

Encapsulated - Episode 10 of 10

BLACK SCREEN. A HIGH-PITCHED FREQUENCY IS THE ONLY NOISE

MARIANA IS FORCING HERSELF THROUGH THE BARRIER

BLACK SCREEN

LILITH IS CRYING IN HER ROOM

BLACK SCREEN

MARIANA'S FAMILY IS SWARMING AROUND LILITH'S HOUSE

BLACK SCREEN

LILITH RELIVES THE MOMENT OF MARIANA'S DEATH

BLACK SCREEN

HANK DEFENDS LILITH'S HOUSE FROM MARIANA'S FAMILY

BLACK SCREEN

LILITH CAN'T MAKE THE NOISE STOP

BLACK SCREEN

MARIANA'S PARENTS ARE FRENZIED AND GRIEF-STRICKEN

BLACK SCREEN

LILITH SCREAMS IN TERROR

BLACK SCREEN

HANK THREATENS THE FAMILY WITH HIS SHOTGUN

BLACK SCREEN -- A GUNSHOT RINGS OUT

INT. SHOOTING RANGE - DAY

Sunny is wearing safety glasses. She pulls the trigger - it's a perfect shot to the head.

The instructor, formerly the cashier, is impressed.

INSTRUCTOR

Lookin' sharp girlfriend! Put it back another twenty or so.

Sunny smiles, and presses the button to move the target back a few dozen feet. There are several other women at the range. The instructor is coaching all of them.

INSTRUCTOR

Ease up, always take a full breath before each shot... not too shabby, but you're off to the left, try holdin' it like this... damn sister, he ain't gonna stand a chance!

Sunny takes another shot, this time for the head. A direct hit between the eyes. She takes a deep breath.

BEGIN FLASHBACK - BLACK AND WHITE.

Sunny is walking with Tia across the parking lot, then freezes. BRUCE is yelling in the distance.

BRUCE

What'd you bring me, bitch? That's right, talking to you, Tia - that dumb fucking animal behind you can't fucking understand English.

END FLASHBACK.

Sunny fires at the target's head two more times. Her aim is perfect. She exhales confidently and closes her eyes.

INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Colin opens his eyes. His COUNSELOR is writing notes.

COUNSELOR

Did that help?

COLIN

I mean, I'm calm, yeah, but I'm still - like, it didn't get him out of my mind.

COUNSELOR

The memory of him will never be completely gone.

COLIN

But I don't want to think about him, like, I want to just erase him, but I also don't... I don't actually know WHAT I want to feel towards him, which I think is the biggest problem.

COUNSELOR

I know. And that's perfectly fine. But do you at least feel calmer about it? Did you feel any signs of a panic attack coming on?

COLIN

Not as much, It's still.. It's not great, but my heart isn't racing, and my breathing is more in control, and the flashbacks aren't as.. vivid. Or loud, like they used to be.

COUNSELOR

Which is really encouraging. You're doing much better than when you started, even week to week I'm seeing a lot of improvement.

(pauses)

Do you want to talk more about it today, or do you want to discuss something else?

COLIN

Probably not talk about it, but are you good if I try reliving it again? I'd rather do it here than by myself, obviously.

COUNSELOR

Be my guest.

Colin closes his eyes and thinks back to Justin being separated at the barrier. At first it's overwhelming, but he takes deep breaths to calm himself. The panic of the crowd fades; tranquil organ music fades in.

INT. 'HELD IN COMMON' CHURCH - DAY

Big Simon steps up to the podium as the organist finishes the prelude. There are thousands in the church - it's at a much larger venue than before. A few straggling congregants take communion as they arrive. Big Simon's face is broadcast on a dozen screens throughout the room.

BIG SIMON

Let us pray. Father, we want to thank you for this blessed day, March 20th. The day that the world shook at your presence Lord. The day that you revived your church Lord. The day that you said, with great power and authority, 'here I am, there is no God beside ME!'

CONGREGATION

Amen.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Several monitors throughout the park are streaming Big Simon's sermon. Everyone in the park is watching, while ushers with guns are standing watch.

BIG SIMON (On Monitors)

Lord, it's no coincidence that this blessed day happens to be the first day of Spring. That time of year when you make all things new, when the flowers and trees, which you have clothed better than Solomon, burst forth in innocent praise.

EXT. CITY BLOCK - DAY

There are monitors everywhere. The streets are quiet, save for Simon's voice. A few usher-guards are on patrol.

BIG SIMON (On Monitors)

Because with these walls, you have not taught us to destroy, but to build. You taught us to cherish every moment, treasure every friendship, redeem every inch of creation.

EXT. THE DIVINE SPAN - DAY

More monitors, more guards, and a crowd on both sides of the barrier with heads bowed and eyes closed.

BIG SIMON (On Monitors)

For you are a God who gives, and a God who takes. And it is not right of us to question you, to be angry, to assume that we know better. Thank you for humbling us. Thank you for helping us realize that we are worthless. That we are nothing.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

The room used to be a school cafeteria; now it's packed to the brim with the homeless and indigent. There are no screens with Simon's broadcast, just the dull roar of a hungry, run-down, crammed-together crowd.

Tara and Ally are serving them meals. Some of the people in line thank them as they ladle chili into their plastic bowls; others sniff in disgust. Most are too tired to muster a response.

Tara and Ally aren't putting on any pretenses either - not to say they aren't happy, but they aren't grinning from ear to ear, pretending everything is okay. Instead, they're content, and their honest expressions are a stark contrast to the docile faces of Big Simon's congregants. As Tara scoops chili into another bowl, smooth transition to..

EXT. 'UNITY DAY' AT CITY PARK - DAY

A similar chili-serving is taking place, only this time, it's a chili cookoff. The whole zone (in a different city than the last scene) is vibrantly decorated for the first annual 'Unity Day'.

Vendors, tables, thousands of citizens, music, canopies, balloons - it's a lively display of togetherness and celebration, especially compared with the neighboring zones, which seem bleak, run-down and ugly by comparison.

One of the canopies has a sign that reads 'Meet the Mayors' - Ellis, Katherine, and several others are all standing around a table. City plans, laptops, pencils, paper, and a printer are spread about. Everyday citizens come and go as they please, mostly to offer up ideas or suggestions. Even the host from 'Devil's Advocate' is giving his two cents.

ELLIS

Remind me, we're not building a second hospital, correct? I can't keep track of it all.

KATHERINE

Correct! The plan is to build a series of first-response centers, like smaller ERs.

ELLIS

Right, right. And... if memory serves...

(she points to a guy across the table)

You were looking for prospective locations?

PROFESSOR

Yes ma'am, me and a few of the faculty already found four optimal sites, so the drive time from anywhere in the zone is under 5 minutes.

ELLIS

Oh yeah, it's all coming back now! And where are we at with those again?

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE HOST

One of them was our studio, we already relocated.

KATHERINE

Two of them were banks - status on those?

BANKER

We finally finished cleaning out last Friday.

ELLIS

Perfect. And the last spot was...

KATHERINE

Apartments. And I think the landlord is, somewhere around here?

LANDLORD

(raises his hand)

We're all set, just say the word.

ELLIS

You guys rock! And another item off the agenda.

Ellis presses 'print' on her laptop, then hugs a woman who is eager to meet her. The page prints, transitioning to...

INT. BORDER PATROL - DAY

Mr. Speaker pulls the paper off the fax machine. He paces around the room, reading the memo.

MR. SPEAKER

All units be advised, patrols are expected to be overstaffed for the next few days, due to the heightened activity and fervor surrounding the anniversary of the 20th.

(he looks at Glaze, who is diligently watching the security camera feeds)
I'd say they're a bit late, how 'bout you?

GLAZE

Did they just send that NOW?

MR. SPEAKER

Mm-hmm, wheels of government are in fact turning, just a few days behind is all. Faster than usual if you ask me.

GLAZE

Geez...

On the monitors, there are hundreds of restless protestors.

EXT. BORDER PATROL STATION - DAY

The scene outside is hectic. A large crowd is clamoring around the barrier, at least thirty guards are trying to hold them back. The flow of semi-trucks is all but halted.

RAGER

I'm warning you!

She fires her gun into the air, but nobody seems bothered by it. The crowd presses on against the barrier.

MAN IN CROWD

Let us through! We know the truth!

WOMAN IN CROWD

You can't keep us here forever!

NOTES (into her radio)

Anything from the higher-ups?

MR. SPEAKER (on radio)

Apparently we should be prepared for protests.

Notes rolls her eyes, then proceeds to push back against the crowd.

RAGER

This is your last warning!!

MAN IN CROWD

Like hell it is!

She fires another warning shot, and once again, nobody in the crowd seems particularly troubled.

At a distance, Solomon and Naomi are working with a few others to dig up the tire spikes. They're far enough away that none of the guards are giving them much attention.

MAN DIGGING

You sure they won't notice?

Solomon glances at the protestors as if to say 'they have bigger problems'. The man shrugs and keeps digging. A pile of uprooted spikes is slowly forming behind them, their group is making good progress.

Suddenly, they hear a bullet ricochet off the metal, then another one. A few of them look at Solomon as if to say 'I

thought nobody would bother us!' Solomon looks out towards the border patrol building, smiles, and waves.

Up on the roof, Scope smiles to himself. He takes one more shot at the group, deliberately missing by a few feet.

MR. SPEAKER (on radio)

Don't sweat it Scope, they can't do much harm out there, save your focus for the real threat.

SCOPE

(into his radio)

Copy that.

He pivots his gun away from Solomon's group and towards the protestors - watching, but not taking any shots. The crowd of protestors transitions into...

EXT. THE 'PORTAL' HOTEL - DAY

Another crowd of protestors, this time with signs that say 'Shut down the hotel', 'Food matters most', and 'Necessity first, luxury later'. Marcus parks his car in the front lot and is immediately harassed.

PROTESTOR 1

How can you sleep at night??

PROTESTOR 2

People are dying, and you're not doing - hey, look at me when I'm talking to you!

PROTESTOR 3

Nice car mister one percent!

PROTESTOR 4

Don't you care about the poor??

Marcus, clearly uncomfortable, manages to make his way to the front entrance. Esteban opens the front door quickly, but is sure not to let anybody in.

ESTEBAN

We're giving people JOBS you know!

PROTESTOR 5

With OUR money!

PROTESTOR 6

Slave labor!

Marcus is inside; Esteban almost shouts back at them, can't come up with a retort, then shuts the door.

MARCUS

Thanks, seems like it gets worse each day.

ESTEBAN

Hey man, you know it'll cool off, people just gotta release, you know?

(the desk bell rings)

And we get hazard pay, so...

MARCUS

Fair enough.

(the guest keeps ringing the bell)

Be with you in a minute.

INT. MEDITATION ROOM - DAY

Grace is ringing a bell. Lava lamps and pastel-colored pillows adorn the brightly-lit chamber, which was a former office building. There are fourteen adults: seven older couples. Grace stops ringing and sits next to Gerry, who has a huge grin on his face. They all close their eyes, hold hands in a circle, and begin the ritual.

GRACE

Mother Earth smiles upon us.

OTHERS

We love you, Mother.

GRACE

She has chosen us to be spared.

OTHERS

We love you, Mother.

GRACE

She knew we were destined for our partners.

OTHERS

We love you, Mother.

GRACE

And so she bound us with a love that could never
be torn apart.

OTHERS

We love you, Mother.

GRACE

And now we can share that love with the world.

OTHERS

We love you, Mother.

GRACE

And be blissful in our status as the chosen ones.

OTHERS

We love you, Mother.

They all open their eyes and start cheering wildly. The
sound of the cheering blends into..

INT. PARK RANGER CABIN - DAY

The sun is slowly setting, and there are loud cheers coming from the dining room. 20 adults, including Lauren, Susan and Fred, are gathered around a table for dinner. Their cheering dies down after a few seconds.

SUSAN

And last but not least, the 'daughter' of the group, Lauren.

They cheer again. Lauren raises up a mug of wine.

LAUREN

To a world where people can't screw any of this up, where mountains stay unexploited, trees stay uncut, and rivers stay unpolluted.

FRED

Hear, hear!

They all clink their glasses/mugs together (quite the eclectic collection of cups), then cheer once more.

FRED

And NOW we get to eat!

LAUREN

For once, I agree with him, let's dig in!

SUSAN

Oh, I almost forgot, super duper quick!

Susan stands up, searches around the closet for a tripod, then puts a camera on it. She sets it up a few feet back, starts the timer, then hobbles back to her seat.

SUSAN

Say 'Peace!'

CAMERA FLASH.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MANSION - DAY

The sun is still setting, washing the room in a rosy orange glow. Tasha's phone flashes once more - she's posing for a selfie with Margo (who's still pretending to be Lauren).

TASHA

Like, un-be-lievable, you own it, HOW does your skin always look so YES?

MARGO

It runs in the family, yours looks-

TASHA

Don't even, I got the hair-

(tosses her hair back)

And YOU got the skin, don't even try and fight me on this.

MARGO

(chuckles)

You're right, as always.

(glances at the window)

Hey, it's kinda late, so I think I'm gonna go back to my place.

Eleanor walks in the room with a tea tray.

ELEANOR

Why don't you spend the night, DEAR, it feels like you've only just arrived.

MARGO

I know, MOM, but I really need to rest up. We've got a big week of NURSING SCHOOL coming up, with midterms, REMEMBER?

ELEANOR

Tashs, what do you think?

TASHA

I mean, like, I don't want to make you do badly in class.

MARGO

See? Me neither, I should really-

ELEANOR

Nonsense! You can spare one more hour with your SISTER, can't you?

TASHA

That WOULD be pretty dope...

MARGO

Okay, but just one hour, then I really-

ELEANOR

Wonderful! I'll bring out the canapés to hold you girls over until dinner.

Tasha smiles at Margo, then giggles excitedly. Margo tries her best to laugh realistically back.

In the kitchen, Eleanor receives a call on her phone from Anne, Margo's agent. Transition to...

EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT

Sam swipes the red circle on his phone to ignore the call. He and Jonathan are walking in the park. The sky is still light, but the sun has just finished setting.

JONATHAN

Who was that?

SAM

Just a woman I'm seeing, but it's-

JONATHAN

Wha-wha-what? And you just blew her off, like, not in the good way?

SAM

I didn't want to interrupt my work, or be rude to you. I'll call her when I get home.

JONATHAN

Alright, first, you're not getting home, because we have the anniversary party tonight.

SAM

Which I'm not going to.

JONATHAN

Which you're TOTALLY going to.

(Sam rolls his eyes)

And two, hoes before bros.

SAM

I thought it was the other way around..

JONATHAN

Except in your case, you absolutely get to put your date ahead of time with me, literally nothing would make me happier.

SAM

Fiiiine.

(he walks to the edge of the sidewalk, where a green line denotes the barrier)

Last one, I promise.

JONATHAN

So you'll be at the party?

SAM

Yes I'll be at the party.

Sam presses his hand against the barrier, feels around a few feet in every direction, then jots a few notes down on his clipboard.

SAM

Still there, perfect.

JONATHAN

And now you call her back!

SAM

Once I log the report.

JONATHAN

Promise?

SAM

Promise.

As they head back to the office, some guys on the other side of the barrier are taunting them.

MAN 1

Piss off!

MAN 2

Don't you pricks have anything better to do with our money?

MAN 3

Fucking government overkill...

Sam and Jonathan don't acknowledge them. They glance briefly at the shouting woman in the grass, who is still crying out to the heavens. Sam and Jonathan go into their office, but the woman stays in focus. The sound fades...

INT. YOLANDA AND BARRY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's almost silent. Barry, Jordan and Olivia are all asleep. Yolanda is sitting on the floor in Liam's bedroom; on the other side of the barrier, Liam is crawling around, not a care in the world. The nurse is sitting in a rocking chair, partly watching Liam, partly browsing on her phone.

YOLANDA

Hi there. Hi. Can you say hi to mommy?

Liam smiles at her, then continues roaming about aimlessly.

YOLANDA

You're so big now. Look at you.

Liam giggles softly, then crawls over to Yolanda. He climbs onto her lap and wraps his arms around her. Yolanda panics, fearing she's dreaming, then holds Liam as tightly and dearly as she can. She bursts into tears. The nurse sees what happens and gasps.

BEGIN FINAL MONTAGE - NIGHT. THE ONLY AUDIO DURING THE ENTIRE SCENE IS THE SONG 'AASE'S DEATH' BY EDWARD GRIEG.

Jonathan and Sam are partying with co-workers, when a rock smashes through their window. They look out and see the men who were harassing them - they're trying to break into the office. Sam panics, Jonathan tries to keep everyone calm. The shouting old woman is nowhere to be seen.

As Lauren and the other hikers celebrate, a stranger walks into the cabin excitedly. Lauren and the others panic; they chase him out in angry confusion.

Hank and Lilith pack up Hank's truck as quickly as they can, and book it out of town. Mariana's parents and relatives are too disoriented to try and stop them.

Eleanor, Margo and Tasha are all in the mansion watching a movie on TV - suddenly, they're interrupted by a breaking news story. The barriers are gone. Margo runs out of the house excitedly. Eleanor panics, frozen on the couch. Tasha is confused and starts hyperventilating.

The protestors rush across the edge, toppling over the giant poles that marked the barrier limits. The border patrol agents are helpless to stop the stampede. Rager, Notes, Mr. Speaker, and the other guards begin shooting blindly, attacking protestors mercilessly.

Ellis, Katherine, and the other mayors try to keep people calm, but it's no use. Everyone in their zone is using the tables from the event to build walls to replace the barriers. People from the neighboring zones are angrily clamoring to get in, riots are breaking out left and right.

Colin is running alongside a mob that's crossing where the barrier once was. He's shouting for Justin.

Fighting breaks out at the Divine Span, the poor against the religious. Big Simon tries to intervene, but nobody is listening to him, and all the monitors around the city are being destroyed. Even his mercenary ushers have abandoned him. He wanders around in a daze.

Sunny searches the neighborhood for Bruce. People are pouring out onto the streets and losing their minds. Tia is with her, barking non-stop. Sunny is holding a revolver, her eyes burning with anger and vengeance.

Grace and Gerry huddle on the floor of their house - the power is out, the only light is from candles. Gerry tries to get up, but Grace shrieks and won't let him move. She's terrified that the barriers might come back.

Marcus and Esteban hide in the back office as the hotel burns, surrounded on the outside by hundreds of protestors.

Several of the semi-trucks are hijacked and driven off-road, anything to get to the other side. Solomon and Naomi drive their car across, dozens of other cars follow right behind them. Dead bodies are scattered across the field - the carnage makes Naomi sick. They pull over so she can catch her breath.

Ellis and Katherine hide in the mayor's office with the others. The city is in shambles; the makeshift barriers have been destroyed; people are looting and vandalizing. The mayors all sit together, calmer now that they're away from the violence.

Big Simon goes to look for Ally and Tara at the house. It's completely empty, the car is gone. He slams his fists against the wall and yells out to God for answers.

The crowd around Colin has thinned out. He staggers around, his face stained with tears. He finally breaks down on the sidewalk and curls up in the fetal position.

Scope looks out into the night sky in despair. Glaze, just as despondent, turns off the security cameras. He goes outside and joins Scope on top of the station.

Tasha is passed out on the couch. Eleanor is on the floor next to her, rubbing her arm gently, assuring Tasha and herself that everything will be okay.

Ally and Tara are speeding down the highway, the windows are rolled down. The city is rapidly disappearing in the rear view mirror. Both of them are sobbing with relief.

Yolanda holds Liam tightly. Barry wakes up and sits next to them both, sobbing. Olivia and Jordan also join them.

BLACK SCREEN. THE MUSIC SLOWLY FADES OUT.