LOVE78 STUDIOS / STORY CONCEPTS

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

ACT ONE / UNFINISHED FAN SCREENPLAY

An early fan-screenplay draft from Patrick Aquilone's archive.

Contribution history is uncertain. This archival presentation does not make a sole-authorship claim.

Based on SciFi Channel's Battlestar Galactica.
Unofficial fan fiction, not an official production.

Original manuscript continues on the following pages.

ACT ONE

INT. BATTLESTAR GALACTICA ADMIRAL ADAMA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

It is late at night and Admiral William Adama is doing some paperwork. He takes off his glasses places them on the desk and rubs his eyes as there is a sound at the door.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Enter.

Colonel Saul Tigh enters the room. He is carrying a small canvas bag with handles on it.

SAUL TIGH
Evening Bill.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I was just about to ...

SAUL TIGH
(interrupting)
Bill, I can't any more
(voice trails off)

WILLIAM ADAMA
Saul, what's going on?

SAUL TIGH
(looking down at the bag)
This has to end, now.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Saul, is that what I think it is?

Colonel Tigh sits down across the desk from Admiral Adama and tosses the bag on the desk as he nods yes. Admiral Adama opens the bag and pulls out a dress, specifically one of Ellen's dresses.

WILLIAM ADAMA (CONT'D)
(still looking down in the bag)
I thought you got rid of these weeks ago.

SAUL TIGH
(standing back up, fidgety)
I know, I know, Bill. I just ... I mean ...
(sighs, wait for a beat)
It's just that she meant so much to me Bill.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I know ...

SAUL TIGH
(interrupting)
Sure, we had our problems, but I loved her and she loved me, Bill.
(putting his hand down on the desk)
In her own way, she really loved me.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I know ...

The two of them look at each other and share a moment. Hold for a beat to establish the unspoken friendship between these two.

SAUL TIGH
(beginning to cry)
Then why did I do it?

WILLIAM ADAMA
You had no choice.

SAUL TIGH
Yes, I did. I was the frakken leader of the resistance. I didn't have to do it. I could have done whatever I wanted, but I didn't.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(gets up and walks over to Tigh)
You had too otherwise your men would never have respected and trusted you. You know that.

SAUL TIGH
Yeah, but...

WILLIAM ADAMA
But nothing, it was what had to be done.

SAUL TIGH
Yeah
(still crying, hold for a beat while he shakes his head)
And then Roslin had to go an pardon everyone.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Don't do this Tigh.

SAUL TIGH
If I had just hid her somewhere or ...

WILLIAM ADAMA
(interrupting)
You didn't know. Don't beat yourself up.

SAUL TIGH
Or if I let her get protection from those frakken machines, she would still be with me today.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(pauses for a beat)
Saul, get a grip. She asked for the drink.

SAUL TIGH
What?

WILLIAM ADAMA
You told me she asked for the drink.

SAUL TIGH
So.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Don't you see. She loved you. She knew what you had to do and she accepted it because she loved you and she knew you loved her. That is why she asked for the drink. To spare you.

SAUL TIGH
Spare me?

WILLIAM ADAMA
That's right. She did it to spare you, and while she would be moved by your period of mourning, she would be pissed at you for not picking yourself up and walking tall as man does when he knows that he has the unconditional love of his wife.

Colonel Tigh just stands there look at Admiral Adama as we

CUT TO:

INT. BATTLESTAR GALACTICA CIC - LATER

The CIC is bustling with activity as DRADIS contact has caused a state of alert. LEE ADAMA, FELIX GAETA, ANASTASIA DUALLA and several other crewmen are present. The Dradis sounds off as Admiral Adama and COLONEL TIGH enter the CIC.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(speaking as he walks over to the command console in the center of the room)
What do we have?

LEE ADAMA
Unknown DRADIS contact just jumped in and is heading directly for us.

Both Admiral Adama and Colonel Tigh look up at the Dradis screen.

SAUL TIGH
The Cylons found us.

LEE ADAMA
The ships silhouette doesn't match a basestar.

WILLIAM ADAMA
What does it look like?

LEE ADAMA
(pause with surprise on his face)
Well, it looks like a colonial destroyer class starship.

SAUL TIGH
What?

LEE ADAMA
In fact, we are receiving a colonial beacon which claims that the unknown vessel is the Destroyer Aquilla.

WILLIAM ADAMA
The Aquilla?

LEE ADAMA
That is what it claims.

SAUL TIGH
Must be a Cylon trick. That old rust bucket is older then I am.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Perhaps.
(calm and certain)

LEE ADAMA
The CAP should almost be in visual range.

Their is a sound over on the console that Felix Gaeta is manning.

FELIX GAETA
Sir, we have an incoming transmission from the unknown vessel.

Admiral Adama looks over at Colonel Tigh and there is a moment. Hold for a beat.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Put it on speaker.
(spoken as he picks up the receiver)
This is Admiral Adama of the Battlestar Galactica.

There is a bit of static and then a familiar voice comes over the speaker. It is the voice of the cylon BROTHER CAVIL.

BROTHER CAVIL
Admiral Adama...

There are looks all around the CIC as recognition hits everyone.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(muting the phone)
Tell the fleet to jump to the rendezvous, now!

BROTHER CAVIL
It would seem that we have found something of yours.

WILLIAM ADAMA
It would seem.

BROTHER CAVIL
Oh, now, don't be that way. We come in peace this time. And as a token, we brought you another ship.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I have plenty of ships.

BROTHER CAVIL
Yes
(he speaks and lets trail off for a moment)
I know. And just like your little fleet there, this ship is packed full of humans as well.

Admiral Adama gives a sharp look to Colonel Tigh who returns the look through his one eye. Hold for a beat.

WILLIAM ADAMA
How can I be sure that you have humans on board your ship.

BROTHER CAVIL
Your welcome to come over and check.
(pauses for a beat
and then continues)
No, I didn't think you would jump at the chance to do that. However, in good faith, I will send some of the humans over now. They can tell you about the rest.

There is a Dradis contact sound.

FELIX GAETA
Sir, the ship has launched a raptor.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I am sure you didn't just bring me a ship. What is it you want?

BROTHER CAVIL
Well, it appears we are at the bargaining table again. I will be glad to tell you what we want. But first, I will let you check out the raptor and speak with the humans on board. I want you to be fully aware of the cards I am holding before we start ... negotiating.

There is static and then silence. Admiral Adama looks over at Lee Adama.

LEE ADAMA
I know. Full security detail is already on it's way.

Admiral Adama looks over at Colonel Tigh and then he begins to exit the CIC as we

CUT TO:

INT. BATTLESTAR GALACTICA HANGER BAY - LATER

A Raptor is being signaled into final landing position. The raptor is surrounded by military police all with their weapons drawn on the raptor. The raptor settles down as Admiral Adama and Lee Adama enter the scene. The raptor door opens and there are twelve people crammed into the raptor including the two in the pilots seat. Among those present are Colonel Jonathan Barison, an elder man with a small pot belly and a shaved head, who is immediately recognized Adama. Also among them is a BROTHER CAVIL. As Cavil exits the raptor, the military police quickly re-train their weapons on him.

BROTHER CAVIL
(raising his arms)
Now, is this any way to treat a guest who brings gifts.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Is that what you are calling your hostages!

BROTHER CAVIL
Yes. In fact, Admiral, I have brought you exactly one thousand six hundred and seventy two gifts.
(raises his right index finger)
Oh, and one ship.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I see.
(addressing the military police)
Guards, take this
(in an almost disgusting tone)
Cylon to the assembly room and keep him under guard.

BROTHER CAVIL
(smiling)
The assembly room. Is that the same room we spoke in last time.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Last time?

BROTHER CAVIL
Come now, you haven't forgotten when we met over the planet for the eye of Jupiter. I came on board with a six and Baltar.
(pauses for a beat)
If you remember, I was the one that offered to let you have Baltar.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I recall.

BROTHER CAVIL
(smile grows wider)
Good. Then is it the same room?

WILLIAM ADAMA
Yes.

BROTHER CAVIL
Well, now, Admiral you have made my day. Not only did I enjoy that room greatly during our last visit, I just won a bet with Doral. He said you wouldn't risk meeting me in the same room.

WILLIAM ADAMA
Did he now.

BROTHER CAVIL
Yes. Actually, he also bet me that you would shoot me on sight.
(lets out a chuckle.)
Thanks to you, I have won two bets. I think this negotiating is going rather well, so far.
(pauses for a beat)
At least for me
(evil grin)

WILLIAM ADAMA
Guards, escort the Cylon, I will be along shortly.

BROTHER CAVIL
Yes, speak with those I brought over. If I am not mistaken, according to his service record,
(pointing to Barison)
That one over there has served with you before. Ages ago, but he did serve with you.

The military police escort Cavil out of the hanger bay. Admiral Adama turns his attention to Barison.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(smiles)
Jon, you old dog, it is good to see you.

JONATHAN BARISON
And you too, Bill.

WILLIAM ADAMA
You will have to tell me how you managed to wind up out here later. For now, what can you tell me about the situation on the Aquilla?

JONATHAN BARISON
For starters, the Cylon is not lying. There are one thousand six hundred and seventy two of us count those you see here.

WILLIAM ADAMA
How many Cylons are there?

JONATHAN BARISON
It is hard to tell because both the human looking ones and the machine ones look the same.
(MORE)

JONATHAN BARISON (CONT'D)
However, I would estimate about two dozen of the human Cylon and maybe about two hundred of the machines.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(thinking out loud)
Too many for a rescue attempt.

JONATHAN BARISON
Yes. And there are four basestars within FTL range ready to jump here should they stop receiving a beacon that the human cylons are carrying.

WILLIAM ADAMA
(looking curiously)
Are you sure?

JONATHAN BARISON
Well, I can attest to the four basestars because that is how many jumped us. As for the beacon, I don't know. It was what we were told by the human cylons and until now, we never jumped alone. So, it was too risky to attempt to retake the ship.
(pauses for a beat)
There are a lot of good people over there, Bill.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I am sure. Now, get yourself checked out by the doc and we will talk later.

JONATHAN BARISON
Bill, I'm fine, and if it is all the same to you, I would rather go with you to talk with the cylon.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I don't ...

JONATHAN BARISON
(interrupting)
Bill, these are my people you are bargaining for. I have been with most of these for more then a year and a half.

WILLIAM ADAMA
And that is why you should not be present in the meeting. Your emotional involvement might cloud your judgement.

JONATHAN BARISON
But Bill, ...

WILLIAM ADAMA
(interrupting)
No buts. I will fill you in after I talk with the Cylon.

JONATHAN BARISON
(obviously not happy)
I guess, if you think that is best.

WILLIAM ADAMA
I do.

As Admiral Adama speaks his last words, we

CUT TO:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO