Wow ... two excellent episodes of "24" this past Monday night that featured plenty of action, torture, and plot twists. In his Wednesday regular feature, Mitch recaps the episodes and reassesses his thoughts on what is happening and what is yet to come. Mitch also makes some significant changes to his "Bauer Death Count", "Who's The Traitor", and "Life Expectancy" features this week ... predicting major plot twists looming right around the corner as the season approaches the mid way point.

FOX

Jack Bauer doesn't need to eat, sleep, or use the bathroom because his organs are afraid of making him angry...

As you have probably noticed, I start each recap out with a "Random Jack Bauer Fact". The one for today brings up a very good point...being that pretty much no one in 24 Land ever gets hungry, sleepy, or a full bladder.

In the first season, Jack actually did fall asleep for about 10 minutes once; but nothing since then.

Just chalk that up there with the transportation b.s. that allows everyone to quickly get across L.A. (and the country) as the suspension of disbelief needed to make this show work.

And we have another report of stupid people who need to take a chill pill and understand that this is **just a television show**. Some brigadier general is all kinds of stressed out because he thinks the torture scenes on the show are sending the wrong message, and that people will believe that's the way the military operates. Someone call the WAHH-bulance.
I understand that next week an Admiral will stop by the set of "Pirates of the Caribbean " and bitch about how people are now thinking that the navy uses sailing ships and fights against creatures with an octopus for a head.

In last week’s column I stated *"It wouldn't surprise me if he'll (Phillip Bauer) try to use Josh as a pawn later on"* . Ding-ding-ding on my part...but it came a little quicker than I thought.

However, the “old buddies” part regarding Phillip and Gredenko may not exactly be true since Dad’s sending his goons out to kill him.

Actually, this episode pretty much played havoc with a lot of my theories, as I’ll expound upon in the Final Thoughts, Life Expectancy List, and “Who’s the Traitor” speculation. We always know some major twists are going to be coming at some point mid-way through the season where 24 veers off in another direction.

I think we’re very close to reaching that point.

Recap.

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Jack’s in the helicopter pursuing Morris’ kidnappers, McCarthy and Rita when he gets the news about Graem’s death...eliciting the same reaction as if he’d been told that it was warm out today. Down below, McCarthy realizes they are being followed, and he has Rita try to find an escape route. She exhibits all the driving skills expected from a graduate of the Clarissa Cyrus School of Manic Driving, but manages to somehow avoid wrecking the Maserati, and of course loses them when she hides the car under a major thoroughfare exchange.

While McCarthy is doing some window shopping of all the cars conveniently parked there that he might steal, Morris pleads with Rita to let him go, telling her that CTU “has no idea who she is”. Hearing that, the 15 watt bulb inside her bubbleblonde head goes off, and we think for about one millisecond that she might help out.

Yeah, right. McCarthy happens to find a 2006 Dodge Ram truck with a GPS parked amongst the Tempos, K-cars, and Sunbirds (left there by the same people who left the GPS in the POS Ford Jack found in the second episode), and after getting directions from Fayed, he’s on the way to his Just Reward. But Rita has entrepreneurial ideas of her own, and shoots him in the head at a stop sign, dumping the body out the door so she doesn’t have to share the $7 million. Don’t spend all that money in one place, Rita.

At the White House Bunker, Tom is doing his best impression of a NASCAR driver after getting spun out, whining to Reed about how unfair it all is that Wayne won’t let him set up his own Private Auschwitz, and he asks Reed to write up his letter of resignation. Reed dials up 1-800-TREASON and talks to some shadowy creep named Carson , who tells him their plan hinges upon maintaining close contact with the President.

Elsewhere in the Bunker, Assad has arrived, and he and Palmer go through a few minutes of awkward (and boring) banter regarding motives, expectations, and the best color for a power tie

before PalmerLite gets down to business and informs Assad that he needs to go on TV and publicly plead for help from the American Muslim community. Too damn bad that he'll not be seen by anyone, because I doubt very seriously if CNN, FoxNews, or MSNBC would dare interrupt their 24/7 coverage of Anna Nicole Smith for something so trivial as that.

Meanwhile, Rita has delivered Morris to Fayed, who gets right to work torturing the freaked out geek; although I'd be surprised if Fayed could really come up with something worse than having to be married to Chloe and her charming personality. I also wonder how Morris is supposed to be able to think well enough to create a complicated device with a friggin' concussion.

Hell, I have problems figuring out what keys to hit on my keyboard if I have a slight remnants of a hangover...can't imagine trying to come up with a triggering device for a nuclear bomb after having the butt end of a Glock going upside my noggin.

All things considered, the wimpy Brit is holding out quite well. Better than Rita, who decides that MAYBE she made a mistake ("you think?", says my wife), and she asks to leave, saying she won't even take the money.

But she will take a few grams of lead for her consolation prize as this week's Darwin Award Winner.
That murder shocks Morris (and absolutely nobody else), and then he really loses it when Fayed takes a ½ inch drill bit to his shoulder.

Ya know...I've often been to Home Depot for tools, and I've seen masonry drill bits, sheet metal drill bits, wood drill bits, but I've never ran across a Scapula Drill Bit.

Sucks for Morris that Fayed shops at the more extensively equipped stores.

After some really gruesome sound effects and screaming, Morris relents and gets to work.

Unfortunately, had he just held out another five minutes, things would have been just fine...but then the writers would have been struggling to fill in the next sixteen hours. As it is, Morris finishes the device in about 10 minutes, Fayed arms bomb #2 and orders the execution of Morris (which somehow surprises him?), but then Jack and the Boys blow a hole in the apartment and start shooting.

Morris is OK and all the terrorists are dead, with the exception of Fayed, who escaped through a closet, taking the device with him, but leaving behind an armed nuclear bomb.

What were the odds?

Fortunately, Chloe is also a bomb expert. No wonder the woman doesn't have any people

skills; her brain has no room for that kind of knowledge as it's crammed with more geekiness than an entire Star Wars Convention. It gets a little dicey though, Jack's hands are no longer as steady as they once were, and he's SHAKING while trying to disarm the bomb.

Those Chinese Bastards!!!®

But after a couple of deep breaths and some happy thoughts to calm him down (visions of Nina Myers brains being blown out), our boy is in control enough to disarm it with six seconds to spare.

(Just ONCE I'd like to see someone disarm a bomb with five minutes or more to spare...just for the change of pace).

We end up the hour back at the White House Bunker. As if the country doesn't have enough to worry about, Tom's moral compass is about as well tuned as Paris Hilton's, so he calls Reed back, and it's all aboard the SeditionTrain.

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Coming back from commercials, we get to meet Gredenko, who is no slick Russian operative, but a disheveled old time Cold Warrior with greasy hair and a really stupid looking moustache.

His first name must be Boris, as I can only see him right now as "Boris the Blade" from "Snatch", which means he must end up being ran over by a car and shot.

Repeatedly.

Boris is also now in Los Angeles (whodathunkit?) and not at all pleased that he and his buddy Fayed are down to only three nukes.

It's been ten minutes since Morris was almost killed, so that's plenty of time to get him bandaged up and back to CTU. Jack comes in with him, and it's just an itsy-bitsy bit weird for him and everyone else as this is the first time he's been there in two years.

It was a nice little scene with him meeting up with Chloe ("I'm glad Fayed didn't kill you").

As far as Morris goes, the guy has some major guilt issues right now...something about him giving a terrorist the means to kill hundreds of thousands of people, or maybe he's just still dealing with the fact that he took the Bears and the points.

Down the hall, Father-Kills-Best is rifling through DeadGraem's stuff, deleting cell phone

numbers and stealing whatever else he can find in his wallet. Yeah...I guess CTU wouldn't have wanted to do anything so unimportant as to check the personal effects of the man who admitted to ordering the assassination of a former president.

Phillip looks at a photo of himself and Graem and thinks "Do I look fat in this picture?".

Jack walks in at that time and misinterprets that as sadness towards his son.

Jack heads towards a debrief with Bill while Phillip orders out for some Chinese, and puts a hit out on Gredenko.

Bill questions Jack about his interrogation of Graem, and Jack admits that he might have went too far. "I LOST CONTROL!!!", Jack yells, and refutes Bill's effort to fudge the report in regards to Jack perhaps going a bit overboard. Jack not wanting to go against protocol? What is the world coming to?

Side trip back to the White House, where the plot is sickening...er...thickening. VP Dick Daniels calls PalmerLite to bitch about Wayne 's unwillingness to introduce the people to Big Brother. A ssad gets the gist of the conversation and warns Wayne about how the masses can quickly abandon their leaders if things don't go their way ("no shit", chimes in George W. Bush).

Down the hall, Biscuit Lennox is getting the 411 on the plan to Schottenheimer the President. Reed talks about "removing" the President, and not by using that time consuming Constitutional method, either.

So we either have a potential kidnapping, or more than likely, another assassination coming up.

Those behind it remain a total mystery, but it does appear that the Vice President is not in on it, but is still the man Benedict Reed & Co. would rather see in the Oval Office.

Jack has a quick conversation with Marilyn regarding Graem's death, and as suspected, she's not exactly going all Tammy Faye Baker about it. When quizzed about Gredenko, Marilyn states that she once heard the name when she was following Gream, thinking he was having an affair. And she just might be able to lead Jack to that same house. Phillip finds out about the latest plan from her, and tells her that he'll take care of Josh.

I bet.

So while Jack and Marilyn get ready for their guest appearance on HGTV's House Hunters,

Dad slips out of CTU with his hostage/grandson. And since Milo HAD to go with Jack (for no apparent reason other than to help out in case they are ambushed and the rest of the team killed...not that that scenario would EVER happen), Chloe is a bit overwhelmed at work.

As stated in a previous article, only Milo, Morris and Chloe actually do any work there, so she needs to give Morris a pep talk to get him back to work...which comes in the form of a nice slap to the face, and twisting a knife into his guilt bone ("Morris, I know you've been through a lot today, but you're really starting to piss me off").

I've recently learned that Chloe spends the off-season giving management seminars and teaching motivational techniques to the executives at my company.

Out on the road, Jack and Marilyn have a little chance to fill in some back story. Looks like Marilyn was involved with Jack long before Terri, and was his girlfriend before he got sick of Daddy's plans for him to be the heir to the Bauer family fortune, and Jack bolted for the military.

Looks like she's still not over him...but then again, as my wife says, who would be?

This nauseating trip down
Schmaltz Lane
gets interrupted when Marilyn gets a call.

It's Daddy Dreariest, telling her that if she doesn't do what he says, he'll kill Josh, just like he killed Graem.

So she plays along and leads Jack and several other body-parts-to-be to an abandoned house with a big assed bomb in it.

Everyone is toast, except Jack, who dives through a window for the 300th time in the series history, saving himself.

Milo takes off in the UPS van with Marilyn, but he's not quite Dale Jarrett, is he?

The van wrecks and bad guys pummel it with bullets, but Milo was able to light off a few grenades for a diversion and escapes with Marilyn in tow.

(Note: I have made two NASCAR references in one recap. Perhaps I have lived in the South for too long).

Final Thoughts.

My thoughts that Gredenko was going to end up being the Main Bad Guy got the same treatment as Rita...shot right in the head.

Phillip's not long for this world, as Jack finds out next week that Dad is responsible for a boat load of bad. With fifteen hours to go and Jack is twenty kinds of pissed off...nope, Ole Phil will end up on the slab next to his bald son very soon.

What do you want to bet that this won't be the only time this season that Marilyn Bauer will be in danger? Just no cougars...PLEASE!

I'm thinking that the Blue Conspiracy Man Group is going to try to take out Wayne Palmer and make Assad the scapegoat, giving them the excuse to the people to start persecuting Muslims.

I'm also going to relay a good theory from Swerb's own Consiglieri, Tony Lastoria.

Tony's under the impression that Assad will end up saving Palmer, and be his knight in shining armor.

Hell, that's as good as anything I could come up with.

My Bold Prediction? Ex-President Logan is the man pulling the strings behind the coup attempt.

Best Scene: The scenes at CTU are often pretty boring, but there was a lot going on this week. Phillip and his scheming, Jack's talk with Bill, Chloe and Morris...a lot of development packed into just a few minutes.

Jack's Current Body Count: 6. Two terrorists go down to Jack and his manly shotgun.

Who's the Traitor?: Lots of changes here, as it is no longer a question that Reed and now Tom are traitors, and that Morris was a reluctant one. Who does that leave? (answer: not many).

1. Nadia. The fact that they are glossing over her right now makes me even more sure that she'll turn out on Fayed's side.

2. Vice President Daniels. He may have more involvement than you think.

3. ex-President Logan. I'd much rather see that slimeball as a villain than a reformed hero.

4. Assad. Hiko's theory may still be valid.

5. Mrs. Logan. Who knows what that nutty broad could be thinking?

6. Karen Hayes. Just because I'm running out of people right now.

7. Agent Pearce. I said I was running out of people. Where is he, anyway? He's the only

one besides Jack to appear in every single season, and I'll be pissed if he doesn't show up at some point.

Life Expectancy: Unscientific wild assed guesses on how much longer certain people will still be breathing and the chance they have of living through the day. 15 hours to go.

Phillip Bauer – 4 more hours. Jack's on his trail, and there is no way they let this one go on much longer as it's getting time to wrap up the early plot devices and move on to the twists.

Chance of living through the day?
0%.

Not after another attempt at killing Jack and threatening to kill Josh.

General Gredenko – 5 more hours. Boris the Blade is not going to be a major player. Chance of living through the day?

0%

Assad: 6 more hours. Theory #4 regarding Assad. He's killed in the attempt on Palmer's life, igniting more hostility. Chance of living through the day? 50%

Nadia or Bill Buchanan – 8 more hours. Still a wild-assed guess on my part. Chance of BOTH living through the day?

33% (no change from last week).

Morris – 8 more hours. We still haven't seen the obligatory attack on CTU. Since Morris is beside himself with guilt, I see him pulling a Lynn McGill and redeeming himself by sacrificing his life to save Chloe.

Chance of living through the day?

25%

Mike Doyle (Rick Schroder) – 12 more hours. Still know nothing about him. Chance of living through the day?

50%

Reed Pollack – 13 more hours. The normal point in the story where the insider rat gets it. Chance of living through the day? 10%

Fayed – 14 hours. I'm completely changing my mind on this one. He remains the main homicidal maniac and doesn't die until the next to last episode, so they can concentrate on the traitors for the final show.
Chance of living through the day?

0%

President Logan – 14 hours, 40 minutes. Assuming he's the asshole behind the Coup. Chance of living through the day? 50%

Audrey Rains – 14 hours, 50 minutes. Marilyn Bauer takes out her rival in the last few minutes.

Falling off the list:

McCarthy – Missed this one by less than an hour...and didn't see it coming from Rita.

Rita – YOU!!! Out of the Gene Pool!