

AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

"From Beyond"

Written by

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Previously on Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.

Agent Triplett died way back in Season 2

Coulson lost his lover, Rosalind Price

Hunter and Bobbi were forced to leave the team

Ward died and came back possessed by Hive. The team defeated him, but at great cost

Now, Daisy/Quake and the rest of the surviving Inhumans have gone missing . . .

TEASER

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - ABDUCTION SITE - DAY

A FEMALE NEWSREPORTER stands in Central Park on a dark, cloudy day. Behind her we see a large crowd gathered behind a police barrier. She talks to the camera.

FEMALE NEWSREPORTER

It's been six days now since the disappearance of Earth's mightiest heroes and still we have no clue to their whereabouts. All we know for sure is that the heroes, including the Avengers, Spider-Man, Daredevil, Black Panther, and Ant-Man, were drawn to this location in Central Park and then vanished into thin air.

She walks past flowers, action figures and other tributes that have been laid on the ground. A TEARY-EYED GIRL clutches a sign that reads "Come back, Thor. We love you".

FEMALE NEWSREPORTER (CONT'D)

Security has been stepped up both here in America and across the globe. Some are even wondering if this could be the first step in another extra-terrestrial invasion. But for now, all we can do is wait and hope. Without superheroes, who can we count on to protect us from Earth's greatest threats?

The camera zooms in on a candle burning next to picture of Captain America. A gust of wind blows the flame out.

INT. BANK - DAY

Frightened customers and staff are huddled on the floor.

BOOMSLANG, a masked man wearing a red and green costume with a snakeskin texture, stands in the lobby of the bank.

Behind him, several MASKED GOONS pile money into bags. One of them approaches Boomslang.

GOON #1

We got all the money, boss.

BOOMSLANG

Then let's go.

They all head for the exit.

EXT. BANK - DAY

The bank robbers step out onto the street. A POLICE OFFICER suddenly runs up to them and draws his gun.

POLICE OFFICER

Freeze!

Boomslang moves with lightning speed and hurls two snake-shaped sickles from his waist.

First one hits the officer in the hand. Bam! Knocks his gun away. Second one hits him in the head. Pow! He's out cold.

BOOMSLANG

What did I tell you, boys?
Everyone's so busy looking for
their missing heroes they don't
have the manpower to stop us.

Suddenly, a QUINJET materializes out of thin air behind him. The Goons look scared and run off.

BOOMSLANG (CONT'D)

What is it?

He turns and sees the Quinjet. A voice comes out of the loudspeaker.

COULSON (O.S.)

This is S.H.I.E.L.D. Drop your
weapons. You are under arrest.

Boomslang looks at his sickles then looks back at the heavily armed Quinjet. He throws them to the ground in disgust.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

The Goons run down an alley. Agent MELINDA MAY is standing on top of a fence. She suddenly drops to the ground in front of them.

One of them draws his gun and she kicks it out of his hand. Another kick sends him crashing into the wall. The other goons run at her and she lashes out with her fists and feet, sending them flying.

Another agent, LANCE HUNTER, arrives in the alley, his gun drawn. He is wearing a mask that covers the top half of his face. By the time he gets there May has already knocked out all the goons.

HUNTER
Leave any for me, this time?

She just stares at him.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
Right. Good work, team.

The goons lie on the ground, groaning.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
So are we loading these blokes on the jet, or . . . ?

MAY
Leave them for the police. Coulson only cares about the leader.

HUNTER
Really? The Aussie guy whose power is dressing like a snake and throwing bloody boomerangs?

Hunter pulls off his mask.

MAY
You're not supposed to-

HUNTER
Don't, okay? It's too hot.

INT. QUINJET - HOLDING CELL AREA - DAY

Boomslang is pushed into a cell by ALPHONSO "MACK" MACKENZIE.

Mack locks the gate.

MACK
Don't slither away on us now.

Enter PHIL COULSON. Mack shakes his head at him.

MACK (CONT'D)
Something's gotta give. We can't keep chasing around all these two-bit villains.

COULSON

I understand, but we need Mr.
Riemer here.

Boomslang rattles the bars.

BOOMSLANG

The name's Boomslang, and you guys
better let me out. I have powerful
friends.

Coulson reaches for Boomslang with his robotic hand, as if to
strangle him. The villain flinches.

COULSON

Sorry. This thing keeps getting
stuck on evil.

He slaps the robot hand with his other one and smiles.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - ABDUCTION SITE - NIGHT

The same location as the news report earlier. POLICE OFFICERS
patrol the area.

The wind picks up. A mini-cyclone of trash forms.

Suddenly there is a loud ripping sound. A black hole appears
in mid-air, gradually widening.

A naked man drops through the hole and lands on the grass. He
is THE BEYONDER. The hole closes.

One of the BYSTANDERS notices him.

BYSTANDER

Hey, someone came back!
(beat)
And he's got no clothes!

The Beyonder stands up. We recognize his face. He looks like
Tony Stark's father, HOWARD STARK. He has a blank expression
on his face and speaks in an emotionless voice.

THE BEYONDER (AS HOWARD STARK)

I have arrived.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Coulson addresses the team. All of them are present except for Mack.

COULSON

As you're aware, with most of our powered heroes missing, supervillain activity has been on the rise. One group in particular, the Serpent Society, has threatened to release a toxin into the city's water supply, transforming anyone who drinks it into some kind of human/reptile hybrid.

There are a few chuckles in the room.

HUNTER

Not very likely, is it? I mean, come on. Sounds like a bad SyFy movie.

COULSON

I agree. But we can't take any chances with the big hitters out of the equation. Seriously, it's us or Power Pack to the rescue. And they have an early bedtime. Hopefully our guest can lead us to his former cohorts or at least confirm that they're about as dangerous as an unplugged toaster.

(beat)

May, any luck with the Inhumans?

May shakes her head.

MAY

We haven't been able to contact any of them. Not that we've been on good terms since Da-Quake went rogue. Either they were abducted, too, or they're laying low.

HUNTER

Little suspicious, you have to admit.

COULSON

Fitzsimmons, any more info on the site of the abduction?

LEO FITZ and JEMMA SIMMONS are chatting to each other quietly. They look up, embarrassed.

FITZ

Umm, whatever took them didn't use any power source we're aware of. For all we know the portal could still be active. No one's allowed beyond the cordon, just in case.

SIMMONS

I am still examining some organic matter that was left at the scene. So far I haven't been able to get a DNA match, though it is human.

BOBBI MORSE looks confused.

BOBBI

Organic matter?

SIMMONS

Yes. A fingertip. We think that someone was pulled through the portal and it shut so quickly on them that a piece got left behind.

BOBBI

(disgusted)

Glad I asked.

Mack enters the room.

MACK

You guys need to see this.

He picks up a remote and turns on a large TV at the back of the room.

MACK (CONT'D)

I was inventorying our latest alien tech when I saw this. They found an unidentified man at the abduction site last night.

NEWS FOOTAGE

THE BEYONDER is being taken away by police, a blanket wrapped around him for modesty. A REPORTER jams a microphone in his face as he is being pushed into the police car.

REPORTER

Who are you? Where did you come from? Do you know what happened to our heroes?

He stares at the reporter with the same blank look on his face.

THE BEYONDER

I am from beyond.

The police take him away.

BACK TO SCENE

The team react to the footage.

HUNTER

Well, that was a bit odd. From beyond what?

SIMMONS

That man looked familiar.

COULSON

He should. That was Howard Stark.

They all look shocked.

BOBBI

Isn't he a hundred years old? And, uh . . . dead?

MACK

What would Iron Man's dad be doing there?

HUNTER

Guys, I think the part where he's supposed to be dead is a little more important here.

Coulson holds up a hand to quiet the room.

COULSON

There's only one way to get answers. May, Mack, I want you to find out which station they've taken him to and see if you can get in to question him.

HUNTER

Why not me and Bobbi? No offence, but we have more experience with the old interrogation.

COULSON

You can't. You've been disavowed, remember? The only reason I brought you back in is because things are so desperate right now. But you have to stay under the radar.

(to May)

If you think this guy is responsible for our missing supers, call for backup before proceeding.

May nods.

COULSON (CONT'D)

Fitzsimmons, can you two go back to the abduction site? Maybe there'll be some new evidence left behind by our visitor that will help.

SIMMONS

Of course.

COULSON

The rest of you go back to whatever you were working on. Or take a nap. You probably won't have a break for long.

The agents get up and go their separate ways.

EXT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - DAY

The usual hustle and bustle of a big city police station. Also present now are the PRESS and MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC desperate to get information about the new arrival's involvement with the missing heroes.

INT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - HOLDING CELL - DAY

The Beyonder sits in the corner of the dark and grimy cell. He is wearing ill-fitting clothing.

A GUARD walks up to the cell.

GUARD

Hey, stalker! On your feet.

The Beyonder doesn't move.

A SCARY CLOWN in the cell with him laughs.

SCARY CLOWN
He means you, bozo.

The Beyonder gets up. The guard unlocks the cell and he walks out.

INT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY

The Beyonder is led down the corridor. The Guard opens a door.

GUARD
These people came here to ask you
some questions. So play nice.

He pushes the prisoner into the room.

INT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The room has one sparse table in it. Sitting behind it are Mack and May. The Beyonder studies them like a curious child.

MACK
Mr. Stark, take a seat.

The Beyonder looks around the room, then points at himself.

MACK (CONT'D)
Yeah, I was talking to you.

The Beyonder picks up the chair and studies it as if he has never seen one before. He puts it down and tries sitting on it in different positions before settling on the correct one.

Mack and May exchange a look.

MACK (CONT'D)
I'm Agent Mackenzie, this is Agent
May. We work for S.H.I.E.L.D. and
we're here to ask you some
questions.

THE BEYONDER
I know a man with a shield. He had
stars and stripes. He was very
brave.

MAY
Captain America?

THE BEYONDER
Yes, that's him.

MACK
You worked with him in World War
II, didn't you Mr. Stark?

THE BEYONDER
Why do you keep calling me that?
Oh, this body. I used this form to
gain the trust of the one you call
Tony Stark so I could transport him
where I needed him to be. I decided
to keep it when I came here.

MACK
(intense)
You took Iron Man? And the other
heroes? What about Daisy? Where is
she?

THE BEYONDER
Yes. Yes. She is with her own kind.
For some reason the ones you call
Inhumans do not amalgamate well
with others. You ask many
questions.

MAY
Why did you take them?

THE BEYONDER
I have studied your world for a
long time, ever since a hole was
opened in my own dimension. I grew
curious about how everyone on your
world has individual desires.
Something I knew nothing of. I
decided to take your heroes to see
how their desires would play out.

MACK
So you're an . . . alien?

THE BEYONDER
I am from beyond.

May stands up, looking alarmed.

MACK
Would you excuse us for a moment?

He stands up and confers quietly with May in the corner of this room.

MACK (CONT'D)
So, this was a waste of time, huh?
Total wackjob.

MAY
We need to call Coulson.

MACK
Why? This guy's on bath salts or something.

MAY
Because if even half of what he's telling us is true, he may be the most dangerous individual we've ever encountered.

MACK
(sighs)
Okay, it's your call.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HANGER - DAY

Coulson is overseeing repairs on the Quinjet. His phone rings and he picks it up.

COULSON
Mack?

INT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY

Mack and May stand in a quiet hall. Mack has a phone to his ear.

MACK
Sir, we've questioned the individual the police found at the park.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

COULSON
And?

MACK
Well, he's not Howard Stark. He claims to be from a dimension beyond our own.
(MORE)

MACK (CONT'D)

And that he abducted our supers
because he wanted to study them, or
something.

COULSON

Do you believe him?

MACK

No, but May thinks he knows where
they are, and maybe how to bring
them back.

COULSON

We need to bring him in. See if you
can pull some strings with the NYPD
and get him released into our
custody.

MACK

Yes, sir.

Coulson puts his phone down.

INT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

May and Mack are in the middle of talking with the young
CAPTAIN.

CAPTAIN

Absolutely not. This man may be our
best lead for finding out where all
our men in tights went and you want
me to give him up?

MAY

S.H.I.E.L.D. is best equipped to
contain and interrogate him.

CAPTAIN

I'm sorry, but S.H.I.E.L.D. doesn't
impress me anymore. Not after all
that's happened. I let you speak to
him as a courtesy, but he stays
here. That's final.

May scowls at him and walks out.

MACK

Thank you for your time.

He exits too.

INT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY

Mack and May talk in the hall.

MACK

I say we just leave Mr. Beyond here.

MAY

We can't take that chance. NYPD can't handle things if he has the powers he claims.

MACK

Well we can't just break him out of here.

He is interrupted by the Beyonder walking up to them. Straight through a brick wall. It parts around him as if he is walking through water.

Mack and May both stare at him, stunned.

MACK (CONT'D)

How did you do that?

THE BEYONDER

I simply dissipated the molecules around me. I heard you discussing my incarceration here.

MAY

You could hear us all the way in your cell?

THE BEYONDER

Yes, I hear all. I wish to learn more about this corporeal world. I would like to come with you.

MACK

Guess it's settled then.

Suddenly, an alarm goes off.

MAY

This way. Quickly.

They lead him down the hall.

They turn a corner and a POLICEWOMAN spots them. She draws her gun.

POLICEWOMAN

Freeze!

THE BEYONDER

I do not feel cold.

He starts to approach her.

POLICEWOMAN

Stop!

MAY

She will shoot you.

THE BEYONDER

I wish to experience new sensations, but from your tone I sense I would not enjoy that.

He waves his hand and the policewoman disappears.

MACK

What did you do to her?

THE BEYONDER

I simply sent her where she wished to be. Home in bed watching something called . . . Walking Dead?

MAY

We need to get out of here before reinforcements arrive.

THE BEYONDER

Allow me.

He waves his hand again and a circular hole appears in the wall, leading to the outside. The three of them walk through it.

EXT. NEW YORK POLICE STATION - DAY

Mack and May watch as the hole closes behind them. Pedestrians stare at them in amazement.

MAY

Let's get this guy back to base before we attract even more attention.

They hurry down the street away from the station.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

The Beyonder looks at everything around him with childlike wonder. He walks up to a hotdog stand. The HOTDOG VENDOR gives him a suspicious look.

HOTDOG VENDOR
Whaddya want, buddy?

THE BEYONDER
I wish to experience your world.

HOTDOG VENDOR
Well you came to the right place. I got the best dogs in town.

He plops a giant hotdog in a bun, smears mustard on it and offers it to the Beyonder.

THE BEYONDER
This does not look like a canine animal.

HOTDOG VENDOR
You're a funny guy. That'll be five bucks.

He looks at the vendor, not comprehending.

Mack steps in.

MACK
Sorry, he's from out of town. Way out of town.

He hands the vendor a ten.

MACK (CONT'D)
Keep the change.

The Beyonder takes a tentative bite of the hot dog. He chews it up and attempts to swallow it. Then he violently retches on the sidewalk.

MACK (CONT'D)
You okay?

THE BEYONDER
It appears this construct is not designed for consuming dead organic matter.

MACK
Never know until, you try, huh?

MAY

Let's go.

Mack and May lead him away quickly.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - ABDUCTION SITE - DAY

Fitzsimmons are behind the cordon, taking samples and readings from the Beyonder's arrival site.

Simmons holds up a device with a counter on it.

SIMMONS

Are you seeing this?

FITZ

Yeah. Background radiation is way above average and seismic activity is-

The ground suddenly shakes. Simmons starts to fall and Fitz catches her.

SIMMONS

Off the chart.

Suddenly there is a large ripping sound. A crack appears in the sky and a small object falls down from it. It lands on the grass.

SIMMONS (CONT'D)

Oh my word!

They approach the object cautiously. It is a small, furry, ALIEN ANIMAL.

FITZ

What is that?

SIMMONS

It's adorable! Come here little cutie.

She reaches out as if to pet it but Fitz grabs her arm.

FITZ

Don't be mental. Have you not seen any movies?

SIMMONS

I'm sure it's perfectly-

A HUGE TENTACLE suddenly comes down out of the crack. It wraps around the screaming animal and drags it back through the portal. The crack closes.

Fitzsimmons stagger back in shock.

FITZ

We're gonna need a bigger barrier.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HANGER - DAY

Coulson, Bobbi and Hunter are waiting by the entrance. Mack and May enter, their new friend in tow.

HUNTER

He give you any bother?

MACK

Nothing we couldn't handle.
Everyone, this is, uh, not Howard Stark.

The Beyonder studies the new people.

THE BEYONDER

I wish to learn more about your world. Will you teach me?

COULSON

First I'd like to learn more about you. Starting with why are you wearing a dead man's face?

THE BEYONDER

I thought this would allow me to blend in more, but I see I have chosen a poor subject.

He suddenly becomes consumed with light. We are now seeing the Beyonder's true energy form.

Hunter raises his gun but Mack waves him away.

When the light clears the visitor has transformed himself into the likeness of their deceased former teammate, ANTOINE TRIPLETT.

BOBBI

Oh my God.

Everyone stares in shock.

THE BEYONDER (AS TRIPLETT)
Is this form more satisfactory? I understand from your memories he is a former teammate.

MAY
A dead teammate.

THE BEYONDER
Forgive me. Your species' mortality is still new to me.

COULSON
Would you mind coming to our lab so we can run some tests on you? We're as curious about you as you are about us.

THE BEYONDER
I would be happy to assist us both in coming to an understanding.

Coulson points down a hall. The Beyonder walks that way.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HOLDING CELL - DAY

Coulson and the Beyonder walk past the cell where Boomslang is being kept.

BOOMSLANG
Caught another villain, have we?

COULSON
No talking.

The Beyonder studies the inmate curiously.

THE BEYONDER
Who is Grant Ward?

BOOMSLANG
My boss. Well, ex-boss. What's it to you?

THE BEYONDER
You were thinking that you wished he was here.

BOOMSLANG
You a bleedin' mind reader?

COULSON
Come on.

Coulson leads the Beyonder out of the room.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY - DAY

Coulson and the Beyonder walk down the hall.

THE BEYONDER
You know this Grant Ward?

COULSON
Knew him. And hated him.

THE BEYONDER
These strong feelings are
interesting to me. I wish he was
here so I could study him.

COULSON
Well, I killed him. So I'm afraid
that's impossible.

The Beyonder has a curious expression on his face.

TITLE: "Two years ago"

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A group of HYDRA GOONS are loading boxes onto a truck.
Several dead bodies lie on the ground.

Standing a short distance away watching the proceedings is
S.H.I.E.L.D. agent recently turned bad, GRANT WARD.

One of the goons comes up to him.

HYDRA GOON #1
What do you want us to do with the
weapons once they're loaded?

WARD
Lock them up. I'll meet you back at
the base later. I have an
appointment with Von Strucker.

Suddenly, there is a crackling noise.

Ward and the goons watch in amazement as a portal, similar to
the one the Beyonder arrived through, appears before them.

HYDRA GOON #2
What the hell is that?

Tendrils reach out from the portal.

Ward and four of his goons are sucked through it.

The portal closes.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HANGER - DAY

Fitzsimmons return to base. Bobbi is waiting for them.

BOBBI
Everything go okay?

FITZ
Mostly, yeah.

SIMMONS
We did discover the portal in
Central Park is leaking.

FITZ
Yeah, a weird beastie fell out of
it.

BOBBI
Sounds like a fun date. Well
Coulson is in the lab with our new
guest. He asked you to go over as
soon as you got back.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - LAB - DAY

The Beyonder sits in the lab with Fitzsimmons administering
various tests.

Simmons approaches the Beyonder with a needle.

SIMMONS
(nervously)
Can I, um, stick you with this?

THE BEYONDER
I wish to experience all.

She stabs him in the arm with the needle and attempts to draw
blood. She looks confused.

SIMMONS
Curious.

She goes over to a computer screen which shows a thermal view
of the Beyonder's body. Fitz stands beside her.

FITZ
It's not right, him looking like
Trip.

SIMMONS
I don't think he's aware of how
uncomfortable that makes everyone.
He may have the power of a god, but
emotionally he's still a child.

FITZ
Well, he needs to change.

Coulson walks in.

COULSON
Fitzsimmons, you almost done?

SIMMONS
Almost. I can already tell you
these readings are totally-

COULSON
You can tell me later. I need to
speak to our friend.

THE BEYONDER
I am finished being stabbed?

COULSON
For now.

Coulson leads the Beyonder away.

EXT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A portal opens in the sky a short distance from the base.

Ward and the Hydra Goons suddenly drop out of the sky and
land on the ground.

They pick themselves up as the portal closes.

HYDRA GOON #1
What the hell just happened? And
how is it daytime?

WARD
We were transported somewhere.

He sees a discarded newspaper lying in the ground. He picks
it up and looks at the front page.

HYDRA GOON #2

Where are we?

WARD

Not where, when. It's the year
2016.

HYDRA GOON #1

That's impossible. Who could have-

An intense buzzing sound cuts him off. They fall to their knees, as if in pain. The voice of the Beyonder speaks to them directly through their minds.

THE BEYONDER (V.O.)

I have brought you here to study
that which you call desire. This is
the location of your sworn enemies,
S.H.I.E.L.D. Defeat them in combat,
and I shall grant you whatever you
wish.

The buzzing, and the pain, stops.

HYDRA GOON #2

This has gotta be a trap. Let's get
the hell out of here.

WARD

No.

(cocks gun)

I want to see who's home.

He heads towards the headquarters. The goons reluctantly follow.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The Beyond and Coulson sit at a table. The Beyonder plays with a plastic cup like a child. His eyes look far off.

Coulson clears his throat loudly to get his attention.

COULSON

Are you here?

THE BEYONDER

Forgive me. I was talking with
someone else.

COULSON

Who?

THE BEYONDER

It is not important.

COULSON

Well, I have a few questions for you.

THE BEYONDER

And I have many questions for you.

COULSON

Me first. Where did you come from?

THE BEYONDER

I am from beyond.

COULSON

You keep saying that, but it tells me nothing. Why did you come here?

THE BEYONDER

To study humanity.

COULSON

There are billions of planets in the universe. Some of them must have intelligent life. What's so special about us?

THE BEYONDER

There are many inhabited worlds, this is true. But only on this planet are there so many super-powered beings in close proximity.

COULSON

So you saw our planet, and then you decided to take our superheroes away?

THE BEYONDER

Yes. To pit them in battle and study that which you call desire.

Coulson struggles to keep his composure.

COULSON

Okay. Any chance we can get them back?

THE BEYONDER

They will be returned. Once they have achieved their goals.

Suddenly, an ALARM goes off.

The Beyonder looks confused. Coulson stands up.

COULSON

Stay here.

(beat)

Please.

He hurriedly leaves.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - SURVEILLANCE ROOM - DAY

Coulson walks up to Mack.

COULSON

What's going on?

MACK

Security breach by the South exit.

COULSON

Anyone we know?

Mack scans the screens.

MACK

Yeah.

He points to a monitor. Ward's smiling face appears there. He shoots his gun at the camera and the screen goes black.

Coulson and Mack look stunned.

COULSON

I hate that guy.

MACK

We killed him. Twice.

Coulson gives Mack a wry look.

COULSON

Guess he came back. It happens.

He and Mack hurry out of the room, drawing weapons.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - SOUTH ENTRANCE - DAY

Bobbi and Hunter are crouched down behind a crate, ready to shoot as soon as they see something.

HUNTER

Who do you think it is this time?
Hydra? The Sinister Six?

BOBBI

Knowing our luck it's probably the
C.I.A.

Hunter studies her appreciatively.

HUNTER

You look good today. Styling your
hair different or something?

BOBBI

Time and a place, honey.

HUNTER

Sorry.

Suddenly they hear a footstep. Hunter peers around the corner.

He sees two of the goons. He points two fingers at Bobbi and she nods.

They wait until the goons get closer and then stand up. The goons try to fire but they are too late. Bobbi and Hunter shoot them both.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

Really scraping the bottom of the
barrel with goons these days,
aren't they?

BOBBI

Fail Hydra.

Shots are fired elsewhere in the building. They go running.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY - DAY

Ward and two more goons creep down the hall. Ward comes to a stop and motions the other two to be still.

He listens for a second, then points his fingers forward.

The goons slowly move forward. They suddenly get shot in the head and fall down dead.

Mack and Coulson appear in the hall, guns drawn.

Ward throws a capsule on the ground. It bursts open, obscuring him in smoke.

Mack and Coulson fire blindly, coughing.

They cautiously proceed through the smoke.

Suddenly there is a gunshot. Mack slumps against the wall.

Coulson crouches down beside him.

COULSON

Mack! You okay?

Mack is unconscious.

WARD (O.S.)

Hey boss.

Coulson turns and sees Ward emerge from the smoke.

Ward kicks the gun out of Coulson's hand. Coulson lunges at him with a cry of rage.

The two men struggle on the floor, kicking and punching. Wards throws Coulson against the wall, stunning him.

WARD (CONT'D)

I honestly thought you guys would put up more of a fight.

A hand taps him on the shoulder. He turns and sees May standing in front of him. She punches him in the face, hard. He crumbles to the ground.

She kicks in him in the head, knocking him out.

Coulson gets up, rubbing his back.

COULSON

Thanks.

MAY

Where's Mack?

He leads May over to where Mack is laying.

May checks his pulse.

MAY (CONT'D)

He's alive. Bullet just nicked him under his armor.

COULSON
Can you stay with him until the
medics get here?

She nods.

Coulson zipties Ward's hands before he can wake up.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - MEDBAY - NIGHT

Mack is lying in bed. May, Hunter, Fitzsimmons and Bobbi are with him. Mack sits up, looking confused.

HUNTER
Look who's finally awake. All this
fuss over a flesh wound.

MACK
We catch Ward?

HUNTER
May did?

MACK
That's something, at least. Almost
makes up for me being taken down
like a rookie.

BOBBI
You did fine. We're all running on
empty.

Coulson enters the room.

COULSON
May? Can you come with me? Ward
just woke up.

MAY
Ward? Or Hive?

COULSON
Guess we'll find out.

She leaves the room with him.

HUNTER
Oh, I need to see this. Where's the
camera at?

BOBBI
No can do, honey. Coulson wants us
to babysit Mr. Beyond.

HUNTER

Come on. As if we could stop him leaving. He's like a god.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

A bruised Ward sits handcuffed to the table. An unsmiling May and Coulson question him.

COULSON

So, the elephant in the room. How are you still alive?

WARD

What are you talking about?

COULSON

You're dead. I killed you. Then you came back possessed. And Lincoln sacrificed himself to kill you again.

WARD

(laughs)

Interesting story. But I think I would remember all that.

MAY

Why did you come here?

WARD

What can I say? I missed you guys.

May slams her fists on the table.

MAY

I know you're playing some game. What is it?

WARD

I always liked you when you're angry.

COULSON

Was this just a distraction?

WARD

You guys really need to work on your interrogation technique. You've gotten a little soft.

Coulson suddenly grabs Ward with his robot hand and knocks him to the floor.

WARD (CONT'D)

Nah. Still not telling.

Coulson sighs in frustration and lets him go.

COULSON

You can rot here for all I care. No food, no water, no bathroom breaks. You'll talk. Eventually.

He and May leave the room. Ward smiles.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Bobbi and Hunter watch the Beyonder pace around his cell.

HUNTER

Sure is restless for a supreme being, isn't he?

Bobbi doesn't answer.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

You all right, love?

BOBBI

Yeah.

HUNTER

That didn't sound like a good yeah.

BOBBI

It's just . . . I don't know how much longer I can do this. Hiding. Not being trusted with high profile missions. Maybe we shouldn't have come back.

HUNTER

The guys need us. It's just temporary.

BOBBI

But what if it isn't? We deserve to be full agents. Or we should leave.

HUNTER

I have to admit, being on the run with you was kinda hot. I am looking forward to it just being the two of us again.

She smiles. Hunter puts his arm around her.

He suddenly notices the Beyonder staring at him intently.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

THE BEYONDER

I have slowly been making this body more carbon-based. Adding internal organs and biological functions.

HUNTER

Don't tell me I'm gonna have to teach you to use the bathroom.

BOBBI

Do you feel more . . . human?

THE BEYONDER

It is strange. When I look at you, this body has an urge to procreate.

HUNTER

Easy, mate. That's my wife. Well, ex-wife.

THE BEYONDER

I was not talking to the female.

HUNTER

Okay, good for you. I mean, I don't swing that way, but a good-looking god like you should have no problem finding a nice bloke.

Bobbi chuckles. Coulson enters.

COULSON

How are things going?

HUNTER

Splendid. I've been bonding with the Beyonder.

COULSON

Well, he can be by himself for a while. We need to talk.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

The whole group is gathered once more.

MACK

I thought we finally finished off Hydra? And Ward?

HUNTER

I know. It's like they're some mythical creature that keeps growing new heads. What was that called again?

Mack gives him an unamused look.

FITZ

You think Ward could be here to find out more about the Beyonder?

COULSON

I don't see how Ward could even know about him. He died long before any of this happened.

BOBBI

What if the Beyonder brought him back to life? We still don't know the limits of his power.

SIMMONS

There's another possibility. I was able to identify two of the men you shot. They were Hydra agents that were reported dead in the Battle at the Triskelion. The Beyonder may have simply plucked them from the past and brought them here.

MAY

So we just kill him again like we killed them.

MACK

I'm fine with that.

FITZ

No. We do that and we're messing with history. We've already caused a paradox by killing his henchmen. If this Ward is from the past, he needs to go back there.

HUNTER

Okay. Does anyone have a DeLorean?

Simmons suddenly looks at her tablet, alarmed.

FITZ

What is it?

She holds up a video feed of an empty cell.

SIMMONS

The Beyonder's gone.

Coulson rushes out of the room.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Ward sits at the table, still handcuffed.

The Beyonder suddenly enters the room by walking through the wall. Ward looks mildly surprised.

WARD

Triplett?

THE BEYONDER

Who? Oh, this body. It is a shell
for my true form.

WARD

That's a neat trick. You're the one
that spoke to me outside, right?

THE BEYONDER

Yes. I brought you to this time.

(beat)

Why do they desire your death? I am
curious to learn more.

WARD

Because they fear what I am. What I
could create.

THE BEYONDER

And that is?

WARD

Utopia. It's a-

THE BEYONDER

I am aware of what it is. But how
can you create a utopia through the
use of violence?

WARD

We have an expression around here.
You can't make an omelette without
breaking a few eggs.

THE BEYONDER

I am unable to digest food.

We hear running footsteps approaching them in the hall.

WARD

Listen, those other guys are about to come here and bust up this party. They can't help you. If you truly want to learn about human desire, I can show you. But you have to get me out of here.

THE BEYONDER

Where would we go?

WARD

Anywhere but here.

THE BEYONDER

As you wish.

WARD

And give me back my gun.

The Beyonder nods. He rips open the wall in front of them.

Ward's cuffs fall to the floor. Then a gun materializes in his hand.

THE BEYONDER

Do you also wish me to release the serpent human?

WARD

Who?

THE BEYONDER

He said he worked for your organization.

WARD

Sure, the more the merrier.

The Beyonder and Ward walk through the hole.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ward and the Beyonder walk down the hall-

-and run right into Coulson and his team (minus Fitzsimmons and Mack).

Ward fires at them, scattering them.

Coulson fires back some warning shots. He points his gun at Ward's head.

COULSON

Drop it! And step away from the
Beyond.

THE BEYONDER

There is no need for violence.

He waves his hand and a large, glowing bubble suddenly surrounds Coulson and the other agents.

Hunter prods it with his gun. Gives slightly, but doesn't break.

HUNTER

Well this is new.

Coulson comes to the edge of the bubble. Looks at the Beyond.

COULSON

I don't know what he told you, but
you can't trust him. Let us out.

THE BEYONDER

This human has said he can teach me
about desire. I believe he is
telling the truth.

Boomslang suddenly appears beside them.

BOOMSLANG

What the 'ell's going on?

WARD

We're getting out of here.

BOOMSLANG

Boss! You're alive!

Coulson bangs on the bubble.

COULSON

Nooo!

The three of them disappear in a flash.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Fitzsimmons make their way down the hall, looking anxious.

They stop dead when they see their companions trapped in the giant bubble. Fitz looks like he is about to laugh.

May stares at him, a scowl on her face.

MAY

Don't.

FITZ

(serious)

Sorry.

SIMMONS

The Beyonder did this?

HUNTER

No, I just got a Wubble Bubble Ball for my birthday and decided to bring it to work. My bad.

COULSON

Can you get us out?

Simmons examines the bubble, pressing her hand to it.

SIMMONS

It appears to be some kind of porous inorganic shell. It's letting air in, but not a lot. I'd take shallow breaths, just in case.

BOBBI

Great.

FITZ

We'll head back to the lab, see what we can come up with to pop this.

COULSON

No time. Ward and the Beyonder could be anywhere. There's no telling how much damage they could be causing. I need you to monitor all media for news on their location.

Fitz nods.

HUNTER

So we're stuck here? We could really use a superhero right now. Shame they all buggered off.

COULSON

(smiles)

Not all of them.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

An empty field in the middle of nowhere. The sun is rising. The Beyonder, Ward and Boomslang teleport into the field.

Boomslang bends over and vomits.

BOOMSLANG

I'm stonkered. Don't do that to me again.

THE BEYONDER

Forgive me. The limitations of your human forms are still new to me.

Ward looks around.

WARD

Where are we?

THE BEYONDER

This is an area of what you call Upstate New York with a low population. I thought this would be a good place for us to talk more about desire without anyone interrupting us.

WARD

I can talk all day, but the only way to truly understand it is to see it.

THE BEYONDER

Where do you propose we go?

WARD

Do you know where the White House is?

Boomslang stands up, wiping his mouth.

BOOMSLANG

You serious? We'll get shot by
Secret Service the minute we
arrive.

WARD

Not if we have a little extra
protection.

(to the Beyonder)

Can you transfer some of your power
to us?

THE BEYONDER

I do not think that is a good idea.

WARD

Come on, just a taste. Aren't you
curious about how mortals would act
with God-like power? This is your
chance to see.

The Beyonder stares at them silently for a moment.

THE BEYONDER

Very well. But I must warn you,
even a small amount of my energy
may be rejected by your body. Or it
could destroy your primitive forms
completely.

He raises his hand. A glowing energy surrounds Ward and
Boomslang.

They drop to the ground, screaming in pain. The energy field
brightens until nothing else can be seen.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - HALLWAY - DAY

Coulson and team are sitting in the bubble. Drenched in
sweat. Look like they have trouble breathing.

HUNTER

I'm just saying, why didn't the
bloke kill us instead of this slow
torture?

BOBBI

He probably doesn't know enough
about humans to care. Maybe he
thought he was keeping us safe in
here.

COULSON
No talking. Save your air.

Suddenly, Fitz appears outside the bubble.

COULSON (CONT'D)
Did you-
(ragged breath)
-do what I said?

FITZ
I did.

MAY
Do what?

FITZ
I phoned a friend.

He steps aside to reveal MIKE PETERSON, aka DEATHLOK. His cybernetic body has been repaired and he looks ready for action.

FITZ (CONT'D)
I think if we can reverse the
polarity on the sphere, we may be
able to-

Deathlok ignores him and places both hands on the bubble.

An electric charge shoots out of his hands and crackles up and down the bubble. It shatters, leaving the people inside unscathed.

FITZ (CONT'D)
Or we can do that.

Deathlok and Fitz help Coulson and the others to their feet.

COULSON
Thanks for coming.

DEATHLOK
You are welcome.

COULSON
(to Fitz)
Any word on our targets?

FITZ
Not yet. Mack's been monitoring
communications.
(MORE)

FITZ (CONT'D)

Jemma's working on a way to track the chemical traces left behind when the Beyonder teleports.

COULSON

Well, we need to be ready to move as soon as we find anything. I have a feeling when they hit somewhere it's gonna be big.

Hunter slaps Deathlok on the back.

HUNTER

Could have used your help earlier. Where've you been all this time?

DEATHLOK

Upgrading.

HUNTER

Good to have you back on the team, Terminator.

Deathlok just stares at him.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

All is quiet. Then the Beyonder, Ward and Boomslang teleport onto the lawn in front of the White House.

All hell breaks loose. An alarm goes off. SECRET SERVICE AGENTS run towards them, weapons drawn.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #1

Hands up! Down on the ground! Now!

Ward nods at the other two. They all put their hands up and get on their knees.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #2

How the hell did you get in here?

WARD

We just decided to hop over your little fence.

Ward waits until one of the Secret Service approaches him. He whips out his gun and shoots the man dead.

The other Secret Service return fire.

Ward waves a hand and an energy shield appears around him. It deflects the bullets.

WARD (CONT'D)

I could get used to this.

BOOMSLANG

Let me try something!

He slams his fist down and a crack opens in the ground. The Secret Service fall into it. An agent screams as the ground crushes him.

Only one Secret Service agent is left. He points his gun at Ward, visibly shaking.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #3

What are you people?

Ward approaches him, energy suddenly crackling from his fist.

WARD

We're the saviours of this country.

Before Ward can shoot the energy at the man, the Beyonder steps between them.

THE BEYONDER

There is no need for further violence.

The Beyonder's eyes glow brightly as he looks at the Secret Service Agent. The man's eyes glow too. He has a blank expression on his face.

THE BEYONDER (CONT'D)

You will now obey our every command.

The man answers in a monotone voice.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #3

I will obey your every command.

BOOMSLANG

Neat! I coulda used that trick with me ex-wife.

WARD

(to the agent)

Take us to see the President.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

PRESIDENT ELLIS is talking on the phone when several SECRET SERVICE AGENTS walk into the room.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #4
Sir, there's been a security
breach. We have to get you out of
here.

PRESIDENT ELLIS
(sighs)
Who is it this time?

Suddenly the wall explodes inwards. Ellis and the Secret Service are knocked to the floor.

The Beyonder, Ward and Boomslang enter the room. They are accompanied by several BRAINWASHED SECRET SERVICE, their eyes glowing.

The brainwashed agents quickly subdue the ones protecting the President.

President Ellis stands up and brushes the dust off his clothes. Clearly afraid, but trying not to show it and remain Presidential.

PRESIDENT ELLIS (CONT'D)
Who are you? What do you want?

Ward smiles at him.

WARD
I guess you could call us concerned citizens. We'd like to talk to you about how we can improve things in this great country.

PRESIDENT ELLIS
I'm listening.

WARD
First of all, I need you to swear allegiance to me. Swear that you will do what I say.

PRESIDENT ELLIS
I will never do that. You may as well just kill me.

WARD
I have no intention of killing you. But if you don't do what I say, we will launch nuclear weapons at several foreign targets, forcing their counter attack. Millions will die. On your watch.

THE BEYONDER

I have not agreed to that. I can learn nothing by humanity's extinction.

WARD

Don't worry, it won't come to that. The President will acquiesce.

The President laughs.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

You expect me to believe you three jokers have long-range nuclear capabilities? I don't buy it for a second.

Ward glances over at the Beyonder.

WARD

I think I should introduce you to my companion. Perhaps then you'll understand the gravity of the situation. This man here, is not a man at all. He is the being responsible for the missing superheroes. He arrived here from a dimension where he was omnipotent. He is, to all intents and purposes, a god.

The Beyonder suddenly burps.

THE BEYONDER

Excuse me. I have just completed forming digestive organs in this body.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

Right. Where'd you find this guy? A homeless shelter for out of work actors?

BOOMSLANG

Show him where you came from, B.

The Beyonder spreads his hands out as if opening a pair of curtains.

A pinprick hole appears in the air. It widens until it becomes the size of a large window. On the other side of the hole is another universe of stars.

Floating in space is a strange, makeshift planet that looks cobbled together from different worlds.

THE BEYONDER

This was my dimension where I was everything and everything was me. Then, by chance, I became aware of your universe. I created this world you see now and transported your greatest heroes and villains to it to watch them battle for what they desired.

The President watches, transfixed.

THE BEYONDER (CONT'D)

But I soon grew bored watching their endless, repetitive battles. I came here to learn about more normal Earthlings. My friend here tells me that by carrying out his plans I can finally learn the truth about human desire. I hope you will assist us.

The window closes. The President closes his slack jaw.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

That was a very nice light and magic show. But if you think that's enough to make me become your slave, you're even crazier than you sound.

BOOMSLANG

Zap him with your eyes, B. Make him our slave.

THE BEYONDER

No.

WARD

No? Why not?

THE BEYONDER

I want to see human desire play out naturally. You have told me that this man is the leader of what you call the free world. I wish to see how he will act if those he leads are threatened.

WARD

And what if he doesn't act accordingly? Humanity is suffering. We have to help them.

Boomslang sighs loudly.

BOOMSLANG

Enough yabber. I know how to make him see our point.

Boomslang concentrates. Suddenly he grows ten feet tall. His mouth widens and his teeth sharpen into fangs.

He picks the President up and dangles him helplessly above his glistening maw.

BOOMSLANG (CONT'D)

(snarls)

Now, Mr. Prez. Are you gonna help us out or not?

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

All of the agents are gathered in the briefing room. Coulson stands before the large screen on the wall.

COULSON

Ward and the Beyonder have surfaced. And the situation is much worse than we feared.

He turns on the TV.

ON THE TV - NEWS REPORT

We see footage of the White House surrounded by POLICE and FBI AGENTS.

A MALE NEWSREPORTER comments on the situation.

MALE NEWSREPORTER

There has been no word from inside since the White House was invaded. Authorities have refused to answer whether the President is alive or dead, or why they have yet to send in an armed response. We will keep you informed on this breaking story.

BACK TO SCENE

MACK

What does Ward want with the President? This isn't his MO.

COULSON

He's got bigger fish to fry now that there's a god in his pocket.

HUNTER

We talking World War III here?

COULSON

That's a worse case scenario. But maybe, yeah.

HUNTER

Bloody Norah.

They all look shocked.

MACK

Have any of you considered that maybe this is all part of God's plan? Maybe we aren't supposed to interfere in this.

FITZ

If there is a God, which there isn't, it's not this weirdo.

MACK

I'm not saying he's God. But we've never encountered a being like this before. I don't believe a higher power would destroy us all.

Coulson clears his throat loudly.

COULSON

Can we save the theological discussions for after we've saved the world?

BOBBI

So what's our plan?

COULSON

We have to attack soon. Every second we wait the world comes close to a major catastrophe.

HUNTER

We go in when even the Secret Service and the FBI are afraid? Sounds like a suicide mission to me.

COULSON

We may have a secret weapon.

He looks at Fitzsimmons.

SIMMONS

Well, it's completely untested of course and a million to one shot-

FITZ

But we've been working on a device that may send the Beyonder back through the portal to his own dimension. Hopefully once he's back there the portal in Central Park will become stable again.

SIMMONS

You see, his body is just a shell. It has some rudimentary organs but it's mostly energy. We can send that back and his consciousness will go with it. We just have to get close enough to him to use it.

MAY

Then let's get you in there.

HUNTER

So we're invading the White House? Yay.

INT. S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS - LAB - DAY

Fitz is running some tests on a large, hand-held weapon. Simmons comes up behind him.

SIMMONS

Will it work?

FITZ

No way to test it, but I think so, yes. As long as those energy readings you got from the portal were accurate?

SIMMONS

They were.

FITZ

Well, this is it, then.

An awkward silence.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Listen, if we don't make it through
this I just want you to-

Simmons cuts him off with a kiss.

Their faces are still locked together when Mack walks in.

MACK

Sorry to interrupt. We're heading
out.

They disengage.

SIMMONS

We're ready.

The three of them walk out.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

PRESS are gathered behind a barrier on the White House lawn.
We see SNIPERS in strategic positions.

The President emerges from the White House and walks up to a
podium. Inside, we see Ward and the Beyonder watching.

The President clears his throat nervously.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

My fellow Americans, citizens of
the world. I come before you with
the most important announcement I
have ever made. Perhaps the most
important speech any world leader
has ever made.

CUT TO:

INT. QUINJET - CABIN - DAY

Hunter and Bobbi watch the President's speech on an iPad.
Deathlok sits silently behind them, charging his battery.

HUNTER

Laying it on a bit thick, isn't he?

BOBBI

Shh!

PRESIDENT ELLIS (ON IPAD)

Today, I met with an ambassador from another world. A very powerful being who is shocked and horrified by our violent ways.

BACK TO:

WHITE HOUSE

PRESIDENT ELLIS

This being, who calls himself the Beyonder, has asked that I relay this message to you all. The violence must end. All warring nations and groups must lay down their arms immediately. They must swear allegiance to the new world order.

(deep breath)

If we refuse to live in peace, then our planet will be destroyed. That is the choice we have to make. Thank you, and God bless the world.

He turns and walks back into the White House, ignoring the barrage of shouts and screams from the assembled crowd.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALL - DAY

The Beyonder looks troubled as the President rejoins them.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

I did it. God help me.

Ward smiles.

WARD

Congratulations, gentlemen. We're going to save the world.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - DAY

A large section of the street has been roped off. The Quinjet lands within this area.

Coulson and the others exit. Coulson walks up to a tall, serious-looking man. This is the DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DNI).

COULSON

Thank you for letting us land, sir.

DNI

We'll take any help we can get.

COULSON

What's the current situation?

(smiles nervously)

Other than the obvious.

DNI

All attempts to infiltrate the perimeter of the White House have been prevented by some kind of invisible energy field. We've been doing what we can to keep things calm, but the international situation is becoming worse by the second.

COULSON

How bad?

DNI

China, Russia and North Korea have all released statements either publicly or privately that they believe the President to be compromised and will not hesitate to retaliate if there is any threat of nuclear attack.

COULSON

That's bad. Can the President even release missiles by himself?

DNI

No, but there's no telling what that alien freak in there is capable of.

Coulson looks back at his assembled team.

COULSON

My team has a plan. Do we have your permission to go in?

The Director sighs and rubs his hand down the back of his balding head.

DNI

Okay. Just keep it quiet. The last thing we need is any explosions scaring people.

Deathlok walks past the Director. A giant rocket launcher extends out of his arm.

DNI (CONT'D)

I'm going to regret this.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Coulson and team wait just outside the force field, surveying the scene. Coulson turns to Deathlok.

COULSON

Can you short out the force field the way you did the bubble back at base? Fitz says the composition is very similar.

DEATHLOK

It will take more power than I currently have to overload it.

Fitz walks up behind him with a heavy cable connected to a generator.

FITZ

This should do the trick.

Deathlok nods and Fitz connects the cable to him. A humming sound gradually gets louder.

Coulson looks at Fitz, who is tinkering with the large weapon from his lab.

COULSON

Is the dimension gun ready?

FITZ

It still needs a few . . . uh, modifications.

COULSON

Fix it. We only have one shot at this.

SIMMONS

We'll get it working.

Coulson turns to the others.

COULSON

Get in your positions. As soon as this shield goes down they're gonna throw everything they have at us.

Everyone crouches down, weapons drawn.

The humming increases to a roar as energy crackles from Deathlok's hands. He shoots it out at the shield. It vibrates for a moment, and then collapses with a loud pop.

Seconds later, brainwashed Secret Service come running out of the White House to confront them.

COULSON (CONT'D)

Tasers only. Remember, these guys aren't in control of their own minds.

May and Mack go running in low, taking out several agents. They make it inside the White House.

Bobbi nods at Hunter and they head in next. They stun several agents but one of them grabs Bobbi and throws her to the ground.

HUNTER

Oy!

He rushes in to help her but before he gets there she kicks the agent in the groin, incapacitating him.

She stands up and she and Hunter make it inside.

Coulson looks at Fitzsimmons, both of whom are crouched behind a bush.

COULSON

Stay here. Let me know if the shield comes back up or if you get the gun working.

Fitz nods.

COULSON (CONT'D)
(to Deathlok)
Come on.

They walk quickly towards the building. A SECRET SERVICE AGENT comes running up to them. He shoots at Deathlok, but the bullets are deflected.

Deathlok swings his powerful arm, knocking the man into a wall.

COULSON (CONT'D)
Try not to hurt them. Much.

Deathlok nods. Instead of going through the door he smashes open a window and walks into the White House.

Coulson shrugs and walks in the broken window after him.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - SECURITY ROOM - DAY

Ward and the Beyonder watch on CCTV cameras as S.H.I.E.L.D. enters the building.

THE BEYONDER
I do not understand. We are trying to bring peace. Why do they attack us?

WARD
Because peace threatens them. They earn their living through war. They will try to stop us at any cost.

THE BEYONDER
I could simply erase them from existence . . .

WARD
No, you protect the President. I'll handle them.

Ward holds up his fists, which crackle with energy.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Bobbi and Hunter creep down the hall. They stop at a door. They hear laughing and excited screaming coming from within.

Hunter carefully opens the door. They go inside.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENTIAL BEDROOM - DAY

They enter the extravagant bedroom.

Lying on the huge bed is BOOMSLANG, along with two scantily-clad YOUNG WOMEN.

BOOMSLANG
How would you Sheilas like to say
you made it with someone in the
President's bedroom?

YOUNG WOMEN #1
Okay, but does it have to be you?

Boomslang suddenly notices Bobbi and Hunter, guns pointed at him.

BOOMSLANG
You're not supposed to be here!

HUNTER
I might say the same about you.

BOOMSLANG
Ladies, leave.

The two young women hurry out of the room.

BOBBI
Guess it's our lucky day, catching
you without your little sickles.

Boomslang laughs loudly.

BOOMSLANG
I don't need those anymore.

He claps his hands together. It creates an energy wave that knocks Bobbi and Hunter off their feet.

BOOMSLANG (CONT'D)
I got me some real power.

He walks over to them, still laughing.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALL - DAY

Mack and May are fighting brainwashed Secret Service in another part of the building.

Mack stuns an TALL AGENT that is about to shoot at him.

A BURLY AGENT runs at May. She takes him out with a roundhouse kick.

MACK

I'm getting tired of these zombie Secret Service. Where's the big boss?

MAY

(into transmitter)
Coulson, any luck?

INT. WHITE HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Coulson and Deathlok are making their way through the huge kitchen.

COULSON

(into transmitter)
Negative. No sign of our targets yet. We're heading into the West Wing now.

(beat)

Hunter, Bobbi? Have you cleared out the residence?

No reply.

Suddenly the door to the kitchen bangs open. Ward enters.

WARD

If I'd known we were having guests I'd have had the chef prepare something.

Deathlok reaches for his weapon.

Ward shoots a blast of dark energy from his hands. It hits Deathlok, picks him up and hurls him into the wall.

Coulson unloads his gun at Ward, who just shrugs off the bullets.

WARD (CONT'D)

Whole different ballgame now, Phil.
I'm no longer a man. I'm a god.

Suddenly, Ward gets hit by a rocket and is thrown across the room, his body aflame.

Deathlok, down but not out, lies on the floor, smoke coming out of his rocket launcher.

COULSON

Not quite.

Deathlok slowly gets to his feet.

COULSON (CONT'D)

Let's go find the President.

They leave the room.

On the floor, Ward's charred and bloody body starts to twitch.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRESIDENTIAL BEDROOM - DAY

Boomslang picks a still stunned Bobbi off the ground. He lifts her up by the throat, choking her.

Hunter comes too and sees Bobbi about to be killed. He shoots Boomslang in the kneecaps.

The villain looks mildly annoyed and drops Bobbi.

BOOMSLANG

You'll pay for that, mate.

He conjures a ball of flame in his hand. He gets ready to throw it at Hunter.

Suddenly he doubles over.

BOOMSLANG (CONT'D)

Not again.

He vomits, but this time energy escapes his body, leaving him powerless.

Bobbi grabs one of the sickles from his belt. She stabs Boomslang under the arm.

He screams. Blood stains his clothing.

BOOMSLANG (CONT'D)

(faintly)

Hey, I'm not supposed to bleed anymore.

He falls to the floor.

Bobbi helps Hunter up.

HUNTER

He wasn't so tough.

BOBBI

Let's go.

They exit the room.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The President is huddled behind his desk. The Beyonder stands guard.

Coulson and Deathlok enter the room, weapons drawn.

THE BEYONDER

Come no further. If you attempt to harm the President I will simulate an order from both him and the secretary of defense instructing NORAD to go to DEFCON 1 and launch a nuclear attack.

Coulson lowers his gun and waves at Deathlok to do the same.

COULSON

We have no intention of harming the President. You've been misled. Ward doesn't want peace. He wants the whole world to be under his rule. Under the rule of Hydra.

THE BEYONDER

But your own President agreed that this was the best course of action.

President Ellis stands up.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

No, I didn't. I just said that to make that crazy bastard happy. Listen to Coulson.

The Beyonder looks confused.

COULSON

You want to learn about human desire, right? Well you can't do that by taking away people's free will. You can't force peace on people. You have to let them decide for themselves.

WARD (O.S.)

Don't listen to him.

They all turn to see Ward standing in the doorway. He is badly burned and has several chunks of flesh missing.

WARD (CONT'D)

Coulson doesn't want peace. The greatest lie is that mankind will choose to live in peace if you let them. People are weak. They need to be led. They need to be shown the horror of war before they can accept peace.

The Beyonder looks deep in thought.

THE BEYONDER

I need time to ponder this. You both make a convincing case. I want to make sure the right decision is reached.

WARD

There isn't time. You have to kill Coulson and his friends now. If we miss this chance, mankind will never have peace.

DEATHLOK

We'll have peace when you're dead.

Deathlock runs at Ward.

The Beyonder waves his hand and Deathlok suddenly powers down. He stands there, immobile.

COULSON

(into transmitter)

Fitzsimmons! We could use that package right now. In the Oval Office.

WARD

(to the Beyonder)

They're planning something. You have to launch the nuclear attack now.

COULSON

No. Don't.

THE BEYONDER

I need to discuss this with your President. Please halt all fighting until we return.

The Beyonder and President Ellis suddenly blink out of the room.

Ward and Coulson look at each other silently for a moment.

Then they run at each other, kicking and punching.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The Beyonder and President Ellis appear on the lawn.

SECRET SERVICE and MILITARY POLICE have entered the perimeter and are fighting with the remaining BRAINWASHED SECRET SERVICE.

The grounds are a mess. Flaming craters and bullet holes everywhere.

Behind the cordon, frightened civilians watch the carnage in horror.

PRESIDENT ELLIS

You think this is peace?

THE BEYONDER

Ward told me that sacrifices have to be made. Would it not be a greater sin to let mankind wallow in war when there is a chance of peace?

PRESIDENT ELLIS

Many have thought that way. But you can't change human nature overnight.

THE BEYONDER

Then what am I to do?

PRESIDENT ELLIS

Let me talk to my people. End the fighting. Then we can decide what to do with Ward.

The Beyonder closes his eyes and lowers his head.

THE BEYONDER

I will do as you suggest. I have released the minds of all of your staff. Now I must discuss this matter with Ward and Agent Coulson before I make a decision.

The Beyonder disappears again.

President Ellis walks towards the Secret Service, hands held high.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #5
Mr. President! Are you okay?

PRESIDENT ELLIS
I'm fine. These other agents won't attack you anymore.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #5
The situation is contained?

PRESIDENT ELLIS
Not quite. But hopefully soon.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Ward and Coulson are still fighting. Coulson digs his fingers into Ward's burnt flesh, causing him to cry out in pain.

Ward kicks Coulson into the wall. He holds his hand up and it forms into a spear shape. He pulls his arm back to stab Coulson.

The Beyonder reappears in the room.

THE BEYONDER
Stop this violence, now.

WARD
I told you. If we let him live, then we'll lose everything. I thought you wanted to see humanity achieve its desires. This is the only way.

COULSON
He's wrong. Humanity can find another way. You just have to give us a chance.

Ward smacks him in the face. He places the spear to Coulson's throat.

WARD
You had your chance. Now it's our turn.

THE BEYONDER
No.

WARD

What?

THE BEYONDER

This is not the way. I need more time to study humanity. I shall return you where I found you.

WARD

No! You put me back there I'll die!

Ward's body suddenly heals of all wounds. Then he disappears.

Coulson rubs his throat.

COULSON

Thanks. Will he remember this?

THE BEYONDER

No. I took my power back and erased all memory of these events from his mind. He will not cause any problems in the past.

Suddenly, Fitzsimmons run into the room. Fitz is carrying the dimension gun. He points it at the Beyonder.

FITZ

Just give me the signal.

The Beyonder stares at him curiously.

THE BEYONDER

What does that do?

COULSON

Fitz, that won't be necessary.

Fitz cautiously lowers the weapon.

May, Mack, Hunter and Bobbi enter the room, accompanied by several SECRET SERVICE.

HUNTER

Did we win?

The Beyonder is still focussed on Coulson.

THE BEYONDER

You were going to use that weapon on me?

COULSON

Only as a last resort. And it's not really a weapon.

We see anger on the Beyonder's face for the first time.

THE BEYONDER

Maybe Ward was right. Perhaps I should simply erase this planet from existence. Then you will all find peace.

COULSON

I'm sorry, but you can't blame us for being afraid. We've never encountered a being of your power before. This gun was meant to return you to your own dimension, not destroy you.

THE BEYONDER

And what if I do not wish to return?

COULSON

That's your choice. But I hope you consider carefully. Your very presence here puts the whole planet in danger. We're not ready for this encounter.

The Beyonder looks round the room. Then he turns to stare out the window.

THE BEYONDER

Shoot me.

COULSON

What?

THE BEYONDER

You are right. This planet is not ready. Send me back home.

COULSON

Will you return our heroes to us?

THE BEYONDER

Yes. I have learnt all I can from them.

Coulson nods at Fitz.

He fires the dimension gun.

The Beyonder is enveloped by a blue cloud. His Triplet skin and internal organs melt away. When the cloud clears, the Beyonder stands there in his true energy form.

Coulson looks at Fitz, confused.

COULSON
Why is he still here?

FITZ
Maybe I got the calibration wrong.

As he fiddles with it, the Beyonder grows new skin, changing shape once more. When the transformation has completed, she now looks like ROSALIND PRICE, Coulson's deceased lover.

COULSON
Oh my God.

THE BEYONDER (AS ROSALIND PRICE)
I took this form from your mind. I hope it is satisfactory.

Coulson is speechless.

The Beyonder walks over to a stunned Fitz and examines the dimension gun.

THE BEYONDER (CONT'D)
I believe this is your problem.

She fiddles with it for a moment.

THE BEYONDER (CONT'D)
There. It should work now.

She turns to look at Coulson.

THE BEYONDER (CONT'D)
I sense that you had strong feelings for this body.

COULSON
Not the body. The person in it.

She walks over to kiss him. Coulson stops her.

COULSON (CONT'D)
Please. Don't.

THE BEYONDER
I could leave this body here. I could even include her memories. No one would ever know the difference.

COULSON

I would know. No matter how much it looked or sounded like Rosalind. It would never be her. She's dead. I have to accept that.

The Beyonder nods.

THE BEYONDER

I think I am beginning to understand. I shall ponder humanity's fate when I return to my dimension.

She looks at Fitz.

THE BEYONDER (CONT'D)

You may fire when ready.

Fitz pulls the trigger. The blue energy surrounds the Beyonder again. A hole opens in the air. The blue energy goes through it and the hole closes. When it is gone, nothing is left.

May comes up behind an emotional Coulson and puts a hand on his shoulder.

COULSON

Let's clear out. The President and his staff can handle things from here.

MAY

You think he'll keep his word and return all the heroes?

COULSON

No reason for him, uh, her to lie. We just have to wait.

They leave the White House.

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - DAY

Coulson speaks with the DNI while the rest of S.H.I.E.L.D. board the Quinjet. Coulson smiles and shakes the man's hand.

EXT. QUINJET - CABIN - DAY

Coulson sits with Bobbi and Hunter.

BOBBI

So, back to hiding in the basement
for us?

COULSON

Not quite. I pulled some strings
and, well, you're officially
employed by S.H.I.E.L.D. again. If
you want it.

HUNTER

Wicked. How'd you sort that?

COULSON

You'd be amazed what saving the
President and preventing World War
III does for you.

Hunter and Bobbi smile. Simmons approaches Coulson.

SIMMONS

Sir?

COULSON

Yes?

SIMMONS

I thought you should know. I took
some readings when the Beyonder
went back through the portal. The
power on the other side is vast.
What we saw here was just a small
fraction of it.

COULSON

That's not what scares me.

Mack is eavesdropping.

MACK

What does?

COULSON

The Beyonder came here as an
innocent. And he almost destroyed
the world.

(beat)

What happens if he comes back again
and he's not so innocent?

They ponder this silently.

END OF ACT IV

TAG

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - ABDUCTION SITE - DAY

The memorial site is teeming with CROWDS. The police have moved the barriers further back but that hasn't diminished them.

A YOUNG GIRL lays down some flowers.

The wind starts to pick up. A mini-cyclone begins to form in the middle of the memorial.

The barriers get knocked over. Bystanders back away, getting scared.

The air crackles with electricity. A vortex opens in mid-air.

Now people are running and screaming.

Lightning comes out of the vortex. It hits a tree above the young girl.

She screams as a huge branch falls towards her.

At the last second the branch is deflected from the girl by a strong wind.

Below the portal, an outstretched hand is responsible for saving the girl.

Standing there is DAISY JOHNSON, aka QUAKE. She looks like she's been put through the ringer.

Above her, we see other figures starts to drop down through the portal.

Daisy stares at the amazed crowd that has been waiting for them. She looks happy and sad at the same time.

DAISY
No place like home.

END OF SHOW