  
I'm outside the Cloud Nine Ballroom where the reception for the new Quorum of Twelve is about to take place. But the question on everyone's mind is: will President Roslin actually shake the hand of a man many still regard as a terrorist or will she snub him and by extension, all the people of Sagitaron?

In front of the entrance to the Diplomatic Hall, COLONEL TIGH and his wife, ELLEN, stand in a receiving line with the President and Billy. Kara keeps an eye on Laura. Tigh and Ellen greet arriving dignitaries, including Baltar. AD-LIBBING: "Welcome aboard." "Nice to see you." "I'm Colonel Tigh, Executive Officer of Galactica." Etc. Tigh finally turns to Ellen, and speaks through gritted teeth.

(CONTINUED)

TIGH

(sotto, with big smile)

Kill me now.

(to next delegate)

Hello, I'm Colonel Tigh, this is my wife Ellen...

ELLEN

Hello, welcome aboard. I hope we get a chance to talk later.

(sotto)

This is your chance, Saul. Don't blow it.

TIGH

Blow what? -- Hello, I'm Colonel Tigh, this is my wife Ellen...

ELLEN

Hello, welcome aboard. I do hope we have a chance a chance to visit later.

(sotto)

Today you're the face of Galactica. Savior of humanity. People will remember you.

TIGH

I don't want to be remembered, I want a drink. -- Hello, I'm Colonel Tigh, this is my wife Ellen...

ELLEN

Hello, welcome aboard. I'm so looking forward to chatting with you later.

(sotto)

You need to start thinking about the future. If you ever to want to get out from under Bill's shadow, you need to start making a name for yourself.

Meanwhile, ACROSS THE PLAZA...

#### THE BRIEFCASE

Is carried by the man up the stairs to where the bystanders are grouped. The man passes another man and as he does, offers his free hand. The two exchange a "prison handshake."

(CONTINUED)



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CONTINUED: (2)

13.

16

TILT UP TO REVEAL the two men. The one with the briefcase is VALANCE. He looks like a hardened con dressed up for a parole hearing. The man who greeted him is LEON GRIMES, a huge and imposing figure. After shaking hands, they go their separate ways.

ACROSS THE PLAZA, Lee spots Zarek COMING DOWN THE STAIRS just behind Grimes and a ANOTHER THUG.

LEE

(into his wrist mike)

Starbuck. Apollo. Zarek's here.

KARA

Copy. Keep an eye on his friends.

Zarek heads for the receiving line. Grimes and his Thug head toward the spectators. One hollers...

SPECTATOR #1

Murderer! You don't belong here,  
Zarek. Go back to prison!

Grimes grabs the Spectator by his shirtfront.

GRIMES

What did you say?

Lee's iron grip lands on Grimes' shoulder.

LEE

May I see your security pass, sir?

Grimes releases the man, turns, testosterone-charged and ready to party. Lee takes his measure. The man is HUGE.

GRIMES

(digging it out)

No problem. I'm a citizen of  
Sagitaron with every legal right to  
be here.

LEE

(examining the pass)

Your rights don't extend to  
roughing people up. Lay a hand on  
anyone else and you'll be getting  
to know Galactica's brig.

(hands back the pass)

Everything's in order, sir. Enjoy  
your stay on Cloud Nine.

(CONTINUED)

GRIMES

Oh, I will.

ACROSS THE PLAZA, all eyes are on Zarek as he works his way through the reception line. The Journalists are eagerly taking pictures and recording every moment from their limited vantage. Zarek arrives at Tigh & Ellen, holds out a hand.

ZAREK

Hello. I'm Tom Zarek.

Tigh pointedly does not offer his hand.

TIGH

(terse)

Colonel Tigh. From Galactica.

Zarek registers the snub, doesn't let it phase him.

ZAREK

I see.

TIGH

My wife.

ZAREK

Does she have a name?

ELLEN

Ellen.

A quick beat, then Ellen does offer her hand, much to Tigh's disapproval -- as Zarek takes her hand, FLASHES go off and the journalists are all set a titter.

LAURA

At the end of the line, notes the commotion, but focuses on the woman in front of her -- SARAH PORTER of Gemenon.

PORTER

... but I hope we have time to discuss it later.

LAURA

I hope so too.

Porter moves off and Billy steps up behind Laura.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: (4)

16

15

16

BILLY

(sotto)

You decided what you're going to do  
when Zarek gets here?

LAURA

(sotto)

Yes.

But another delegate approaches and Billy will have to wait  
along with everyone else.

ZAREK

Still with the Tighs.

ZAREK

Call me Tom. I don't like to stand  
on ceremony.

ELLEN

I'm the same way. All this  
pretention. Makes me sick.

TIGH

(to Ellen)

You're holding up the line.

ZAREK

Thank you, Ellen for making me feel  
welcome.

ELLEN

I hope we see you again.

Zarek moves on.

TIGH

What the hell'd you do that for!

ELLEN

Getting our picture on the front  
page of every half-baked newsletter  
and photo service in the fleet.

TIGH

I don't need a picture of me with a  
terrorist.

ELLEN

Wake up, Saul. Look at those  
cameras.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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16

CONTINUED: (5)

16

16

ELLEN (cont'd)

Roslin's the past, Zarek's the future. Blind man can see that -- Hello, I'm Ellen Tigh.

ZAREK

Approaches Laura, and the room falls still as every eye turns to their encounter.

ZAREK

Madame President.

LAURA

Mister Zarek.

ZAREK

Good to see you again, Billy.

Billy glares at him coldly. Zarek seems not to notice.

ZAREK (cont'd)

If I were to offer you my hand in friendship, would you take it?

LAURA

There's one way to find out.

Zarek takes her measure for a moment, then holds out his hand. There's a breathless moment as everyone waits... then Laura steps forward and KISSES ZAREK ON BOTH CHEEKS. There's an EXPLOSION OF CAMERA FLASHES.

ELLEN

Watches with annoyance.

ELLEN

There goes our front page photo. Bitch.

LAURA

Releases Zarek, who nods and smiles at her. Zarek turns slightly, plays the following more for the crowd of journalists and spectators than for Laura:

ZAREK

Although I've been one of your most vocal critics Madame President, it's important to give you your due.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: (6)

ZAREK (cont'd)

You were thrust into a job you were in no way prepared or equipped for, at a time of terrible tragedy. But you have risen to meet the challenge with courage and tenacity. For that, we owe you a great debt.

Scattered APPLAUSE, mixed with BOOS.

LAURA

And I want you to know, Mister Zarek, that I welcome voices of dissent, however radical they might be.

Unanimous THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE.

ZAREK

(sotto, to Laura)

Nicely played. Just remember, I'm not your enemy, Madame President.

LAURA

(smiles)

I hope not. For your sake.

INT. CLOUD NINE - DIPLOMATS' HALL - DAY

MOVE over the Quorum delegates, each with a flag of their colony and a nameplate. Some take notes, others listen intently as Laura addresses them all from a podium on the stage below.

LAURA (O.S.)

... and I look forward to working with each of you, not only this week, but in the months ahead. I know today's agenda is a full one...

CAMERA STOPS on GAIUS BALTAR - CAPRICA. His head sways slightly as his eyelids slowly sink shut.

LAURA (cont'd)

... but I think you'll see that each of today's meetings concern vital issues to the fleet...

Six slides in next to Baltar and nudges him. His eyes pop open. LAURA'S VOICE FADES OUT.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

NUMBER SIX

You're missing an intriguing opportunity.

(off his look)

Playa's not wearing any underwear.

Baltar tries to catch a confirming glimpse as Playa crosses her shapely legs.

BALTAR

Don't be absurd.

(off Six's knowing grin)

Really?

NUMBER SIX

She's been eyeing you all afternoon.

BALTAR

What? You're not jealous?

NUMBER SIX

Love isn't about sex, Gaius.

BALTAR

What an enlightened point of view.

NUMBER SIX

As far as I'm concerned you can have any woman you want. But always remember -- I have your heart.

BALTAR

Of course you do.

NUMBER SIX

And I can always rip it out of your chest if I have to.

POLITE LAUGHTER jerks Baltar from his reverie. He smiles and joins in as Laura acknowledges the response to some joke she made and then moves on to the next item on the agenda.

#### THE BLACK BRIEFCASE

Is in this very room. Someone mixed in with the various aides and assistants who constantly move in and out of the room, taking messages to the delegates and running errands is the potential assassin and is very close to the President.

(CONTINUED)

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17 CONTINUED: (2)

19

17

LAURA

If there are no objections, the chair will entertain motions to accept today's agenda as proposed.

ZAREK

I have an objection.

Laura's smile tightens ever so slightly.

LAURA

The chair recognizes Sagitaron.

ZAREK

All the items on your agenda are important, I agree -- ration distribution, education, medical services -- all very, very important. But I'm shocked to discover the most critical issue is nowhere to be found.

LAURA

Perhaps you could enlighten us, Mr. Zarek?

ZAREK

The election of a Vice President.

(beat)

If anything should happen to you, Madame President, we have no designated successor. The civilian branch of our government would be paralyzed, leaving the door wide open for a military dictatorship.

This ignites agitated MUTTERING among the delegates.

ZAREK (cont'd)

Sagitaron moves that the first item on the Quorum's agenda should be nominations for Vice President.

NUMBER SIX

(to Baltar)

Second.

BALTAR

What?

(CONTINUED)

NUMBER SIX

(harsh)

Second!

BALTAR

Second!

Everyone looks to Baltar in surprise.

BALTAR (cont'd)

Caprica seconds for... well, for various reasons, really. Most of which are... too obvious and numerous to name. But certainly, well, it couldn't hurt to have a successor.

Laura glares at Baltar, considers her options but doesn't really have any.

LAURA

The motion has moved and seconded.

(to the Quorum)

All in favor of opening nominations for the Vice Presidency, say aye.

Every delegate says aye.

LAURA (cont'd)

The ayes have it.

The press pool begins hurriedly reporting the news -- some reporters rush out the room, and there's a general buzz. Billy leans over to Laura, pretends to hand her something to read.

LAURA (cont'd)

(sotto)

Damn it. This isn't the time or the place.

BILLY

(sotto)

Should we call for a recess? We can shuttle back to Colonial One and regroup.

LAURA

(pretending to read)

Not yet. It'll look weak. Let's see where Zarek's going with this.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LAURA (cont'd)

Baltar's a slippery one. But I  
doubt they're working together.

(GAVELS for order)

The floor is open for nominations.

Everyone looks at Zarek -- but doesn't makes a move. Then,  
from the opposite end of the room MARSHALL BAGOT, lifts a  
hand.

LAURA (cont'd)

Chair recognizes Virgon.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: (5)

BAGOT

We need a Vice President who is not afraid to offer divergent opinions which will complement those of our President Laura Roslin. There's one man here who's willing to work hard for the betterment of the people in this fleet. When I asked for his help, he sent a crew to repair the air filtration system on my ship. They were finished and gone while I was still waiting for the President's office to return my call. I nominate... Tom Zarek.

This ignites a scattering of CHEERS AND BOOS.

LAURA

Is there a second?

Silence. Laura scans the table, looking for Zarek's next ally. Finally, Sarah Porter raises her hand.

PORTER

Gemenon seconds the nomination.

LAURA

The nomination of Tom Zarek for Vice President... is accepted.

THE CHEERS AND BOOS INTENSIFY into a cacophony of noise.

LAURA (cont'd)

(tersely)

The floor will remain open for nominations for the next 72 hours. This session is adjourned.

Laura and Zarek lock eyes, the dual between them now fully underway.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

FADE IN:

18

INT. COLONIAL ONE - LAURA'S OFFICE

18

Laura sits with Billy, Lee and Gray.

LAURA

Tom Zarek is not going to be my Vice President.

BILLY

He screwed up our plans. If this could've waited a few more months until the presidential election, we could've hand-picked a candidate to run on our ticket.

LEE

Now the Quorum could select someone completely opposed to your policies.

GRAY

It doesn't surprise me that Bagot nominated him. But Porter, that's a shocker.

LAURA

Not really. The Gemenon ships use more water per capita than the rest of the ships in the fleet. She wanted more rations, I said no.

GRAY

Zarek may have won a few friends in recent weeks, but there are still plenty of people who hate him.

LEE

Don't underestimate Zarek. He's charismatic and knows how to push the right buttons. I'm also frankly concerned about security aboard Cloud Nine.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

I want you leaning forward on this, Captain. If they sneeze, they better have a handkerchief.

LEE

Understood.

LAURA

We need a candidate. Someone who can quickly win the support of the delegates.

BILLY

An established name.

She looks at Gray. He blanches.

GRAY

I'm no politician.

LAURA

But you know how to get things done. You've kept this fleet functioning these past months. A lot of people know that.

(CONTINUED)

Gray still hesitates. Laura can't afford to pussy-foot around.

LAURA (cont'd)

I won't risk Tom Zarek being one heartbeat away from the presidency. I need you, Wally.

GRAY

Then you've got me.

19 OMITTED

19

20 OMITTED

20

21 OMITTED

21

22 OMITTED

22

22A EXT. CAPRICA - HILL OUTSIDE DELPHI - DAY - RAIN

22A

The Telamon Building still towers over the ruins of the city skyline. REVEAL HELO and SHARON standing amid a fir grove. He's staring through binoculars at the distant metropolis.

SUPER: CYLON OCCUPIED CAPRICA

HELO

Telamon Building's still standing. It's Delphi, all right.

(hands her binocs)

Now all we have to do is wait until dark, infiltrate the most heavily fortified military hub on this planet, hope the Cylons haven't completely wasted the spaceport, steal a ship, locate Galactica and fly to her without getting shot to hell.

SHARON

Is that all?

(checks the sky)

Then I guess we can kick back, wait 'till dark. Might as well make ourselves comfortable. Hungry?

(CONTINUED)

HELO

Not right now.

She walks over to their campsite, opens the burlap sack and removes three cans of beans, chili, and stew. Begins opening all three. Helo smiles.

HELO (cont'd)

Guess your stomach's feeling better.

SHARON

Starving.

Because she's pregnant. But she can't tell him that.

HELO

I've been trying to make sense out of the two women we saw with the Cylons.

Sharon's hand hesitates ever so slightly on the can opener, then she resumes twisting it.

SHARON

And?

HELO

I can't fathom why anybody would help the toasters. And they just happened to be twins? That's too weird...

SHARON

Got a better explanation?

HELO

You think the Cylons could be messing with human DNA? Cloning people or something?

Sharon cuts her finger on the can, but conceals it from him.

SHARON

Could be.

HELO

That would explain how they took us by surprise.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HELO (cont'd)

They had these replicated humans infiltrating the Colonies, laying the groundwork for the surprise attack.

She sees a way to start telling him the truth about herself.

SHARON

If they are... human clones, that means they're capable of... complex emotions, maybe even love. Maybe they're misguided because of the way they were indoctrinated, but --

HELO

Whatever they are, they're not human. No human could do the things they've done. Killed billions of innocent people. They've gotta be frakking Cylons, just like the rest of them.

Sharon realizes it's hopeless. She can never tell him. If she does, he'll hate her, and she couldn't bear that. She sucks on her cut finger, fighting back tears. Tries to nod casually.

SHARON

Yeah, I guess.

Sharon scoops out a spoonful of cold stew.

EXT. CLOUD NINE - ROSE GARDEN - DAY

The Colonial Gang's in session with guest, Tom Zarek. They walk with him through the garden as they interview him. A GROUP of people gathers, listening intently and watching Zarek. A few take pictures.

MCMANUS

Talk about a roller coaster ride, ladies and gentlemen!  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



MCMANUS (cont'd)

Wallace Gray throws his hat into the Vice Presidential contest and now we've got a horse race on our hands. With us is Tom Zarek. Tom, you must admit, Gray is an impressive name.

ZAREK

He's more than just a name. He's a very impressive man.

HAMILTON

(sarcastic)

So you're going to vote for him.

ZAREK

(smiles)

I'll think about it. But probably not.

PLAYA

How can you reassure people that you're really looking out for their interests as opposed to the rehabilitation of Tom Zarek?

ZAREK

That's a great question, Playa. This is how I see it. We're facing a situation so unique, so specific, that I believe we need not only new leadership, but a whole new way of thinking.

HAMILTON

Like blowing up a building or two?

ZAREK

If things weren't so serious, I'd say that was funny.

(beat)

There's no economy. No market. No industry. No capital. Money's worthless. And yet, we're all held hostage by the idea of the way things used to be.

(beat)

Look where we are.

Zarek gestures to a GARDNER working amongst the flowers. The man reacts with embarrassment.

(CONTINUED)

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23

CONTINUED: (2)

28

23

ZAREK (cont'd)

This man wakes up every morning,  
tugs on his boots and goes to work  
in this garden. Why? Because it's  
his job? What job? He labors, but  
he gets no benefit from his labor.  
And he's not the only one.

The Gardener nods. Zarek looks out at the faces of the crowd -  
- he's touching a nerve with them.

23A

INT. COLONIAL ONE - LAURA'S QUARTERS

23A

Laura listening to Zarek on the wireless.

ZAREK (WIRELESS)

Many of us are still just going  
through the motions of our old  
lives. The lawyers still act like  
lawyers, but they have no clients.  
Businessmen still act like  
businessmen, but have no business.

(beat)

President Roslin and her policies  
are all about holding onto a  
fantasy.

23B

OMITTED

23B

24

INT. CLOUD NINE - RESTAURANT & BAR

24

A disgusted Lee has heard just about enough. Across the room,  
Kara talks with a delegate.

ZAREK (WIRELESS)

If we want to survive, we need to  
completely restructure our lives.  
We need to think about the  
community of citizens. The group,  
not the individual. We need to free  
ourselves of the past and operate  
as a collective.

LEE

(to the bartender)

He's not interested in "the  
citizens." All he wants is power.  
Turn that crap off.

The BARTENDER complies. Grimes who is nearby, moves closer.

(CONTINUED)

GRIMES

We were listening to that broadcast.

LEE

That's a shame.

GRIMES

(indicating other patrons)  
They want to hear Mister Zarek speak too.

He turns to an INOFFENSIVE FUNCTIONARY a couple seats away.

GRIMES (cont'd)

Don't you, buddy?

Intimidated, the man nods.

GRIMES (cont'd)

See? He wants to hear Mr. Zarek.

He turns to VALANCE, who's been observing anxiously from a few stools away.

GRIMES (cont'd)

How about you? You want to hear what Mister Zarek has to say?

VALANCE

I don't mind one way or the other.

GRIMES

I take that as a yes.

(to Bartender)

Turn it on. Now.

LEE

Leave it.

VALANCE

We don't want any trouble.

The bartender nervously looks between the two men, who are definitely heading toward a collision.

(CONTINUED)

GRIMES

Zarek's a representative of the people and we're the people.

LEE

You're people. Sort of.

GRIMES

Don't like your tone, fly boy. Why don't you move along out of here and enjoy the imitation weather?

LEE

Happy to. After you leave. Which is now.

Grimes assesses the determination in Lee's eyes. Decides he means business.

GRIMES

Okay. Like the man said, don't want no trouble.

Grimes turns away, but as he does his body blocks his right hand from Lee's view. It grips the neck of a bottle. In one fluid motion, Grimes pivots, swings the bottle toward Lee's temple. Too late, Lee ducks. The bottle caroms across the top of his head. Lee staggers back.

KARA TURNS, startled.

KARA

What the frak?

She starts forward, but Grimes' THUG blocks her. After trading a few blows, the Thug hits her in her weak knee... she goes down, but uses her cane against him to devastating effect.

Across the room, Grimes swings the bottle at Lee again. Lee catches his wrist and wrenches the bottle free. It falls to the floor and rolls. Grimes and Lee grapple and fall to the floor.

KARA

Hits the Thug in the groin with her cane. He doubles over, she whips the cane around the back of his neck and yanks him to the ground, hard. He's out cold.

(CONTINUED)

As she tries to stand however, her bum knee's killing her, and as she gazes across the panicking room, she spots Valance, on the ground, struggling to pick up the cubits that are littered on the ground.

Valance's coat has draped open and inside she sees....his GUN. Valance is getting up to flee the room....Kara has a choice....pursue Valance or help Lee, who's been pinned to the ground by Grimes.

Kara limps after Valance, but as she does so, she passes the dropped bottle. She hits it with her cane, like a hockey shot.

KARA (cont'd)

Apollo, incoming!

Lee catches the bottle as it rockets toward his hand.

Kara, still limping after Valance, dives as he nears the exit. It's a good open field tackle...they both go down....the gun skitters over floor. She and Valance wrestle to grab it.

Lee SMASHES the bottle into Grimes' head, breaking it. He quickly reverses their positions and pins Grimes to the floor, with the broken bottle pressed against his neck.

LEE

Looking for this?

Kara manages to grab the gun, turns it on Valance. He stops and reluctantly raises his hands.

END OF ACT TWO



ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25

OMITTED

25

26

INT. CLOUD NINE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

26

Valance sits on a straight-backed chair. His pleasant demeanor has vanished. He's a tough, calculating man. Lee and Kara walk around the room, keeping him off balance. Both officers bear evidence of the recent fight. Kara SLAPS Valance in the head with an ITINERARY.

KARA

Why'd you have a summit itinerary?  
Why circle every scheduled public  
appearance of President Roslin?

VALANCE

It's not mine.

KARA

So some stranger wandered down the  
hall, picked the lock on your room.  
And left this there.

Lee tosses the GUN CASE onto the table.

LEE

False-bottom with anechoic coating  
to absorb X-rays. Ceramic stealth  
gun...

KARA

You went through a lot of trouble  
to get that weapon aboard.

VALANCE

I carry a lot of money. I need  
protection --

LEE

Money's worthless. Your friend  
Zarek pointed that out.

VALANCE

I don't know Zarek.

(CONTINUED)

KARA

(shot in the dark)

Your pal Grimes says different.

(watching him carefully)

He gave you up.

Just for a second, Valance appears rattled. Recovers.

VALANCE

You're bluffing. You don't have anything.

LEE

We don't need anything, Valance. This isn't a trial. This is you and us in this room.

KARA

Like Zarek said, we're living in a whole new world. There's no due process. This is your courtroom.

Lee leans in, grabs him by the shirt

LEE

And we're your executioners.

KARA

You don't cooperate, you're going out an airlock. That's what we do with traitors.

VALANCE

(wavers)

Look, I... I...

(decides to stand firm)

I just came over for the booze and the food. That's it.

Kara and Lee look at each other, frustrated. Realize they're not going to get any further.

OMITTED

INT. COLONIAL ONE - LAURA'S QUARTERS

Laura's listening to Lee.

LEE

We put all the heat on Valance that we could. We still can't tie him to Zarek.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

I know Zarek's behind this. Keep working on Valance.

LEE

We will. But to be safe, I think you should send the entire Sagitaron delegation back to their ships.

LAURA

That would violate their civil rights and play right into Zarek's hands.

LEE

But he could still have another shooter on Cloud Nine, and if Zarek wins the vote -- he's more than capable of ordering your assassination and ascending to the presidency.

LAURA

He's not going to win. I'm going to stop him. Meanwhile, you're going to put him under surveillance, tap his phones, bug his room. We get anything connecting him to Valance, we shut him down.

They hold each other's eyes for a long beat.

28A INT. CLOUD NINE - DIPLOMATS' HALL - DAY

28A

The delegations are present, listening to Gray give a stump speech.

GRAY

You now hold in your hands a forty-page outline for all of the domestic programs we've been discussing -- plans for housing, employment, and education.

Billy leans in to whisper in the President's ear.

BILLY

(sotto)

Latest vote count is seven for Gray, five for Zarek.

LAURA

(sotto)

We're slipping. He only had four an hour ago.

(shaking her head)

Wally's a good man. But... no charisma in front of a crowd.

BILLY

Picon flipped.

LAURA

Vote's tomorrow. We have to hold our colonies for another day.

LEE

Walks around behind the delegates, leans down, smiles, puts a hand on Zarek's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

28A

CONTINUED:

28A

LEE

Hi. How're you doing? Remember me?

(beat)

We got Valance. You're next.

Lee walks off. Zarek's expression never changes.

29

OMITTED

29

29A

INT. CLOUD NINE - RESTAURANT & BAR - DAY

29A

A few WAITERS and BARTENDERS are working the room, but they're clearly too few for the crowd. Ellen is at the bar -- looks in vain for a bartender. Zarek suddenly appears, walks behind the bar.

ZAREK

Can I get you something?

ELLEN

You work here now?

ZAREK

Why should I ask the bartender to get me a drink? What's in it for him?

ELLEN

A big tip?

ZAREK

What would he spend it on?

(CONTINUED)



ELLEN

Maybe he'll save it for a rainy day.

ZAREK

It doesn't rain.

ELLEN

I'll have Ambrosia, please. Twist of lime.

Zarek takes a beat, then good-naturedly mixes her the drink.

ELLEN (cont'd)

So. Worried about Wallace Gray? I hear he's ahead in the vote count.

ZAREK

Whatever the people want is fine by me.

ELLEN

(cynically)

Everyone has an agenda. I know I do.

ZAREK

And what would that be?

ELLEN

The same as yours, Tom: Me. Myself.... and -- oh, I.

She lifts her glass and after a beat, Zarek clinks his glass to hers.

ZAREK

So. You're clearly a well-connected, well-informed woman.

ELLEN

Wife of the XO. For whatever that's worth.

ZAREK

Quite a bit. Now and in the future.

(CONTINUED)

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29A

CONTINUED: (2)

37

29A

ELLEN

That's what I'm interested in, Tom.  
My place... and my husband's place  
in the future.

ZAREK

Okay. I'm looking for a friend.  
His name is Valance.

29B

OMITTED

29B

29C

INT. CLOUD NINE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

29C

CLOSE ON KARA AND LEE looking down at something, disgusted.

KARA

How the hell did this happen?

LEE

We've got to get to the President.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

VALANCE

Lying dead in a pool of blood, his wrists slashed.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

30 OMITTED

30

30A INT. COLONIAL ONE - INNER OFFICE

30A

Laura, Billy and Tigh get the low down from Kara and Lee.

KARA

...His wrists were slashed with broken glass from the room.

BILLY

So was it suicide or murder?

LAURA

Of course it was murder. Zarek had him killed.

LEE

Unfortunately, Madame President, we can't prove that.

TIGH

How'd they get by the Marine Guard?

LEE

Through the window.

As Laura ponders this, the mention of her name on the radio draws her attention.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

... And what's your prognosis, Doctor Baltar? Is Laura Roslin's political career terminal, or is there hope of resuscitating it?

31 INT. CLOUD NINE - RESTAURANT & BAR

31

The Colonial Gang is now broadcasting from the bar. REVEAL Baltar sitting with the journalists, oozing charisma.

BALTAR

Laura Roslin's career is very much alive. To underestimate her would be a serious mistake.

FROM BALTAR'S POV, we see the crowd of adoring faces watching his every move. Baltar squares his shoulders, slants his chin to a more flattering profile. Six appears beside him.

(CONTINUED)

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31

CONTINUED:

39

31

NUMBER SIX

You miss the limelight, don't you,  
Gaius?

MCMANUS

You seriously believe that this  
school teacher --

BALTAR

You say "school teacher," like it's  
a pejorative term. Are you  
suggesting that teachers are  
somehow inferior or dishonorable?

INTERCUT:

31A

INT. COLONIAL ONE - INNER OFFICE

31A

Laura is drawn to Baltar's Wireless broadcast, while the  
others continue to talk.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

No, of course not --

BILLY

How many people knew where  
Valance was being held?

BALTAR (WIRELESS)

Glad to hear it, because I  
dare say all of us had  
teachers who made a profound  
impact on our lives.

KARA

Just the people in this room,  
plus two Marines.

[From this point on, we are moving back and forth between  
Baltar's wireless interview and Colonial One, always  
emphasizing both that Baltar is striking a chord in his  
audience and that Laura is paying more and more attention to  
his performance.]

32

OMITTED

32

33

OMITTED

33

34

INT. CLOUD NINE - RESTAURANT & BAR - RESUME

34

BALTAR

History is full of examples of  
leaders with common beginnings who  
rose to meet the challenge posed by  
cataclysmic events.

34A INT. COLONIAL ONE - INNER OFFICE

34A

Back to Laura, Billy, Tigh, Lee and Kara.

BALTAR (WIRELESS)

You see, it's easy to sit back and criticize the tough decisions that Laura Roslin has to make every day. Especially if you're someone like Zarek, who's never shouldered real responsibility in his life. How could he? He's been in prison for the last two decades. Zarek poses as some kind of savior who will cure all of our ills.

TIGH

Well, someone talked. And now we have no assassin, no evidence of a plot, no check on Zarek, no nothing.

LEE

If he got to Valance, he can get to anyone. Madame President, he will definitely try to take a shot at you now.

LAURA

(quiet)

Only if he wins the vote.



35 INT. CLOUD NINE - RESTAURANT & BAR

35

BALTAR

It's up to us to solve our problems. From Commander Adama, to the galley cooks and dishwashers. All of us have a role to play. But we must not sacrifice our freedoms. We must not yield to the siren calls of collectivization. Which are nothing more than a cover for the tyranny of conformity.

(beat)

We must survive. And we will survive. But we will do so through the values which made our colonies great. Courage. Liberty. Justice. And a deep resolve to make tomorrow better for ourselves... and for our children.

The crowd BURSTS INTO APPLAUSE AND CHEERS. Even the journalists are moved. Playa especially.

35A OMITTED

35A

35B INT. COLONIAL ONE - INNER OFFICE

35B

Laura hears the cheers. Sees how Baltar has won the crowd over.

LEE

We hear the vote is trending against you, Madame President.

LAURA

Yes, it is.

(snaps off wireless)

But I'm going to win this. And Tom Zarek's going back to his prison ship where he belongs.

Everyone watches her, wondering how she'll pull that off. Laura takes off her glasses, rubs her tired eyes as she realizes what she must do to put her new plan in place.

LAURA (cont'd)

(to Billy)

But first I have two... unpleasant duties to perform. Get me a shuttle to Cloud Nine.

35Ba INT. JR. OFFICERS' QUARTERS

35Ba \*

Kara and Lee have just showered and are changing into fresh  
blue uniforms. \*

KARA

So what're we supposed to do? Just  
sit on our hands and watch her get  
killed? \*

LEE

Zarek's too smart to try another  
shot at the president during the  
summit. If he wins the vote, he  
can take out the president later,  
once everyone's forgotten about  
Valance. He'll bide his time and  
find a better opportunity. \*

KARA

Great. \*

LEE

She says she's not going to lose  
the vote. \*

Kara pulls out a uniform that still bears some goo and stains  
from her frequent work on the Cylon Raider. \*

KARA

She says a lot of things. \*

LEE

(re: her uniform shirt)  
Don't you think you should wash  
that? \*

KARA

I did wash it. \*

LEE

Like when -- a month ago? \*

KARA

You got a problem with my hygiene? \*

LEE

You have hygiene? \*

KARA

Hey, I clean up good sometimes. \*

(CONTINUED)

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41B.

35Ba

CONTINUED:

35Ba

LEE

Let me know when it's one of those  
times.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

Lee heads out and Kara fumes.

35C EXT. CLOUD NINE - LAWN - DAY

35C

Laura is walking with Wallace Gray along the tree-lined lawn. The Colonial Flag is visible in the background.

LAURA

You're a good man, Wally. You don't deserve this and I'm sorry.

GRAY

(heated)

Damned right I don't. So what am I supposed to say?

LAURA

Health reasons. That'd be my suggestion.

GRAY

Fine.

(beat)

All those years I saw you working for Adar... you were always so quiet, so polite, so dignified... never thought you fit in with all the back-stabbers and bare-knuckled politicians... I guess I was wrong.

Gray walks away, leaving Laura all alone.

36

OMITTED

36

37

OMITTED

37

38 INT. CLOUD NINE - UNISEX BATHROOM

38

Laura sticks her head in the door.

LAURA

Dr. Baltar? Are you in there?

A beat. a STALL DOOR OPENS. Baltar emerges, smoothing his clothes.

BALTAR

Yes, Madame President. Right here.

LAURA

Hope I'm not disturbing you, but I've been looking for you.

Laura enters, flanked by two MARINES.

LAURA (cont'd)

I heard you on the wireless. You were very articulate.

BALTAR

Thank you. I figure it's my responsibility to speak out on the issues. The people have entrusted me and I can't let them down. Besides, I'm beginning to like politics.

LAURA

I take it you aren't going to vote for Tom Zarek?

BALTAR

Heavens no! The man's a scoundrel. Manipulating the public's emotion in a crass grab for power. I'm voting for your man. Gray.

LAURA

Gray's dropped out of the race.

BALTAR

Ah. Then I'm voting for... who?

LAURA

How about you?

BALTAR

Me?

(CONTINUED)



LAURA

You're a very popular man these days. And I'd be fortunate to have someone of your talent and dedication at my side.

Baltar's taken aback, but it appeals to his new found interest in politics.

BALTAR

Madame President. I don't know what to say.

LAURA

Say yes.

BALTAR

Then yes, yes, of course I accept. I'd be honored.

Laura shake his hand. A new alliance.

LAURA

We'll nominate you at the next session. Billy will fill you in on the details.

BALTAR

Superb.

Laura exits. Just then, Playa walks out of the same stall Baltar did. She's pulling herself together.

PLAYA

Wow. What a scoop.

BALTAR

Don't worry. I'll give you an exclusive.

38A

OMITTED

38A

39-40

OMITTED

39-40

41 INT. CLOUD NINE - DIPLOMATS' HALL / MEDIA BOOTH

41

The Quorum delegates are in their seats. Laura's at the podium. Lee, Kara and Hamilton are among the observers. Laura draws the delegates' handwritten VOTES from a box and reads them. The atmosphere is subdued but incredibly tense.

MCMANUS (WIRELESS)

The surprises just keep coming. A number of Quorum delegates quickly shifted their support to the scientific genius, who's credited with saving the fleet on numerous occasions.

PLAYA (WIRELESS)

At this point, Jim, it's anyone's guess as to who's going to win, but my money's on Gaius -- er, Doctor Baltar.

LAURA

Aerilon votes for... Tom Zarek.

Murmurs ripple through the room. Laura wears an impassive expression. Baltar twists a lock of hair around his finger.

PLAYA (WIRELESS)

The vote's now six/five in favor of Tom Zarek. The next vote determines our new Vice President. If Zarek gets it, he wins. In event of a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote. I think we all know which way she'll go.

Zarek runs a hand up his forehead, through his hair. Laura pulls out the ballot, looks at it, her brow tightens--

PRELAP THE COLONIAL ANTHEM...

42 INT. CLOUD NINE - BALLROOM - NIGHT

42

ON A COLONIAL FLAG. REVEAL it hanging behind Laura, who addresses a crowd of POLITICOS, GROUPIES and PRESS.

LAURA  
Happy Colonial Day!

CHEERS AND APPLAUSE. MUSIC. A festive, celebratory mood.

LAURA (cont'd)  
I give you your new Vice President,  
Gaius Baltar.

Baltar enters to TUMULTUOUS APPLAUSE. People rush to congratulate him. Most of them NUBILE WOMEN, full of embraces and kisses. Number Six appears at his side.

NUMBER SIX  
The perks of power, Mr. Vice  
President. We're going to do great  
things together.

BALTAR  
It's difficult to fathom. I never  
aspired to power.

NUMBER SIX  
Of course you didn't, Gaius. But  
someone had to step up.

BALTAR  
Well, after what Laura told me...

NUMBER SIX  
"Laura?"

BALTAR  
We're on a first name basis now.  
(shakes his head)  
I can't believe Zarek was behind  
that assassination plot.

NUMBER SIX  
What makes you so certain he was?

Baltar contemplates her sly smile.

As Laura wanders through the celebration, she runs into Tom Zarek.

(CONTINUED)

ZAREK

(nods)

Madame President.

LAURA

You needn't brace yourself, Mr. Zarek, I won't be kissing you today.

ZAREK

That's a shame. I shaved very closely in anticipation of being smacked by you.

(looks back to Baltar)

That was nicely played. Again. But there's still a presidential election in six months. I'll see you then.

LAURA

I never doubted it for a moment.

ZAREK

One thing you should know. I didn't kill Valance. Wonder who did?

Zarek holds her eyes for a beat, then EXITS.

A DANCE FLOOR packed with couples. Officers wear their military dress greys. Non-coms wear their civvies. Galactica's women are wearing dresses. Lee approaches Kara who looks stunning. Can't believe his eyes.

LEE

So, that bum knee of yours is lookin' pretty good.

(beat)

Other one's not so bad either.

KARA

If you want to dance with me, why don't you just say so?

He takes her in his arms and whirls her out on the dance floor. Elsewhere on the floor --

Ellen slow dances with Tigh.

ELLEN

I have a surprise for you.

(CONTINUED)

TIGH

Should I be worried?

ELLEN

Not unless you consider a day in a luxury suite aboard the Rising Star as something to worry about.

TIGH

What? How the hell'd you swing that?

ELLEN

I have my ways. What you have to do is figure out a way to get slave-driving Bill to give you a day off.

(beat)

And while we're there... we might want to talk to a few people about... your future.

TIGH

What...?

ELLEN

Later. It can all wait until later.

Tigh twirls her around happily for a beat -- Ellen's eyes fall on Tom Zarek, standing in the crowd. He meets her gaze, nods his head ever so slightly -- a silent acknowledgement of their quid pro quo.

ACROSS THE DANCE FLOOR, Lee and Kara sway in each other's arms. Baltar cuts in on them. Kara dances off with the new Vice President, leaving Lee to stare after them, not at all happy.

AT A BAR TABLE -- Laura is sitting like a wallflower. Adama approaches. They both watch the others dance, feeling awkward. Each without a partner.

LAURA

I thought you hated these things.

ADAMA

It's Colonial Day. Where else would I be? I'm a patriot.

She gazes at him, admiration in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

LAURA

You really are, aren't you?

An uncomfortable beat. An embarrassed Adama diffuses her compliment.

ADAMA

Besides, my crew was overdue for a celebration. They've earned it.

She follows his gaze to where Billy and DUALLA dance past a smiling TYROL whirling with CALLY. As the chief turns, he catches SHARON's eye as she dances with Gaeta. A moment of wistful longing -- then the music sweeps them apart.

Adama and Laura begin to walk on the periphery of the dancers.

ADAMA (cont'd)

Too bad about Gray. Health reasons, huh?

LAURA

Very unfortunate. I hated to see him go.

A look between them. The two veterans both know what really went down.

ADAMA

Doctor Baltar. Interesting choice.

LAURA

I figured... the devil you know.

(CONTINUED)

'Colonial Day' Fully Collated 9/14/04

42

CONTINUED: (4)

47.

42

ADAMA

Politics. Almost as exciting as war. Certainly as dangerous.

LAURA

In war you can only be killed once. In politics, many times.

ADAMA

You're still standing.

LAURA

So are you.

He offers his arm for a dance. She takes it. As the two survivors whirl across the floor.

43

EXT. CAPRICA - DELPHI SPACEPORT - DAY

43

It's raining. Helo and Sharon crouch behind a wall, watching the spaceport. Helo checks his watch.

HELO

Any second now.

SHARON

(nods)

If we get caught... if anything happens...

HELO

You don't have to say anything. I know. We're gonna make it, Sharon.

She kisses him. A HOVERCRAFT WHINE APPROACHES. Both duck behind the wall as the hovercraft appears from behind the spaceport building then moves past them. Their faces pop back up.

HELO (cont'd)

(urgent whisper)

Okay. Go. Go. Go!

Helo leaps over the wall. Sharon bolts after him.

44 EXT. CAPRICA - DELPHI SPACEPORT - OUTBUILDINGS - DAY

44

Helo ducks behind a tree and comes up flush against the building. Sharon is just behind him. He creeps along a ledge, over a sunken courtyard. Below him, two NUMBER SIXES suddenly step out a door into the courtyard. As they talk, Helo turns back to Sharon, motions for her to go around the rear of the building. She starts to move. Helo looks down at ...

#### THE COURTYARD

As the two Number Six's separate. One walks up the stairs and out of the courtyard, the other walks back into the building. Helo begins to creep along the ledge, looks ahead of him and sees SHARON standing at the far end of the building.

He starts to nod, but wait-- something's different. She's wearing different clothes. Without expression, she raises a gun and aims it at him.

Helo runs back the way he came and dives for cover as Sharon shoots at him. As he turns, pulling his weapon, he looks back at her, wondering if he should return fire. But before he can get off a shot--

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! Roses of BLOOD blossom from her chest and she crumples. Torn between grief and confusion, Helo's turns to his right and sees--

HIS SHARON emerging from behind the tree, pistol in hand.

SHARON

Helo -- come with me!

He hesitates, Sharon in his gun sight. The spaceport WARNING SIRENS begin to SHRIEK, mirroring Helo's mental state. The pain of revelation floods his face -- Sharon is a Cylon. He turns and runs away from her.

SHARON (cont'd)

Helo!

But he keeps running.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR