

THE OVERTON WINDOW

by
Joe Mande

Based on *The Overton Window* by Glenn Beck

INT. FOX NEWS STUDIOS - DAY

GLENN BECK sits on the set of his TV show, reading a book. He notices the camera and gives a knowing smile.

GLENN BECK

Hi, I'm Glenn Beck. Welcome to my political thriller movie, "The Overton Window." Based on my best-selling political thriller book, "The Overton Window."

Beck holds up the book "The Overton Window." He puts it down and walks towards a CHALKBOARD.

GLENN BECK (CONT'D)

I must warn you, this movie you are about to watch will look and sound a lot like the world we live in today. But, keep in mind, it is actually a work of **FACTION**. That's *fiction* based on *facts*.

He writes the words "fiction" and "facts" on the board. Then circles the letters "C" "I" and "A."

GLENN BECK (CONT'D)

The facts embedded in the plot are 100% true. It's the scenarios as a result of those facts that are fictional. And thus, *factional*.

Beck puts the chalk down and walks toward the camera.

GLENN BECK (CONT'D)

Now, I know this movie will be controversial; anything that causes people to think usually is.

Beck stops, holding back tears.

GLENN BECK (CONT'D)

My critics will call me names and accuse me of being a crazy conspiracy theorist. But this movie isn't about me. It's about America. America's future.

He's crying now.

GLENN BECK (CONT'D)
 Because, when it's all said and
 done, and people look back at this
 movie--at this time in the history
 of our great country--there's only
 one thing I want people to call
 me...

EXTREME CLOSE UP: Glenn Beck's fat, red, weeping face.

GLENN BECK (CONT'D)
 ...WRONG!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

A SERIES OF SHOTS OF NEW YORK CITY.

Jay-Z and Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind" begins plays
 and titles roll across the screen as we see...

- 1) The Empire State building.
- 2) Statue of Liberty.
- 3) The Naked Cowboy singing in Times Square.
- 4) A bald eagle flying over Ground Zero. It lands on a
 makeshift cross and gazes across the still-open void, with a
 look that seems to ask: *Didn't this used to be America?*

INT. DOYLE & MERCHANT OFFICES - MORNING

NOAH GARDNER, a handsome young executive (probably a Jew),
 sits at a large desk in an impressive corner office. He's
 immersed in a copy of the NEW YORK POST.

ANGLE ON: Front page of the newspaper. The headline reads:
 "U.S. ARMY LOSES TWO NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

Noah puts the paper down and looks at his COMPUTER.

NOAH
 I wonder how my social networks are
 doing?

ANGLE ON: COMPUTER SCREEN. We see a glimpse of Noah's
 Facebook wall, which is full of messages from attractive
 women. He says, to himself apparently:

NOAH (O.S. (CONT'D))
I certainly have an outstanding
record of success with the ladies.

BACK TO SCENE. Noah gets up and admires his reflection in the glass of a framed diploma from NYU.

He looks at his watch.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Time for a Tootsie Roll.

INT. BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noah stands at a VENDING MACHINE and enters the code for a TOOTSIE ROLL. As he bends down, he notices the long legs of MOLLY ROSS, an attractive hippie chick. She stands on a stool, trying to pin a POSTER onto the company's BULLETIN BOARD.

NOAH
Do you need help with that, sugar?

Molly looks at Noah and rolls her eyes. Noah takes the poster and reads aloud.

NOAH (CONT'D)
"Founder's Keepers Rally! If you
love your country but fear its
future, join us for an evening of
truth that will open your eyes."
(To Molly) This event is tonight?

Molly snatches the poster back and pins it on the board.

MOLLY
Why do you care, mister? All you PR
people do is lie for a living.
Someone like you wouldn't know the
first thing about *truth*.

Noah sticks out his hand.

NOAH
My name is Noah.

Molly slaps his hand away.

MOLLY
Oh, please. I know who you are. I
work in the mail room for goodness
sakes. You're Noah Gardner. Vice
president of Doyle and Merchant.
(MORE)

MOLLY (CONT'D)

Your dad is Arthur Gardner. He owns the place. Heck, everyone around here just calls him "King Arthur."

NOAH

Wow, you really do know me. And you are...

Noah leans in to read the name tag, located smack-dab on Molly's chest. (A small silver CROSS rests peacefully inside her bountiful CLEAVAGE.)

NOAH (CONT'D)

"Molly Ross." Nice to meet you. Maybe I'll see you tonight at this tea party rally.

Molly scoffs.

MOLLY

Ha! That reminds me of a bible joke. Noah comes home from putting all the animals on his ark. His wife asks where he's been all week. And he tells his wife, "Now I herd everything."

She turns and walks away. Noah watches her go and takes a big bite out of his Tootsie Roll.

NOAH

(whispering to himself)
You're the one for me, Molly Ross.

INT. BOARD ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noah sits down at a large conference table next to his powerful father, ARTHUR GARDNER (played by Jon Voight). The table is full of serious white men who all work for the government.

ARTHUR

Gentlemen, welcome to Doyle and Merchant, the most powerful public relations firm in the world. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Arthur Gardner. I'm a legend in this business. My work speaks for itself. Bottled water, restless-leg syndrome, the Powerball lottery...I came up with all of those.

The men at the table all look at one another, impressed.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Heck, twenty years ago, on a dare, I said I could take the face of a brutal killer and have the peace-loving counterculture of this nation wear it as fashion statement.

He lifts up a CHE GUEVARA T-SHIRT.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

And now every college student in the country wears my Che Guevara t-shirts.

The men all nod, even more impressed.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

And now you're all here today because you're worried about the banks failing. And because congress is funneling trillions of dollars into the very corrupt foundations that engineered the economic crisis. Goldman Sachs? Social Security? This whole thing is the biggest Ponzi Scheme I've ever seen!

The men all grumble with embarrassment.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

This current system of non-stop spending and borrowing, it won't last. It's inevitable that the government will collapse. And when it does, you, gentlemen, will be the ones held responsible.

An Army GENERAL speaks up.

GENERAL

What should we to do, King Arthur?

ARTHUR

You got to transform the system, General. And I have the plan to do it. It's a plan that would bring smiles to the faces of Woodrow Wilson and Saul Alinsky. Men like me: Progressives!

Arthur holds up a folder. It says "TOP SECRET - PROJECT EXIGENT" in large letters.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

In my hand I hold the framework for a new America! A new Constitution, where we are in charge, not the voters. Because we are the experts. We know what's best for America.

GENERAL

But...what about the public?

ARTHUR

Don't worry about the public. They are merely sheep, who sit slack-jawed in front of their TV's, absorbing our commands. If I can sell them a three dollar bottle of water, or a war in Iraq, I can sell them anything!

The men stand and clap. Noah looks at his watch.

NOAH

Shoot! Sorry, Dad. I gotta go to this thing downtown.

ARTHUR

Sure, son. See you later.

Noah leaves the board room. Arthur hands out copies of his plan for a new American oligarchy.

EXT. STARS N' STRIPES SALOON - NIGHT

Noah gets out of a cab and hands a twenty dollar bill to an INDIAN CAB DRIVER (played by Bobby Jindal).

NOAH

Keep the change.

INDIAN CAB DRIVER

Thank you, my friend.

NOAH

Whoa, there. We're not friends, you got that?

Noah walks into the bar.

INT. STARS N' STRIPES - CONTINUOUS

Noah walks into a small country-western bar in TriBeCa (which seems like a thing that exists).

The place is full of tea party patriots. It's a diverse group, a cross-section of America: white, black, rich, poor. (Not the stereotypical depiction you see on the lame-stream media.)

Noah spots Molly at the bar and walks towards her.

MOLLY

Well, well, well. Look what the cat dragged in.

NOAH

Told you I would make it.

MOLLY

Want a beer?

NOAH

Sure. For some reason I have a sudden craving for a *Samuel Adams*.

Molly rolls her eyes. She's heard that one before.

DANNY BAILEY (played by Steven Baldwin) approaches the bar. He's a wild man, an outspoken critic of the government, and a bona fide Youtube celebrity. He gives Molly a hug, then eyes Noah with contempt.

DANNY

So, you must be Noah. Molly's told me almost nothing about you.

NOAH

That wouldn't surprise me. And who might you be?

DANNY

Who am I? Are you serious?

MOLLY

Noah, this is Danny Bailey!

DANNY

Don't tell me you haven't seen the video.

NOAH

What video?

DANNY

"Overthrow," man. It's only got about 35 million hits on Youtube! It's going to bring down the entire frickin' evil empire, dude!

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

There are emails about me flying
all over the internet.

NOAH

Hmm, I guess I have a really good
spam filter.

DANNY

What did you say to me?

Danny gets right in Noah's face, ready to fight.

MOLLY

Down, boys!

DANNY

You're lucky I have to go make a
speech right now.

NOAH

Yeah. Real lucky.

Danny walks away and gets on stage. Noah downs a shot of
WHISKEY.

MOLLY

Sorry about that. Danny's a very
passionate person.

NOAH

Whatever.

Noah looks around the room and sees a SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING MAN
standing alone in the crowd, wearing a shirt that says, "Born
in the JEW.S.A."

MOLLY

What's wrong, Noah?

NOAH

I have a knack for reading people,
and something's not right about
that guy. I think he might be a
spy.

Molly looks over at the Suspicious-Looking Man and shrugs.

MOLLY

Don't be so paranoid.

NOAH

Something doesn't feel right.

MOLLY

Shhh. Danny's about to speak.

The crowd erupts into cheers as Danny approaches the MICROPHONE.

DANNY

Hello, New York City!

The crowd erupts again.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I could listen to that all night long. Thank you. Hey, how can you tell if a politician's lying?...His lips are moving!

The crowd explodes with laughter.

DANNY (CONT'D)

But, seriously, let's talk about the Patriot Act? All it does is hunt down us patriots. How about Net Neutrality? That's just a way to neutralize their opposition. Hey, quick question: Do any of you own a firearm?

The crowd cheers.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Well then, you're on a list. Any of you seen my hit youtube video "Overthrow"?

The crowd cheers even louder.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Then you're on a list. Oppose abortion? You're on a list. Oppose illegal immigration? You're on a list. Home-school your kids? You're on a list.

The crowd boos angrily.

DANNY (CONT'D)

But that list is going to be used to put us in a concentration camp. No, my friends. They're going to fabricate something way more extreme. Like a terrorist attack.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

They're going to blame us for the attack, call us terrorists, and take away our civil rights. Well, I'm not going to let that happen! If it's a war they want, then it's a war they're going to get! But it will be a war on our terms!

The crowd cheers louder than ever.

Noah looks back over his shoulder. The Suspicious-Looking Man has a GUN in hand, and is aiming it at Danny.

NOAH

Get down!

The gun GOES OFF. Dozens of POLICE in riot gear storm the bar from all side. TEAR GAS fills the room. The patriots start to freak out. Everyone is running, screaming, crying, getting tazed.

Near the door, Noah spots a POLICE OFFICER beating a man with a NIGHTSTICK. Instinctively, he grabs the nightstick out of the cop's hands.

Just then, a second POLICE OFFICER hits Noah in the back of the head and knocks him out cold.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Noah is sitting limp on a metal folding chair in a small room lit by a solitary hanging lightbulb. A DETECTIVE enters the room and splashes a cup of cold water on Noah's face.

NOAH

(dazed)

Where am I?

DETECTIVE

You are under arrest. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you. You have a right to an attorney--

NOAH

What did I do?

DETECTIVE

Let's see...inciting a riot,
resisting arrest, aggravated
assault with a deadly weapon on a
uniformed officer. Unless you talk,
it'll be Riker's Island for you,
buddy.

From behind, there's A KNOCK on the door. In walks Noah's
lawyer, CHARLIE NELAN wearing a two-thousand dollar suit.

CHARLIE

Nice try, detective. I want to
speak to my client alone.

DETECTIVE

I'm not going anywhere.

CHARLIE

Scram! Before I call your boss.

The detective leaves the room in shame.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Look, Noah. I know aggravated
assault is a first-degree felony,
but I called in a few favors, and
you will be walking out of here
tonight.

Outside the door, Noah spots the Suspicious-Looking Man from
the bar laughing and chatting with a group of COPS.

NOAH

This whole thing was a setup,
Charlie!

CHARLIE

What do you mean?

Noah points to the cops outside.

NOAH

Those guys right there. They were
at the meeting tonight. Undercover.
They started the whole incident.

CHARLIE

So, you're telling me an NYPD
officer discharged his rifle in a
crowded bar to incite a riot?
No way. Absolutely not.

NOAH
Maybe they were hired privately?
Mercenaries? Blackwater?

CHARLIE
Your dad is a powerful man and I
got you out of here. None of this
matters anymore.

NOAH
Of course it matters! How could you
say that?

CHARLIE
Hey! Cool it, Nelson Mandela! Let's
go eat some pie. Someplace nice.
Someplace Uptown.

NOAH
I'm not leaving without Molly.

CHARLIE
(annoyed)
I'll make some calls.

EXT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Noah walks out of the police station with Molly in tow.

MOLLY
Thank you for getting me out of
there.

NOAH
Don't worry about it.

MOLLY
And I'm sorry for misjudging you.

NOAH
That's okay. Say, are you hungry?

MOLLY
Yeah, why?

A STRETCH LIMO pulls up to the curb. EDDIE, the kindly black
driver, rolls down the window.

EDDIE
Where to, Mr. Gardner?

NOAH

Eddie, take us to Harlem. I feel like we both need a nice, big, Al Sharpton.

MOLLY

What's an Al Sharpton?

NOAH

Fried chicken and waffles.

MOLLY

I've never heard of such a thing!

Noah gets into the car.

NOAH

Then you haven't lived. Get in.

INT. LIMO - LATER

Noah and Molly sit in the limo eating chicken and waffles.

NOAH

Pretty good, right?

MOLLY

Delicious! Say, can I ask you a personal question?

NOAH

Shoot.

MOLLY

Who's the most fascinating person you've ever met?

NOAH

Bill Clinton, hands down.

MOLLY

Really?

NOAH

Yes! Politics aside, the guy just had "it." His charisma filled the room. Plus, he was a total Svengali with the ladies.

MOLLY

I never found him attractive.

NOAH

Trust me, if Bill Clinton was sitting here right now, reading you a fairy tale, you'd be down to your panties before Repunzel let down her golden hair.

Molly blushes and looks out the window.

MOLLY

Noah, will you take me home now?

NOAH

Where is home, again? Washington Square Park?

MOLLY

No, *your* home. I don't feel safe being alone after last night.

NOAH

(pulling at his collar)
Okay. Sure.

MOLLY

Just so you know, I'm not talking about anything sexual. I mean, I've had sex before. And I want to do it again at some point. It's just...

Molly grabs the cross on her necklace and squeezes it.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

...I've made mistakes in my life and I don't want to repeat them.

NOAH

Sure. I understand. We don't have to have sex. But you don't know what you're missing.

EXT. RITZY PARK AVENUE APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Noah and Molly get out of the limo. Molly stares at a beautiful Upper East Side building.

MOLLY

Is that where you live?

NOAH

No, silly! That's the French embassy!

Noah points to an even bigger, more beautiful building next door.

NOAH (CONT'D)
That's where I live.

MOLLY
Wow!

NOAH
Top floor, baby.

INT. RITZY PARK AVENUE APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

They walk through the lobby and into an elevator, just as ELIOT SPITZER (yes, Eliot Spitzer) is coming out for an early-morning jog.

Spitzer turns around and looks Molly up and down. He gives Noah a thumbs up and runs away.

MOLLY
Was that who I think it was?

NOAH
Yep. Eliot Spitzer.

MOLLY
The governor of New York?

NOAH
Former Governor of New York. He's a total horndog, by the way.

MOLLY
He resigned, right?

NOAH
Yep.

MOLLY
What was it that brought him down?
I forget...

NOAH
He was caught on a federal wiretap hiring a hooker who makes more in a day than you do in an entire year.

MOLLY
Wow. He certainly fell fast.

NOAH
He'll be back in politics before
you know it. My dad always says,
"Public memory is shallow."

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They walk into Noah's apartment. It's big and nice because he
is very rich.

MOLLY
This place is enormous! How much
was it?

NOAH
Five mill'. Plus sixty thou' a year
more maintenance. Make yourself at
home. I'm going to wash the prison
funk off my body.

INT. NOAH'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Noah lies in bed reading a book (perhaps the BOOK OF
MORMON?). There's a knock on the door.

NOAH
Come in.

Molly walks in wearing nothing but an OLD LACROSSE JERSEY.

*[Note to Director: There should be some sort of sound effect
to convey the fact that Glenn Beck definitely jerked off a
lot writing this scene...]*

NOAH (CONT'D)
Is something wrong?

MOLLY
I tried calling some people. No one
knows where Danny Bailey is.

NOAH
I'm sure he's fine. He's a big boy.

MOLLY
I'm scared, Noah. Do you mind if I
sleep with you tonight? But no sex,
okay?

NOAH

Great, it'll be just like that time my aunt Beth took me to the candy store when I was a kid and told me I couldn't eat anything!

MOLLY

Fine. I'll leave.

NOAH

I'm kidding. Just don't do anything sexy, okay?

She gets into bed next to Noah and snuggles up next to him.

NOAH (CONT'D)

I thought I asked you not to do anything sexy.

MOLLY

(in a sexy baby voice)
But my footsies are cold.

NOAH

Suit yourself lady, but you're playing with fire. I've got one rule in my bedroom and it's *don't tease the panther*.

She pecks him on the cheek.

MOLLY

Okay, good night.

NOAH

Good night, Molly.

Molly falls asleep. Noah goes back to reading the book of Mormon.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MANHATTAN JAIL - SAME TIME

STUART KEARNS, an geriatric undercover FBI agent (because those exist), walks up to a GUARD in the jail.

KEARNS

Stuart Kearns, FBI. I'm here to see Danny Bailey.

The guard nods and leaves the room. Kearns starts flipping through Danny's FBI file.

KEARNS (CONT'D)

Pretty thick file for someone his age. Hmm...Drug offenses, mostly. Cocaine, ecstasy...

Kearns admires a picture of a marijuana plant.

KEARNS (CONT'D)

Wow! That's some premium bud!

The guard enters again with Danny. Danny sits down in front of Kearns.

KEARNS (CONT'D)

Daniel Carroll Bailey, I've got nine words for you that I'll bet you never thought you'd hear: "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."

DANNY

Help me how, pig?

KEARNS

I've got a get out of jail free card with your name on it.

DANNY

Oh yeah, pig? What's the catch, pig?

KEARNS

The catch is you have to help me with an FBI investigation. I need you be the Dr. Phil to my Oprah for some spy stuff I'm working on.

DANNY

What kind of spy stuff?

KEARNS

Here's the deal. I've been undercover for a few years now, talking to a few low-level militia guys, Timothy McVeigh-types. They think I've come into contact with a black-market nuclear warhead.

DANNY

Where do I come in?

KEARNS

Well, you're a celebrity to these guys.

(MORE)

KEARNS (CONT'D)

They're big fans of your youtube video. If you come with me for the drop-off, that gives me credibility in the world. They'll buy the warhead from you and then I'll put 'em in 'cuffs.

DANNY

And, after that, I'm a free man?

KEARNS

That's the deal. You think you can handle it?

DANNY

Oh, I can handle it. Last year, I snuck into the UN building dressed up like the KFC Colonel.

KEARNS

Wow, you must be good.

DANNY

Buddy, I'm finger-licking good.

Danny and Kearns shake hands. They are friends now. And spy partners.

INT. NOAH'S RITZY APARTMENT - EVENING

Noah gets up and finds Molly in his living room, staring at a framed piece of paper.

MOLLY

What is this?

NOAH

It's my dad's favorite Rudyard Kipling poem.

Molly reads the poem aloud.

MOLLY

*As it will be in the future, it was
at the birth of man. There are only
four things certain since social
progress began.
That the Dog returns to his Vomit,
And the Sow returns to her Mire,
And the burnt Fool's bandaged
finger goes wabbling back to the
fire;*

Noah closes his eyes and continues the poem from memory.

NOAH

*After this is accomplished, and the
brave new world begins
When all men are paid for existing
and no man must pay for his sins,
As surely as Water will wet us, as
surely as Fire will burn
The Gods of the Copybook headings
with terror and slaughter return!*

MOLLY

Wow! What's it mean?

NOAH

My dad says it about history
repeating itself. But I think it's
about how we all go on living
believing in lies.

MOLLY

Was your dad upset to hear that
interpretation?

NOAH

I've never told my dad my
interpretation of anything. I'm too
scared!

MOLLY

We need to talk. Let's go for a
walk.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Noah and Molly walk, holding hands (because their sexless
relationship makes a lot of sense by this point).

NOAH

What's up?

MOLLY

I'm not going to be around much
longer.

NOAH

Why?

MOLLY

I'm just not! Okay?! There were
some things I had to do, and now
there done, and now I'm leaving.

NOAH
When?

MOLLY
Soon.

NOAH
Did I do something wrong?

MOLLY
It's not about you, Noah. This is
bigger than you!

Somehow, they're suddenly in the middle of TIMES SQUARE.

NOAH
Molly...

MOLLY
Yes...

They kiss. *[Note to director: The camera should probably spin around them, really cliché-like, so you can see all the billboards and stuff.]* Molly pulls back and looks at Noah with seriousness in her eyes.

MOLLY (CONT'D)
Noah? Can I ask you a PR question?

NOAH
Sure.

MOLLY
What if the Founder's Keepers hired
your company? What kind of PR would
you recommend?

NOAH
What's the mission of your company?

MOLLY
To take this country back and save
it.

NOAH
OK. First, no one in Washington
takes you seriously. You're too
fragmented. You got birthers,
truthers, freepers, potheads, tea-
partiers, white-supremacists,
holocaust-deniers. You need to come
together and focus on one thing.

MOLLY

Like what?

NOAH

Like a 13% flat tax. Or getting that ridiculous 67,000 page tax code down to four or five bullet points.

MOLLY

Like founding fathers would have wanted!

NOAH

And I'm just spitballing here, but what about immigration reform? I'm talking real immigration reform.

MOLLY

But, really, the only way to truly save our country, we have to know what we're up against.

Noah steps back. He knows what she's implying.

NOAH

Molly, no.

MOLLY

I work in the Doyle and Merchant mail room, Noah. I saw the guest list for that meeting yesterday in your father's office yesterday. Those were the top big government officials.

NOAH

I can't--

MOLLY

What about that Rudyard Kipling poem we read? Be a man for once! Stop living a lie!

NOAH

But, I can't risk everything for nothing!

MOLLY

America is not nothing!

NOAH

Fine. I can't believe I'm doing this.

INT. DOYLE & MERCHANT OFFICES - NIGHT

Noah uses a special after-hours code to get into his father's office.

NOAH

Be very quiet. This is my Dad's office.

Molly picks up a small statue on the desk. It's a composite of the Statue of Liberty merged with the Colossus of Rhodes.

MOLLY

What is this?

NOAH

That? Oh, it's just a visual representation of my father's life philosophy. He thinks law and order, the Statue of Liberty, can only take a society so far. Because at some point law must be replaced by militarized force, the Colossus of Rhodes, for any true progress to be achieved.

MOLLY

Thank you for explaining that to me.

Molly puts the figurine down and follows Noah into the big empty conference room.

INT. DOYLE & MERCHANT OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Noah types really fast into the computer, entering a bunch of super-secret passwords and stuff. Suddenly, the walls illuminate with pictures of classified documents.

MOLLY

What's all this?

NOAH

These are the notes from yesterday's meeting.

MOLLY

What's that little box in the middle of all the slides?

NOAH

That's not a box, Molly. It's a The Overton Window.

MOLLY

The Overton Window? What's that? How does it work?

NOAH

It's simple. For any issue, there are two extremes. Take government, for example. On right, if we have too much liberty, that's anarchy. On the left, no liberty makes an Orwellian-style tyranny. The window in the middle, The Overton Window, that's what the public is willing to accept.

MOLLY

Oh I see.

NOAH

In PR, we're always trying to nudge The Overton Window one way or another.

MOLLY

But, what if there's a catastrophic event, like 9/11...

NOAH

Then you don't nudge the Overton Window. You push it all the way to one side.

They both look over the slides again. They all say a bunch of crazy shit about how the government plans to arrest all gun owners, give voting rights to Puerto Rico, proof that climate change is a hoax. Anything that would scare/piss off an old white person, it's there on the screen.

Then, a slide that says "PROJECT EXIGENT" comes on the screen.

MOLLY

Noah, do you speak Latin? What does "Casus Belli" mean?

NOAH

"An incident to justify a war."

MOLLY

Thought so. We gotta get out of here now! Let's go to the safehouse.

I/E. FOUNDER'S KEEPERS SAFEHOUSE - LATER

Molly and Noah enter a SEEDY LOOKING BUILDING in the East Village. It's all gross and run down and because poor people live around there.

NOAH

I don't know why you're so worried. There were no dates on those slides. My dad's Project Exigent might not happen for years.

Molly turns around.

MOLLY

It's already started.

NOAH

How can you be so sure?

MOLLY

Because the last act of any government is to loot their own treasury. Don't you see? Both parties calling for stimulus? JP Morgan selling for two dollars a share? The roaches are coming out of the woodwork and grabbing what they can. It's a heist going on in broad daylight!

NOAH

I have money. I can protect you.

MOLLY

When Project Exigent starts, money won't protect anyone.

Molly opens the door to her apartment. It's really nice inside. (Think the apartment in *Coming To America*, but without the hot tub or black people.)

NOAH

What is this place?

MOLLY

It's a Tea Party safehouse. We have them all over the country, so we have a safe place to stay when we travel. Want some tea?

NOAH

Sure.

Molly walks into the kitchen.

Noah checks the place out. He sees a dude polishing a bunch of guns and bullets in one room and a group reciting passages from the Bill of Rights in another. He looks over the contents of a bookshelf; all American History, American philosophy, Famous American speeches, etc. There are also some books about living off the land and how to make bombs and stuff.

MOLLY

The Founder's Keepers believe in remembering how this country was founded. Because, one day, we might have to do it all over again.

NOAH

Why? You're afraid someone might burn all the history books?

MOLLY

No they're not burning them, Noah, they're changing them. Today, a typical elementary school student, he only knows George Washington as the guy with wooden teeth. And that Ronald Reagan is just some B-grade actor, not the man who ended the cold war. And that we all originated from monkeys.

NOAH

I never thought about it like that.

Molly hands Noah a glass of iced tea. He notices a SILVER BRACELET on her arm. He looks at it closely and reads the engraving.

NOAH (CONT'D)

"We have it in our power to begin the world over again."

MOLLY

Thomas Paine.

NOAH

Do you want to go away with me?

MOLLY

I can't leave, Noah. This country has a disease. We just saw the X-Rays. If we don't fight it here, it'll spread to every other country in the world. There's no hiding from this progressive cancer!

Noah takes a sip of his tea. He gets dizzy. Because it's got sleeping pills in it.

NOAH

Whoa.

MOLLY

What's wrong?

NOAH

I got the whirlies real bad.

Noah falls over. Molly puts a pillow under his head. The other Founder's Keepers start to leave the apartment.

MOLLY

I have to go. I'm so sorry.

Noah passes out.

INT. KEARNS' VAN - MOJAVE DESERT - NIGHT

Kearns is driving a large van down a dirt road in the middle of the desert. Danny stares at a large NUCLEAR BOMB in the back seat.

DANNY

So, that atomic bomb. Is a fake?

KEARNS

Yep. Made it myself. It's all a part of FBI Project Exigent. We're going to sell it that bomb to a guy named Elmer. And he's going to try to bomb Harry Reid's home office in Las Vegas.

DANNY

But the FBI will stop them before they get there?

KEARNS
That's the plan.

The van pulls up to A SMALL SHACK. A couple of MILITIAMEN stand around with machine guns.

KEARNS (CONT'D)
Okay, let's do this.

EXT. DESOLATE SHACK - CONTINUOUS

Danny and Kearns get out of the van. The militiamen recognize Danny immediately.

MILITIAMAN 1
Holy shit! It's Danny Bailey!

MILITIAMAN 2
Overthrow is my favorite youtube video! You're my inspiration, man.

DANNY
Thanks. Is Elmer here?

MILITIAMAN 1
No. He couldn't make it. He's in... Arizona.

MILITIAMAN 2
Where's the nuclear bomb?

KEARNS
In the van.

DANNY
Where's the money?

MILITIAMAN 1
Elmer has it.

MILITIAMAN 2
In Arizona.

DANNY
Okay. So, should we try this again tomorrow?

MILITIAMAN 2
Yeah. We'll buy this black-market nuclear bomb for you tomorrow.

DANNY
Okay, sounds good. Bye.

Danny and Kearns get back into the van and drive away.

INT. KEARNS' VAN - MOMENTS LATER

Kearns is spooked by what just took place.

DANNY
What's wrong?

KEARNS
That didn't feel right. Why wasn't
Elmer wasn't there?

ANGLE ON: DANNY'S CELL PHONE. Danny secretly writes a text message to Molly: "MOLLY. I'M UNDERCOVER W/ THE FBI - PROJECT EXIGENT. STAY AWAY FROM LAS VEGAS!"

DANNY
(realizing something)
Wait. You said this guy's name was
Elmer?

KEARNS
Yeah.

DANNY
The guy in charge of 9-11, Mohammed
Atta, remember him?

KEARNS
What about him?

DANNY
The name he used when he enrolled
in flight school in Florida was
Mohammed Mohammed El-Amir. In
Arabic, El-Amir means "the
general."

KEARNS
Mohammed Atta is dead, Danny.

DANNY
You sure about that?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DOYLE & MERCHANT - ARTHUR'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Danny sits limp in a leather chair on the other side of his desk. Charlie splashes a cup of water on Noah's face.

ARTHUR
(full of disappointment)
Glad to see you weren't hurt.

NOAH
What happened?

ARTHUR
Your little tea party girlfriend
poisoned you, broke into our
offices, and hacked into our
mainframe. That's what happened.

NOAH
She did?

ARTHUR
I'll give her credit, she knew what
she was doing. She seduced you
using all the information you left
out on your facebook and twitters.
And she even knew how to tap into
you subconscious by dressing up in
hippie clothes, just like your
mother used to wear.

NOAH
I'm so sorry, Dad.

ARTHUR
It's okay. The Founder's Keepers
stand a chance. It doesn't matter
that they have the files. Because
my great experiment starts
tomorrow, and there's nothing they
can do to stop it!

Noah gets a text message. It's from Molly.

ANGLE ON: NOAH'S PHONE. Text says, "MEET ME AT THE DINER -
MOLLY"

NOAH
I got to go...

ARTHUR
Okay, see ya.

INT. ASTORIA DINER - LATER

Danny rushes into a crowded diner near LaGuardia Airport.
Molly is at a booth by herself, crying.

NOAH
You poisoned me!

MOLLY
I said I was sorry.

NOAH
Why are you crying?

MOLLY
Because I need to get to Las Vegas,
but the police are looking for me
and there's no way I can get past
airport security!

Noah rubs his chin, thinking.

NOAH
I've got an idea!

Noah pulls out his cell phone and dials a number.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Hello? United Airlines? This is
Noah Gardner, I'm a VIP client of
yours. Yes, I need a celebrity
liaison at LaGuardia Airport in
twenty minutes. My girlfriend,
movie star Natalie Portman, wants
to avoid the paparazzi. Thank you.

Noah hangs up the phone.

MOLLY
I don't look like Natalie Portman.

NOAH
You do, kind of. Plus, she's the
kind of A-list celeb that most
people wouldn't recognize. This
will work. Trust me.

INT. LAGUARDIA AIRPORT - MOMENTS LATER

Noah and Molly get out of a limo. Molly is wearing a hat and sunglasses. A LIAISON greets them.

LIAISON
Right this way, Ms. Portman.

They walk past the ticket counter.

NOAH

I told you this would work.

They get to security checkpoint. Noah spots a fat, nerdy TSA AGENT operating the X-Ray machine.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Oh, no! I was wrong. This isn't going to work.

MOLLY

Why not?

NOAH

I forgot Natalie Portman was in *Star Wars*!

MOLLY

So?

NOAH

Look at that TSA agent. He's a *Star Wars* geek if I ever saw one. He'll know you're not Natalie Portman in a millisecond! He's king of the fanboys.

MOLLY

It'll be okay. I got this.

Noah walks through the metal detector first, without a hitch. Molly walks through second. The ALARM goes off.

TSA AGENT

Please remove any metallic items and step back through for me, ma'am.

Molly takes off her necklace and bracelet and walks through again. The alarm doesn't go off, but the TSA agent looks skeptical. He lifts up her necklace.

TSA AGENT (CONT'D)

Miss Portman?

CLOSE UP ON THE NECKLACE. A small silver cross dangling in the air.

TSA AGENT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I thought you were...Jewish?

BACK TO SCENE. Molly looks at Noah and smiles.

MOLLY

The force is strong with this one.

The TSA agent blushes. Molly takes the necklace back and kisses his cheek.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

We are not the droids you are looking for.

The TSA agent giggles uncontrollably. Molly and Noah walk to their gate.

NOAH

How did you--

MOLLY

I saw Episode 4 in college for a political science class.

NOAH

I just want you to know. Even though you poisoned me, I love you. And I'm on your side. The side of the founding fathers.

They kiss. With tongue this time.

NOAH (CONT'D)

And when we get to Vegas, I think we should get a room at a casino and, you know...

MOLLY

There's no time. We need to rent a car, drive into the Mojave Desert, and save Danny Bailey!

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - DAY

Kearns and Danny are driving back to the shack, to sell the nuclear bomb to those militiamen. But for real this time.

They pull up to the shack and get out. The same two militiamen are standing next to another large van.

DANNY

Where's Elmer?

MILITIAMAN 1

Don't worry about Elmer. We got your money right here.

He throws a duffle bag at Danny's feet. Kearns pulls out the fake nuclear bomb out the van and rolls it over to the militia van.

KEARNS

Here's your nuclear bomb.

Danny looks inside the militia van. Inside, he sees A REAL NUCLEAR BOMB! One of the ones that the US Army lost. Remember? From the newspaper in the beginning?

Militiaman 1's phone starts to RING.

MILITIAMAN 1

Sorry, I have to take this.

DANNY

Who is it? Elmer? Or Mohammed el-Amir?

The militiamen freeze. How did he know? They pull out their guns. Kearns and Danny pull out their guns.

GUN FIGHT SEQUENCE:

- 1) Danny shoots at Militiaman 1!
- 2) Militiaman 2 shoots at Kearns!
- 3) A bullet goes through the fake nuclear bomb!
- 4) Kearns gets shot in the arm, he's okay though!
- 5) Kearns shoots Militiaman 2 and kills him!
- 6) Kearns and Danny jump into the Militia van and drive away!
- 7) Militiaman 1 jumps into Kearns' van and gives chase!

INT. MILITIA VAN - CONTINUOUS

Danny is behind the wheel. Kearns is bleeding all over the real nuclear bomb.

KEARNS

I can't believe the FBI set me up!

DANNY

These guys were going to blow up Las Vegas with that real bomb and we were going to be implicated, right?

KEARNS

All these years of service and they
use me as a patsy!

DANNY POV: He looks into rearview mirror. The Militia van is
right on their tale.

DANNY

If this guy catches up to us, he'll
kill us, take the bomb, and kill
thousands of innocent people in Las
Vegas! We have to detonate the bomb
right here, right now!

KEARNS

Does it bother you that no one will
know what we did out here? How many
lives we saved?

DANNY

Someone will figure it out. Someone
like me. Someone on youtube.

KEARNS

Nice working with you, kid.

DANNY

You too, Kearns.

Kearns presses a giant red button on the real atomic bomb.
There's a GIANT FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT. They're dead.

EXT. MOJAVE DESERT - SAME TIME

Molly is racing down the highway at 100 miles an hour. Noah
can't drive because he's still queasy from when Molly
poisoned him.

NOAH

Why are we doing this? It's too
late. Project Exigent has already
started. You can't do anything but
get us arrested or killed in the
desert!

MOLLY

I thought you said you on our side!

NOAH

I am, but--

MOLLY
But NOTHING. Once you see the
truth, you have to LIVE it!

MOLLY POV: She sees a thousand cop cars in her rearview
mirror. Lights and sirens blaring.

NOAH
Fine! Slow down!

MOLLY
What?

NOAH
Don't stop, just let me out!

Noah opens the door. Molly slows down to a safe speed.

NOAH (CONT'D)
I love you!

MOLLY
I love you, too!

Noah jumps out of the car. His body rolls down the road. The
cops are forced to stop. Suddenly we see the same GIANT FLASH
OF WHITE LIGHT.

Noah looks up. Molly's car driving into a MUSHROOM CLOUD.

NOAH
Molly, NO!!!!

He passes out.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTEROGATION ROOM - LATER

Noah is strapped down on a long table, getting waterboarded
by two FBI AGENTS.

NOAH
I don't know anything!

FBI AGENT
(frustrated)
This isn't working.

There's a KNOCK on the door. The FBI agent opens it and
Arthur Gardner walks in.

NOAH
Dad? What are you doing here?

ARTHUR

Do you know what your little girlfriend has cost us?

NOAH

Billions of dollars?

ARTHUR

IMPACT! That bomb was supposed to give us leverage. Like Pearl Harbor. Or 9/11. But because of you, it blew up in the middle of nowhere, killing no one!

NOAH

I'm sorry.

ARTHUR

Don't you get it? All good things come to an end, including the United States. Slavery and tyranny have been the rule for thousands of years, freedom was just a short-lived exception. No one knows the people better than I do, and I know what they need. The takeover is still going as planned.

The FBI agents pull down Noah's pants and place ELECTRODES onto his temples and testicles.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I had big plans for you, Noah. I wanted you to be there at my side. To be my prince! But now I don't know. I need to see if you can be trusted.

The agents turn on the TORTURE MACHINE. Noah screams in pain.

NOAH

I told you! I don't know anything!

The agents turn the machine off.

ARTHUR

You disappoint me, Noah. You are a traitor and a coward. (To the FBI agents) Finish him off, then craft a story to ensure my son is remembered in a way that brings dignity to the Gardner name.

Noah grabs his father's hand.

NOAH

(whispering)

*As it will be in the future, it was
at the birth of Man...There are
four things certain since Social
Progress began.*

FBI AGENT

What did he say?

ARTHUR

It's Kipling, you idiot! My
favorite poem!

NOAH

*That the dog returns to his vomit
and the sow returns to her mire...*

ARTHUR

*And the burnt Fool's bandaged
finger goes back to the Fire!*

Arthur hugs his son.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I knew you were in there somewhere!
We just had to strip this Tea Party
nonsense away.

Noah smiles. His trick has worked!

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

These people you were with, they
thought a brighter future would
come from the failed ideas from the
past. They are wrong. The answer is
a new vision, my vision, and
together we will make my kingdom a
reality.

NOAH

That reminds me of a Thomas Paine
quote. "We have it in our power to
make the world over again."

ARTHUR

Well said, son. Well said.

INT. PRISON CELL - THREE MONTHS LATER

Arthur is in some kind of weird prison in Montana, doing PR
work for his dad? But he hates it? It's really not clear
what's going on.

Suddenly, a PRISON GUARD enters with a plate of food.

PRISON GUARD
Dinner time! Meat loaf tonight.

NOAH
I'm not hungry.

PRISON GUARD
I really think you should eat the
meatloaf.

NOAH
I said I'm not hungry.

The prison guard throws Noah against the wall.

PRISON GUARD
Eat. Your. Meatloaf.

The prison guard winks at Noah and leaves. Noah cuts into the
meatloaf and pulls out MOLLY'S BRACELET.

NOAH
She's alive!

There's A NOTE in the meatloaf too.

ANGLE ON - A HANDWRITTEN NOTE: "The uprising starts tomorrow!
Love, Molly"

BACK TO SCENE. Noah crumples up the note and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.

TO BE CONTINUED...