

Forever Has Fallen

Season 1 Episode 6: Thunder and Lightning

SFX: Commercial airplane cockpit on approach to airport.  
The mood is light hearted. Soft banter.

PILOT 1

"Man-O-man, Auckland housing is out  
of this world expensive."

PILOT 2

"Yeah, expensive all right."

PILOT 1

"Yeah, a lot of people have made a  
lot of money."

PILOT 2

"Yeah, I'll say."

PILOT 1

"Four for three."

PILOT 2

"Four for three."

SFX: Radio burst.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"Air New Zealand 6 2 1 is cleared for  
the vectored ILS. Take course 3 2 and  
turn right to 2 3 0 final and four  
kilometres."

PILOT 1

"Roger."

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"2 3 0."

PILOT 1

"Roger. 2 3 0."

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"You are currently three and a half  
east of the marker."

MUSIC: Build tension.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"6 2 1 right turn now to heading 2 8.  
You are three to the marker."

PILOT 1

"Check three green. Four pressures.  
Spoilers."

PILOT 2 (LACONICALLY)

"All right. Give them to me on the  
flare. (ha, ha, ha) I have given up."

PILOT 1

(Laughing).

PILOT 2 (LACONICALLY)

"I am tired of fighting it."

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"Air New Zealand 6 2 1 right around  
to 3 1 0 to intercept the back  
course. Turn into 1 8 7. Good day."

PILOT 1

"Maintain 3 1 0. Roger. Good-day."

PILOT 1

"Gear down"

PILOT 2

"Spoilers to go in the... Well that's  
right on the VASIS. We are little  
below the glide though"

SFX: Whirl of landing gear.

PILOT 1

"Here we have a green. The VASIS  
appear to be a little bit high but  
you are low on the glide path"

SFX: Engine power reduces.

PILOT 2

"No no no"

SFX: Engine power increases.

PILOT 1

"Whatcha doing there Pete?"

SFX: Engine hits a high pitch and flames out.

PILOT 1

"We have lost power."

PILOT 2

"Oh Jesus. Still too high."

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"Air New Zealand 6 2 1. Lower your speed. High risk of overshoot."

PILOT 1

"Speed reduced. Lost power."

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

"Roger."

PILOT 1

"Get the gear up please Pete. We have to go back around."

SFX: Beep, beep, beep, beep. Loud smash.

PILOT 2

"Number 4 and 3 generator gone."

PILOT 1

"Jesus, we bounced off the ground. VASIS is off. VASIS is off."

PILOT 2

"What happened there?"

SFX: Other two engines increase power.

PILOT 1

"Turn down the power, turn it down, you'll tip us."

PILOT 2

"It's not me. It's not me."

SFX: Loud roar as the plane pitches over. Screams are heard from passengers. Cockpit instruments go crazy.

PILOT 1

"Ahhhhhh no, no, no, no..."

SFX: Loud explosion, plane crashes.

Scene change. FAA Command Centre

SFX: Very busy Operations centre, phones and people going crazy. It's a large vast room.

RICK DOMINGO

"I need you to confirm, you saying another 5 aircraft have crashed?"

ALICE CROMMA

"Sir, I can barely understand I am saying these words (sobs) but, yes, another 5 aircraft have crashed, the latest just 5 minutes ago, New Zealand."

RICK DOMINGO

"Jesus. Oh, Jesus. (Catches breath, almost panic attack. Takes a deep breath in). That means, in the past 20 minutes, 8 planes. 2 here, 2 in Europe, 2 in Asia and 1 each for Australia and New Zealand. Jesus, we, we have to move... we have to move... (Clears throat) Already, everyone listen, hey, shut-up and listen. Right now! We cannot mourn, because we are in the life saving business and we must gain full and total control over the NAS."

Turns to Alice.

RICK DOMINGO

"No one knows the NAS like you do Alice. Tell us what to do. You got this. The Command Centre is yours. Take it."

ALICE CROMMA

"(To herself) I got this, I got this... (To the room) Ok, we have 4,300 tracked airborne targets. Our 17,500 controllers must now engage and be like flashlights in the dark for the targets. Do not forget people, that data blocks will be inconsistent, and you have to handle them all at the same time. Tell pilots to switch

transponders back on and do not set them to Hijack, we don't need the confusion we had from 9/11. You'll have to deal with the bugs."

COLLEAGUE 1

"I'll get onto Nav Canada - get them to shut it all down."

ALICE CROMMA

"Good call. Now you and you, coordinate the calls to all other FAA sites, we have to have airline reps contact the airlines and do not forget the NOTAMS. The message is simple, 'Every airplane listening to this frequency needs to contact your company. We are shutting down the world'."

RICK DOMINGO

"Alice! We have Secretary of Transportation on the line, need you." (Returns to phone) Yes... we recommend... hang on, she is just here... our Deputy Commander, Alice Cromma, putting you on speaker now."

SFX Click

"As I was saying, we recommend a national ground stop, effectively immediately."

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

"You realise, this will be the second time since 1903 we have ordered a national ground stop. No prizes for guessing the first time..."

RICK DOMINGO

"Yes madam, I know this."

ALICE CROMMA

"We have no idea why planes are dropping from the sky. Until we do, we can't have anything in the air."

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

(With anger and fear) "You have your national ground stop. Now, make damn sure that all those lives suspended

above our heads, see their loved ones tonight!"

Hangs up

RICK DOMINGO

"Alice, we have to forget about cell phones - they won't work shortly, there will be massive overloads - we have to go hardline. I'll get our chief spokesman Jim to open up the vending machines downstairs for the press corps, and bring back all the candy they can carry - the public will be screaming for information and it's going to be the longest day.. Meanwhile, you and I, we have lives to save."

Scene change - KA's Lair

VO, HAKON

"40 minutes later, below the streets of Stockholm, this world of horror reached our billionaire on the lam."

KA

"Jiminy I think we will have to postpone our trip to China. Unbelievable - what's the tally of planes?"

JIMINY

"Total of aircraft lost, in the past 60 minutes is, 14"

KA

"What type?"

JIMINY

"5 - A 3 20's, 2 - A 3 80s..."

KA

"oh boy..."

JIMINY

"3 - 7 4 7s, 3 - Triple7s and 1 - Tupolev 2 0 4..."

KA

"(Deep sigh) Any idea on the casualties?"

JIMINY

"Still to be determined and released publicly. However, with the pandemic in China, most airlines have reported full capacity as people desire to return home, in case of a lock-down... The estimated number makes me very happy not to be self aware, which I suppose is a contradiction in itself..."

KA

"Focus Jiminy, focus, just give it to me straight."

JIMINY

"5,280 souls have just been lost in 5 different regions across the globe."

KA

"(Sniffs) Well, ok. Whew. (Deep pondering), I'm assuming none in China?"

JIMINY

"Correct."

KA

"Well, this is going to be brutal. The optics for China are horrific. First they have a new pandemic break-out, blow a reporter's brains out on live TV, get isolated from the world and now planes dropping from the sky, everywhere, except there. I wonder if the media will acknowledge they had already grounded all domestic and international flights."

JIMINY

"Global media is in the first stage of shock. Mobile communication networks have effectively ground to a halt, authorities are still I believe trying to assess the situation."



KA

"Well, my friend, this is beyond FUBAR. I can tell you now, and you can take this to the fucking bank, doing this is beyond any human capability. Three different OEMs, 5 different NAS systems... Any intel on how they crashed? Anything at all, there has to be a common thread, in this batshit crazy complexity, there has to be at least one thing to bitch-slap some facts and data out of."

JIMINY

"No luck there I am afraid. 6 crashed while trying to land, 4 while taking off and another 4 seem to have simply plunged out of the sky."

KA

"My god all those lives. This is literally impossible, but I thought destroying the Forever Engine was on that list too. To compromise one aircraft system is close to impossible, but to have three highly specialised manufacturers hit, in different regions in different ways... You can see..."

JIMINY

"The probability is actually incalculable for me."

KA

"Well let's tell all those dead people it's all in their minds... I have to call an old friend."

Beep of phone. Pick-up

KA

"Hoot. Guess who asshole."

HOOT

"Dear mother of Christ, you gotta be kidding me."

KA

"It's me Hoot. How's life at SS8, they got you on my case?"

HOOT

"Me and an army of nerds."

KA

"Please don't insult me and try to track this dude."

HOOT

"Oh we gotta try. My ass would be the grass and Sec State the lawn mower if I didn't."

KA

"Ok. Where am I now?" (SFX - bleep)

HOOT

"You bastard, looks like at the Crust Deli. Be a sport, jump onto [crustdeli.com](http://crustdeli.com) order some double shots and come say hi."

KA

"How about... now?" (SFX - bleep)

HOOT

"My place..."

KA

"Just keeping Mrs. Hoot warm"

HOOT

"Ok wise ass, you've made your point. How about we catchup - mano-o-mano?"

KA

"Nah, I'll pass. But thanks for the invite. Believe it or not, this call is not about me."

HOOT

"Well, ol friend - I wanna make it about you. Because I have politicians and all sorts of other nasty life forms crawling up my ass, looking for you."

KA

"I know, I know. Suppose if I pinky swear that I won't be a chatterbox. Can't they just leave me alone?"

HOOT

"Might as well tell the boys in cellblock D, you ain't gay, cause they don't care much. We all would appreciate it if you could find it in your heart to come to us and..."

KA

"Get into a box while you try to figure this out? No thanks. I don't know what is going on Hoot and you'll have to just accept my word on that."

HOOT

"You know KA, this situation reminds me of my daddy's farm. We had these woodchucks, tearing up the place and trapping them was just too hard. My momma she decided to plant lavender, everywhere, because woodchucks don't like lavender so much and she had a soft spot for the vermin. My daddy let her try it, her way. But those little bastards, kept up their destructive ways, and my daddy, he told me - Son, the Lord says there's a time for everything. Now's the time to blow out their tiny brains."

KA

"I think I like your daddy."

HOOT

"Yeah, he had a soft Southern charm, except when you got a licking with his belt. To be fair, I earned those licks, just as those woodchucks earned the bad business end of a .243 Win coming in 3,000 feet per second. Question is KA, what do you deserve?"

KA

"A fair hearing, hopefully from a friend."

HOOT

"I'll tell ya KA, I can be like my momma for awhile. But there's plenty of folks who like my daddy for the same reasons you do. There's not much

finessing in this bureaucracy, it's a blunt instrument. And given what you know, and people here think you have gone all Dr. Evil on us, they are likely to get frustrated when they can't catch their woodchuck."

KA

"Dr Evil huh! So, I've become a criminal mastermind, so devious, he calls up the asshole that is trying to hunt him down?"

HOOT

"Might be a double bluff. One of those, only a crazy fool would do this, so, not crazy. (Sigh) KA, I don't think you blew The Forever Social to hell, but I don't know. And I'm paid to know."

KA

"Well, this woodchuck plans on enjoying freedom, on his terms. And I'll make sure to keep my head down. But, you know what - I'm actually calling to see if I can help. As I said, I'm calling not about me. Birds falling from the sky."

HOOT

"Oh! Really? Whatcha thinking?"

KA

"I honestly don't know. I do know this is fucking impossible. I'm guessing you've run the whole is it the Chinese, Russians, terrorists, Jews or Arabs scenario."

HOOT

"Yup. But what's the point? To confuse one plane, in one place is - well I got more chance starring in the next Spielberg film. But 14, across the world, psssst!"

KA

"The tech and capability simply does not exist. Now, before we slap on our tinfoil hats and think of little green men..."

HOOT

"With all that is happening, why not? The IT sector is on fire thanks to you. There's a new threat of a global pandemic, and planes dropping like dead flies. Why not aliens? Why not the ghosts of all those woodchucks we killed years back? I'm saying, everything is being considered... including you."

KA

"Fuck. First time, I thought you were kidding. Second time, I'm thinking you are serious."

HOOT

"It's a Dr Evil thing to do. Except, you are meant to ask for a million dollars, before you do the carnage."

KA

"Well, that's put a crimp on this conversation. Seriously? My name is getting attached?"

HOOT

"Why would a hot-shot like you, destroy - (sighs) - I'm thinking Michelangelo, torching the Sistine Chapel - not gonna happen. I know as good as anyone, what you did to get the Forever Engine firing. No way did you destroy it, but I don't mind thinking you have given the appearance of destruction, because that thing, we all know what it was leading to. You got good and lucky with our former President, that he let you, make cozy with the Ruskies."

KA

"I like to say, you have to make your own luck."

HOOT

"I'm sorry, but I can't help you on this fishing expedition of yours..."

KA

"Fuck. You are serious. (Laughs) Wow, just, stop. Wow. Destroyer of digital lives. And now wet work at scale."

HOOT

"It sure would make everyone's life easier if you put your hands up, while it's still lavender being used. Because when the list gets shorter, and you're still on it, the bluntness gets very serious, very quickly. Especially - and this is not public yet, President Harris has lost everyone who calls her momala."

KA

"Her two step kids are gone?"

HOOT

"Announcement to be made soon. They were on the one that made a sonic boom, as it dove nose first in Colorado."

SFX - Sonic boom

KA

"Jesus..."

HOOT

"Hell hath no fury than a woman scorned... or grieving in this case. And President Harris I believe would be happy to reverse her stance on the death penalty in this case at least. No expense is being spared. Get my drift?"

KA

"Huh! So, you're telling me, the sitting President of the United States has serious thoughts that I could be a global criminal master mind, with as yet, undetermined motivations. Before you American assholes start storming my private beach, how about some clarity on why the fuck I would be doing all this?"

HOOT

"Dunno. You got too big for your britches? You gone all Icarus and now, you're mighty close to the sun? I'm a big believer in these ancient stories. They exist to help us not slam the salami into the door jam."

KA

"Now I'm hearing indoctrination. You former government spooks all drink the same Kool aid?"

HOOT

"KA, there's a big movement here who let's say don't like the big tech railway baron feel that's been coming off your crowd for quite sometime. You guys have had a helluva ride, but for too long your influence on government and governance has been too strong. And when you have 5 of you bastards storing wealth that rivals a G20 country, that gets the true believers in democracy very worried. With this administration that's what you got now, more so after old man Biden. The free for all days are gone, until of course the American public in their wisdom vote in another reality TV star, or perhaps this time, Kanye West."

KA

"Are you fucking hearing the words that come out of your mouth? Hoot, I danced with Madam President 18 months ago, right after that untimely heart attack placed her in the big chair in the oval office. Sure, I play hard, but I play by the rules made by others. And now suddenly I get the big idea to ruin everything I devoted my existence to?"

HOOT

"I got my doubts on just how true the devastation was to the Forever Engine. I don't believe for a second, you destroyed it. Built it once, build it again..."

KA

"If that's true, why am I in hiding? And why, just why would I slaughter thousands of people?! Common, get a fucking grip on reality here Hoot."

HOOT

"Getting the answers to this question is the focus of war-time level resources. KA, again, come on in. I promise you, it's gonna be easier."

KA

"You were talking of ancient stories. Well here's one for you. Not so long ago, scientifically proving the Earth rotated around the sun was punishable by death. Not so long ago, radical ideologies to the left, seek-and-destroyed all elements of intellect, new thinking, science, education... Nah, I think I'll be fine right here. I'm sensing a witch hunt. And there's no chance you will get me throwing myself onto your fucking bonfire of bullshit."

HOOT

"Well my friend, good luck out there. I have a feeling you'll hear the thunder of the posse soon."

KA

"They can be thunder, I'll be the fucking lightning."

Hangs up. Scene change to SS8 HQ.

HOOT

"Whew. He never fails to suck out the air. What y'all think? Madam Sec State?"

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"The mouse that roars. I think this amply illustrates the blind power arrogance of these new-world tech gods. As the Secretary of State, I have no choice but to deal harshly with this type of individual. Too



much concentrated power. Hayden, your thoughts?"

CHIP HAYDEN

"Well, my two cents, we knew KA would not just pack up the tent and run into our arms. We have a number of scenarios. And if the government wants SS8 to remain as one of the hounds, as the CEO, I hope my voice gets heard."

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"I'm all ears."

CHIP HAYDEN

"I agree with Hoot. No chance he would sink his own ship, just to make a short term advantage. It's a massive one for sure, but still KA has got a whole heap of Swede in him, they like the long term play. If he staged this whole thing, he most certainly has another Forever Engine tucked away somewhere. And if that's the case, he has a sponsor, because we all know what the Forever Engine could be used for."

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"You're referring to gaming all social media networks?"

HOOT

"Yup. The Forever Engine managed to become the glue that bound these networks together. We all had to trust that his promise of real-to-life personalities of those actual people would not be manipulated."

CHIP HAYDEN

"Of course our ultimate concern was if he decided to turn all these 'people' into his own bot army, selling the power to whoever wanted opinion, ideals, political persuasions to go left or right. It's what we call, Plan Z, Z as in the ultimate end-game for communications."

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"So let's assume, he is the nice guy you think he is and he is not working on Plan Z."

HOOT

"He is in a world of hurt. That technology was supernatural. How he figured out squeezing so much computational power took quantum computing ahead by 5 years. Now, his money, reputation and all that he built is gone. Yup world of hurt."

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"Your heart bleeds for him?"

HOOT

"More like, I was hoping to have a play with the toy, but the rich kid broke it before I got there."

CHIP HAYDEN

"So if he is in a world of pain, and the Forever Engine is gone, then he should be running to us. This hunkering down only makes him look guilty."

HOOT

"You heard the asshole, he believes he can bring the lightning to our thunder. KA is pretty self assured fellow. He does not give a sliver of a fuck on Tuesday what we or anyone thinks. He wants his hands on the wheel, as you might remember, he does not share."

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"Well, now let's look at if he is guilty. I see a sociopath. An arch manipulator who has found a brick wall - a change in the administration of the United States and that does not suit his win at any cost approach."

CHIP HAYDEN

"To have some balance here, KA was on the cusp of interstellar wealth,

legally, regardless of POTUS – why go this way?”

ALICE ALBRIGHT

“For some, everything is never enough.”

HOOT

“With all due respect Madam Secretary, KA is a god-damn commie, at least I can say my folks back home would think so. He talks about social justice. He supports who knows how many climate change initiatives and tech start-ups. He wants to save the Planet. And he wants a Universal Income. So, if he’s playing possum – give him an Oscar, cause, he’s plenty good.”

ALICE ALBRIGHT

“Or, he is a sociopath you have never encountered before. I want you gentlemen to think more macro for a minute. Imagine if you have the power of the Forever Engine in your hands. But there’s too much interference from investors, government and such. So you pretend that it is sunk. You have of course made a deal with unpleasant people – Fact! We know Mr. Mattiasson has very nasty friends...”

HOOT

“At that level, who doesn’t...”

ALICE ALBRIGHT

“...and I suppose it’s normal to bang people up with cocaine? We are all aware of the rumours? So, fact, he does not mind breaking a few eggs. The more I think about this, the more concerned I grow, and I’m also afraid your judgement might be impeded.”

CHIP HAYDEN

“Madam Secretary I can assure you...”

ALICE ALBRIGHT

“This isn’t some... fucking computer nerd hacking into NASA. This is a man who has the means and motive to

disrupt global political and commercial systems. What if, for example he realises the easy money comes from the highest bidder, to influence elections, public opinion, the perceptions of a new drug? What if he decides that he and he alone should direct the affairs of nations? Plan Z is very tempting."

HOOT

"And where does bringing down planes fit into all of this? Hell, I suppose he set off the pandemic in China too?"

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"(Scoffs) That's simple. As we all acknowledge, the events are quite impossible. What better way to increase value with demonstrations of immense power? You said yourself, his technology is 5 years ahead, who know what else he has cooked up."

CHIP HAYDEN

"Hoot, she's got a point. Just thinking of millions of perfect digital personalities out there, under the control of one person, goddamn, you have a force to make hundreds of millions of voters believe anything you want."

Dial tone and ringing.

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"I have more than a point... Deep fakes are one thing. Fake news, trolling, creating divisions. This is beyond industrial scale. He has the most powerful weapon on the planet."

SFX: Phone rings

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"It's the President. I have to tell this grieving woman what I believe, she has no time for diversions."

KAMALA HARRIS

"Alice. What do you have?"

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"Madam President, I recommend we place the full might of this United States of America, our intelligence and military to pursue one, Karl-Axel Mattiasson, for he represents a clear and present danger to our sovereign integrity and democracy."

KAMALA HARRIS

"Then Madam Secretary of State, you have my authorisation under the USA Patriot Act to pursue Karl-Axel Mattiasson as a foreign enemy of the state. This includes executive orders for Kill on Sight and Kill on Suspicion of Presence."

ALICE ALBRIGHT

"Madam President, we will if needed, conduct these actives on foreign soil. One way or another, he will cease to be a threat."

HOOT

"There goes the fucking lavender."