

SCANDAL – PAPA WAS A ROLLIN’ STONE

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(Disclaimer: MAJOR SPOILERS AHEAD. You know what to do.)

When The Temptations released that song in 1972, they were talking about a different kind of father. An unscrupulous philanderer who had no care for his family’s welfare and died with a tainted legacy. But when it was played at the end of the Season finale of Scandal, the “Rollin’ Stone’ took on a whole different meaning – Rowan Pope, a father who does every and anything to get what he wants in the name of fatherhood and family...even murder.

And it’s not to say that Papa Pope is above killing anybody. As the head of B613, the organization that does the country’s ‘dirty work’, he’s had to ‘take out’ individuals more than we take out the garbage (unfortunately that would be often). It’s just that THIS time, in one of TV’s most anticipated season finale’s, the ‘dirty work’ was a little bit...well, we’ll talk about it a little later.



Photo courtesy of tvafterdarkonline.com

The episode, The Price of Free and Fair Election, starts off with a bang, literally, but not before Cyrus took his sweet time in trying to tell Fitz there was a bomb planted firmly in the church housing Senator Hightower's funeral (he was hoping the Bible thumping VP, Sally would be a casualty). Jake saved the day, and even though the bomb went off, there were only injuries. Of course, Sally took this opportunity to boost votes by helping the wounded. She fell short of giving a sermon on the steps of the crumbling church, spewing brimstone and fire threats on the responsible party. In front of cameras, of course.

"Let us pray."

Yeah...we could've basically started calling her President Langston. Fitz didn't have a chance.

As Fitz and his party proceeded to lick their wounds and basically concede defeat, he and Olivia waxed sentimental about the forgotten dream of moving to Vermont, making jam and having kids. But in an attempt to, as I saw it, further distance herself from the love triangle situation, Olivia revealed a long guarded truth. Mellie was raped by his father. As expected, Fitz found Mellie (nursing her 'attached at the lips' drink), and comforted her with GENUINE affection. Granted, if she had unburdened herself WHEN it happened all this turmoil could have been avoided. Well, maybe it would have been swapped out with a different set of turmoils, but at least

there would have been genuine love between them. She told him her firstborn is his and not his father's. Aahhmm...not quite. I guess that will be totally revealed next season.



Richard Cartwright via Getty Images

Papa Pope is in the hospital miraculously nursing critical injuries from Mama Pope's knife that came this close (I'm doing the finger thing) to missing his heart. And with Pops not being, well, human, there was nothing that was going to take him out. But that hospital scene gave you a Rowan Pope we'd never really seen before. A father showing REAL tender emotion towards his daughter – as real as it could get, anyway. It was touching, until you remembered it was Rowan Pope.

Let's not talk about Huck and Quinn. Bang, bang, bang. That's all you need to know. No. Just...no.

Love seemingly conquers all, because even after everything Fitz found out about Mellie, he still found the time to give Olivia a call before his "concession" speech.

"I love you."

"I love you, too".

Yep, love was still in the air. But Olivia was really cautious this time, making way for more distance between her and Fitz. She needed to put some distance between her and her father's hospital room too. Mama Pope (her name is Maya, by the way), in her usual ninja-like ways, popped up in the room, firmly seated on the bed beside a

sleeping Rowan. She lets Olivia know that every single complicated, convoluted illegality she's been a part of has been for her, to set her free from her side piece status, because Fitz was going to throw her away after he was finished. Aahhh...parenthood. The tough decisions you have to make for your children.



Meanwhile, as Fitz begins his speech, Jerry (Fitz Jr.) starts spitting up blood and eventually collapses, with Mellie and his sister helplessly looking on. After the usual "they did everything they could", Jr. died from Bacterial Meningitis. All arrows pointed to Maya (Mama Pope) being the culprit after it was revealed that a vile was missing from a highly guarded location. Heads had to roll and Fitz was ready to avenge his "child's" death, with the help of an unlikely ally, Rowan.

Speaking of ally, Harrison became a reluctant one when Rowan coerced him (showing him a photo of a dead Adnan Salif) into giving up information about Mama Pope's whereabouts. It worked. As she was stepping out with a pep in her step with a suitcase full of money, B613 agents immediately apprehended her. He then makes a call to Fitz telling him she's dead. *Side eye*

Olivia came to 'her truth', realizing she was the common denominator in everything that's been going on (and has ever gone on). So she has decided to take herself out of the situation and leave Washington, taking her father up on the delayed new life. Finally! She needs a breather...to press the reset button. Not surprisingly, this doesn't go over well with the Gladiators, and had Abbey throwing a temper tantrum. But she needs to do what she needs to do. Jake wants to be a tag along though...he wants to go with her.

"Take me with you. Run off with me. Save me."

She felt compelled to remind him that she's in love with someone else, but like a faithful puppy, he would not be deterred. Jake is like Thomas the Train. "I think I can. I think I can."

As it turns out, the Grants' loss gave the President the boost he needed in the polls. Yes, they were pity votes, but votes nonetheless. All those votes eventually gave him another 4 years in the White House, but that brought no joy. Overwhelmed with everything that happened Fitz collapses in a heap of despair in the middle of the Oval Office. Even then, while Mellie was trying to get him back on his feet, he was asking for Olivia.

So we end up right where we started – with Papa Pope. Harrison runs to him to try to make him stop Olivia from leaving, but that's EXACTLY what Rowan wants. And that's not the only thing he wants and gets. Olivia is on a plane out, he got reinstated as Command of B613, and he made Olivia's wish come true by making Fitz president again...by killing his son (with the help of his trusty right hand man, former Secret Service agent Tom). Apparently, there IS a price for a free and fair election.



Photo courtesy of scandalmoments.tumblr.com

“He took my child. So I took his.”

Not to mention the emotional distance creeping in between Fitz and Olivia. WINNING! All the way around.

Rollin' Stone, indeed.

HONORABLE MENTION:

- As a parting gift, Charlie gave Quinn an envelope containing the whereabouts of Hucks family. After one manic monologue after another and some self realization, Huck finds himself at the door with the wife who thought he was dead for years.
- Cyrus tells Leo, Sally's right hand man, that he needs to protect his soul doing his job. "Best if you don't have a family in this job." All that advice went to waste, cause Sally didn't win. Boohoo.
- Yeah...aahhmm..Mama Pope's not dead. She's in the famous B613 box, and will probably be there for another 20 years.
- Jake sent David a whole heap of information on B613. "Go get the bad guys". Let's see if that's possible without him ending up dead.
- The last time we saw Harrison, he had a gun pointed at him. Will he come out alive? With all the real life drama surrounding Columbus Short (the actor who plays Harrison), maybe not.
- Ivia pressed 'Ignore' when the White House called. This time she REALLY meant it.



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