

"Oh, the lives we could have led." - What the Season 5 and Season 6 should have been

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Sun, 12/04/2016 - 6:35am

#1

Sibelius63



"Oh, the lives we could have led." - What the Season 5 and Season 6 should have been

The Official Season Five of CBS has been designed not as fifth but as a Final Season compressed of two seasons (the fifth and six) compacted and rushed.

I was quite disappointed of this final season mostly because everything went too fast (especially starting from 510 or even before since 503-504) and the narrative structure became inconsistent with the concept of the show itself which normally unrolls its great plot on the long term.

The potential of the real season five and six could have been an explosion of narrative magnificence with all the characters they had in place ; and sadly the final season has been, definitely well-done in terms of directing, actors, dialogues but narratively an implosion compressing of all possibilities into limited storylines.

After the end of PoI in June 2016, I realized the only way to make sense of this final season with the rest of the seasons was to imagine it only as some part of the PoI storytelling compressed in thirteenth episodes, and only showing the most important parts of it but without development or then much too fast.

My passion for this show from the beginning in 2011 was so strong that I didn't want to be left with this rushed final season. That's why I decided to make a short draft in chronological order of what the real season five and six should / could have been, as the real story...

"Oh, the lives we could have led" ; If CSB didn't cancel the show or if the producers had try to renegotiate the contract to make a season 6 on CBS as final season. Or not to being dependant of CBS to find an another chanel like Netflix for this season 6.

The concept of thirteen episode season could have been a good idea but only with the idea of an another season six of thirteen episodes. The story was absolutely not made to be compacted from two real seasons into one mini-season as they did.

I propose here an idea of what could have been the "Real" season five and six if everything had gone well after the season four finale ; then these seasons would have been 22-23 episodes long (even if we could have made thirteen episodes of each season by mostly removing nine procedural episodes).

Some episodes of the final official season have been kept as complete (just the order could change), but others contain only part of the episodes.

There is of course subjectivity and preference on my draft but, with the clues the writers give in the seasons, I have tried to stay as much as I can on the original plans and ideas the showrunners have given us, even on when I don't agree or like them.

Each season was composed of three big acts-episodes: the beginning, the middle and the end. The last two were more intense, so there is no reason it should be different in the season five and six.

My conception is especially based on all the official season five final episode's ideas that were just conceived but not explored in the long term in their full potentiel ; but also all the unfinished plots and questions in the seasons one to four. The season six is of course the most difficult to imagine.

This fan-construction is basically a short draft on the main story arcs destined to all the communities and fans of PoI, as a thanks to the whole fabulous team who worked on PoI. And so to the showrunners Nolan & Placeman who, if they read this, could share what was their original plan for the real season five and six, their canceled ideas and the show in general.

Please share your thought and ideas. (You can find it on reddit too: https://www.reddit.com/r/PersonOfInterest/comments/5e545i/spoiler_oh_the...)

Season 5 & 6

Notes: R means "Real" only for the thirteenth of this "Real" season five (not to be confuse with the official broadcast season five). Exemple : R506 will have nothing related to the 506 broadcast episode of the serie (except say otherwise.)

R501 = Complete 501 + Possible Greer Apperance ("Not yet" Samaritan's answer development 422)

R502 = Complete 502

R503 = Procedural : need to show more Reese's transformation after the events of 420 on his behavior and friends. Recurring Characters: Iris

R504 = Complete 505 → Elias is alive

R505 = Procedural : Number link to the consequence of the Correction in the streetgang and/or organized crime. Apperances of Bruce, and Elias still in recover advise Reese and Finch.

→ Samaritan didn't foresee the after-Correction : Each crime leader has either a new remplacement or a new crime organisation rising up after the one avorted by Samaritan.

R506 = Procedural → Alistair Wesley return, escape at the end. Possible recurring Characters: Leon

R507 = Number target by Samaritan. Possible Duality: Claire-Finch and Blackwell-Reese

R508 = Procedural link to Fusco's own investigation on the Correction and the sniper.

Possible Recurring Characters: Iris, Elias, Bruce, Blackwell

R509 = Mostly 503 (without Iris breakout at the end) → Reese's CIA Boss Beale first appearance

R510 = Number center on Finch ; episode indroucing the path which could link to Evil Harold + Finch Flashback in 2010 given the explination among others why he already knows Reese in the 316 flashback, what others possible candidate he was thinking after Dillinger ; and given Finch's perspective in the hospital saw in 121 crossing Reese.

Possible Recurring Characters: Elias, Grace

R511 = Numbers link to the app in 415 which Samaritan uses to practice as beta test a future design plan (The Great Filter) to specific people across the world + Greer Flashback in the 80s on his radicalisation about humanity and the creation of his company Decima

R512 = Politicians Numbers target by Samaritan at Washington DC.

Return of Gabriel as Samaritan voice : meeting with the président (412), explain why some corrupt politicians must disappear, developpe about his future project ; could talk on what Samaritan expect to achieve with the market crise in 410: the total economy control of humanity by IAs to determine what are the real humans needs, not anymore by the unpredictable market.

Possible Recurring Characters: Garrison, Greer, Gabriel, Travers

R513 = Procedural number. Possible Recurring Characters: Zoe, Iris, Elias

514 = Number link to Samaritan and the preparation of the Great Filter.

Possible Recurring Characters: Claire, Iris, Blackwell, Greer

515 = Center on Root. Number who will allows Finch and Root to debate about if they still let the Machine in open system + Root Flashback on events between 202 flashback and episode 113

516 = Complete 504 → First reappareances of Shaw after 413

517 = Mosltly 506 → Death of Bruce in the tunnel

518 = Mostly 507

519 = Mostly 508 → Elias detect in Finch his evil side

520 = Mostly 509 → The Voice has a face, has a confrontation with Finch and Elias, escaped and survived. Shaw rejoin the team at the end.

521 = Number allowing Shaw who still thinking its could be a similation, to be reintegrate in the team, even if during the episode until the end she still have visions of his virtual killing of his friends. → Episode could be a reverse of 516 between reality and virtual's fiction

522 = Elements of 510 recycled : Shaw still in some difficulties with the reality ; Finch being detected and target by Samaritan ; Death of Root: bullet missing Finch kill her instead, Finch captured by the FBI and bring in prison.

+ Samaritan perspective: the Great Filter is imminent.

Possible Recurring Characters: Blackwell, Lambert, Greer, Gabriel, Elias, Iris.

523 = Reese, Shaw and Elias who try localize Greer to avenge Root with the Machine help.

Reese manages to contact his former boss Beale for information and help to find one of Samaritan's operation basement in New York. Our team manages to capture Lambert, Shaw want to kill him for avenge Root but after Reese stop her, Elias kill Lambert after an discussion with him in honor of his friend Bruce.

+ Finch interrogated by the FBI, Reese try to get him out with Fusco.

+ Finch "Rules" speech ; Machine voice as Root & Finch escape prison (Elements of 510 recycled)
+ The Great Filter in action at the end: one quarter/fifth of the global population is progressively eliminated because irrelevant according Samaritan standard: DNA, deviants behavior, past actions...

601-602 = Double episode. Consequence of The Great Filter → Reese, Fusco, Shaw looking for Finch but have to deal with numbers link to the repercussion of The Great Filter.

+ Root as Machine voice with Finch in the wild in the US, Eventually Finch flashback
Possible Recurring characters: Elias, Beale, Greer, Gabriel, Iris, Claire.

603-604 = Double episode. President of US Number target by Samaritan using an private terrorist organisation. Reese and Fusco Number by Logan Team (Elements of 511 recycled)

Reese, Shaw and Fusco cannot save the president permanaly without stopping been a target by Samaritan so in 604 they manage to make him resign to save his life. End: The Vice-president before the serment meet Greer and Gabriel. Finch in the wild communicate with the Machine about his plan to destroy Samaritan.

605 = Procedural. Finch is back in the team at the end full thinking-preparation to make his retaliation against Samaritan.

606 = Procedural. Finch and the Machine start to put his plan in preparation. Number link to the using of the phone app (416), the Machine need to find competent people for his plan.

Possible Recurring characters: Claire, Caleb

607 = Procedural. Finch gets first materials to the composition of the Virus Ice-9.

Centers on Blackwell motivations and personal beliefs for Samaritan.

608 = Number who survives the Great Filter link to Elias .

609 = Iris Number. The Voice want retribution of detective Riley, target Iris.

→ Reese save Iris in extremis and the Voice is killed ; after the event, Reese doesn't want Iris to be use against him and put her in danger by Samaritan, so they decide to break off relations.

610 = "The Merging" between the two AI: Samaritan want to merge with the Machine (318) surprising of his ressurection. Discussion in "none war land" between the Machine and Samaritan ; but also separately between Greer, Finch, Reese and Elias.

Possibly Greer Flashback in the 90's after the cold war.

Recurring characters: Greer, Gabriel, Elias, Blackwell

611 = The Machine refuse the merging. Finch and Reese enters a Samaritan facility to get a copy of the souce code of Samaritan (Elements of 503 recycled). Capture of Finch and Reese by Samaritan.

Fusco, Shaw and Elias rescue them. Sacrifice of Elias saving Reese and Finch from Samaritan agents. Death of Blackwell by Shaw/Reese. Manages to get a copy of the souce code.

Recurring characters: Greer, Elias, Blackwell

612 = Procedural. Reese and Shaw have doubt if what they're doing is right after theirs lost.

The number allows to continue theirs quest and show Finch motivations to finish what they begins.

Starting battle simulations of Samaritan and the Machine (Elements of 505-506-508 recycled)

613 = Control Number. Beale help Reese to locate and save Control. Proposal by Finch and the Machine to help them to destroy Samaritan.

Recurring characters: Beale

614 = Number who allows the return of Daizo, Jason Greenfield and Daniel Casey for the final battle.

615 = Procedural. Return and death or capture of Alistair Wesley. Possible intervention of Samaritan on Wesley plan + Reese flashback explained his connexion with Wesley in 207.

616 = Number who allows Samaritan to mention and preparation of the final plan for humanity: "Project Utopia" → Explanations of 412 the Global change model in 412, the project food distribution in R504, and the medication in 519.

Samaritan will soon be ready to reveal itself to the world as the new and true one leader of humanity. No deviant will be allowed anymore, Samaritan will have full control of each human being on Earth.

617 = Procedural. Number allows Shaw/Fusco to work together. (foreseeing the ending).

618 = Number link for the final preparation of the virus Ice-9. Claire having doubt on Samaritan.

Possible Recurring characters: Claire

619 = Garisson Number.

Recurring Characters: Greer, Travers, Garisson, Beale, Control

620 = Special episode into a simulation by the Machine of an alternate universe which the Machine didn't exist: a Samaritan early appearance coming to the world and to a faster full domination. Discovery of the life and fate of Reese, Finch, Shaw, Root, Fusco, Carter, Elias, Greer... in this alternate universe (Simulation elements of 512 recycled)

621 = Greer Number. "Project Utopia" start in action. Samaritan start to reveal to the public progressively, using all the tools and organisations it developp for three years across the world. Attempts of the Team Machine to minimize the consequence of the Project. Gabriel figures becomes the face and human figure of the IA Samaritan to every human across the globe.

Attempts by Finch and Reese to save Greer life but accepting his fate he die for the Project Utopia.

Recurring Characters: Greer, Gabriel, Beale, Control

622 = "Project Utopia" still in action. Time to spread Ice-9 in the NSA by Finch and Reese to kill Samaritan and stop the Project (Mostly elements of 512 recycled). Shaw and Fusco protecting the Machine in the Subway. Gabriel lost his connexion with Samaritan at the end. Control's being kill helping Reese and Finch at the NSA.

Recurring Characters: Gabriel, Travers, Beale, Control

623 = Samaritan is disabled and dying by Ice-9. Battle of Samaritan and the Machine on the satellite. Episode centers on death and the memory of people we love. (Mostly elements of 513 recycled). Could show at the end the possibility of Reese survival.

Like Comment?: Your
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Sun, 12/04/2016 - 2:24pm

#2

Elli I really like this. Makes much better use of the recurring characters. What about Zoe, though? Maybe she 'comforts' John after he breaks up with Iris. I also think Root probably deserves a more dramatic end than being hit by a stray bullet. A lot of Root fans were very disappointed with her end, and I must say I agree with them. Much as I hated John's end, at least he went out beautifully.

If they ever were to reboot, I hope they use some elements of this!

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Sun, 12/04/2016 - 2:43pm [\(Reply to #2\)](#)

#3

5fR7Ja



Greers death was very weak as well 🙄 in season 3, we had Root hunting Greer in the subway then the writers just gave up 🙄 would have like to have seen Shaw take over this role 🙄

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Sun, 12/04/2016 - 2:37pm

#4

5fR7Ja



That's Great ! but Roots alive !

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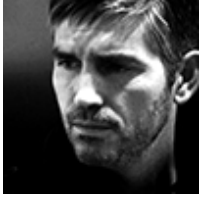
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Sun, 12/04/2016 - 3:41pm

#5

Aragarna



I think if we had 2 complete seasons to rewrite the finale arc of the show, there should be one entire episode dedicated to the alternate reality without the Machine - and with no one to oppose Samaritan.

Like Comment?:

No
votes

yet

@CaviezelDaily on Twitter and now Tumblr too!

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Mon, 12/05/2016 - 1:41pm

#6

Sibelius63



Thanks for your comments, I appreciate it!

@Aragarna: That's an excellent idea, of course! Like 316, a special episode centers on this alternative reality with the nonexistence of the Machine.

And yes this episode should be 620 (instead of the double episode) just before Greer number and Project Utopia in action.

I will edit this brilliant idea.

And also they should be more episode in the style of 411, let's think about it...

@Elli: Yes, Zoe could appears in a lot of episode, during and after John's relation with Iris. Because she is not part of the Samaritan arc, more related to John and to the procedural episode, her narrative story is not really precised.

About Root's death, even if the form didn't please, we have to keep the idea she receives the bullet fully destined to Finch, it's important for the sense of guilt to Finch in season six and his transition into 'Evil Harold'.

I wish too that John survives or at least fake his death to everybody and go meet in peace the one he loves (Iris/Zoe). But his real death makes senses too, the big issue in his death in "Return o" is that all the great narrative developement about John during season four and in the beautiful 420 completely dissappear in the finale season because of the limited episode. And that's really a shame when we see Reese in 421-422 strating to have a 'spiritual' relation to his friend, (his conversation in 421 with Elias was incredible!).

So because of the avorted John's arc in the finale season, his death was still well-done but doesn't have the real impact it should have if we had all the big narrative structure behind. Episode 420 was so powerful because of all the background they developped on John during season four but also from the beginning, that's why it was explosive narration! That's what we should have get!

@5fR7Ja But Root is alive... as the Machine's voice.

I understand we don't want our favorite characters die, I'm the same too. But that's why I precised this is not fully a 'fan'-fiction but more a guessing-fiction of what the original plan for the show was on the clues Nolan & Plageman gives us in the final season.

And Root was always made to die. Narratively, it makes perfectly sense like Carter in season 3. We could guess Root will find death later in the show after seeing the end of season 2. And her death in the ending of season 5 was perfect for the transition into the Machine's voice in 523.

Because Root as the Machine's voice is important for Finch relation with the Machine in all season 6 ; and possibly to other characters like Shaw.

But in the final season they give us, it was still well-done but too quick and without real impact in the long term as it should have been, so again a big disappointment.

And yes, Greer sacrifice could have given a better impact, that's why I put his sacrifice (which doesn't have to be an asphyxia) into the final plan of Samaritan 'Project Utopia'.

Don't hesitate to continue to share ideas.

Like Comment?:

Your
rating: None (1 vote)

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Mon, 12/05/2016 - 3:52pm (Reply to #6)

#7

5fR7Ja



Sorry not a fan of the zombifying Root thing , besides TM had it's own personality by the end season 4 and then just overwrite all that ,doesn't work for me 🤔 but you did better then Nolan did 👍

Like Comment?: Your rating: None (1 vote)

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Mon, 12/05/2016 - 2:21pm

#8

Elli I was fascinated by Greer's off-the-cuff comment that Samaritan could save humanity 'or get us to a new planet if necessary'. I wondered at the time if that was the ultimate aim. What if the Great Filter was aimed at trimming the human population to the point where it was feasible to transport the survivors to a new home, Samaritan having decided that Earth was too wrecked to survive (as a result of the climate-modelling software in s4)?

In any case, the truncated s5 was too short to take up these issues, alas. And how about a seventh season in which TM is forced to grapple with the problem Samaritan was trying to solve? Is there a more humane way to save the planet and its inhabitants than killing most of them off and transporting the survivors elsewhere? What role would Finch and the team play in that? (I'm assuming here that John has survived, since I'm a rabid Reese fan and wouldn't be that interested without that central relationship between Reese and Finch).

Like Comment?: Your rating: None (1 vote)

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Mon, 12/05/2016 - 4:30pm

#9

Sibelius63



It's interesting point, but even if I will certainly like it, this it's completely SF and not 'Science-near Present' like was PoI.

I watch again the scene you mention to be sure. And when Greer said 'get us to a new planet if necessary', I think it's not to take literally but illustrate the fact Samaritan such doing an excellent job, so perfect to manage humanity that it could find in some centuries new planets to live (exoplanets in astrophysic).

And human and space in the reality, opposite to the SF, never really make a good match in long distance. Unless we do a PoI in the future 2852, maybe then ; but in 2016, haa..

I really do think Samaritan was thinking about the humanity as the earth itself (maybe his satellites) but that's all and that's already a lot. Yet in the far future, if Samaritan and his IA child could think about exoplanets and deep spaces, but that's will be a completely different show.

I really also think "The Great Filter" was as write in the draft, and as Greer said in 512 a flood in Noa way: the elimination of the great part of humanity. And that's will be incredible to see such thing happening in PoI, meaning Samaritan has real and visible impact on people life, much more than we have seen in season 4. That's could have reverse the number victim/perpetrator by TM into new dimensions. That's what we all miss...

TM dealing with the same wanting to change humanity than Samaritan? The point of the Machine was exactly not to get involve in the fate of humanity, to let them manages theirs lifes (except for the murders) contrary to Samaritan. But yeah we could consider an arc which TM want to solve humanity, but I really doubt if they had a

season 7 to deal such ideas instead of putting new kind of opponents to the TM which I have no idea what kind.

Also we want Finch and Reese together because it's the identity to the show ;
but we could have Fusco -Shaw dealing with procedural numbers with new recurring characters and putting like season 1 a serial continuity stories showing progressively new enemies. And at one point maybe the middle of the season, return of Reese and Finch to the team against a new threat/opponent.
The showrunners said Samaritan was their best adversary to TM, and it will be difficult to imagine bigger one. Everything is possible but it's even more difficult to imagine, but that's why Fan-fiction exists.
Anyway if Nolan & Plageman do in some years a sequel, I'm sure they could have a new great idea (hoping John will be part of it too).
Even if personally I would prefer to see the Real season 5 and season 6 instead of spin-off/reboot.

Like Comment?: No
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Mon, 12/05/2016 - 6:05pm **(Reply to #9)**

#10

5fR7Ja



I would think they need to keep up scaling their opponents with each new iteration "season" they could just stay with tracking dangerous enemy operators and the rise of new ASI

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Fri, 12/09/2016 - 11:16pm

#11

Verbal Kint



Frankly there was no better show at slow-sauteeing and delivery of villains. Carnival shows like Flash & Arrow, even Marvel Agents of SHIELD continually close their episodes with a teaser consisting of a fresh villain or monster popping up for a few scant seconds - - - - TO BE CONTINUED!

Credit to POI show-runners for their careful and oft meticulous development of heels and villains - and the great satisfaction in subduing them even against all odds. The cartoonish shows continue to do what's best for business. POI often did what was right for the sake of doing right - and satisfying long-term fans.

Until they gave up the ghost when CBS cut them loose!