Fictitious Season 22, Episode 6, "Chippy" Part 1

(scene opens in Vance's office, Vance behind desk, on phone...obviously irritated, voice level high)

Vance: "I don't care what facilities we have, and how capable my people are....this is not what they call "Above our payroll"....This is not even on our books!"

(Vance listens...face turns red...he swivels in his chair to face the window....)

Vance: "Yes sir....I understand sir...but sir...May I ask if we are at least have someone assigned to us that knows something about these things?"

(Vance swivels back around, rubs face while nodding head...)

Vance: "Yes sir...we'll do our best....Gibbs? He's been transported to Walter Reed sir...yes sir, everyone here appreciates what the Navy is doing, sir...Yes, it will be a long road.....No sir...I asked him about retirement....He said he'd retire when SecState was finally committed..."

(Vance laughs into the phone, laughter of other person on phone can be heard)

Vance: "Copy that sir....you know, if we were able to transfer this order to her office, it might be the straw that.....Oh...she's the one that ordered this? It's all making sense now, sir....Yes, we'll do our best, as always.....Copy that...Good-bye"

(Vance hangs up phone, chuckles....Pam, his admin, enters his office...)

Pam: "Director, it sounds as if SecState is getting creative....)

Vance: "Yes, Pam, it does...She's chosen to attack when one of our greatest generals is incapacitated...."

Pam "A brilliant move on her part"

Vance: "Yes...it is....I didn't know she was such a devious tactician..."

Pam: "But sir.....this?"

Vance: "Yes...SecState has charged NCIS with the care of a highly intelligent highly trained.....hmm..it reads...'Laboratory Assistant"

(They are interrupted by the screams heard from someone entering the bullpen...Vance looks at Pam....)

Vance: "That's Kasie, isn't it?"

Pam: "Yes sir...I had the guards escort the 'laboratory assistant': to the lab...it seemed appropriate...The order said to place him in an enviornment he was most used to"

Vance: "That would be the lab, alright..."

(Vance picks up a file folder, approximately half and inch thick...drops it back down on desk)

Vance: "This "assistant" has a file, Pam...he, and it says 'he', has a history...."

Pam: "Chipper, sir"

Vance; "Yes...and ."Chipper" has a personel file....and do you know what it's full of?"

Pam: "Yes sir...he has a problem with authority"

Vance: "Hence the reason for SecState's brilliant move...."

Pam: "Sir, her screams are heading this way...."

(They both turn as Kasie come running into Vance's office...Kasie's face is panicked, her arms are pointed behind her....)

Kasie: "What just happened? Sir..I walked into my lab and all hell breaks loose!"

Vance: "Chipper", Kasie....Hell has a name...Chipper"

Kasie: "Well hell then, Chiiper Hell has to go!"

Vance: "Orders, Kasie...it's only for a few weeks...we'll all adjust and it will be fine"

(Kasie gets calm, immediately....she crosses her arms, taps one foot...)

Kasie; "I'm going to go study the law"

Vance; "the law?"

Kasie; "Yes...how much time would I serve for killing a monkey..."

(Kasie keeps tapping her foot...)

Kasie: "You are aware they delivered a monkey to my lab....right, sir?"

Vance: "Yes, Kasie, I am...the laboratory he is assigned to had a small fire, it destroyed the habitatiion area...we are assigned with helping out with....this Navy asset"

Kasie: "You might tell the Navy they're gonna be short one asset when this is over...either me or that monkey..."

Vance; "Kasie, how much trouble can it be? You feed it, keep it locked in its cage, ..."

Kasie: "Sir, when the guards brought it in, they were in tears...You get that picture? Two big ol' country raised, potato-fed trained kiilers ...I have never seen two men so glad to get something out of their hands in my life...they just looked at the monkey, then at me, said 'good luck', and ran....They ran, director.."

Vance: "Kasie, I assure you, we will help you any way we can to get through this...."

(They are interrupted by another scream...louder...)

Kasie: "Well, I guess we can scratch Palmer off that 'help me' list..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Kasie's lab, in the back room past the sliding glass doors...Kasie standing in front of a large cage, heavy duty wire, approximately 5ft square on the bottom, 5 ft tall...small plastic house is on the floor, similar to a doll house, white with green shutters painted on...From the floor of the cage to the top, a tree limb, 3 inches in diameter, bending slightly, with one long limb sticking out horizontally....On the limb, sits a Capuchin monkey..2 feet tall, approximately 10 lbs,,,black fur covers most of his body, with light yellow tufts on his shoulders....The monkey is sitting on the limb, holding a hard boiled egg, biting it little by little, staring at Kasie)

Kasie: "I didn't ask for you to be here"

(The monkey blinks)

Kasie: "And I"m telling you right now, this is not going to work out unless you understand some rules"

(The monkey blinks again)

Kasie: "And don't bother me while I work! You stay in there, be quiet, just act.....just act like you're not here! Okay?"

(The monkey sticks its tongue out and gives Kasie a rasberry...Kasie's eyes get wide, and she starts wagging a finger at Chipper)

Kasie: "Oh no you don't! I will not be disrespected like that in my own lab!"

(Chipper gives her big tooth filled monkey grin)

Kasie: "Uh huh, that's right...just so you know who's the boss here"

(Kasie turns, walks away....a large portion of orange peel goes flying by her head...She snaps around, stares at Chipper....finds Chipper looking up at the ceiling, moving his head around, not looking at Kasie....Kasie wags one finger at the monkey, turns around to continue walking, snaps back around trying to catch Chipper throwing something....the monkey is still looking up at the ceiling)

Kasie: "Good thing...."

(She finally turns, walks several steps....another orange peel goes flying by....she stops, does not turn, closes her eyes....)

Kasie; "It's just for a short time....you can do this Kasie...but just to be sure.."

(Kasie turns back to the lab room, shuts the sliding glass door...)

Kasie: "There...now behave...like you don't exist"

(Kasie sees Palmer walk into the lab, he walks to the glass door, crosses his arms over his chest)

Palmer: "They are supposed to be the most intelligent monkeys in the world"

Kasie: "Maybe....but we got either Curly, Larry of Moe...I'm not sure which"

Palmer: "Capuchin monkeys....did you know they were the ones that you'd see on the street corners, with the organ grinder"

Kasie: "Nope...never saw one"

Palmer: (laughs) "Me either, I'm just talking about seeing them in old movies...You know, they are fascinating..."

Kasie; "Take him! Be fascinated together!"

Palmer: "Oh no...When the guards brought him in, they had the cage on a dolly, and the monkey on a leash...he screached at the guard and the guard let go of the leash, he ran into Autopsy just as I was walking out...."

Kasie: "I heard you screaming...."

Palmer; "It really wasn't a scream....it was shock..."

Kasie: "It was a scream Jimmy...."

(Palmer stares at Kasie....throws his arms up in the air)

Palmer: "Okay, yea...it was a scream....what would you do if a 2 ft monkey came running into your autopsy room, jumps up on the body of Ensign Stafford, and starts beating his chest and jumpbing up and down on the body like he had killed the man?.."

(Kasie starts laughing....)

Palmer; "It isn't funny!"

Kasie: "Oh yea it is..."

(They hear Chipper's loud monkey screaching laugher...)

Kasie: "See? Chipper thinks it was funny...."

Palmer: "Yea? Well I have a thing or two to say to that monkey!..."

(Palmer looks towards the glass room....scared look on his face)

Palmer: "Uh....Kasie?....(Palmer nods towards the glass room...Kasie turns aorund, faces it...her face shows shock...the sliding door is partially open, and the cage door is open...there is no monkey in the cage)

Kasie: "Oh my god! (starts looking around on the floor) "Help me find him!"

(Palmer looks at the lab room door, sees it open...he dashes for the door just as Kasie sees a dark flash darting across the top of Major Mass Spec)

Kasie: "JImmy! He's heading for the door! Stop him!"

(Palmer leaps towards the door, stands in the doorway, just as Chipper runs between his legs, out the door)

Kasie: "Uh oh..."

Palmer: "I'm heading for autopsy. I have a body to guard!..good luck..."

Kasie: "Don't you leave me, Palmer!..You come back here!"

(screams heard in the distance, outside the lab....Kasie slams the lab door shut...)

Kasie; "This is not my fault...this is not my fault....this is not my fault"

(There is a knock at the lab door.....Kasie slowly opens it, sees Bishop standing there, holding Chipper...)

Bishop; "Look what I found! Isn't he a darling?"

(Chipper gives Kasie another rasberry, snuggles his head against Bishop's neck)

Bishop: "Oh, he's a doll!"

Kasie: "Yea...he's a Chucky doll....."

(Bishop walks by Kasie, carrying Chipper, talking sweet talk to the monkey...Chipper looks over Bishop's shoulder, raises a fist to Kasie, with milddle finger extended, big monkey grin on Chippers face)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in bullpen...afternoon, all at their desks...Vance comes to upper railing, speaks to McGee and team)

Vance: "McGee, I just got word, Corporal Evans's trial date for the second offense has been moved up...Jag wants us to complete our interview ahead of schedule...Can you handle it?"

(McGee stands, faces Vance)

McGee: "Of course sir...I remember him...tough guy...unpredictable..Yes sir, we can be ready....When is he coming in?"

(Vance looks at his watch.....then at McGee...)

Vance: "In about 2 hours"

McGee: "Short notice, but...yes sir...we'll be ready....Sir, how many guards are coming with him?"

Vance: "One...evidently enough time has passed that they have forgotten.."

McGee: "Got it sir...we'll be ready"

(Vance turns and walks back to his office...McGee still standing...)

Bishop: "Tim? Evans?"

Torres: "That's Corporal Mark Evans, right? Jag trial guy?"

McGee: "Yea...Gibbs helped put him behind bars 4 years ago....right before you guys got here..."

Bishop: "Is he considered dangerous?"

McGee: (pauses) "Yea...you might say that"

Torres: "He was accused of killing his commanding officer..Always said he didn't do it.."

Bishop: "Don't they all?"

Torres; "Yea, but I read he had a pretty good defense...lot of reasonable doubt, until....you know..."

Bishop: "No, I don't know! Until what?"

McGee: "He was allowed to approach the judge, bailif got too close, Evans snatched him by the belt, drug him down to the floor, and before anyone could react, he had his arm around the bailiff's neck, holding him hostage, said he wounldn't let him go until he got a different attorney"

Bishop: "Oh my god!"

McGee: "Turns out the bailiff had a heart condition he was hiding...had a heart attack on the spot, died right in Evans''s arms, on the spot"

Torres: "Wow...that is no bueno...."

Bishop; "What are we interviewing him for?"

McGee: "Jag says they'll work a deal with Evans, trade him life at Leavenworth instead of the death penalty, if he confesses to the murder of his commanding officer"

Bishop: "So....why wouldn't he. Even if he didn't know about the heart condition, he did cause the death of the bailiff. He could be found innocent of the murder, but then he's still spending time in jail for inoluntary manslaughter"

McGee: "Yea, they have him on that, for sure...but there was so much doubt about him killing his Major that they want to try and clean it up..."

Torres: "In other words, there might be a murderer out there that hasn't been found"

McGee; "Right...The guy insists he didn't kill his Major...won't budge. And we're not too sure Jag is looking for justice as much as they're trying to cover their rears"

Bishop: "Gibbs brought him down?"

McGee: "Yea...almost killed Gibbs...Boss will tell you, he got too comfortable...Evans has an easy way about him....Boss walked around the interrogation table, got too close, and Evans had Gibbs in a head lock, face slammed down on the table...broke boss's nose"

Torres; "Whoa! So what happened?"

McGee; "Rule number 9"

Bishop; "Always carry a knife"

McGee: "Boss was in trouble...we have videos of it....his face was red, eyes were starting to roll back..."

Torres;:"Wow!"

McGee: "Boss was able to reach his knife, stuck it in Evans's leg, then boss yanked up"

Bishop; "Ouch"

McGee: "Yea...Evans almost died...Ducky saved his life..."

Bishop: "So, Gibbs put him away, huh?"

McGee: "No...Gibbs captured him....Jag put him away on circumstancial evidence"

Torres; "Killing the bailiff didn't help any"

McGee; "No, it didn't ...by that time, Evans felt he was being railroaded, and the guy just panicked..."

(Torres thinks...taps desk with pencil...then it comes to him)

Torres: "Wait! Didn't Gibbs testify at his trial?"

(McGee turns to Torres, small smile)

McGee: "Yep, sure did...Boss testified for the defense...felt there was enough reaonable doubt that Evans deserved another attorney, and a better defense team"

Bishop: "Oh wow...Gibbs, in court, told the jury that the defense was not up to par?"

McGee: "No, boss told the jury that the defense team was incompetent, stupid, they ignored the evidence pointing at someone else and if Mother Theresa had them for attornies, she would get the chair"

Bishop: "No way!"

McGee: "Way, Bishop....Boss didn't make any friends that day....Except for Evans"

Bishop: "So, do you know him?"

McGee: "Yea, you might say so..."

Torres; "Why? What happened?"

McGee: "When we caught him, he wouldn't give up....he ran down the hall of his hotel, busted a door down to another room, was heading for a young kid....I shot Evans"

Torres: "You shot him? Where was Gibbs?"

McGee: "On the floor...Evans cold-cocked him with a lamp"

Bishop: "So this Evans guy....there's no love lost between you?"

McGee: "Funny thing, Bishop...there he was, laying on the floor, bleeding from a wound to the shoulder...Gibbs had gotten there, was reading him his rights....The guy looks at me in the middle of it all and says..."Sir, i was trying to move the kid out of the way....I wasn't going to hurt him..But I understand why you had to do it..."

Bishop: (face in shock) "He did not!"

McGee: "Did....And you know what? I beleived him"

Torres: "Man, this dude sounds like he just ran into a buzzsaw of everything that could go wrong did go wrong"

McGee: "That's exactly what the boss said..."

Bishop; "So, Gibbs thinks the guy was innocent?"

McGee: "No...he just thinks Evans deserved a fair trial wth a competent defense..."

Torres "So....who interviews him?"

McGee: "Me...with you guys in the viewing room...with stun guns....'

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in lab, Kasie staring at Chipper...Chipper is sitting upright on evidence table, eating a slice of apple)

Kasie: "We're going to try this, okay? I'm going to be nice to you, you're going to be nice to me...comprende, monkey dude?"

(Chipper stares at Kasie and blinks)

Kasie: "You're not related to Gibbs, are you? You got this whole staring thing down pretty good"

(Chipper bliniks...)

Kasie: "I'm going to do my work, you can watch....don't touch anything, okay?"

(Kasie moves to keyboard, begins pulling up DNA verification results for body in autopsy...She keys in her information, hits 'enter', turns from her display and walks to supply rack, pulls down several items..walks back to her station...notices the screen is blinking with a red alert..."Intruder Detection")

Kasie: "What the..???"

(Kasie turns to Chipper, the monkey is looking up at the ceiling, moving his head from side to side....he takes a quick glance at Kasie, snaps eyes back to the ceiling)

Kasie: "You did that! I told you to leave my stuff alone!"

(Chipper gives her big toothy monkey smile)

Kasie; "Boy, you better mind....."

(Kasie stares at Chipper, moves away from table to the room with the cage, looks around, spies what she's looking for, picks up cardboard box, about 2ft square...walks back into lab area, places it on theevidence table by Chipper)

Kasie: "This is your personal stuff...I got it today from your lab...."

(Chipper starts jumping up and down, chittering happily...he jumps to the box, begins pawing at the tape on top of the box...)

Kasie "Hold on, hold on, there's an easier way to do this.."

(Kasie picks up small knife, slits the tape..Chipper sits back, watching....Kasie opens the box, looks inside)

Kasie: "Oh my god, is this not cute?"

(She holds up a mini lab coat, white, has 'CHIPPER' embroidered above pocket...Chipper starts dancing....clapping his little hands...)

Kasie: "Oh, you like this, huh? You had your own lab coat....that is so cool!..Now...here..."

(Kasie holds it out, Chipper turns around, signalling Kasie he wants her to help him get the coat on...she slides his arms into the sleeves, tugs at the sleeves to get them straight, then turns Chipper around to face her...Chipper is grinning ear to ear)

Kasie: "Oh my gosh, you are too cute! (She starts singing in her deepest voice possible.."I'm too sexy for my shirt...too sexy for my shirt..."..Chipper starts walking back and forth on the table, strutting....Palmer walks into the lab, smiling at the sight of Chipper)

Palmer; "That is so cool! He has his own lab coat!"

Kasie: "Yes he does! And look at this one!"

(Kasie holds up small leather vest, has tin badge on the chest)

Palmer: "It's cowboy vest! That is so great!"

Kasie: "And...."

(She holds up a small white cowboy hat...with a star pinned on the front...has an elastic band that goes around the chin)

Palmer: "I don't believe it! I had that exact vest and hat!"

(Kasie stares at Palmer, one eyebrow up....)

Palmer: "Wait...wait..I mean when I was younger..."

Kasie: "You had a vest and cowboy hat..seriously?"

Palmer: "Oh yea...i was Sherrif Bullseye Palmer...(looks off in the distance) "The Righter of Wrongs, the Hero of the Mistreated"

Kasie: "Did you seduce Miss KItty? You know, the hot saloon owner with a heart of gold?"

Palmer: "Oh..(nervous laugh) "I dated the schoolmarm...."

Kasie: "Dude...it's your fantasy! Why not go for the hottie?"

Palmer: "I was too shy....Black Bart ended up with Miss Kitty..."

Kasie: "And you stood for that?"

Palmer: "No...I challenged him to a gunfight....killed him as the clock struck noon"

Kasie; "There you go! So then Miss Kitty swooned and fell into your arms?"

Palmer; "No...(embarrassed look) "I tipped my hat and asked her if there was any more trash that needed taking out.."

Kasie: "Cool line...that's good...so then you went and kissed the school marm?"

Palmer: "Oh no....she had taken a virginity pledge, which included no physical contact with men..."

(Kasie stares at Palmer, starts shaking her head...)

Kasie; "It's a miracle you and Breena have children"

(Palmer stares at Kasie, confused....then it hits him...he turns beet red....)

Palmer: "We both made up for lost time (laughs nervously)....Can we talk about something else? How is our new lab assistant doing?".

Kasie: "He's half way acting like a regular human being!"

(Palmer and Kasie look at each other...then at Chipper...)

Palmer: "Well, they do share over 90% of our DNA..so, technically, you could be correct..."

Kasie: "Other than making me start over on the DNA test you wanted, he's been okay.."

Palmer: "Maybe this will help....I got a better sample from the body, and wanted to see if you needed it..."

(Palmer reaches in coat pocket, takes out a syringe of blood...Chipper takes one look at it, and starts screeching, backing off....pitiful cries....starts trembling)

Palmer: "Hey, little guy...no, no...this is not for you...."

(Chipper runs off table, dashes into the back lab room, runs into his cage, hides between the doll house and back of cage, curled up...shaking)

Kasie: "Hey, little boy....are you okay?"

(Chipper looks at Kasie, fear and pleading in his eyes....he covers his eyes with his hands, continues shaking....small whimpering noises can be heard coming from him...)

Palmer: "He's scared to death, Kasie...this syringe...(holds it up...Chipper sees it, begins crying, whimpering...)

Kasie: "Jimmy, put the thing back in your coat..."

Palmer: "Yes (hides syringe in pocket)...but there's something wrong here....(Palmer approaches the cage)

Kasie: "Jimmy...I'd be careful"

Palmer: (to Chipper..soothing voice) "Hey little guy...the bad thing is gone....come here, guy....I don't want to hurt you..."

(Chipper looks at Palmer....sees him beginning to enter the cage...shrieks, dashes past Palmer, jumps up into the arms of Kasie....)

Kasie: "Oh my...what...?"

(Chipper grabs Kasie around her neck, hides his head in her shoulder...)

Kasie; "Palmer, he's shaking terribly! He's scared to death!"

(Kasie begins talking to the monkey, stroking his head, soothing him…Palmer walks up to Kasie and Chipper, holds the syringe out, Chipper looks at it and begins shaking even more....Palmer takes the syringe in both hands, snaps it in half over the sink, rinses the blood down the drain, holds both parts up for Chipper to see, then places the parts in the Sharps container and trash....)

Palmer; "There...see? No more needle..."

Kasie: "See Chipper? It's okay now...."

(Kasie begins stroking his fur, feels something on his arm...she strokes the fur against the grain on his arm, and looks at the bare skin in shock)

Kasie: "Jimmy...come look at this!"

(Chipper allows Palmer to approach him....Palmer gently takes Chipper's arm, Chipper turns his head away, won't look...Palmer strokes the fur, inspecting)

Palmer; "Kasie, look at these needle marks...they're everywhere!"

(Kasie strokes fur in other places, inspects as well....nothing...Chipper then raises his leg....)

Kasie: "Jimmy, I think he wants you to look at his feet"

(Chipper whines, closes his eyes....Palmer gently takes the offered foot, inspects it..)

Palmer; "Oh god, Kasie....he has needle marks between his toes....some show signs of infection...."

(Kasie looks at Palmer, sad look....)

Kasie: "This guy has been used.....he's been used for whatever they do, and they've stuck him everywhere..even behind the knees....this isn't right, Jimmy....it's just not right..."

(Palmer holds his arms out to Chipper...)

Palmer: "Hey guy, will you trust me? I just want to take you into autopsy and get a good look...I promise, I won't hurt you...so, maybe you could..."

(Chipper climbs down from Kasie, waddles over to Palmer, holds his arms out and up to him...)

Palmer: "That's a boy....come here..."

(Palmer bends down, picks Chipper up, holds him against his chest...)

Palmer: "He's still shaking, Kasie...."

Kasie: "I know...I can see it...You mind if, you know, I could maybe..."

Palmer: "Yes, absolutely...you're coming with us....let's see what they've done to him"

Kasie; "Jimmy, if they've hurt him....He's a butt, but if they've hurt him."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Interrogation Room...Evans on one side of the table, chained to the table, handcuffs through metal loop on top of the table...legs are shackled....Evans is tall, about 29, well built, scar on his cheek, other scars on forearms..head is shaved, marine military style, high and tight..He sits upright, back straight...McGee enters the room, has file in hand....Evans sees him come in, recognizes him, smiles)

Evan: "Agent McGee! Weird as it sounds, it's nice to see....I guess not a friendly face, but a face that doesn't want me dead..."

(McGee sits, hands Evans a soft drink can from the vending machine)

McGee: :"You still like grape?"

(Evans drinks greedily....puts can down)

Evans: "I wasn't so sure...its been 4 years....but yes sir, I guess I do....I apologize for the rude manners..it's just..."

McGee: "It's been a long time, corporal, I understand...by the way, ..."

(McGee points toward Evan's shoulder....Evans looks down at it..smiles)

Evans:"Healed nicely, I appreciate you asking, sir"

McGee: "Corporal..."

Evans: "Mark...call me Mark, please...i've been stripped of rank..."

McGee: "Okay...Mark...but what happened to 'once a Marine, always a Marine"?

Evans: "They took it away, sir...."

(scene switches to Viewing room..Bishop and Torres present...Jack standing directly against window)

Jack: "He's lulling McGee...."

Bishop: "Seems sincere enough...."

Jack: "Maybe....but it's SOP for his type"

Torres: "Type?"

Jack: "Yes...unjustly accused, the very system he gave his life to betrayed him...he's angry, real angry, but he has a methodology....Have you two read his file?"

Bishop; "No...just what McGee told us.."

Jack: "Probably a pretty nice guy..but if treated unfairly, he fights...some fight with fists, some with tactics....he's a tactician....put two guards at Quantico in the hospital...right after they snuck him in some cake for his birthday..."

Bishop: "He took advantage of them? Thats wrong...!"

Jack: "I don't think so....he splits...Read the psych file....it's crude, not complete, but if you read between the lines, you'll find he's classic schizophrenic....he's the best part of himself one moment, then when triggered, his worst part comes out"

(scene shifts back to interrogation)

McGee: "Mark, you know why we're talking, right?"

(Evans looks off.....nods)

McGee: "Anything you want to change about your story?"

Evans: "No sir...I didn't do it...I did not kill Major Franks..."

McGee: "The evidence is pretty solid, Corporal..."

Evans: "Mark...The evidence shows me at his house, it shows my fingerprints in his house..."

McGee; "You had no reason to be there Mark...otherwise..."

Evans: "I had a reason...."

McGee: "Then help me...You know Agent Gibbs testified for you....he felt, and still feels you did not get a good defense...and you were on your way to getting a new trial...but..."

(Evans closes his eyes, pain on face)

Evans: "The bailiff..I want to die for that....I deserve to die....."

(scene switched to Viewing Room)

Jack: "That's genuine pain...he's truly remorseful...."

Torres: "I don't even want to watch....this guy..."

Bishop: "Is he truly responsible for his actions? I mean, not making excuses,,,but"

Jack: "No, Ellie, you're right....in his file, he complained several times of not being able to control his anger...he even went to the Marine doc for help....They ignored him.....One doc taped an apirin on his rear butt cheek, then, and I quote, "This is for the pain in the ass you are"

Bishop: "No way!"

Jack; "Unfortunately, it's true....it was brought up at the trial, but the jag prosecutor got it thrown out on a technicality"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in bullpen, McGee, Bishop, Torres at desks, Daisy laying down in Gibbs's cubicle floor, napping..Jack leaning up against Gibbs's desk)

Bishop: "So, anything new on Evans?"

McGee: "Maybe...when I started pressing on why he was at the Major's house, he got irritated, asked me why no one had investigated the wife"

Torres: "They nixed that....said they were not going to drag her reputation through the mud on weak evidence"

Bishop: "The wife?"

McGee: "Yea...there were rumors of Evans and the Major's wife, you know...."

Bishop: "An affair?"

McGee: "Yes...but Evans denies it....said he'd never do that to another Marine..."

Bishop: "Was she questioned at all?"

McGee: "Yes...all she said was she got home, found her husband on the floor dead, Evans was sitting on the floor next to him, holding a paperweight"

Torres; "The paperweight was confirmed as the murder weapon...blunt force trauma"

Bishop: "Did Evans give an explanation?"

McGee: "He clammed up....would not say anything..."

Torres: "That's weird...."

Jack: "Not really....if he and the Major's wife were having an affair, and he felt he loved her, he'd say nothing that would incriminate her..."

Bishop: "What did Gibbs think?"

McGee: "That Evans was so respectful of his Major, that he wouldn't say anything to disrespect his marriage...It was more of a Marine love affair of duty and morals than towards the wife"

(Vance interrupts the group..He's been listening, standing on the balcony of the upper deck)

Vance: "McGee...you think there's something to Corporal Evans story?"

(McGee looks over at Torres, then Bishop....then Jack...they all nod...)

McGee: "We all do, sir..."

Vance: "Then get on it...Your deck is clear right now, right?"

McGee: "Yes sir...no major cases..."

Vance; "See if our Marine is innocent, McGee...but walk lightly...JAG is protecting this case..."

McGee: "Sir?"

Vance: "I got a call from JAG chief counsel, not 5 minutes after you finished your interview with Evans...they were asking if he gave us any new information"

McGee: "What did you tell them,sir?"

Vance: "That he was guilty as hell and if they'd give us a few days with him, we'd help them wrap up any doubts about the verdict"

(McGee smiles, Vance smiles back at him....Vance turns and walks back to his office)

Jack: "Well then....it looks like our Director bought us a few days...."

McGee: "Yes he did....Bishop.."

Bishop: "Pull the files on the case, got it..."

Torres: "Pulling all phone records, cell numbers, emails, and other interviews....on it, boss"

Jack: "And me, fearleas leader?"

McGee; 'How'd you like to do another psych profile, doc?"

Jack: (grinning) "I'd feel like a kid at Christmas..."

McGee: "Well then, ho ho ho...Merry Christmas...Get us something we don't know, Jack"

Jack: "And you, Tim?"

(McGee grabs his gear bag, pulls drawer open, pulls out badge and gun...starts placing items on his belt)

McGee: "It will take a while to set the profile gear up....so...would you....?"

Jack: (big smile) "Go with you? You think, McGee?"

McGee: "Then come on, doc....let's go interview the Major's wife....Dinozzo always said the wife was guilty"

(Jack and McGee exit, Torres and Bishop on phone and computures...Daisy sniffs the air, perks up, quietly rises from the floor and trots off towards staircae)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Autopsy, Palmer, Kasie, and Chipper present....Chipper is in a sink, Palmer is washing him with spray nozzle...Chipper obviously enjoying the warm water...his eyes are closed, head raised up...Kasie standing to the side, watching)

Kasie: "That boy is lovin this, Jimmy"

Palmer "Sure is....I inspected most of his body, and the number of needle marks is outrageous...he also has some burn marks, (places hand on Chipper's temples, Chipper draws head away from Palmer's hand) here...that's where they would place electrodes..."

Kasie: (horrified) "Do you mean electric shock?"

Palmer: "No...if that was the case, his head would be shaved in those spots....he has the marks in several other places, which means..."

Kasie: "Someone was controlling him with a shock gun...."

Palmer: "Yea...and besides being against several states animal rights laws, it's just wrong...it's cruel"

(Kasie looks at Chipper...he looks back...they stare at each other for a short time...Chipper reaches his arms out to Kasie)

Palmer "I guess you're momma Kasie now....I'm done, if you want, you can dry him off....I'll bet he likes that part"

(Kasie nods, reaches for Chipper, picks him up and places him on table by the sink...she grabs a large towel, starts drying him off....)

Kasie:"I swear, if he were a cat, he'd be purring"

Palmer: "Yea, he likes it...and the warm water probably felt good on his scars"

(Palmer reaches for a gel tube, Chipper sees it and draws back....)

Palmer: "Hey little guy...this is soothing gel...it will help those owies you have"

Kasie:"Owies?...Okay...that works"

Palmer: "Here guy...look..(Palmer puts some gel on his fingers, rubs it on his arm)

Palmer: "See? It does not hurt...now here..."

(Palmer reaches out to take Chippers foot, Chipper allows it, but trembling...Palmer gently rubs a dab of gel between Chipper's toes...Chipper, tilts head back, smiles)

Palmer; "Oh yea...he likes it..."

(Chipper starts furiously pointing to different parts of his body....all over...)

Palmer; "He's showing me where he needs relief...good god, Kasie, he's pointing all over his body...."

Kasie: "Give me some of the gel...I'll work on back, you work on front"

(They proceed to treat all the wounds/scars they can find..They finish, Chipper looks at them both...begins patting his chest, then extending his hand to them)

Kasie: "Jimmy...is he...?"

Palmer: "I believe so, Kasie....He's thanking us....from his heart..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS sedan, Jack driving, McGee in passenger seat...McGee's phone rings...it's Bishop and Torres on speaker)

McGee; We're about to pull up to her house, guys, what do you have?"

Torres: "Plenty....Bish, you go first..."

Bishop: "Texts...4 years ago, we got them from the carrier....She was texting Evans day and night, begging him to meet her..."

McGee; "His response?"

Bishop: "Quote..."please quit doing this...you are a married woman"

McGee: "Any texts show they met? Maybe started something, then he wanted it to stop?"

Bishop..."Nope...in fact, 3 months before the murder, she sends him her first text...says it was nice to meet him at the cookout, and felt she'd like to get to know him better"

Torres: "Yea, and he replies he'd be glad to....if the Major was with her"

Bishop: "This goes on and on...even to the point of her sending him.....uh..."

Torres: "She sexted him..."

McGee; "Ok...that's wow...Torres, anything else?"

Torres; "Yea...she bought several items on the internet, and had them shipped to his barracks, in his name...man gifts...shaving set, leather jacket, stuff like that..."

Bishop: "But wait...the day before the murder...he texts her...it's the first text he ever sent that was not in response to one of hers...."

McGee: "Yea? "

Bishop; "I'm reading the text..."I have no choice but to tell the Major. I will be there tomorrow night around 6. You can end this by just telling me you'll never contact me again"

Jack: "What was her reply?"

Bishop; "One word..."NEVER"...all caps"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Autopsy, Chipper is dry now, happy....)

Palmer: "Well, it looks like our little guy is feeling better!"

(Kasie hears scratching at the Autopsy doors, then sees them open...Daisy comes trotting through)

Kasie "Well I see she knows how to push the button..."

Palmer:"Yea..i gotta remember to put it on lockout"

(Daisy trots directly up to the table that Chipper is on, stands on hind legs, places paws on the table...Chipper looks at Kasie, Kasie nods)

Kasie; "One of the good guys, Chipper..."

(Chipper looks at Daisy, sees she is sniffing...he holds one of his little hands out, lets Daisy smell....Daisy yips, Chipper startles, but moves closer....he starts stroking the top of Daisy's head....)

Kasie: "Okay, this is good...."

(Chipper turns to Palmer, points at the vest and cowboy hat on the table...)

Palmer: "You want the outfit, huh? You gonna go be Sheriff Jimmy Bullseye?"

Kasie: "And the virginal schoolmarm...(looks at Chipper) "You can do better than that, boy"

(Palmer picks up vest and hat, places them on Chipper....Chipper smiles big, then unexpectedly, hops off table directly onto Daisy's back, the monkey holding on to Daisy's collar..)

Palmer: "This is great! I'ts so cool!"

(Autopsy doors open, Bishop walks in...just as the doors open, Daisy sees them, then bolts out, Chipper holding on for dear life, but laughing a monkey laugh)

Kasie: "Well hell...Giddyup Cowmonkey!"

(Bishop stares at the scene in amazement.....then starts grinning)

Bishop: "Did i see what I think I saw?"

Palmer; (imitating cowboy voice) "Yep, little lady, Sheriff C(hipper Bullseye just rode off on his faithful steed, Daisy.."

(screams heard down the stairwell)

Bishop: "I think they hit the bullpen..."

(more screams, one woman comes running down the stairs....)

Woman: (screaming) "There's a monkey on a dog! The monkey is screaching and throwing poo everywhere! Help!"

Kasie: (closes eyes) "It's not my fault It's not my fault It's not my fault.."

(scene fadest to black and white)

(scene opens at the house of Denise Stanford, widow of Major Franks..NCIS sedan pulls up to house...circular drive, 2 story modern, contemporary, glass front, lush green grass, nicely trimmed...gardens have mostly low bushes and shrubs, allowing the house to have a view of the sprawling acreage...)

McGee: (whistling) "She remarried well"

Jack: "You think? This is no house any Marine Major could afford."

McGee: "I vaguely remember the original house....it was not huge, but it was nice.."

Jack; "Currently marred to Reese Stanford, managing partner of Polk, Stanford, and Albright....they advertise on TV...."

McGee: 'Oh yea....PSA..We're the attorneys bringing you a PSA, a Public Service Announcement....if you or a loved one has developed whatever disease from whatever popular product...."

Jack: "That's them...Tort cases...they hire hundreds of people, cram them into a room, provide phones, and coach each one to answer the calls as if the client is calling a large firm and talking directly to an important attorney...."

(McGee sees a woman getting out of a late model Jaguar, just pulling up into the driveway...Mid 40's, attractive..she sees them waiting...walks seductively up to front door, takes keys out and unlocks door)

Jack: "Hair is too big, pants are too small..."

McGee; "Meow, Jack"

Jack: "I hate women that look like that"

McGee: "Really? Why?"

Jack; 'Because I don't....that's why"

(McGee doesn't reply...Jack stares at him for a moment...)

Jack; "McGee, this is the part where you're supposed to say...."

McGee: "I know what I'm supposed to say, but I'm not going to say it, because my wife would think I'm flirting, or you might think I'm flirting, and since you do look like her, in fact, better than her, my wife might be right, and then, I'd be in all sorts of trouble...So...I'm not saying anything...."

(Jack laughs...)

Jack: "Tim, you don't say the sweetest things, thank you"

McGee; "Welcome...okay, she's in....It's showtime"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS agent bullpen....people are running, covering their heads with file folders, Bishop and Torres are frantically chasing Daisy as she gallops through the rows with Chipper riding on top....Chipper has run out of self produced organic ammo, and has switched to orange peels, and delighted with the chaos they are causing)

Bishop (Daisy! Stop! You stop right now!...Torres, head her off! She's bolting for the end of that row!"

(Torres jumps up on one desk, over the top of a cubicle wall, lands on desk of an agent, huddled behind his desk, trying to crawl under the chair space)

Torres: "Coward..."

(Torres sees Daisy coming, her mouth a big smile, showing she's having fun...Torres jumps down, spreads his arms out, starts yelling...)

Torres; "No! Daisy...No!..Bad dog!"

(At the sound of 'bad dog', Daisy's face changes, confused...she comes to a halt, her paws sliding on the carpet...She stops...Chipper keeps on screaching, kicking at Daisy's sides like he was spurring a horse...)

Torres: (approaching Daisy carefully) "Whoa girl...that's it...good girl...Bishop?"

Bishop: "I've got it....Daisy! Look what I've got!"

(Bishop holds out a healthy size piece of ham jerky, dangling it in front of her..Daisy sees it, turns immediately, bolts for Bishop, Chipper screaching his disagreement with the change of events)

Bishop: "Good girl...come here..."

(Daisy gets within arm's reach of Bishop..Bishop grabs her collar, and her tone changes...)

Bishop: "What were you thinking! Look at what you've done..!!!"

(Daisy lowers her head, still keeping her eyes on the jerky strip...Chipper begins to lean over, arm slowly reaching out for the strip...Daisy begins a low growl...Chipper jerks his arm back, looks up at ceiling, head moving side to side)

Bishop; "And you, Chipper! Who's going to clean up this mess?"

(A voice, seeming as if from up above...resonates throughout the room)

Vance: "THIS STOPS NOW!"

(The entire room goes silent...even Chipper stops shreaking, looks at Vance,standing on the edge of the upper level)

Vance; "EVERYONE WILL CLEAN UP THIS ROOM! NOW!"

(Chipper looks at Vance....the thought bubble above his head...)

Chipper: 'Authority Figure...bad man"

(Chipper jumps off Daisy, runs to McGee's desk, jumps up on top of cubicle wall, looks at Vance, and starts beating his chest, shreaking at Vance...Vance looks at Chipper, taken aback....surprised...Chipper continues his challenge to the director...)

Vance "Okay, I get it...you think you run this place...Well, let me tell you something, you little rascal..."

(Vance ducks as a Post it note pad goes whistling by his head....)

Vance: "Why you little....!"

(Vance picks up the Post it note pad, does a very professional looking throw at Chipper, causing the monkey to duck and dodge...Chipper jumps back up, continues his barrage of shreaks and chest thumping)

Vance: "I'll show you a thing or two...."

(Vance goes to the side table, picks up a small box of kleenex...targets Chipper, flings it, clipping the monkey on the shoulder....Chipper goes berserk...the monkey picks up McGee's pencil holder, throws it at Vance....This continues between the two of them, any object not bolted down becomes ammo...)

Torres: "Wow...this is so cool"

Bishop: "Won't be when one of them runs out of ammo"

Torres: "I got five bucks on the Director...you see that throw? Man's got game!"

Bishop: "You're on...Chipper wins on pure determination"

(Chipper seems to admit defeat as Vance runs out of desktop items that won't kill someone, and in his anger, takes off one of his shoes, grabs it by the toe, then sends it at about 50 MPH towards Chipper...it glances off the top of the cubicle, but Chipper sees the potential danger he's created by taunting this large human authority figure...In an obvious declaration of "We'll fight another day", Chipper raises his fist, the one finger extended to Vance...Vance stops, stares at the gesture, his head snaps back in amazement...Chipper jumps off the cubicle, onto the floor, and runs towards the stairs, the path to his safe zone, his cage..)

Torres: 'You owe me $5..."

Bishop: "I don't know...Chipper may have won that one"

Torres: "No way! He retreated!'

Bishop: "Yes, but did you see what he was carrying?"

Torres: "No...what?"

Bishop; "One of Vance's $300 shoes...."

Torres: "Ouch...wow...yea, you win..."

(They both look up at Vance, as he watches the monkey dash off with his shoe...He adjusts his tie, straightens his coat, and addresses the entire bullpen, all staring at him)

Vance: "Carry on"

(Vance turns and limps back to his office, shoeless on one foot...Daisy is laying down, happily chewing her ham jerky that Bishop dropped during the drama)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in house of Mrs. Stanford, the widow of Major Franks...McGee and Jack are sitting in the living room, white leather couches, white leather chairs, white marble coffee table...Teal accent pieces coordinated with the blue spotlights showing various pieces of ancient history, all enclosed in the wall, glass fronts, each piece sitting on a pedestal with a brass plate below it describing the piece...Mrs. Stanford, struts in front of Tim, wearing sheer yoga pants and sheer T-shirt)

Stanford: "I do hope you don't mind that I'm casual...I had no idea I would be entertaining company"

McGee: "No ma'am, it's quite alright...we'd just like to ask a few questions.."

Stanford: "Of course, but please know i have a masseuse coming in about 10 minutes, so we'll have to make this quick"

Jack: "We'll take as long as it takes, Mrs. Stanford"

(The woman glares at Jack, moves over in front of McGee, bends over directly in front of his face, adjusts some books on the coffee table...She looks at Jack, gives her a small smile)

McGee; "Ma'am, I'm in a hurry also...I have someone waiting on me as well. My wife"

Jack: "Your relationship with Corporal Evans..."

Stanford: "What relationship? Other than me walking in on him just as he had killed my husband...well, that's the Alpha and Omega of it...if you don't know what that means..."

Jack: "Beginning and end...yes, we know"

McGee: "Would there be any other connection between you and Corporal Evans we are unaware of?"

Stanford: "Not that I know of...May I ask why you are interrogating me again?"

Jack: "Oh, Mrs. Stanford, this is not an interrogation...I assure you, you'd know the difference"

(Stanford glares again at Jack, Jack returns the glare with a smile)

Jack: "We recently interviewed Corporatl Evans, and suffice to say...if you don't know, that means 'sufficient', some new details have come to light...Involving you"

Stanford; 'Do tell"

Jack; "Won't tell...it's now an open investigation"

McGee; "Ma'am, we recently pulled your phone records..."

Stanford: "You what?"

McGee: "Your phone records, ma'am...your texts..."

Stanford: (voice quivering) "Those were inadmissable"

McGee: "Yes ma'am, at the time, they were...but new laws allow us to take a look now..."

Jack; "Article, Section, paragraph..."

Stanford: "I...I don't know the law..my husband,...."

Jack; "I'll help you....that reference?, If you look in the right place? They say to most folks, "You're screwed"

McGee: "But I'm sure that's not the case here, ma'am...we are just following up on new information...That being said, what kind of relationship did you have with Corporal Evans, on or before the murder of your husband, Marine Major Franks?"

Voice: "That's enough...Honey, not one more word"

(They turn to the voice, a man, expensively dressed in a casual suit, has walked in through the back door, Mrs.Stanford's husband...His wife gets up from her chair, runs to him, embraces him...)

Mrs. Stanford "Oh honey,it was horrible..they are making the most horrid references!"

Mr. Stanford: "May I ask what references,.....And who are you?"

(They both show them their credentials...)

Mr. Stanford: "NCIS, huh? I thought this was put to bed some years ago..."

McGee: "Unsolved cases never go to bed, sir...sorry"

Mr. Stanford: "A verdict was reached"

McGee: "An unpopular one, sir...and with the new information..."

Mr. Stanford: "What new information?"

McGee: "We're not at liberty to say, sir...."

Jack: "Mr. Stanford, what percentage of your office is staffed by ex JAG counselors, or are you the only one?"

(Mr. Stanford pales...stammers...)

Mr. Stanford: "I...I don't know what you're talking about"

Jack;: "That's okay, sir...That tells me all I need to know....By the way, you may want to have a cup of tea, or maybe a drink...you turned pale just then..."

McGee: "Thank you both...unless either of you have something to say...."

(Silence from both of them...)

Jack: "Mr. Stanford, I assume you will be Mrs. Stanford's attorney of record? We'd like know in the event there is a conflict of interest, or.....you know....whatever..."

(Mr. Stanford pales again)

McGee: "We'll see ourselves out....thank you ma'am for your time....Counselor, for yours...."

(McGee and Jack get up, offer handshakes that are not accepted...they walk out to the car, and get in)

Jack: "You like the yoga pants?"

McGee: "This is the part where youre supposed to tell me how we tell Vance that we really tried to walk softly..."

Jack: 'You tell him we did walk softly....We just carred a big stick"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in MTAC...Vance talking to SecNav on the screen...Vance standing, SecNav sitting at his desk)

SecNav: "Hold on, Leon, I've got to play that back one more time...there you are, taking off your shoe...throwing it...nice form, by the way..."

Vance: "...thank you...I've still got it"

SecNav: "Oh god...here he goes...BOOM! He shoots you the bird..."

(The 'BWAHAHAHAHA's begin.....Pam, at the MTAC console, laughing as well...)

SecNav: (trying to catch his breath) "Oh god, my stomach hurts...A lab monkey shot the NCIS Director...the bird....Oh god help me...I can't stop...."

Pam: "You didn't tell him about the Kleenex box"

Vance: "Yea...I bounced it off the little turd's shoulder..."

(more laughter ensues....)

Vance: "Now...about my call..."

SecNav..."Been thinking about it, Leon..Were you aware that SecState's daughter is very active in animal rights movements?"

Vance: "No...but it sounds promising"

SecNav: "We can't attack directly....we need to flank"

Vance; "Agree...I'd like to keep my job"

SecNav: "Me too..but this....it's such a good opportunity, I'd be willing to take a risk or two"

Vance; "Remember, we have Gibbs, national hero, in the hospital, has just broken up a nuclear strike and chemical weapons offensive, and your office is leading the way in the care for him...We've got some cover here...."

SecNav: "Oh hell yes...we do, don't we?"

Vance; "Okay...get this...Word from Palmer is that the little shit has been stuck full of needles and has been shocked"

SecNav: "Seriously? All joking aside, I'm not liking that"

Vance: "Me either...if you meet the little guy..."

SecNav: "No, but thank you..."

(laughing)

Vance: "If you meet him, he's pretty much irresistable...and smarter than some of my Probies....."

SecNav: "You know, Leon, that just gave me an idea.... you could pull a Daisy on him....there has been a precedence set..."

(Vance stares at SecNav on the screen...toothpick starts quivering...)

Vance: "Gary, that's brilliant...it could also allow us to keep him under our protection until we settle what and who has been doing these things to him..."

SecNav: "And who better, who more qualified...."

Vance: "And who more connected..?"

SecNav: "Yes! Who better to bring in as an ally...."

Vance; "Than the daughter of the Secretary of State...The daughter of the leader of the army warring against us!"

SecNav: "Dang Skippy, Leon!"

(Vance approaches MTAC screen, Vance and SecNav high five on the screen....Vance signals -'off', Pam shuts down signal...screen goes black...Vance turns and stares at Pam....)

Vance; "Well? Your thoughts?"

(Pam shakes her head.....)

Pam; "Big boys with big toys....."

(Vance switches toothpick from one side of mouth to the other....smiles...)

Vance; "Damn right, Pam...This is war! Interagency Washington DC political war!"

Pam; "But Leon...making a monkey an NCIS Probationary Agent?"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in bullpen..McGee, Jack, Bishop, Torres, all sitting...Jack is in Gibbs's chair..Daisy is laying down in Bishop's cubicle)

Jack: "How come Daisy's over at your place?"

Bishop: "K-9 Confinement..Accessory to mayhem"

McGee: "Did something happen while we were gone?"

(Torres and Bishop look at each other...they break out laughing)

Jack: "What did we miss?.."

(Torres still laughing, head down on desk...he holds the clicker up to Jack...)

Torres; "Press Play"

(Jack takes the clicker..McGee gets up and joins Jack at the big screen....Image comes up with full NCIS Agent bullpen in view, all rows...)

Jack: "Wait...isn't that Daisy? And what the heck is that riding on her neck?"

Bishop: "Chipper"...

Jack: "What's a Chipper?"

(Torres and Bishop break out laughing again...)

Jack; "Oh hell no! That's a monkey! Wearing a vest and cowboy hat!...What is that it's throwing...?"

(The laughter continues as Jack and McGee see the video of the entire episode....After McGee and Jack can control their laughter, they settle down)

Bishop: "Your turn guys...how did the interview go with the grieving widow?"

McGee; 'You mean the Jack slapdown of the yoga pants lady?"

Bishop; "What? Spill! What?"

(McGee and Jack tell the story, word for word, both filling in the blanks for the other)

Bishop; "You actually said, "You're screwed!" ?

Torres; "Hey, when she bent over, just curious....was she wearing....you know.."

Jack; "Full comando"

Torres: "No way! Why do I miss out....."

(Bishop squints, glaring at Torres)

Torres: "...on seeing the ugly women out there that remind me of how beautiful Eleanor Bishop is..."

(Torres looks for approval...)

Bishop: "Not bad..."

Jack: "That's right! Congratulations you two!"

Bishop; "Thanks Jack...I'm....uh..."

(Torres watches, waits...Bishop looks at him...smiles)

Bishop: "I'm happier than I've ever been in my life..."

Torres; "Love you baby"

Bishop: "I love you too, sweetie"

McGee: "I'm getting a cavity"

Torres; "Too sweet?"

McGee: "Yea...but it's nice...not everyone can show it. I'm glad you two can"

Bishop: "I didn't know how much I'd been missing....there was always this...I don't know..."

Jack: "Wall? One you put there because you weren't 100% sure of the other person?"

Bishop; (thinking) "Yea...I guess that's it..."

McGee: "It's sad, Bishop..."

Torres: "Bish....you know...you and your ex...I know it hurt you...I really am sorry..."

(Bishop looks at him...eyes get moist....)

Jack: "Oh hell...you two are making me cry...."

Bishop; "Nick, that was probably the most unselfish thing any man could ever say...Thank you"

(Torres doesn't reply...just shrugs...)

McGee: "Hey....can we maybe get to work here? We have some connections to make...Jack..you asked Stanford how many counselors he had that came from Jag...why?"

Jack: "I've been looking for motive...the files told me that the prosecuting side wanted to hush up the texts from the wife to Evans...I get it at the time of the trial, but why did the defense agree to that? And why has JAG been so protective of the file now? And in one of her texts to Evans, she specifically said, "I love you...I can get Randy to handle the divorce"...Randy Pirtle was a lead prosecutor for JAG, but left months before the murder occurred...and he's listed on Stanford's web site as one of their lawyers..."

McGee: :"So, you guessed?"

Jack: "No, I went fishing..what was her connection with PIrtle?....I wanted to hit him with conflict of interest if he claimed to be her counsel, since he had been a JAG lawyer, and my question was more about him than anyone else...but the reaction..."

(Torres has been clicky clacking....)

Torres: "12...12 out of 22 staff lawyers at Stanford's firm were once working with the Navy office of JAG..."

McGee: "Seriously?"

Torres; "Yep...plus 2 more from the Army side...and guess who was on Evans's defense team?"

Bishop; "No way"

Torres: "Yes, way, Bish....Mr. Stanford, the new hubby for Major Frank's wife, was one of the defense lawyers that helped put his own client away, by making sure the text evidence was thrown out..."

McGee: "I always wondered why the defense agreed so quickly with burying the texts.."

Bishop: "If they had introduced it, their fall guy for the murder becomes a victim, and becomes the moral high ground good guy..and then things would start to point at the wife...Or someone that had motive to kill Major Franks"

Jack: "She married the man that defended the guy she was supposedly obsessed with"

Torres: "Sheesh...I need a score card.."

Bishop: "Something is wrong here...."

McGee: "In the iconic words of our recovering boss...Ya think?"

Bishop: "So....Stanford and the wife were having an affair...the Major was too honorable a man to consider divorce, at least easily....So they needed to get rid of the Major, and needed an easy target for a fall guy"

Torres: "But the fall guy wouldn't fall for commando yoga pants.."

(Bishop squints at Torres)

Torres; "Hey, just keepin' it real!"

McGee: "Evans had anger issues...uncontrollable...who better to blame than the poor love sick Corporal that had a record for uncontrolled anger?"

Torres; "But his honor was too important to him..he wouldn't take her yoga pants bait, and he sure wasn't love sick"

Bishop: "Oh my gosh! Dinozzo was right....the wife did it!"

Jack: "With a little help from her husband to be, and a staff of JAG lawyers looking to insure their future..."

Torres; "With the PSA attorney firm, and the big money!"

Bishop; "And ex-military lawyers mean bigger legal contracts with the U.S. Government...it's a money machine they have going on!"

Bishop: "No wonder Evans feels he's been betrayed by the military....He doesn't know the half of it!...That poor guy...This is just wrong.."

(silence in the bullpen...Vance walks up....)

Vance: "Team? Any progress on Evans? Have you stumbled upon yet another great conspiracy that will shake the roots of Washington DC? Again?"

(The team looks at each other...)

McGee: "How about an entire DC JAG section committing perjury, tampering with evidence, and conflict of interest?"

Jack: "You forgot accessory to murder"

(Vance stares at McGee...then at Bishop, then Torres, then Jack...He switches his toothpick to other side of mouth)

Vance; "I was joking"

McGee: "We weren't"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Interrogation Room...McGee and Jack on one side, Evans sitting on other side, chained to table...Two cans of grape soda sitting on table in front of him)

Evans: "Thank you for the soda, sir...ma'am, how can I help you folks today?"

McGee: "I think a lot, Corporal Evans..."

Evans: "It's not corporal, anymore, sir...I told you that"

Jack: "Soldier, once a Marine, always a Marine...we are about to show you the truth in that...Then, it's up to you do decide what to tell us.."

Evans: "I....I'm sorry...I don't understand"

McGee: "You will, Corporal"

(McGee and Jack proceed to reveal to Corporal Evans everything they've found out...Evans asks a few questions while the story goes on, but only a few..Then Jack and McGee finish...the room is quiet..They allow Evans to process this, alert for any anger outburst...Evans turns red, then he takes a couple of deep breaths, looks at Jack, hurt on his face.)

Evans: "I was a good Marine sir..ma'am"

McGee: "We know, soldier...You were betrayed by those sworn to protect you...we are asking if you'll be that Marine again, and help us fight for what's right"

(Evans thinks...he is overwhelmed with emotion...)

Evans: "Major Franks, sir...if we go forward...)

Jack: "Major Franks was a fine officer and a gentleman...there is nothing that tarnishes that reputation in this. You have our word"

Evans: "I killed that bailiff, sir"

McGee: "That bailiff should never have been there, soldier..he was seeing private doctors, hiding it from the Navy. If it had been anyone else, the worst that happens is a sore neck"

(Evans turns his head, processes more...turns back to McGee and Jack)

Evans: "He was good to me ma'am...He tried to get me help...He told me...."

(Evans pauses...looks to one side again, shame on his face)

Evans: "He told me about what bi-polar is...that he knew about it because his wife suffered from it...and how he suffered from her disease...but he wouldn't stop trying to help her..And he wanted to try and help me...)

Jack: "Corporal, for Major Franks to confide in you like that...It was his way of honoring your integrity..."

Evans:"The Major..ma'am...he used to pat me on the shoulder...tell me I was the worthless, no good, lazy,....son he never had.."

(Evans smiled at the memory...then he focuses back on Jack and McGee)

Evans: "Take notes, sir...ma'am...there are a few blanks I can fill in..And thank you...Thank you for believing in me."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the lab, Kasie and Palmer standing in front of Chipper's cage...both have arms crossed, staring at Chipper...The monkey is sitting on his branch, biting into a fresh orange slice...)

Palmer: "And to think we trusted you"

Kasie: "Gave you a bath, put feel good on your owies....(shakes her head)..."You should be ashamed of yourself"

(Chipper looks at both of them, blinks once, then gives them big monkey smile)

Palmer "I don't think he feels guilty"

Kasie: "Nope...not one bit of remorse in that rascal"

Palmer: "So, what do we do now?"

Kasie: "We double the locks on this cage for one thing..."

(Camera pans back, shows multiple locks on the cage)

(They are interrupted by Vance walking in....The director enters the lab, stops in the doorway to the back room...looks into the room...sees Chipper...tries not to smile...)

Vance; "Kasie, Dr. Palmer...I'm here to offer your client a deal...."

(Kasie and Palmer look at each other....turn to Vance)

Kasie: "Counsel for the defense is listening, sir"

Vance: "Find out who is responsible for turning that fine example of God's creature into this demon possessed...thing....we see in front of us..."

(Chipper looks at Vance and smiles big monkey smile)

Vance: "And Kasie...?"

Kasie: (wide-eyed) "Make the demon child do some exercises.."

Palmer: "Sir?"

Vance: "I need to put on the report that Probationary Agent Chipper Lab has passed a PT test"

(Kasie and Palmer turn to each other, give big smiles and high fives...Vance turns to leave the lab...An orange peel flies by his head...Vance closes his eyes, takes a deep breath, mutters "A-hole" then contnues out of the lab)

(scene shifts to bullpen...McGee, Bishop, Torres, at desks, Jack sitting at Gibbs's deak...Daisy gets up from Bishop's area, slowly slinks towards her regular area next to Gibbs's desk)

Bishop; "Okay, we need to find some connections....(looks down) "Daisy...get back here! You're sentence isn't over"

(Daisy hangs her head, slinks back to Bishop's area...sees Bishop discreetly dropping piece of ham jerky on the floor...Daisy, just as discretely, scarfs the piece up into her maw, turns her head away from the team, begins to slowly chew)

McGee: "We're looking for connections between Mrs. Stanford and Mr. Stanford, before the murder"

Torres: "And connections between the PSA law firm and JAG...how long has this been going on, and if that promise of a big time money job has influenced any other JAG trials"

Jack: "I'm going to look on the psych-med side...Evans told us about the wife's diagnosis of Bi-Polar...maybe there's a medical connection..and I did get a signed release from him allowing me to obtain his records..."

McGee: "You mean if Evans saw a doc?"

Jack: "He did. Major Vance referred Evans to a private doctor...and if that doc had any connection with the wife's treatmen, then....t"

Voice: "It means you need to stop digging"

(They snap their heads around...see that Vance has walked up to the bullpen)

McGee; "Sir? Stop?"

Vance: "So orders Vice-Admiral Kerrick, Judge Advocate General's office..."

McGee;: "The pushback started, sir?"

Vance: "Oh yes, Tim...and it's a big push...Something about, "If you know what's good for your career" type of pushback"

McGee; "So, sir...your orders?"

(The entire team, including Jack, look to the Director....)

Vance: "Show me what you got, my disruptive friends, ...A Marine's career has been ruined due to dishonesty and deception...A fine Marine officer is dead..murdered..."

(Vance stares at the team....)

Vance; 'What do you think my orders are?"

Torres: "Your orders are....Go get 'em....Director, sir..."

Vance: "Exactly, Torres...but you need to let me help you navigate some of this...you are about to enter into waters full of some brilliant political minds...and they can be dangerous minds..and by the way, SecNav will be helping us navigate these mine fields as well."

McGee: :"Pull up a chair, sir...we're damned glad to have you..And SecNav!"

Vance; "And in your investigations...If you could, please...."

McGee: "Yes, sir?"

Vance: "Find my shoe"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in lab, Kasie and Palmer have pulled up information on Balcore Laboratories, the home for Chipper...Chipper is sitting on the evidence table, watching the monitor...As they pull up a street view of the building, there's no reaction from Chipper...but when images of the animal testing area come up...)

Palmer: "Kasie....look" (Palmer motions towards Chipper...he has turned his face away from the screen....)

Kasie: "I almost expected a big time hissy fit"

Palmer: "Yea...me too"

(Kasie pulls up the pictures of staff, goes through their glamor shot pics, one by one...Chipper watches each one....when the pic of a female, Dr. Ruth Timmons, comes up...Chipper jumps off the table, onto the computer table, reaches out and touches the screen...small sounds are made by the monkey)

Palmer "I think this is a good guy..."

Kasie: "Looks like it....(to Chipper) "Chipper, you like this one?"

(Chipper nods his head up and down, slowly)

Kasie: "Maybe we need to see what Dr. Timmons has to say about our new agent here.."

Palmer: "Agree...I'll see if McGee can get her number and I'll call)

Voice: "You can, but I"m here"

(Kasie and Palmer turn in shock, see three people standing in door to lab...Director Vance, a young woman, and a middle aged lady, dressed in lab coat...above her pocket, the embroidery reads, Dr. Ruth Timmons...Chipper turns to see them too, sees Dr. Timmons, jumps up and down twice, jumps off the table, then into the open arms of the doctor...)

Timmons: "Oh my big boy....have you missed me?"

(Chipper is having trouble controlling himself, trying his best to press harder into her)

Timmons: (laughing) "Yes, I'm glad to see you too, squirrel bait...I've missed you"

Vance: "Dr. Palmer, Kasie, please meet Dr. Ruth Timmons from the lab, and also, Beth Turner...Beth is the founder and CEO of "They Feel Too"...it's an animal..."

Palmer: (excitedly) "...I love what you do! Breena and I have donated often! i am so honored to meet you!"

(Palmer moves quickly to Beth, extends a hand....Beth moves past the hand, gives Palmer a hug)

Beth..."I know, Dr. Palmer...before I accepted Director Vance's invitation to come over, I did a quick vetting of the people here...You and your wife do more than donate, you've been active in recruiting other members....I am so grateful to you both"

Kasie: "So, do you and Dr. Timmons know each other?"

(Ruth and Beth look at each other, exchange a knowing smile)

Timmons: "Yes, you could say that"

Beth: "It's best to say that Dr. Timmons remains...anonymous in this"

Kasie: "You're the inside source, right?"

Timmons: "You could say that...We fight the best way we know how"

Kasie: "We've examined Chipper ....I guess you're aware of the...."

Timmons: "Abuse, Kasie...its okay to call it that..it is what it is"

Beth: "And your Director, well, he seems to have found a.....loophole in the ongoing argument as to 'who owns Chipper"

Kasie: "Argument?"

Timmons: "Yes...Chipper is the main subject of a long and arduous legal process....He seems to have exhibited an intelligence beyond most other primates in his group...My lab wants to exploit that..."

Palmer: "By dissecting him, one quart at a time"

Timmons: "Pretty much....his days have been mostly comprised of being fed blood enriching foods, then taking the blood out...."

Kasie: "So....this fire...was it...."

Beth: "Accidental?"

Kasie: "I guess.."

Beth: "Was it an accident that the fire was started in an area that only destroyed the habitat? That the first one to volunteer the NCIS people to care for Chipper was my mother? That she told me Director Vance and the NCIS team were the most hard headed people on this planet, and would be the perfect team to find a way to protect Chipper?"

Vance; (small smile) "It turns out, our ongoing confrontational relationship with the Secretary of State has produced some good...."

Beth: "Director...I assure you, my mother has the utmost respect for NCIS...but....I'd kind of consider it a favor if you'd ease up some....It took my brother and me 2 days to get her to quit laughing and picking at her belly button lint, the last time you folks squared off"

(Kasie looks at Vance, then at the two women....)

Kasie: "So us having Chipper is no accident? Or luck of the draw?"

Timmons: "No Kasie...this has been a very intentional effort...We need you. Chipper needs you...other lab animals just like him need you too....The question is, Kasie...."

(Kasie lightens up, smiling)

Kasie: "You dont even have to ask, ma'am...Me and Doc Jimmy here?..We're in!"

Palmer: "Oh yea...we're so in....We'll be part of the monkeyshines!...Hahahahaha!"

(Vance closes his eyes...shakes his head...)

Kasie: "Oh Jimmy...and you were doing so well..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in bullpen..McGee, Bishop, and Torres at desks...Daisy is still in K-9 lockdown, laying next to Bishop's desk...she is staring at her normal place by Gibbs's desk)

McGee: "I got an update on the boss's condition.....it seems he's suffered a setback...he re-damaged some of the cartilege around his ribs"

Bishop: "Oh no! How?"

Torres: "It's McGee's fault"

McGee: "It is not my fault, Torres!"

(Torres stares at McGee...McGee slowly concedes)

McGee: "Ok, maybe it was too soon"

Torres; "Maybe?"

Bishop: "Wait! What are you two talking about?"

McGee: "It's nothing..."

Torres: "Yea, it's nothing...don't worry about it"

(Bishop's face turns red, her mouth drops open...)

Bishop: "Don't you two do this to me! You know I hate that!"

(Torres and McGee both have small smiles on their faces...Bishop sees it..she leans back in her chair, crosses her arms over her chest, gets smug look on face)

Bishop; "You two are doing this on purpose...and I don't care....if it's no big deal, it's no big deal...I can handle that...)

(Torres starts counting....when he gets to 4....)

Bishop: "SOMEONE TELL ME!"

(McGee pulls out wallet, takes out dollar bill...hands it to Torres....Bishop watches, mouth drops again....)

Torres: "I said you'd never make it to 5...McGee bet on your self control...no bueno bet..."

McGee: "Yea, thanks, Bishop...."

Bishop; 'DON'T TRY AND CHANGE THE SUBJECT!"

Torres: "You're right Bish...we're sorry...So, McGee, any luck on banking connections?"

McGee: "Not yet, but haven't gotten into the areas I want....Bishop? You have any progress?"

Bishop: "Yes...I finally got the phone records from.....wait...hold on just one second..."

(McGee and Torres smile..)

Bishop: "WHAT HAPPENED TO GIBBS?"

(Torres hands McGee back the dollar bill)

McGee; "Told you so..."

Torres: "Dang it...I was sure she'd get lost in the case"

Bishop: "You are both pigs and I hope you both drown in your swill"

Torres: "Wow...that's harsh, Bish!"

Bishop: "Someone....tell....me....about....Gibbs.....right....now"

(Bishop waits....watches...)

Bishop: "I will personally shoot the next person that hands over a dollar bill"

McGee: "Okay...Boss had a setback...damaged the cartilege around some ribs..."

Bishop: "How did he do that? Trying to get up too quick?"

Torres: "No...Gibbs is the victim of someone not thinking"

McGee: "Guilty...I should have known better"

Bishop: "What did you do, McGee!"

Torres: 'Go ahead, Tim...tell her..."

McGee: "I sent him the video of the Great Cowmonkey Caper"

Bishop: (surprised look) "The whole thing? "

McGee: "Yep...Vance vs Chipper included"

(Bishop starts laughing....)

Bishop: "He started laughing, right?"

McGee; "Yea, big time..."

Torres: "Busted loose some rib stuff"

Bishop: "It is funny"

(Torres's face lights up.....looking at his monitor)

Torres: "Hey guys.....Uh...tell me what you see here"

(Bishop and McGee move to Torres's desk...there is a picture of Mr. Stanford in his backyard pool...taking a selfie posted to his social media page)

McGee: "Yea...so..."

Torres: "The date is 5 months before the murder"

Bishop: "That reflection on the glass door"

McGee: "It's hard to make out, but...."

Torres; "That's a woman...and she's...."

Bishop: "Comando"

McGee: "Send that to me, Nick...maybe I can get it cleaned up.."

Bishop: "Leave it to you to find the naked woman"

Torres: "Hey...just doin' my job, babe"

Bishop: "Well, next time we investigate a male strip club...I'm taking the lead"

(They wait for McGee...he takes time, clicky clacks....)

McGee: "Oh boy....."

Torres:"What? Is it the Major's wife?"

McGee: "That explains the no tan lines"

Bishop: "How do you know she doesn't have tan lines?"

McGee: "The yoga pants...they were...uh...you could tell"

Bishop; "I'm telling Delilah"

McGee: "I told her already"

Torres; "No way!"

McGee: "Way, Nick..."

Bishop: "What did she say?"

McGee: "Nothing...she went into the bedroom and changed into yoga pants"

Torres: "And you were late coming in this morning...."

(McGee smiles)

Torres: "You dog you!"

McGee: "Honesty is the best policy!"

Bishop: "Whatever guys....you are both pigs...."

(Bishop gets up, goes to McGee's monitor..looks at cleared up picture...)

Bishop: "Yep...that's the Major's wife alright"

Torres: (gets up from desk) "Let me see"

Bishop: 'Sit down and don't ever get back up again..."

(Bishop clicky clacks on McGee's computer...drags mouse...)

Bishop: 'There..I sent the pic back to you...enjoy"

(Torres opens his email, loads pic...face drops)

Torres: "You put black stripes over the....parts..."

Bishop; "When you're old enough to see them, I'll take them off"

McGee: "Anyway guys, there she is....months before the murder, sunbathing nude at Stanford's house...there's your connection"

Bishop; "The soon to be widow having an affair with the soon to be defense attorney of the soon to be accused killer of the soon to be widow"

Torres; "That gives me a headache..."

McGee: "Not as much of the headache Bishop's going to give her"

Bishop: "I get to go pick her up....right?"

McGee: "Yea...and take Jack with you"

Bishop; "This is going to be so cool!"

Torres: "Why can't I go?"

McGee; "Oh Torres....you're going to be interrogating her...."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in lab, Kasie, Palmer, Beth, Ruth, Chipper, present....Kasie is running through the pictures of lab employees, looking for Chipper's response and getting information from Ruth on each one...McGee walks in, Daisy following close behind...)

Kasie: "Oh...hey McGee, hey Daisy"

(Ruth and Beth turn to greet McGee, hen see Daisy...both women's mouths fly open...)

Beth: "Oh...my...god...what a maginifent animal!"

(Daisy cocks her head sideways, looking at Beth..she kneels down, calls for Daisy...Daisy happily trots over...)

Beth: "She's perfect! (inspecting Daisy) "I mean, for her breed, she's perfect! There's not one flaw"

McGee: "That's what the inspector said at the Westminster..."

Beth: (rolls eyes) "Oh, how well I know....my mother was not herself for several days"

McGee: "Oh yea...something about the son of the president of China,,,,"

Beth: "'Something about?'...Then the ambassador of China on that ship? Then the President of China making a secret visit?'

McGee: (grinning) "Yea...that"

Ruth: "I take it there is a history here?"

Beth: "According to my mother, Agent Gibbs and his right hand man here, McGee, have altered the course of history several times..."

McGee: "Just doing out jobs, ma'am"

(McGee turns to walk out of lab)

(They are interrupted by Chipper's shrieks....he is jumping up and down on the table, pointing at a man's picture on the screen...one of the Lab staff members)

Ruth: "Yea, I agree, little guy...that's a bad guy...."

Beth: (llooking at the picture) "Head bad guy....the attorney for Ruth's lab...he's the one that keeps the lab from being sued and shut down for abuse, I don't hate, but I make an exception for him"

Ruth: "That man does more harm, and his firm makes a killing off the fees..."

Beth: 'Yea...fighting my organization"

(Mcgee turns to check out the commotion...he looks back in the lab, then at the image on the monitor....his face goes into shock)

McGee: "Dr....that is your lab's attorney?"

Ruth: "Yes, wny?"

McGee: "His last name is Stanford? PSA?"

Ruth: "Yes. They have a government legal office..We do research for the Navy, and they are the group JAG referred us to...How did you know? Do you know him?"

McGee: "Oh...my ...god...."

(Tim turns and moves quickly out the door, pulling his phone out....Daisy follows)

Ruth: "I guess he knows him"

Beth: "I hope they're not friends"

(Kasie is leaning back, arms over her chest, grinning)

Kasie: "I love this place..."

(The two women turn to Kasie)

Kasie: "Agent Tim and team are about to rock your world...."

(Kasie fills the two in on the Evans investigation and the newest developments regarding the Major's ex...Both women have stunned looks on their faces)

Ruth; "I love this place!"

Beth; "My mother is going to crap her pants"

(Chipper smiles a big monkey smile...starts clapping his little hands....He knows something's up..)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS sedan, Bishop driving, Jack in front passenger seat...Bishop has McGee on speaker, McGee walks them through the latest discoveries about the Major's wife...)

Bishop: "So...Stanford is the attorney for the lab, is the attorney for Evans, is the attorney for the widow, is the husband of the widow that had an affair with the attorney for the accused, that agreed to toss evidence that would clear his client, that would make his hoochie momma a suspect, that he would marry, and would be part of a money making machine that would corrupt JAG, that would award contracts that would protect labs that would abuse Chipper..."

(McGee on phone is silent...)

McGee; "Could you repeat that please?"

Bishop: "Oh hell no"

McGee: 'Impressive summarization"

Jack; "Yoga pants lady's head would have blown up on the second, 'and'..."

(Bishop and Jack approach Stanford's house)

Bishop: "Hey McGee...Mr. Stanford drive a black Bentley?"

McGee: "No...the car registered to him is a white Mercedes..500 series"

Jack: "Of course it is"

Bishop: "McGee, could you run the plates on this one? It's in the back driveway....DTW-3398...yea...we'll hold"

(Bishop looks at Bentley, Jack looks around at the property)

Jack: "Impressive in a "Look at the money I have" way"

Bishop: 'Lots of plants, great lawn....but..."

Jack: "Too clean....to unused...."

Bishop: "Yea...I'd have holes in mine...dogs, horses, me planting stuff and watching it die...."

Jack: "Kids toys?"

Bishop: "Someday...yes..."

Jack: "You and Torres discussed that?"

Bishop: "Kind of...he's scared"

Jack: "Of not being a good faher"

Bishop:"Yea...how'd you know?"

(Jack says nothing....)

Bishop: "Oh....seriously?"

Jack: "I cannot confirm nor deny...."

Bishop; "We're having 'the talk' tonight"

Jack: "Really? That talk?"

Bishop: "Yea...and I'm scared to death"

Jack; "Why?"

Bishop: "We're comparing money, what our budget would look like...and I'm afraid he's going to feel threatened"

Jack: "Because you think he doesn't have any? Or he doesn't know that much about money?"

Bishop; "KInda...I mean, he never talks about money, he pays for things with cash or debit card...I've never seen him use a credit card....I guess it's his upbringing..."

Jack: "El...I'm going to give you one piece of advice that you better take.."

(Bishop looks at Jack...curious)

Jack: 'If you go into this discussion with Nick, with that attitude, you will possibly set your relationship back so far you may never recover from it....girlfriend, keep your mouth shut, do not...I repeat, do not say anything that might lead Nick to think you feel this way..."

Bishop: "Okay...but why?"

(McGee comes back on phone)

McGee: "Bishop, that car is registered to the PSA firm..it belongs to the Managing General Partner, and President, Armand Pirtle..."

Bishop; 'His son is..."

McGee: "Yes...Randy Pirtle....the one Major Evans's wife, at the time, said could handle the divorce"

Bishop: "This keeps getting woisa and woisa"

Jack: "I feel like we've fallen down the rabbit hole"

Bishop; "Come on, Alice...let's go get the Queen of Hearts"

Jack: "In yoga pants"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in hospital room, Gibbs in bed, awake...IV tubes in arm..McGee standing by his bed)

McGee: "Hey boss....how are you feeling today?"

Gibbs: "Like crap, McGee...I need to get out of here"

McGee: "Probably not a good idea, boss....you're still pretty broken up inside"

Gibbs: "I can lay down at home just like here"

McGee: "Yea, but who changes your bed pan?"

(Gibbs processes the question....finally comes to a conclusion...)

Gibbs; "Chipper?"

(McGee bursts out laughing, Gibbs chuckles, groans)

McGee: "Sorry boss, but it was too good an answer"

Gibbs; "Fill me in, Tim....what's new?"

McGee: "Lots boss...but first..."

(Nurses aid with mask on rolls laundry cart in....takes mask off...)

Gibbs: "Torres?"

(The laundry starts to move...and from the middle, a dog head pops up...Daisy whines, plunges forward through the ocean of sheets and towels, gets her front paws on the side of the cart...Gibbs brightens up, smiles, reaches out to touch Daisy's paws...Daisy whines and begins licking Gibbs's hand)

Gibbs: "Hey girl...do you miss your dear ol' dad?"

McGee: "She's been kinda grieving, boss...."

Gibbs; "She's a good friend"

(Daisy keeps climbing up the side of the cart, Torres and McGee both lean in to help lift her out.....They place her on the floor, and immediately, Daisy jumps up and places her paws on the side of Gibbs's bed)

Gibbs: "Hey girl...I'm really glad to see you.....But..."

(Daisy ducks her head, places one paw over her eyes)

Gibbs; "You let a monkey ride you?"

(Daisy does a 'rowf')

Gibbs: "It was fun, huh big girl"

(Daisy does goofy tooth dog smile...Gibbs rubs her ears)

Torres: "Hey Gibbs...Kasie sent you something..."

(Torres reaches down in cart, pulls up large insulated thermos)

Gibbs: "Is that coffee?"

Torres: "Yea, but not just any coffee....you know when everyone was at the White House?"

Gibbs; "Yea...best coffee ever"

Torres: "Seems Kasie got one to go...and she's been running samples in the analyzer..."

(Gibbs unscrews cap, takes a sip...closes eyes, smiles)

Gibbs; "She duplicated White House coffee"

Torres: "She hopes so...."

(Gibbs takes another sip...sighs)

Gibbs: "Tell her I want her to bear my children"

(Torres raises his eyebrows...looks at McGee)

McGee: "It's the pain meds...he's a different person..."

Gibbs: "Tell her thank you...tell her I think she'll make a great mother"

Torres; "I'll let you tell her, Gibbs...that sounds like personal and private stuff"

McGee: "Okay boss...here we go"

(Mcgee and Torres catch Gibbs up on everything....Gibbs listens, asks questions, inputs some....then they finish...Gibbs stares at McGee...then Torres...)

Gibbs: "Thank you"

Torres: "Just doing what we do, sir"

Gibbs; 'I know better. Thank you"

McGee: "You're welcome boss...it's a pleasure to do something for you, for once"

(Gibbs turns head....looks out window....)

McGee: "You okay?"

Gibbs: "I'm going to call Vance and have him make it permanent"

McGee: "Make what permanent, boss?"

Gibbs; "You...you need to take the team now, Tim...you've earned it..And you, Nick...you've come so far...I'm so proud of you as a man and an agent...You and Bishop...(eyes start to close)...Happy for you..."

(Gibbs falls asleep)

Torres: "Wow....is he serious?"

McGee: 'I don't know...I've seen him injured before, Nick...but this time..."

Torres; "Yea...it's no bueno...it should have killed him"

McGee: "Would have killed any other man"

Torres: "What say we chalk it up to the pain meds talking, and never talk about it again....Hey...that doesn't mean I don't think you..."

McGee: "It's okay, Torres...I know...We both know what he means to us...."

Torres: "Yea...he's...you know...."

McGee: "I know..."

Torres: "So, it never happened?"

McGee: "Never happened"

Gibbs: "It happened"

(Torres and McGee look at Gibbs....)

Gibbs: "I need a favor...."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in interrogation room...Denise Stanford, Armand Pirtle, Torres in the room...Denise is sitting, Armand leaning up against the far wall, watching...Lean, nicely dressed, tan slacks, white starched cotton shirt, expensive italian low cut loafers, reptile skin belt...No jewelry, no wedding band...Denise is wearing a very short tennis skirt, sleeveless thin top, nothing on

underneath..brilliant white low cut tennis shoes, short socks, pink ball sticking out the back, matching her pink visor....Bishop and Jack are in viewing room)

Bishop: "I told Torres if he was nice to her, I'd hurt him"

Jack: "Meow, Bishop...."

Bishop: "Well?"

Jack; "Jealous?"

Bishop: "Wouldn't you be? I mean, look at Nick!"

Jack: "Okay, okay, i get it...Nick's a....well..."

Bishop; 'All man, Jack..."

Jack: (laughing) "He is that, El..."

Bishop: "And she....look at how she's smiling at him..Oh god no, she did not just do that!"

(View shifts to Interrogation room....Denise smiles at Torres, unbuttons one more top button...the 'view' increases...Torres looks at Armand, Armand shrugs)

Torres: "Mrs. Stanford, i need some answers"

Denise: "Call me Denise...please, dear"

Bishop; "I'm going to go in and scratch her eyes out"

Jack; "You're a trained professional, Bishop.."

Bishop: "You're right..I'm going to go in, do one through and through, then jam my thumb in the hole"

Jack: "Not what i had in mind, but yea...kinda works for me"

Bishop; "If she sneezes, one of those store boughts is gonna come right out"

(Jack looks at Bishop in amazement...laughs)

(Denise sneezes, physics are challenged, but the blouse holds.....Torres looks at the file, looks up at her...looks back down,,,shakes his head...)

Denise: "What do you mean?"

Torres; "By what?"

Denise: "You shook your head"

Torres; "Yea...Hey Armand, you wanna take a look?"

(Armand shows surprise, but consents...)

Armand; "You do realize you have invited me to view your evidence, correct?"

Torres: "Evidence? Nah, it's just a file...Might become evidence, might become part of a deal....I mean, who knows nowdays?"

(Armand looks at Torres quizically....then he looks at the file...Torres begins pointing out certain areas....Armand looks...then looks at his client...he looks down at the file...)

Torres; "Then, Armand, as the lead partner in your firm, you might be interested in this...I mean, your firm...if you knew about this....daaaang"

Bishop: "What is he doing?"

Jack: 'He's lulling the big time attorney to sleep....now he's about to chop his head off...watch...it's brilliant..Torres...girl...that boy knows human nature..."

Torres: "Brother, I'm looking at these contracts...and i'm looking at your boy having an affair...and then I'm seeing military contracts being awarded to your firm right after the JAG lawyer leaves and joins your firm....i mean...If I didn't know any better, I'd think they brought the business with them...and dang, dude, do you know what that would do to your firm?"

Armand; "I suspect nothing....but your opinion, as unlearned as it might be...?"

Jack: 'Watch this"

Torres; "Oh yea...my unlearned brain would be to ask you if you have a bankruptcy section, and then do you have a good criminal legal team? I mean, you and I know you didn't know anything, but the press? The government? Eye yi yi yi....:"

Armand; "What do you feel my client will be charged with ?..As if you could make it stick, but again, I am curious"

Torres; "Of my untrianed mind...yea...I"d be curious too....If there was a charge, and I'm not saying there is, but if I were to say there was, then I'd say accessory to murder"

(the word 'murder' hung in the air....Denise began turning pale...."

Denise; "I didn't do it! I was outside the whole time! Reese came over and they got into a terrible argument! Reese didn't mean to do it! It was an accident!"

Armand: "Denise! Shut up!"

Torres: "Oh man....I didn't see that coming"

Jack; "He saw it coming..he led her there....wow..."

Bishop (beaming) "That's my man..."

Jack: "Oh yea...that he is"

Bishop: "And it all happened without one booby popping out..."

Jack: 'Uh, El...You might want to look."

(scene in interrogation room is chaos...Denise is crying, tearing at her blouse, screaming she won't go to jail, she'll kill herself first...and it happens..the blouse buttons lose the fight....Torres turns away, looks at Bishop through the glass...covers his eyes)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS agent bullpen area, Armand and Denise walking up stairs...Torres and Armand shake hands before they expect to exit...)

Armand: "I assure you, Agent Torres, I will have my client ready to make an official statement in the morning. It will match her verbal statement she just gave...And my own consequences? Well, I am somewhat confident something will be worked out...The Navy will want this kept as quiet as possible, as do I.....In any case, we will be here at the time agreed upon"

(The elevator doors open, and Palmer backs out, stops when he reaches the room, then stands still...)

Torres: "Palmer...what's up? You look..whoa dude...what...?."

(Palmer turns to face Torres, shows an ugly gash above his eye...blood draining down his cheek.., he extends his arm, points inside...Torres looks inside the elevator, immediately draws his weapon, pointing it)

Palmer: (weakly) "I tried, Torres...I tried to stop him...."

Torres: (yelling) "Get Palmer away from here! Get medical!..Now!"

(Palmer's eyes roll back, he crumples to the floor, unconcious..Jack and Bishop, following Torres up the stairs, immediately grab Palmer by the arms and drag him around the corner...Bishop pops up, joins Torres, gun drawn)

Torres: "Put it down, Reese....put it down...this is over..."

Armand: "Reese! What are you doing? This is not how to handle this!"

(Reese Stanford is standing in back of the elevator, arm wrapped around Kasie.he has a gun pressed against her temple)

Reese: "She talked, right? She can't help herself, the bitch "

Denise: "Reese! How can you say that!"

Torres: "Dude, your wife just gave us a very detailed statement about what happened that night....it pretty much looks like an accident...put the gun down, brother...you're killing your case..."

Reese: "Accident? Hahahahaha...Accident? Of course that's what I told her! He wouldn't let her go! He wouldn't let her go! Do you understand that? I had to do it....Accident? We both know she didn't say that...we both know she told you everything! Now...you want this lady back? You want her unharmed? Give me Denise! Give her to me now!...Oh hell...none of this is going to work...I'll just shoot her now..."

(Ruth and Beth, witnessing Stanford kidnapping Kasie, hurting Palmer, come running up the stairs, oblivious to the events occuring at the time...Beth sees Torres and Bishop, stops, directly next to the elevator...Stanford sees her...reaches out, grabs her arm...instantly dragging the daughter of the Secretary of State into the elevator. He glares at Denise, then presses the 'close door' button..the doors slide closed

(scene fades to black and white)

scene opens with Bishop standing at closed elevator doors, still holding gun pointed at doors, waiting in case they open...Torres is seen running down the staircase next to the elevator...Ruth and one NCIS agent are tending to Palmer, still laying on floor around the corner from the elevator)

Bishop: (loud) "How's Jimmy?"

Ruth: "Fair..cut is clotting, he's coming around...we're waiting on med team to get here..He needs to be checked for a concussion and possible orbital fractures!"

Bishop: "Cut or Bash?"

Ruth: "Bash and Cut...blunt object, sharp part...likely a gun barrel, sight cut him"

Bishop: "He's tougher than you think"

Ruth: "From what I've seen so far, I'm surprised he hasn't changed into a Superman outfit"

Palmer: (weakly) "Luke"

Ruth: "What?"

Bishop: "He's telling you he'd rather turn into Luke Skywalker...He's not a Superman fan"

(Ruth's eyebrows raise, gets an "Ok, whatever you want" look on face)

Ruth: "Okay Skywalker, you work on that Force being with you and start talking sense"

Palmer: "Okey dokey Kenobi"

Ruth: (to NCIS agent) "He's delerious"

Agent: "No ma'am, that's normal for him"

(Palmer weakly lifts arm, points at elevator)

Palmer: "Darth Vader's wife...."

Ruth: "What?"

Palmer: (weak laugh) "Ella Vader...hahaha..(groan).."

(Ruth looks at agent, confused)

Ruth: "Is he always like that?"

Agent: "He's fine ma'am...that's.(scratches head)...a good sign"

(Palmer blinks eyes....face comes to life)

Palmer: "Kasie!"

(Palmer tries to raise up, Ruth and agent push him back down)

Agent: "Doc, she's still in the elevator...he has Miss Beth also...Bishop is guarding the doors up here, Torres is waiting at the doors downstairs..We got it covered, doc...just lay easy"

Palmer: "Poor guy"

Ruth: "Doctor Palmer, I get the impression Agent Torres can take care of himself"

Palmer: (weakly) "Didn't mean Torres"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at bottom floor elevator doors, Autopsy doors directly across the hall, Lab door to the right...Torres seen flying down the stairs, taking 3 at a time, landing at the bottom, immediately squares away, one side showing towards the elevator doors, gun cocked, his eyes lined up directly down the sights...the elevator numbers on top of the door move from 2 to B...this floor...the elevator dings, the doors slide open)

Torres: (loud) "FEDERAL AGENT! PUT YOUR GUN DOWN!"

(He sees Stanford against the back wall, holding the pistol against Kasie's head, then the weapon shifts down to Beth, sitting on the floor, facing outward, fearful, looking at Torres for help..)

Stanford: "Get away from the door, pal...I'm going out those back doors, and one move to stop me, one or both of these ladies end up dead"

Torres: "Doesn't have to be this way, Stanford..right now, no one's really hurt..It can be chalked up to mental distress, insanity, whatever you like...this can end pretty wall, amigo...up to you"

Stanford: "We both know it won't end well, partner...Hell, I know it...Screw it..."

(Stanford pushes Kasie away, he points his weapon directly at her face, and aims.."

Torres: "NO!"

(A fearful monkey has been watching from behind Torres,, curious...these strange things opened and there she was...'new momma'...this man, he was hurting new momma...he talked...mean sounds...then he saw the bad man shove this new one he's come to love....)

Stanford: "Sorry lady...nothing personal"

(Ten pounds of furious muscled monkey flies by Torres, a flash more than a movement, and less than a second later, Stanford is screaming, clawing at this storm of teeth and claws that are tearing at his face...)

Torres; "Chipper!"

(Torres rushes into the elevator, he grabs the waistband of Kasie's pants, then the arm of Beth, he plants both feet, flexes his knees, falls backwards onto the floor, powerful arms throwing both women over his body, past his head, tossing them flying, hitting the floor outside the elevator, tumbling until they hit the opposite wall and stop...Chipper sees his new momma leaving...He releases the bad man, jumps down, dashes for Kasie...)

Stanford; "I'm going to kill you!"

(Torres looks in shock at Stanford's face..a third of it torn off, flesh hanging down off his cheek...one eyeball exposed, the eyelid gone...Stanford screams, grabs Torres by the foot, drags him the few feet into the elevator, then hits the close door button...Then he hits the 'emergency off' button...He screams again, firing three blind shots in the small enclosure, one of them ricocheting onto the shoulder of Torres, tearing flesh, but no muscle...)

Stanford: "I'm going to kill you"

Torres: "You already said that"

(Stanford looks at Torres, confused at his calm behavior....)

Torres; "Dude, could you like look the other way? You're...dang.boy, your face is double ugly messed up"

(Stanford reaches up to touch his face, feels the torn flesh, runs his fingers down the flap hanging off...)

Torres; "You're in shock, amigo...in a minute or so, it's gonna hurt muy grande bad...If you let me, I can help you"

Stanford: "No...It's over...and I'm going to kill you"

Torres: "Well, hell...can you at least say something original before you pull the trigger? You know, like "My name is Whatever whatever whatever, you killed my elevator, prepare to die?...Come on, dude,,,think"

(Stanford stares at Torres, disbelief in his eyes...)

(scene shifts to upstairs...Bishop pacing, watching and prodding the emergency responders, using large pry bars, trying to open the elevator doors...Kasie has run up, informed Bishop of Torres' situation.)

Responder: "This door...(heaves against pry bar in the space between doors) has been on our list....(tries again) for years....something jams it"

Bishop; "Get the damn door open! An agent is in there!"

Responder: "Ma'am...we're trying....(heaves again, the door budges about four inches..the sound of the door hitting metal inside the wall can be heard)

Responder: "We're going to need heavier equipment...those doors are jammed up tight...I can go out to my truck....."

(Three shots are heard echoing up the elevator shaft, through the small 4 inch opening in the doors, coming from the elevator car below...Bishop's face locks up in fear...)

Bishop: (screams at the men) "GET OUT OF MY WAY!"

(She holsters her gun as she's running to the doors, her hands in front of her now, sliding into the space between the open doors....She braces herself, then grunts as she pulls against the doors...she

grunts again louder as she sounds out "help me"...She takes a breath and cries out... tearing her vocal chords screaming his name, again and again, shrieking, pain shooting in her throat, her arms gathering adrenaline, pulling, moving the doors, pushing, feeling the metal give.. fear, more fear, more pain, more passion,.... The doors violently fly open, metal crashing, concrete cracking around the opening)

Responder: "Damn...I don't..."

(Both men gape..see one door is open, the other tilted at a 45 degree angle, completely torn off the guide rails)

Responder #2: "Mother lifts car off child..I never believed those stories...."

Responder; "Yea...me either..until now...What...What the hell is she....Ma'am..No!"

(Bishop feels the doors fly open, she hears metal falling and clanging inside the walls...She looks through the opening and down....The elevator car...10 feet down...An escape hatch....She doesn't hesitate....She leaps into open space..Kasie and the others frozen in shock as they witness Bishop's willingness to die...)

Kasie: "No! Ellie! NOOOOO!"

(scene shifts to Bishop, falling, pulling out her gun from the holster as she plummets...she sees the roof of the elevator rising up, fast..She begins to move her body into a crouching position before she even lands....)

Bishop: "God help me"

(She readies her brain, willing her legs to obey...3 years of constant training...weights, squats, running, sweat, pain, all designed to make her as strong as the men, as fast as them....but now, she needs to be stronger than she ever imagined...The instant her feet signall her brain she's touched the top of the elevator roof, she channels every thought into her legs,. pushes violently against the will of gravity, pushing against the persitent physics of momentum....And.in the millisecond between touching the roof and her momentum stopping, her legs swell, instantly filling with blood and oygen, calf muscles straining beyond design, thighs being stretched above what they should be called upon to do, her legs and hips screaming in protest...But they obey, responding as they've been trained, strong hydraulic pistons, landing her on the roof and slowing her enough to avoid the violence that was intended by gravity and physics. Her legs spread to steady her torso, feet flat to disburse the energy more evenly, one hand reaching down, touching the roof at her feet for balance,

the other still holding her weapon...She has her balance, she survived..., But knowing there is no time to celebrate the impossible, she raises the hand from the roof to the latch on the emergency exit panel...she pulls it up, turns it, feels the click of the latch releasing, yanks it open, her weapon fills the opening.....)

(scene shifts to elevator...Torres holding the bleeding area, talking to Stanford)

Torres; 'You really don't want to do this do you...?"

Stanford: "It's not about what I want anymore, is it?....So...it's time for you, then it's time for me...."

(A loud thump on the roof startles Stanford and Torres, both looking upwards...Stanford sees the hatch opening, starts to move his gun towards the hatch)

Bishop: "MOVE THAT GUN AND I TURN YOUR HEAD INTO A MEAT MARKET!..(she looks at the face as the man looks up at her) "Wow...Someone beat me to it"

(Stanford freezes, sees Bishop, doesn't understand how....)

Torres: "Bish?"

(Torres freezes, sees Bishop, doesn't understand how, either.....Stanford sees the gun, lowers his head, he's beaten, drops his gun...Torres immediately picks it up...holds it on Stanford, steps to one side as Bishop lowers herself into the elevator...Torres hits the 'on' button, and the doors open....no less than 4 MPs are standing outside, weapons drawn.They look at Stanford in horror.....Torres pushes Stanford out the elevator, looks at the MP's, holds up one finger...hits the 'close doors' button, then 'Emergency Off' button...)

(view zooms out as Bishop grabs Torres, kissing him hard...Torres returns the favor as the doors close, both of them hitting the elevator wall)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Autopsy, EMTs tending to Palmer and Torres...Both Beth and Ruth in the room, Bishop sitting by Torres, her head laying on his shoulder...)

Torres; "Anyone seen Kasie? Ow! Hey, careful! This is a perfectly trained and manufactured body!"

Beth: "She's in her Lab, feeding Chipper every treat she can find..or make...and as far as your 'manufactured body', I'm not arguing...you threw both me and your lab lady over your head!"

Torres; "I was motivated..you know..the moment...."

Ruth: "And you! (points to Bishop) "You opened those doors with your arms! It was impossible! Then you jumped!"

Bishop: (head still on Torres's shoulder) "I was motivated..you know...the moment"

(They are interrupted by McGee and Daisy coming in....)

McGee: "I heard about this over the radio! Did I miss it again? Is there video?"

Torres; "Yea, McGee...you missed it....Bishop yanks metal doors open, jumps 10 feet down elevator shaft..."

Bishop: "Torres throws 2 women over his head..."

Torres: "Monkey tears man's face off"

Bishop: "You know, Tim...the normal"

(McGee processes the new information, shrugs, gives a 'yep, thats normal' look)

Torres: "Not meaning to change the subject...but....How's the boss?"

McGee: "The same...hurting a lot, making nurses lives miserable...you know..."

Torres; "The normal"

McGee: "Vance got there...I left"

Torres; "Gibbs...he still....?"

McGee; "Seems like it.."

Bishop; "What?"

Torres: "He's bummed...that's all..."

Bishop: "I don't believe you...."

McGee: "He is bummed...let's give him a chance to heal up...it'll be okay"

(Torres rolls his eyes, McGee winces)

Bishop: "What will be okay? I saw that Tim!"

McGee; "Boss is trying to decide if he should retire..that's all..."

(Bishop raises her head off Torres's shoulder...looks straight at McGee)

Bishop: "That's all? Oh gee, I thought it was something big....THAT'S ALL? Are you serious? Did you tell him 'no'?"

Torrres; "We did better than that...We told him you said he couldn't'"

(Bishop looks at Torres, mouth does scrunchy thing...)

Bishop: 'Good...he won't retire then.."

(As Bishop looks away, McGee and Torres exchange looks....McGee quietly shakes his head back and forth...Torres's eyes close, hangs his head, mutters "no bueno...at all")

Bishop; (still looking away) "I didn't see that.....but I felt it"

McGee: "We can talk about it later...Torres?"

Torres: "Yea?"

McGee: "We leave in the morning"

Bishop; 'Leave where?"

McGee; "The boss asked us for a favor..."

Bishop: "How long will you be gone? Where are you going?"

McGee: "You're going too, Bishop. Boss specifically named you..so,pack an overnight bag...I'll see you two at the airport in the morning"

Bishop: (to Torres) "Will I still see you tonight?"

(Torres stares hard and long at her....)

Torres: "Yea...and more nights after that...We're having the talk tonight...right?"

Bishop: 'It can wait if you want...With all this...and leaving in the morning..."

Torres: "No, it can't wait....thngs are about to change, El..."

Bishop: "You're scaring me, Nick"

Torres: "I'm kinda scared myself.."

Palmer; 'Guys, I'm sorry to interrupt, but do you want me and Kasie to take care of what we're doing with Chipper?"

(Bishop and Torres both look to McGee...McGee looks at Palmer, stares..)

Palmer; 'Oh my.....You're doing the Gibbs thing..."

McGee; "Do it Jimmy...Whatever you decide, we go with it"

(Palmer's face brightens up...)

Palmer: "Really? Seriously?"

(McGee walks to Palmer...pops him on the back of the head....McGee walks out of Autopsy, Daisy following)

Palmer: (to Beth and Ruth) "I got a pop"

Beth: "And that's a good thing?"

Palmer: "Oh yea...it's a very good thing...."

(Torres and Bishop look at McGee walking out...then at Palmer...)

Torres: "It's happening...."

Bishop: "Please don't say that"

Torres: "Just keeping it....."

Bishop: "It's not real until it happens, Nick..."

(Torres says nothing...he reaches for Bishop's head, pulls it down to his shoulder again...she willingly complies, wraps one arm around him)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Conference Room, Vance, Palmer, Kasie, Beth and Ruth present. All sitting at table)

Vance: "Dr. Palmer, have we come to a conclusion on what has happened to our guest, what we can do, and just as important, should we?"

Palmer: "Sir? Should we? I'm not sure how we can say no....his treatment, his life...the abuse..."

Beth: " It's an important question, Jimmy...Director Vance is asking it because he has to"

Vance; "Thank you, Beth..."

Ruth: "Beth is right...we are asking the Director of a Federal Agency to take on a war, and make no mistake about it, it is a war, that could damage him politically, occupationally, and more...He's done more for Chipper than most ever have...he's bent the rules, looked the other way..."

Vance: "Gone to battle against the little turd"

(Ruth chuckles...)

Ruth; 'I saw the video....it was priceless....."

Beth: "But what Director Vance is pointing out, is that you cannot enter this battle leading with emotions. The desire to help Chipper, and others like him, cannot be won with our feelings...it has to be won in the courts, fighting against huge medical interests..."

Ruth: "And huge profits..."

Beth: "Yes...hundreds of millions of dollars can be, and is made off the testing results of animals like Chipper..."

Palmer: "So you're saying there's nothing we can do? I can't live with that!"

Kasie: "Put me on the Palmer team...."

Vance: "Me too"

(Everyone at the table looks at Vance in shock....)

Vance; (grinning) "It may be the only way to get my shoe back...."

Beth: "You can't be serious, Director"

(Vance stares at Beth....moves toothpick from one side of mouth to the other)

Vance; "I can and I am.....Beth, I've been an agent, a lead man, and the Director. I've led people and fought for what is right over what is wrong for so long, I don't know how to turn it off....What my career has shown me is that it's worth it to fight for what's right. And the consequences be damned"

(More shocked looks from the group)

Beth: "Uh, sir...do you have some sort of plan? Because honestly, I don't"

(Vance leans down, pulls a thick file from his satchel...drops it on the table, pushes it in the middle of the table)

Vance; "This file, and the contents of this file, are not to leave this group"

(They stare at the file, titled "PureMed, Inc"...)

Vance: "PureMed incorporated is the parent company of the lab where Chipper has been kept....This file is the entire batch of evidence and documents relating to the current investigation"

Palmer: "Investigation? Who's....."

(Vance turns to face Ruth....)

Vance; "Doctor? Care to explain?"

Beth: "Ruth....you don't have to..."

Ruth: "Yes, Beth, I do....it's my burden, my responsibility...."

Beth: "No...it's not...."

Ruth: "Please, Beth....(turns to group).I have been the head of research and development for PureMed since its inception...The cash flow potentials for each experiment, the development of faster procedures to extract what we need for these animals, regardless of how many die? I wrote them....I am also the author of the most profitable fiscal model ever developed for making money off these animals....labeling each one as an asset, and calculating the ROI...that's Return on Investment, of each animal....I am the problem...I am the one responsible for so much pain in these....(voice starts breaking...) animals..."

Vance; "I'm sorry Ruth..but there's something you're leaving out....."

(Ruth nods, wipes her eyes....)

Ruth; "The CEO and majority stock holder in PureMed is Dr. Eric Timmons .the information in that file consists of enough financial wrongdoings, unethical practices, and illegal procedures, to put him in jail..."

Palmer: "And save Chipper?"

Vance: "Dr. Palmer...yes..."

Palmer: "Then what are we waiting for?"

Vance: 'Because, Dr. Palmer....Ruth owns half the company. Dr. Eric Timmons is her husband...She goes to jail too"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Bishops apartment..night time...Torres fixed a dinner, they have finished eating, both are cleaning up the kitchen)

Bishop: "I didn't know you could cook...it was great"

Torres; "Well, i had to cook"

Bishop: "Why? I can cook!"

(Torres lowers his head, stares at her....)

Bishop; "You are such an asshole! One mistake...!"

(Torres continues to stare)

Bishop: "Okay...two...maybe three...."

Torres: "You're not Mart ha Stewart, Bish"

Bishop: "Oh...and you are?"

(Torres stares)

Bishop; "Okay, I admit it...The meatlooaf was pretty good....and the mashed potatos..and the gravy...and the green beans..."

Torres: "Comfort food"

(Bishop belches...covers her mouth in embarrassment)

Torres: "Yep...you're comfortable all right"

(Bishop tosses kitchen towel over oven rack handle)

Bishop: 'We're done....you want to watch a movie?"

Torres; "No...we have stuff to do"

Bishop; "Remember, I said it could wait...."

Torres; "And I said no...you're already packed, it's early...If I didn't know better, I'd think you were trying to avoid this"

(Bishop looks at Torres....deciding)

Bishop: "I'm scared, Nick"

Torres: "I know"

Bishop; "How do you know? What am I scared of?"

Torres: "Stereotypes"

Bishop: "That is so not true!"

Torres: "Okay, then you tell me why you're scared"

Bishop; "Because I hate talking about money....It caused a lot of trouble before...Jake was obsessed with it...I...I was not"

Torres: "But you've done well...you take care of your business...."

Bishop: "Yes...i do...and it's okay if..."

Torres: "If I haven't?"

(Bishop starts to breathe harder...she remembers Jack's words..."You could ruin this relationship to the point you can't repair it")

Bishop: "Nick, it's because I don't know! You may be broke! You may not! But it's a scary thing for me! And I don't care either way, if you don't have much...we'll work it out together!...Please...You have to say we can do that!"

(She turns and runs out of the kitchen, crying, before Torres can reply...He walks after her, leaving the kitchen, seeing she's sitting at the computer desk, pulling up her bank statements and savings account...She looks at him, fearful, swings the monitor around, gets up...)

Bishop: "Here..this is me...."

(Torres says nothing...he looks at her, then sits in the chair..he goes over her checking and savings....)

Torres: "You don't have a lot of debt...that's good"

Bishop: "I hate debt...it took me two years of living on next to nothing to pay off Jake's debts. He sure didn't...and my name was on them..."

(Torres clicky clacks on her laptop....he brings up his bank statement and savings accounts...He gets up, motions for her to sit....she hesitates)

Bishop: "Nick, I don't care...I don't care....I love you...that's all that matters"

Torres: "Sit down, El"

(She closes her eyes, opens them, then sits....She begins looking at the screen...she scrolls, looks at the other page he's opened....turns to Torres)

Bishop: "This is you?"

Torres: "Some of it"

Bishop: 'How did you get...."

Torres: "Bish, I was undercover for almost 10 years...NCIS paid me a per diem, paid for my housing, my food, everything..I never needed a home, so I didn't have to pay for one."

Bishop: "You didn't spend hardly any of your paycheck...."

Torres; "On what?..."

Bishop: "Nick, there's 9 years of your paychecks in here...."

Torres: "Go to the third screen"

(Bishop clicks on a screen....investments come up...)

Torres; "My cover was almost always in construction...it fit the.....Stereotype. You know, a Mexican, swinging a hammer...(Bishop winces)...So, I used some of my money to buy a broken down house. I lived in it while I was undercover, worked on it between and during cases...NCIS paid for the mortgage payment out of the per diem and monthly undercover housing allowance..."

(Bishop looks at the expenses)

Bishop; "You fixed it up and sold it..."

Torres: "Yea....it worked for NCIS because the mortgage payment was less than paying for my hotels every night...So, I did it again...."

Bishop: "It looks like....You did it 5 times?"

Torres; "8 times...I flipped 5, kept 3 for rental properties..."

Bishop; "You have rental income?"

Torres: "Go to page 5...."

(Bisihop clicks on page 5 of the financial statement....Rental properties under PB, Inc come up...)

Bishop: "PB, Inc?"

(Torres blushes...)

Torres: "Perfect Body, incorporated....Look, it was dumb...I know"

(Bishop clicks on the 'images' tab...3 houses come up.....Bishop has amazed look on face...)

Bishop: "Nick...these houses are nice"

Torres: "You should have seen them when I bought 'em...dang....no bueno, lady..but they are paid for...I have clear deeds on all of them"

Bishop: "But I never see you doing anything to take care of them...no phone calls, no mention of them...."\

Torres: "It's not a big deal, El...I'm not rich...I wasn't rich...I was just in a situation where NCIS covered my cost, just like any other long term undercover agent...I just happened to be one for....you know...a long time. And the house thing? Girl, I bought a 2 bedroom frame house that was about to be condemned...I got it from the city for like 5 thousand dollars...and a year later, its livable...So I sold it for 20....After that, it just made sense to do more.."

Bishop: "But the rental houses...you're never on the phone taking care of a problem, never collecting rent...nothing that any other landlord has to do

Torres; "I have a management company that does all that...they get a percentage of the rent...I get no headaches..works for me"

Bishop: 'But, Nick...you never talk about money....no one knows...."

Torres: "Gibbs knows...he's done cabinet work in a couple, some sheetrock, plumbing, stuff like that.....and Vance knows....he reffered me to the management company when I joined the team..The Director has a couple of small rent houses of his own...So, it worked out....Plus, one of them I keep open for people...you know...in need"

Bishop; "You mean stay for free, right?"

Torres: "Sometimes...mostly reduced rent, mostly a month at a time until they get back on their feet...and sometimes there are people we know that need a favor...I have one that's been used sometimes for...you know..to allow people to stay in a place where no one can find them?"

Bishop: "A safe house? (Torres Shrugs) But you never told me...Why...."

Torres; "Don't take it personal, El...Just....No reason to....not until now..."

(Bishop leans back in her chair, arms crossed...)

Bishop: "Please forgive me... I was wrong..."

Torres; "Nothing to forgive"

Bishop: "Yes, there is. Nick I..."

Torres: "I know what you're trying to say, Bish...and it's okay...Part of me is a stereotype...I like salza, mexican food, I dance better than anyone else..."

Bishop: "Whatever....Am I a stereotype?"

Torres: "Oh yea..(laughing)..big time.....but you broke the biggest one"

Bishop: "What? How?"

Torres; "Pretty blonde white girl, grew up in pigtails, raised in the country? Girl, you're supposed to know how to cook! Your momma should taught you! Dang!"

(Bishop whacks Torres on the arm....)

Torres: "Ow! Hey, it's not my fault you can't cook!"

(She does the scrunchy thing with her mouth, staring at him...)

Bishop; "You're forgiven...this time.....So..you're staying the night, right? Comfort me after all this? Right big boy?"

(Torres grins, shakes his head no...Bishop looks shocked)

Torres: "No..i'm going to go home and let some things out. Privately, please.....I...I was really worried about tonght...like, to the point of thinking..."

Bishop: "That I'd say something that couldn't be repaired?"

Torres: "No, El...that you wouldn't say anything...and we'd never be able to build our lives together with you holding that secret inside..."

Bisihop: "Things look different now, Nick...not the money part...the us part..."

Torres: (kisses her on the cheek) "They always do, Bish...When you lay it out there....good or bad, that's what we need, you and me...good or bad...just lay it out"

Bishop: (amazed..) "Just who are you?"

Torres: "Just keepin' it real, Bish...you know me..."

Bishop: "Yea..you are, you do...I get it...Hey, a quick question before you go..."

Torres; "Shoot"

Bishop: "Will you marry me?"

(Torres stares....then smiles)

Torres: "Yes"

Bishop: "Then everythings okay, then"

Torres: "Better than okay, Bish"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in lab, Kasie, Palmer, Ruth and Beth present...Chipper is sitting on the table next to Ruth)

Palmer: "This is a situation"

Kasie: "Ya think?"

Ruth: "It's okay...I've resigned myself to what's going to happen"

Beth; "But you really haven't broken any laws, Ruth...I keep telling you that"

Kasie; "I hate to be the one to ask this, but have you talked to an attorney about this?"

Ruth: "Just my divorce attorney"

Palmer: "Why? No offense, but don't you want to talk to someone that specializes in this type of law?"

Beth: "She's scared to..."

Ruth: "Wouldn't you be? Look at what I've done!"

(Chipper senses Ruth's feelings, begins stroking her arm with his little hand)

Kasie: "Uh...didn't someone say you can't win this on emotions? Wouldn't the same thing apply to you, Ruth?"

Palmer: "You should talk to Margaret Hart...She's real familiar with DC, the courts, and she's good"

Kasie: "Oh yea! She's the one that tried to put Gibbs in jail!"

Beth: "She what? Doesn't that make her one of the bad guys?"

Kasie; "Oh no...she saw the error of her ways, repented, came back into the light, all that good stuff..."

(Palmer pulls out his phone...looks, punches number.....walks away from the group, starts talking on the phone....)

Ruth: "What's he doing?"

Kasie: "interferring in your life.....we do that around here"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in MTAC, Vance standing in front of screen, Beth next to him...SecState comes up on the screen..She is leaning back in her chair, behind desk..she leans forward, places both arms on desk,,,stares at Vance...)

Vance: 'Evening ma'am..."

(SecState says nothing)

Beth: 'Hey mom"

(SecState's eyes glance over to her daughter, then back to Vance)

SecState: "You've done it again, Leon"

(Vance tries to hide a smile...fails)

SecState: "Go ahead,,smile..I started this..I know..."

Vance: "Ma'am, it hasn't been one sided, I promise you..."

SecState: "Oh, I know...Beth sent me the Video of the great monkey war..."

(Beth covers her face..Vance glances down at her)

Beth: "It wasn't classified.....was it?"

SecState: "I assume, Leon, your team is going to handle the JAG situation? It is in your wheelhouse, not much I can do about that"

Vance: "Madame Secretary, truly, I wish you'd take it"

(SecState leans back...curiousity on her face)

SecState: "Why, Leon? It's Navy relatied, you'r involved in the case that broke it, there are more reasons, so, why?"

Vance; 'Ma'am...there are some good people at JAG...some of them maybe got ambitious, some just made some mistakes...Some are more guilty than others....but...."

SecState: "You close to some of them, Leon?"

Vance: (breathes outward, audibly) "Yes ma'am...some of them are friends. I may not be...some others here, we might not be the most...objective"

(SecState leans back...taps desk with a pen....looks to the side...then back)

SecState; "I agree, Leon...you okay with the FBI taking it?"

Vance: "100 percent ma'am...we can transfer all our data..."

SecState: 'What about Evans?...From what I've read from you, he's been crucified over the years for something out of his control....the man was done wrong, Leon"

Vance: 'Yes ma'am, but he will be the first to tell you, he's guilty of some of it...he owns it..."

SecState: "Okay...Do this for me, Director...let me think on it...there may be a solution neither of us are seeing now..."

Vance: "Yes ma'am...thank you..."

SecState: "Let him know he's not being forgotten"

Vance: "Willl do ma'am...gladly"

(SecState turns her gaze to Beth)

Beth: (shyly) "Hey mom"

SecState: "Well Beth,,,what do we do with your little friend?"

Beth: "Set him up in a wonderful home, where he can be loved and cared for?"

(SecState stares at Beth.....blank...then her face shows a realization)

SecState: "Oh no....no no no, Beth....Not even a possibility!"

Beth: "Mom, please! He'd be no trouble, he'd be kind of a friend to you!...Mom!"

SecState: "No! I am not keeping that monkey in my house! NO!"

(Vance watches the mother daughter dialogue going on...)

Beth: "But mom!"

SecState: "You're a grown woman! You can take care of your own responsibilities! You keep him! Better yet, that friend of yours...That Ruth woman!"

Beth: "Done..Ruth would be great...thanks mom"

(Vance saw it coming....smiles...)

SecState: "I just got conned, didn't I, Leon?"

Vance: "Yes ma'am...it would seem like it"

Beth: "Mom...I just need one more thing from you....it's a little thing..really"

SecState: "Beth, honey, your little things are never little things.."

Beth; "It's really little, mom..tiny little"

(Beth tells her mother what her need is.....)

SecState: "Oh hell no, Beth!"

Beth: "But mom, it's the only way!"

SecState: "Vance, tell her it's impossible!"

(Vance smiles, hides a chuckle....)

Vance: 'Technically ma'am, it is possible. And it would place public opinion entirely on our side..."

SecState: "Oh god..here we go..I'm about to get the shaft..."

Vance: "He is a probationary NCIS agent...and he did perform a heroic act"

(SecState stares.....then smiles....)

Beth: "Mom..He'll have a little NCIS vest on, and a hat....."

(SecState begins to chuckle....then a small laugh)

Beth: "Mom...you need to stay mad....."

(Laughter comes out of SecState....)

SecState: "Why not? It will be great TV! Hahahaha...."

Beth: "Oh no....not now.....MOM!"

SecState; "The Secretary of State of the United States of America...pinning a medal on a monkey!...Hahaaahahahahahhhahhahahahahahhaha..."

Beth: "Oh no....we're losing her...i gotta call my brother...."

(SecState begins singing.....)

SecState: "They're coming to take me away haha, they're coming to take me away hee ho....to he funny farm, where life is happy all the time, and i'll be happy to see those nice young men in their clean white coats...."

Beth; "Gonna be a bad one...."

Vance: "Hey, this one's on you..."

(SecState continues singing the classic 60s song..."They're Coming To Take Me Away" in the background)

(scene fades to black and white, song still continuing)

(scene opens in office of Margaret Hart, attorney....Ruth and Beth both present, sitting on opposite side of Margaret's desk....Margaret dressed in bright blue business suit, office nicely decorated, pictures on the wall showing her with two presidents, various high ranking officers, several political leaders....)

Beth: "You get around"

Hart: "Don't believe the smiles...they all hate me"

Ruth: "Then why the smiles?"

Hart: "Because they are afraid of me..The smiles make them think they aren't"

Ruth: "That one....."

(Ruth points towards a picture of Hart and Gibbs...sitting in the diner, sipping coffee...)

Hart: "Agent McGee took that one...it's one of my favorites"

Ruth: "Why?"

Hart: "It reminds me I can be wrong....and that there are good people out there fighting...and I have a debt to pay the world"

Ruth: "What we've done wrong can be turned around?"

Hart: "Why do you think you've been referred to me?"

Ruth: "Because you've lived it, haven't you?"

(Hart nods slightly, looks again at the picture)

Beth: "We haven't got to meet him...and we've heard so much about him"

Hart: "I hope you do..he's a.....he's a hard man...rude...arrogant...but he's one of the good guys, that's for sure. And a good man. Takes a hard man sometimes to be a good man"

Ruth: "I hear he's hurt pretty bad, in the hospital"

Hart: "He is. He may not recover from this one...and god, I thought that man was indestructible...He asked me to do what I could for you..."

Ruth: "You've talked to him?"

Hart: "I just got through seeing him....came back here in time for this appointment...His friend...your friend too...Dr. Palmer, he called Gibbs...then Gibbs called me...and when Gibbs calls...."

Ruth: "You're busy...is his call why...."

Hart: "Dr. Timmons...that man has referred more business to me...important business...people I could never have met before...Hell, I can even call the White House and people take my call...."

Beth: "Because of him?"

(Hart smiles, looks off in the distance, then at their picture...)

Hart: "Honey...people in DC are afraid of me...there are others they are afraid of too...But Gibbs...there are only a handful of people that terrify the DC crowd...Gibbs and Director Vance are two of them...People in the know..Important people..they know if those two get to sniffing your traiil...they'll get you....and if they can't do it the right way...."

(Hart pauses....)

Hart: "They're capable of killing you...(smiles) "All within legal guidelines, of course..and part of my job is to keep them legal..."

Beth: "My mom and Agent Gibbs, Director Vance...."

(Hart begins to laugh.....)

Hart: "Trust me, Beth....Gibbs respects your mom....and he likes her...."

Beth: (shaking her head) "I think mom likes him too...might even tell him someday....if we can keep her out of the funny farm..."

Hart: "Okay, ladies, enough of the introductions.....I've read the file, I've also just received some documents and financial statements from your husband's bank accounts, Ruth...Not the ones everyone knows about...The other ones...."

Ruth: "How? His bank accounts are highly classified, protected by contract...not even the FBI could get them...at least not yet..."

(Hart smiles....looks up at the picture in the diner)

Hart: "You've met Agent Mcgee?"

(Ruth and Beth look at each other, trying to make the connection)

Hart: "Remember me saying there were a few people DC is beyond afraid of? I think I used the word 'terrified'?"

(Ruth and Beth both nod)

Hart: "Agent Tim McGee is on that short list of people DC sees that way"

Ruth: "Him? He seems so nice"

Hart; "Oh, he is...one of the nicest, most decent men you will ever meet....but if he's pointed your way, and he starts digging....well, there are reasons some DC people have therapists...They have nightmares...Nightmares they say are Tim McGee"

Beth: "Wow....so Agent McGee got what you need?"

Hart: "I can neither confirm nor deny" (smiles)

Ruth: "Is Eric in that much trouble?"

Hart: "Honey....your husband is in more trouble than Bin Laden"

Ruth: "Bin Ladens dead"

Hart: "Yes he is...and your husband is going to wish he was too when I get through....and best of all, Ruth..."

(Ruth looks at Hart with fear....but hope...)

Hart: 'He's hidden most of it from you...in fact, I have copies of emals between him and his money people...specifically instructing them to hide the accounts from you...payoffs, mostly....and if things couldn't get better, your husband wrote, "She's a clueless do-gooder..."

Ruth: "How did you get his emails? Ms. Hart, he's had the best cryptologists in the business formatting them! It's impossible...!"

(Hart smiles.....points to the picture...)

Hart: "Gibbs...and Agent McGee....."

(Hart remembers the moment the picture was taken)

Hart: "Ladies, both those men have taken up your cause..."

Ruth: "But it's not what NCIS does? A monkey? A Lab? "

Hart: 'You've been treated unfairly by greedy men..."

Beth: "So, bad people's nightmares can make good dreams come true...."

Hart: "Couldn't have said it better myself....Now...let's get down to business...Dr. Timmons, this is going to be nasty....how dirty are you willing to get?"

(Ruth and Beth look at each other....nod...chuckle)

Ruth: "Monkey crap dirty"

Hart: 'Then let the monkey poo slinging begin..."

Beth: "Are you aware my mother..."

Hart: "Yes, your mother is the Secretary of State...that's why you're going to have no part in this..."

Beth: "But I can help! I have..."

(Hart waves a hand, dismissing her...)

Hart: "It's one of Gibbs's conditions....I do what I do, but there's to be no connection to you...."

Beth: "So that there's no connection to my mom....."

Hart: "Affirmative....Gibbs made it clear...your mother is to be protected from this no matter what it takes...."

Beth; "But she's giving the case to the FBI...you would need her help to get those files..."

Hart; "I already have them, but thanks"

(Beth and Ruth look at her, astounded)

Beth; "Agent McGee?"

(Hart smiles....says nothing...)

Hart: "Ladies, you have powerful, righteous men and women backing you and Chipper...I'd say DC is about to be hit with a monkey shit storm....By the way Ruth..Beth..where are you staying right now?"

Beth: "I'm at my house...why?"

Ruth: "I'm in a hotel for now....I'll find somewhere to live when this is a little more settled..."

Hart: "Ruth, you're about to be a federal witness and a hotel makes it too easy to find you...Beth, you're going to become a target for some dangerous people with a lot to lose...."

Ruth: "You want us to hide? I wouldn't know how to even begin to....."

(Hart takes her phone out...hits a speed dial number...)

Hart: (into phone) "Nick? Margaret Hart....".

(scene fades to black and white)....

(scene opens at San Diego Airport....McGee, Bishop, Torres, leaving gate area, walking towards hallways leading to rental car area...McGee stops looks around)

Torres: "Looking for something, McGee: "

McGee: "Yea...someone"

Bishop: "Is someone supposed to meet us? Someone that might be able to tell us what we're doing here?"

Torres; "Yea, McGee....why all the secrecy?"

McGee: "It's not a secret....it's just not complete yet"

Torres; "Complete?"

(A voice comes from the side)

Voice: "Hey McJetlag....good to see you"

(McGee doesn't turn, but he smiles....then turns...)

McGee: "Hey Tony....it is good to see you"

Bishop: "Ziva!"

(They all have turned, and see Tony and Ziva standing there, both holding carry on bags....and....."Uncle Tim! It's me!"

(Dinozzo and McGee embrace)

Ziva: (bending down) "Tali, before you run to your uncle Tim, I want you to meet some very special people...."

Tony: 'And then maybe Uncle Tim can clue us in on why we're here?

McGee: "Ziva, boss said you'd know..."

Ziva: "Yes...I think I do...."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in front of a small frame house, Beth and Ruth in the back of an NCIS sedan, one NCIS agent driving...House is painted white, dark green shutters, lawn is small, but freshly trimmed, As they pull up in the driveway, they see Margaret Hart waiting on the front porch)

Beth: "Is this a little scary to you? At all?"

Ruth: "It wasn't....not until I was escorted out from my hotel by 3 armed men"

Beth: "Life is going to change...I don't know exactly how, but I can feel it"

Ruth: "Well, it was already changing for me. And I still don't know what it's going to look like"

Beth: "Divorce sucks"

Ruth: "Being a witness in protective custody sucks"

Beth: (To agent driving) "Bob, any thoughts on your part?"

Bob: "Day by day, ma'am...that's how you get through this..."

Beth: "Been here a few times?"

Bob: "Yes ma'am...a few"

Beth: "Ever lose any?" (nervouse laugh)

Bob: "MMMMMM....not recently"

(Beth looks at Bob with a "What?" look)

Ruth: "Is al this really necessary? I haven't had threats, or people following me, or any of that stuff you see...."

Bob: "On TV? The movies?"

Ruth: "I guess...it's not like I have much else to go on"

(Car stops, Bob puts it in Park, he turns to the two ladies in back)

Bob: (To Ruth) "Ma'am, we found 3 listening devices in your hotel room. We did a trace, trying to backtrack the source and came up empty. That tells us whoever was listening in on you knew we were coming and cut off all communication with the devices. They're not playing around ma'am"

(Bob reaches onto the passenger side seat, picks up a small box, hands it to Ruth)

Bob: "Inside those boxes are two cell phones...they are marked for each of you. We're not at the point of cutting off your communication with other people, but it may get to that, and if it does, we'll take those back..But under no, I repeat no, circumstances, do you reveal where you are...If you do, you've put your lives and the lives of those guarding you in danger."

Ruth: "But if we make a call, can't they trace the location? I know it's TV, but..."

Bob: "Yes ma'am, in most cases, yes...but not those phones...when you make a call, they trace to Bosnia, then Paris, then about 4 other places..."

Beth: "But.....Seriously? My numbers...my texts..."

Bob: "They've all been transferred over from your existing phones...You do not have the same number as before, but you can dial out."

Ruth: "What? How can you do that? I didn't give my phone...."

Bob: "Ma'am, we're professinals...it's what we do....Now...can I please have your old phones?"

(Leaving no room for argument, Bob holds his hand out....Ruth and Beth hesitantly hand over their phones, both taking their new ones out...Hart is seen aprooching the car...Bob rolls down the rear window)

Hart: "It's not the Plaza, but it's clean, well stocked with food, and it's been swept for any devices...Sam and Roberta will be your room mates for a while, working in shifts...they'll do their best to stay out of your way and allow you as much privacy as possible"

Beth: "Margaret, are we at the right house, though? (looking at her new phone, seeing her emails are indeed, on the phone) The address I have in here for the instructions you sent is....(looks down street) is what...actually, I don't recognize it?"

Hart: "We never give the correct address out on prelim instructions...it's a precaution. In certain cases, we use a Bait House..meaning, we bait the bad guys into approaching it"

Beth :'Are you sure all this is necessary?:

Hart: "No, but yes....honey, Dr. Eric has a potential cash flow of over 20 million, a month..at stake...people have died over much less...Also, it helps us determine any leaks...the address we gave you is an empty house, but if someone approaches it, or tries to break in, then we have an avenue to begin finding out who and how. NCIS is handling that part of it, and they are on the job"

(Ruth and Beth look at the house, take a deep breath, and exit the car....Bob's phone rings...he answers.)

Bob: "Okay, copy that...how? ....Prelim? Did we catch the signal?....Keep me updated...Out"

(Bob ends call, looks over at Hart.....her eyebrows go up in questioning look)

Bob; "Rosemont just went up....prelim cause is leaking gas"

Hart: "It's an all electric home.."

Bob: "Yes ma'am...except for the propane tank that blew out of the front window"

Ruth: "Oh my god! That's...."

Hart: "The address we gave you that you have on your phone...Do you want to ask again if switching out phones is necessary?"

Hart: "Did they capture the signal?"

Bob: 'Yes ma'am, they did....they were ready....it came from a plumbing van one block away...As soon as the agent remotely started turning lights on in the house, they triggered it. The driver is in custody and one the way back to NCIS interrogation"

(Hart looks off, sighs....)

Hart: "Well hell, I guess I have to call Torres and tell him one of his houses just got blown up.."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in large rental SUV, Tony driving, Torres, Bishop, and Ziva in second row, Torres has head propped against window, napping...McGee and Tali in back seat..McGee and Tali playing a game of naming cars, both cheering and booing for each other...both laughing loudly)

Bishop: (To Ziva) "They really get along, don't they?"

Ziva; "You have no idea (chuckles) "Tali adores Tim....Tim adores Tali...it's such a good thing for her"

Bishop: "Love the bow in her ponytail"

Ziva: "Me too, but I have no idea where the idea came from...about 4 days ago, she pranced into the storage room, and started taking down boxes of Christmas decorations we had...."

Bishop: 'Serously? Did she say why?"

Ziva: "No...she told me she was getting ready...I asked her for what, and she started giggling...she said it was a secret"

Bishop; "Well, it's a good secret....she looks precious"

Ziva: "She does...but....I worry....she is entering the prissy little girl stage...the closest I came to that when I was a little girl was getting pink shoelaces for my army boots"

Bishop: "Don't feel bad...for my 10th birthday, I got a rifle scope...."

(Ziva stares at Bishop...)

Ziva: "I am so jam"

Tony: "Jelly, honey....it means jealous"

Ziva: "I know what it means, smarty slacks"

(Tony raises eyebrows, "makes sense to me" look on face)

Ziva: "We are talking girl talk, Tony...please butt out"

(Ziva gets quiet for a moment...turns to look out window...)

Ziva: "Anthony was a much better mother to Tali than I ever could have been"

Tony; "That's not true, Ziva. Stop saying that"

Ziva; "It is a compliment to you, Anthony...a very sincere compliment"

(Tony looks at Ziva in the rear view mirror.....she reaches up and squeezes his shoulder, he places his hand over hers)

Bishop: "You guys have a lot of signals"

Ziva: "It is all I know...I was not raised in a life of speaking about love"

(Tony looks back in the rear mirror at McGee...McGee nods to Tony)

McGee: "I saw it"

(Bishop and Ziva look around, wondering what McGee and Tony saw...it was too late for them to see...)

(scene fades out, view of highway sign, "OCEANSIDE - 10 MILES)

(scene opens in Vance's office, Vance behind desk, Hart on opposite side...a multitude of papers on desk in front of Vance, him going over each one....)

Vance: "Already?"

Hart: "No sense in wasting time...they know people are talking....I'd like to get the discovery requests in along with the civil charges"

Vance; "Isn't this a criminal case?"

Hart: "Not if I want to get paid, it's not...The FBI attorneys will take weeks to file charges...I want my paperwork in later today"

Vance: "Hart, this isn't paperwork, it's a blitzkrieg!"

Hart: "Best defense is an offense, Leon"

Vance: "Remind me tell you I"m sorry"

Hart: "For what?"

Vance: "Anything...everything...in case you ever find me in your sights"

Hart: (ignores Vance's reply, looks back to papers) "Best advice I can give you, Leon, is to assign several agents to these"

Vance: "Why?"

Hart: "Because once these hit, the rats run...and they talk...Here (Hart takes paper out of her briefcase, hands it to Vance:)

Vance: "This is a wiretap warrant"

Hart: "Yes, sure is....and it names NCIS as the administrative facilitator"

Vance: "NCIS? How? Why?"

Hart: "Friendly animal hugging judge, plus they know you won't bend the rules"

Vance: "They didn't trust you?"

Hart: "I'm on unofficial probation"

Vance: "For bending the rules?'

Hart: "More like stepping on them and twisting my high heels"

Vance; "Okay...I'm in....When do these hit?"

Hart: "My process servers have them and will be delivering them in several hours...(hands Vance list of people, with phone numbers and emails)

Hart: "Give that list to your I.T. folks....you don't need a McGee to capture phone logs and emails...Each name coincides with the names on the warrant...You're covered legally"

Vance; "You remember, I did hand this over to the FBI"

Hart: "Take another look at the list of people, Leon....then tell me if you trust the FBI to do it"

(Vance looks at list...looks up at Hart on one...keeps reading...looks up again..._

Vance: "You're right..the Bureau will be afraid of some of these folks...they can be career killers"

Hart: "You scared, Leon?"

(Vance stares at Hart....breaks into a laugh....)

Hart: "Thought not"

Vance: "Let's go get us some high placed bad guys, Hart"

(Vance's desk phone buzzes)

Vance: (on speaker) "Yes, Pam"

Pam: (on speaker) "PIck up please, Director" (Vance picks up the phone, Hart raises eyebrows, curious)

Vance; "They did? Who? Say that slowly Pam....okay...I'll be right down. Keep him on ice"

(Vance hangs up phone....stares at Hart)

Vance: "I suppose you want me to bend the rules, Melissa, and tell you?..."

(Vance grins)

Hart: "If you don't, I'll make sure I represent whoever your future ex-wife is in court! What?"

Vance; "The man driving the van that triggered the propane bomb at the Bait house...He's talking..."

Hart: "About?"

Vance: "He was recently put on probation by a JAG court...for the 4th time...and was paid $25,000 for the job of placing and triggering he device...AND...it's not the first time he's done some dirty work for some members on the JAG court"

Hart: "Oh god, Vance...this is too good...JAG let him loose, 4 times...and a JAG attorney paid him to do it?"

Vance: "No...well yes, a JAG attorney did the probation...and the same attorney/judge team each time...but the man that paid him....."

Hart: "Leon! Tell me!"

Vance: "Who is Ruth suing for divorce?"

(Hart's face goes into shock...)

Hart: "He didn't...he's not dumb enough to do it himself...."

Vance: "Crooks are dumb, Melissa...Dr. Eric Timmons, he paid the man....and you ready for this? Actually, I really shouldn't tell you"

(Hart crumbles up piece of paper and throws it at Vance....)

Vance: "He paid the man out of Ruth's account....her personal bank account..."

Hart: "What? He paid the killer for hire to kill his wife with his wife's own money? There is no way!"

Vance; (grinning) "Way..."

(Hart leans back in chair, crosses her arms over her chest....small smile)

Hart: "Boy oh boy oh boy. I am going to make that boy cry for his mommy....This could have been quick...Now, he's going to suffer...Plus, pay for Torres's house...better than me claiming it on my umbrella policy...I've had to claim a blown up car, but a house?"

Vance: "There's more...he confessed that there was another ten grand out there..."

Hart: "For? Beth?"

Vance; "No...For Chipper..."

Hart: "The monkey..."

Vance: "Yes...there is a hit out on a monkey"

(Hart leans back again....)

Hart: "A monkey"

Vance: "A monkey'

Hart: "There is some proffessional killer out there, planning to kill a monkey"

Vance; "Yes...a monkey"

(Hart lets out a breath, crosses her arms over her chest, stares at Vance....then....)

Hart: "Just when you think you've seen it all, someone puts a contract out on a monkey...God, I love D.C.."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in lab, Kasie present, Chipper in his cage, sitting on branch, quiiet)

Kasie: "Why are you being so good? What's up?"

(Chipper looks at ceiling, moves head from side to side...)

Kasie: "That's a dead giveaway, little guy...you're up to something...What is it?"

(Chipper looks at Kasie and gives big monkey grin...Palmer walks in, goes up to Chipper's cage...)

Kasie: "What's up, Palmer? I'm not processing anything for you, so why are you here?"

Palmer: "What? I can't just come in and say hi to my friend?"

Kasie: "Yea...go ahead...say hi to Chipper"

Palmer: "Funny, Kasie...funny...They're bringing in a prisoner through the back....I just thought it would be better if I were here with you, instead of you being alone...Sue me"

Kasie: "Seriously? Now, that's nice, Jimmy....thank you..."

Palmer: "My pleasure, Kasie...I got word from Director Vance that this guy was hired to kill Dr. Timmon...blew up the wrong house..."

Kasie: "Not a very smart criminal if he blew up the wrong house"

Palmer: "Doesn't make him any less dangerous"

Kasie: "You playing the White Kniight? What is going on?"

(Palmer stares at her for a moment...)

Palmer: "My friends are important to me...when you got trapped in that elevator with that guy....well, I just don't want to lose another one....I'm the one that has to...."

(Kasie kisses Palmer on the cheek...)

Kasie: " You're a sweetie, Jimmy...thank you..."

(Palmer blushes, then looks at the cage)

Palmer: "Kasie.....? Where is Chipper?"

(A commotion starts in the hallway outside the lab...A man screaming, a monkey shrieking, men yelling....Palmer and Kasie rush out of the lab...They are confronted by a man in handcuffs and leg irons, trying to swat Chipper off his head,....two guards are yelling at Chipper, but afraid to get close)

Kasie: "CHIPPER! YOU STOP THAT RIGHT NOW!"

(Chipper stops, stares at Kasie....Then goes back to tormenting the prisoner...)

Prisoner: "I'm sorry ! I'm sorry! Hey! Get off! I'll give him back the $10K! I won't kill you! SOMEONE GET THIS DAMN MONKEY OFF ME!"

Palmer: "I forgot to tell you...this is the professional hit man that blew up the wrong house...and was paid ten thousand dollars to kill Chipper"

Kasie: "Well, no wonder Chipper wants a piece of him...YOU GO CHIPPER! GET 'EM BOY!"

Guard: "Ma'am...please! We have to deliver him in one piece! Lord knows enough don't leave here that way, but....damn! Call that monkey off!"

Kasie; "Fine...but he deserves it...Chipper! Stop! Momma says stop!"

(Chipper immediately stops...looks at Kasie...looks at Palmer...face shows a straining look)

Kasie: "Uh oh"

Palmer: "Oh no...uh...Chipper?"

(The prisoner screams again, as Chipper leaps off his head, into Kasie's arms....)

Prisoner: "Oh my god! That's crap! That's carp in my hair! I know my rights! This is abuse! Someone get this off of me!"

Guard: "You're on your own, buddy...damn, you stink..."

(Kasie looks at Chipper...Chipper gives Kasie big monkey smile back)

Kasie: "Now...let's you and me talk about how you got out of that cage...(looks back at prisoner) "Not bad, Chipper...not bad at all...."

(Vance walks in lab, as Kasie and Palmer enter it....)

Vance; "Kasie? Palmer? You two okay? I heard commotion down here...there's a prisoner coming in..."

(Kasie says nothing, just points towards elevator)

Vance; "He's already here?"

Kasie: "Yes sir...but you may want to wait a few before seeing him.....he's...kinda stinky right now"

(Vance looks at Kasie, then at Chipper...he stares at Chipper....Chipper smiles at Vance)

Vance; "You don't fool me...and I want my shoe back...in one piece...you hear me..."

(Chipper looks at ceiling, moves head back and forth)

Vance: "God...it's like having Dinozzo back"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in SUV, Southern California....Team driving by entrance to Marine Base)

McGee: "We're almost there...per instructions from Boss, we can pull over...we're about 15 minutes away..."

(Tony nods to McGee, sees a mall parking lot, pulls over and puts the SUV in park)

Torres: "We passed Oceanview...isn't that where..."

Tony: "Shannon and Kelly were....(glances at Tali in mirror, he can see Ziva shaking her head 'no') "...were, when it happened"

Torres: "Wow...that's why we're here...because of something to do with that"

McGee: "Boss gave me an envelope for each couple...(leans back, pulls his jacket out of back storage area, gets envelopes out of jacket pocket...distributes one to each couple...They look at the envelopes, each with their name...Tony/Ziva, Nick/Eleanor...Tim/Delilah)

McGee: "Boss got an email before we went to Israel...."

Tony: "Gibbs read an email?"

McGee: "When the title of it is 'Kelly', I guess it got his attention.....In the hospital, he asked me to go back to the office, pull up the email, read it, and come back...when I got back to the hospital, he handed me these three envelopes, and asked me a favor....Torres was with me"

(Bishop looks at Torres, questioning)

Bishop: "You knew?"

Torres: "I knew he asked McGee a favor...I didn't ask what it was, McGee didn't offer"

(Bishop looks at Torres, wondering how he could have resisted not pressing McGee for details)

McGee: "And I appreciate Nick not asking...It speaks to his character"

(Bishop winces)

Tony: "Any idea what the email was about? You read it, I guess you do, but why?"

McGee: "When Boss was stationed at Pendleton, Shannon and Kelly followed him here...they rented a small house....Boss has been back there, just to look at it.."

Ziva: "That is sad...I could not go in"

McGee: "He didn't...said he couldn't go in either...But he did meet the people in the house now, and recently, they were cleaning out their attic, and they found something...Something made by Kelly...Boss is asking if we can bring it back."

Bishop: "That's so sad...but why, Tim...why all of us?"

(McGee looks out the window, pauses....)

McGee: "He said it's a going away present...You do know he paid for all this, including the first class tickets, and the rooms at the nicest place within 50 miels of here, out of his own pocket...He gave me his credit card to arrange it all. Actually, Delilah arranged it, but same thing"

(A hush falls over the group...no one speaks....until....)

Tali: "Mommy, are we almost there? Do I get to see where Sissy lived?"

(Ziva's face is shocked...she looks to Tony, his face shows the same reaction)

Ziva; "Tali, honey....? Who is Sissy?"

Tali: "Silly mommy...Sissy Kelly! She and Aunt Tali are the ones that told me to wear the ribbons! You'll see! Can we hurry?"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Interrogation Room, triggerman for the bomb in the baited safe house sitting on one side of desk, Vance on the other...Melissa Hart is in viewing room, Jack is present also)

Jack: "Have you ever seen Vance do an Interrogation?"

Hart: "No...and I confess I'm a little nervous"

Jack: "Why? You've seen them before"

Hart: "Jack, as much as I'm a cheerleader for this cause, I am still an officer of the court. If I witness innappropriate behavior, the prisoner's constitional righs being dismissed, it's a problem"

Jack: "Vance? (chuckles) You'll be fine...Leon is a by the book guy..."

Hart: "But I hear he's pretty successful at it"

Jack: "Yea, he is....Just watch, Melissa..."

(scene shifts to Interrogation Room...Vance opens the prisoner's file...)

Vance: "Seaman Buford Gooseberry....I find this one of the most confusing sessions I've ever had to walk into"

(extreme country accent)

Buford: "YOU think it's confusing? You oughta be sittin' on my side of the desk"

Vance: "Why is it so difficult for you to understand? From what I read, it's pretty straight-forward...you planted a bomb, intenided to kill federal witnesses, took money for it...."

Buford: 'Didn't intend to kill nobody, boss..Ain't in me"

Vance: "I would say a bomb is pretty intentional, seaman"

Buford: "Boss, if I wanted that house to boom, it woulda boomed...fact is, it flashed..I set the tank up to spray, set the remote ignition box up in front of it, put the tank by the front window so the flash would blow it outa the house and not do any more damage...made a mess a the front parlor, but nothin a few coats a paint wont fix (pauses) Well, maybe some sheetrock,...but weren't nobody in the house anyways.."

Vance: 'How did you know that?"

(Buford looks at Vance, sizing him up)

Buford: "You're not real smart, are you? Ain't nothin to be shamed of, we can't all be rocket scientists"

Vance: "I'm not sure that's relevant"

Buford: "It is if you the boss a the people set that house up...dang, they was stupid"

Vance: "Explain, Buford...."

Buford: "You got some a those, what you call....crime scene photos?"

(Vance pulls out file, opens it, pictures in it)

Buford: "It rained the night before, right? Look at the sidewalk..got some low areas, water puddled"

(Vance looks at the scene photos, nods his head in agreement)

Buford: "So, you cain't walk on the sidewalk with out puddle jumpin..Means the yard's muddy too..."

Vance: "Okay..."

Buford: "Look at the front porch....what do you not see?"

(Vance looks,,,,begins to see)

Vance: "Footprints"

Buford: 'Nope...nary a muddy one, porch, steps, nothin'...Now, you tell me how anyone gets in that house without leaving muddy footprints on that front porch..."

Vance: "They went in through the back door"

Buford: "Same thing, bossman....no prints....and...your high falutin secret agents began turning on the lights, make it look like someone's home..."

Vance: "Yes...that's correct"

Buford: "Why the hell would anyone turn the upstairs light on first? Walk up the stairs in the dark, knock your knees on who knows what, then turn on a light? Not much sense in that...add that it's a two story house in the middle of a passle a others, which, means rugrats, and not one toy, bike, hotwheels, or headless doll in the yard...Don't know why all them dolls are always headless, but they are...Personally, I think we got us a generation of head rippers comin' up and no one notices it, but that's just me. You might wanna start plannin for that now...you know..get ahead of it"

(Vance sighs, looks at the photos...)

Vance: "So you knew no one was in the house...but you planted a bomb anyway.."

Buford: "Bossman, when those boys tell you to do somethin', you do it...I just got some limits on what I'll do...killins one of 'em"

Vance: "Those boys?"

Buford: "JAG lawyers, boss...About a year ago, I slipped up and brought me some goody goody from back home,..."

Vance: "Goody goody?"

Buford: "Meth...don't particulary like it, but those JAG boys do....and when I went afore the judge, we struck us a deal...I get probation, they get the goody goody...then they keep accusing me a stuff, I get charged, then probation, and the first time I say no to their con fangled dirty deeds, I'm in jail for purty much the rest a my life"

(Vance reels back in surprise)

Vance: "You were supplying the JAG court with methamphetimines?"

Buford: 'Oh hell yea....them boys like to party"

Vance: "Buford, are you telling me that the entire JAG court at Quantico, is dirty?"

Buford: "Oh gosh almighty no, boss....most of 'em are pretty good ol boys and gals...it's two of 'em...but they's kinda high placed, so, you know..."

(Vance sits back....thinks....)

Vance: "Buford, how would you like to help your country?"

Buford; "I smell a deal comin...So...come on with it, bossman...(Buford stares at Vance) "You ain't wantin to get high too, are ya?"

Vance: "No...but thank you for the offer, Buford...so, are you interested in helping us? In return for, say....maybe we make this go away and you can go back to being a good Navy man? Without the goody goody..."

Buford: "If it includes never seein' that damn monkey again, it does...I swear...that thing jumped on me, and I like to shit my pants then sat down in it.....They done paid me to kill it, but hell, boss, it's an animal! I ain't got nuthin against it...My uncle had one for a pet, name was John Wayne..the monkey, not the uncle...won it in a poker game at a circus... He trained it to check his stills back home...little thing could almost make a batch all by his lonesome..Kinda cute, too..poor little guy died from a bad liver....we had us a monkey alcoholic..but dang, get ol John Wayne riled up and that thing could toss him some poo...You know they do that, right?."

Vance: "Yes..all too well....

Buford: "And I walk in right when someone done stuck a hornets nest up his wazoo..."

Vance; "The timing does point towards bad luck"

Buford; "Hell boss, I done lived with bad luck ever since I got in the Navy...joined up cause they needed boom boys..."

Vance: "Boom boys?"

Buford: "Yea, boom boys...ya see, I come from East Texas, and we do lumberin...them stumps are mighty stubborn, so we got to blow em outa the ground...I just had a natural talent for it, and the Navy said they'd pay me to do it...And pay to fix my teeth....see?"

(Buford smiles...shows brilliant teeth)

Vance: "Impressive"

Buford: "Came in having to slice my apples afore I ate 'em, now I eat em like a normal human bean..even got me a city gal for a girlfriend...she's got good teeth too"

Vance: "Congratulations, young man..."

Buford: "Hell, it weren't hard...city gals been datin city boys, and city boys just seem to think theys all that...If a city gal gets lucky enough to meet someone like me, you know.... that knows some country lovin..."

Vance: "I'll be sure and keep that in mind, seaman...thank you"

Buford: "I'd sure like to see her again...she's a good 'un...got 3 kids, and 3 baby daddys, but she's promised to stop her errant ways of sinful fornication and just be sinful with me...and them boys need a daddy...figured I could teach 'em how to handle dynamite, C4, you know...a trade..."

Vance: "Maybe, seaman, your luck and your girlfriend's luck is about to change..."

Buford: "That'd be nice, bossman...my life...I just didn't know any better..."

(Buford pauses, thinks)

Buford: 'Ya know, bossman...i grew up with a name like Gooseberry...I mean some 400 years ago, some great granpappy or somethin or the other was walkin through the woods and saw a

gooseberry bush...I guess he got all riled up likin it and said, "I declare our family will forever celebrate the gooseberry! We will now be the Gooseberry family!"...god...what a dumbass..."

(Vance begins to chuckle...)

Buford: 'Hey...in that deal thing...you think there's a boy we might help? I was told by those JAG boys to make sure a young fella stumbled..if you know what I mean..."

Vance: "I'm sure, seaman, that there are many cases that will come under review...is here one in particular?"

Buford; "Yea...there's a corporal by the name of Evans....man they done him wrong...made me make him look wrong in the head...a little goody goody in his scrambled eggs, and hell...he was rarin to go...but boss, there's wrong and there's real wrong...but when they take fine men like Evans, blackmail me to rile 'em up...that's on another level a wrong. They done ruined his life, and it weren't his doin'....."

(scene shifts to Viewing Room)

(Jack looks at Hart, Hart looks back)

Jack: "What....do...you do....with that?"

Hart: "Certainly don't put him on the stand....wow..."

Jack: "I hate to say this, but I like him"

Hart: "What's not to like?"

Jack; "Got great teeth"

Hart: "Knows a trade"

Jack: "Knows some names too"

Hart: "Hell yes he does....and I bet he can help connect some dots"

(scene opens in Southern California, SUV with the team in it pulls up to small one story house, attached garage in front, neat yard, one bike and one doll laying in front yard....with a head...Tony turns off the engine, but no one exits the SUV)

Tony: "Ok guys....here we are...the one time home of Gunnery Sgt Leroy Jethro Gibbs"

(Torres is staring at the front walkway, front door...)

Bishop; "Torres?"

Torres: "It's weird...once upon a time, Gibbs used to walk up that sidewalk...he'd pick his daughter up, swing her, give her a kiss....that front door would open, and his wife comes outside, hugs him...And none of them had a clue about what was going to happen"

Bishop; "Yea...its sad"

(They see the garage door begin to open, standing in the opening is a young woman, approximately mid 20s, blue jeans and a Washington Redskins football jersey on...She walks up the SUV..)

Woman: "Mr. McGee?"

(The team exits, the woman steps back, intimidated by the number of people getting out...McGee climbs out of the back area, walks to the woman, offers his hand...she takes it)

McGee: "Mrs. Hawthorne? I'm Tim McGee...technically, Special Agent McGee, but this is a personal visit, so..."

Woman: "It's nice to finally meet you, Mr. McGee...I'm Barbara...people call me Barb"

McGee; "Nice to meet you too, Barb, call me Tim...okay?..Let me introduce you to the rest of the team..."

Barb: "Team?"

McGee: "Ma'am, we are all NCIS agents, past and present...and we all consider the Boss family..."

Tali: "Except for me! I'm too small to be an agent...but when I'm bigger...I'm going to be just like my mom and dad!"

Barb: "Oh my...what a precious girl!...And your bow...it's beautiful!...(Barb turns towards the garage..."Suzie? Could you come out and meet our guests? There's a girl here, just your age.."

(A shy girl, very pretty, her hair curled in ringlets, comes walking out of the garage...)

Tali: "You wore a bow too!"

(The girl blushes, turns around to show the big red bow pinned to her hair)

Barb: "I swear, ever since we found the sign, she's been looking forward to this day. Insisted on her hair being done and the bow....She won't tell me why..in fact, she says she doesn't know why...."

Tali; (excited) " I know!"

Ziva: "Tali, are you going to tell us? Why is this such a secret?"

Tali: "Because it's a rule, mommy!"

Barb: "Oh god....yes, it is...."

(The team looks at her in surprise, all except McGee...He is seen walking back to the SUV, leans against the back tailgate...crosses his arms...looks off away from the house and them....Tony sees him...walks quietly to him, while the rest of the team introduce themselves)

Tony: "Tough on you?"

(McGee nods)

Tony: "Hey, McSentimental, for what it's worth, I know..."

McGee: "I know you do, Tony....It's just so...."

Tony: "Sad, unfair, life-changing..."

McGee: "I suppose there's a movie to go with it?"

(Tony thinks...smiles...)

Tony; "Love Story"

(McGee looks at him curiously....)

McGee: "Love Story? Really?"

Tony: "I'll tell you, but you can't tell anyone I told you"

McGee: "Tony...remember? I keep secrets...you, on the other hand..."

Tony: "Love means never having to say you're sorry" Death bed scene, Ali McGraw, Ryan O'Neil, two kleenex box scene, guaranteed to get you lucky with your girl"

(McGee stares at Tony.....nods his head)

McGee; "Yea...somehow, Dinozzo.....it makes sense"

(Tony leans back on the back of the SUV next to McGee...They both look outward, thinking their own thoughts)

Tony; "Our lives changed when we met Gibbs"

McGee: "Yea...big time"

Tony; "They began to mean something"

McGee; "We became part of something bigger than we were"

(Ziva turns to see them...she stands...stares....)

Bishop: (to ziva) "Guy talk?"

Ziva: "Heart to heart guy talk...Tony misses Tim so much..."

Bishop: "Seriously?"

Ziva; "Yes...Anthony can be....difficult to make friends with...he can be abrasive"

Bishop; "I hear his treatment of McGee in the beginning was pretty brutal"

Ziva; "insanely brutal...it was wrong....Then...."

Bishop: "Then?"

Ziva: "I don't know what 'then' was...but one day, something changed in Tony...I think it was when Tony fell in love with Renee Benoit...and had to tell her he never loved her...which was a lie..."

Bishop: "Maybe Tim helped him?"

Ziva: "Tim told Tony he knew he was hurting...Tony had never had someone offer help, or friendship, anything like that....but Tim did...."

Bishop: "You okay talking about that? I'd want to forget who Nick loved"

Ziva: "No, it is okay....it is part of what made Anthony who he is today...Tim, as much as Gibbs, helped Tony become the father he is today...to be able to say 'I love you' without covering it up with a joke"

Bishop: "wow...I didn't know.."

(They are interrupted by Tali screaming...."There it is! There it is!"...Both McGee and Tony stand up straight, look towards the garage, and see Suzie coming out, carrying a poster board, blank side showing....Tony and McGee walk to join the team...waiting...)

Tali: "Suzie, you want to do this together?"

(Suzie excitedly shakes her head 'yes'...)

Ziva; "Tali, honey, turn it around! We're dying to see it!"

(Tali and Suzie giggle, then turn the poster board around to show the writing...When they do, a hush comes over the group....The title of the poster board, written in a child's handwriting, large purple letters, reads...)

KELLYS RULEZ 

(scene fadest to black and white)

(scene opens in PSA corporate office, Dr. Eric Timmons present, conference table with several men and women sitting, Dr. Timmons walking back and forth, pacing, waving his arms...angry...)

Eric: (screaming) "HOW CAN SHE DO THIS! How can she say these things! (looks around the room) "I pay each of you $500 an hour to protect me from crap like this! Someone say something!"

(The room is silent....one man bravely raises his hand...Eric points at him.)

Eric; "You! Speak!"

Atty #1: "Sir, we offer a press statement, declaring none of it is true?"

Eric: "Brilliant...)(*&% Brilliant...as opposed to 'It's all true"...Brilliant..."

Atty #2: "We blame it on her....she was the one that wrote all the procedures..She's the one that should be sued!

Atty #1: "Uh, sir...she had fully confessed to doing do, however....it was al within legal medical guidelines...plus....sir...(clears throat, then speaks fast) " Shewas offeredfullimmunityforhertestimony"

(Eric stares at the attorney....)

Eric: "Say that again....slower, please"

Atty #1: "She...was....offered....full....immunity...."

Eric: "DON'T SAY THAT!"

Atty #1: "Yes sir"

Eric: "Okay....financial...where are we..?"

Accountant: "We are at 43 a share, sir"

Eric: "You told me we were at 65!"

Accountant; 'That was 30 minutes ago, sir"

Eric; "Cash on hand..."

Atty #3: "Frozen sir"

Eric: "Of course it is...Wait...this is a civil suit...they don't freeze assets in civil!"

Atty #3: "FBI, sir...they froze them all about 2 hours ago...."

Eric: "FBI? What the hell?"

Atty #3: "FBI filed intention to file criminial actions against you....both personally and corporately....We should receive notice of that shortly...."

Eric: "Okay...jesus....personal cash...I need both Cayman and Bahamas liquidated...set up a new account for me, have it wired...."

Atty #3: "Also frozen sir...I'm sorry..."

Eric: "HOW? SHE NEVER KNEW ABOUT THEM!"

Atty #3: "A warrant for full financial knowledge was filed yesterday...it also included warrants for your phone records and emails...They found it"

Eric; "So....are you saying I'm broke?"

Accountant: "Not broke sir...your net worth is close to 3 billion....you just can't touch any of it...."

Eric; "Okay, okay....let's think clearly....how much is she asking for?"

Atty #1: " 1.7 sir"

Eric: "One point seven million....Hell, pay her....it's worth it"

Atty #1: "Sir...that's 1.7 billion....with a 'B', sir"

Eric: "&##$...#$&$$# 9^%$# !!! "

Atty #3: "My thoughts exactly sir"

Eric: "Buford Googleberry"

Accountant: "Gooseberry, sir"

Eric: "Whatever...get him for me....i have work for him"

Atty #1: "Sir...he's in custody....NCIS has him...and he's talking...he made a deal with Melissa Hart"

Eric: "God I hate that woman....Okay, what does Stanford have to say? He's the one that started all this...."

Atty #2: "Uh...sir....he killed himself...3 days ago....."

(Eric takes that news in....processes it...)

Eric: "At least he can't testify against me...there's always an upside...Okay, time for plan B...someone call Senator Perry...and get Senator Blankshire on the phone too....they owe me...by god, and if they don't pay up with some favors, I'll bring down the entire Intelligence Committee....I'm fixing to make it too messy to hurt me...1.7 billion....When donkeys fly...."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Gibbs's old house, team has moved into the garage, along with Tali and Suzie, and Barbara....Tali and Suzie have just turned the posterboard over....)

Tony: "So, his daughter had rules too....guess it ran in the family"

Ziva: "I think it's sweet. She wanted to be like her daddy"

Torres: "When did Gibbs do his rules? All at once? Over time?"

McGee: "Gibbs wasn't the first in the family...it all started when he and Shannon met...She had the rules...not Gibbs..."

Bishop: "Seriously?'

McGee: "Yea...boss told me...He asked her why she had rules, and she told him,"every one needs something to live by"

(Tali runs up, tugs on Tony's pants leg...)

Tali; "It's time...let's read Kelly's rules"

Tony: "If you turn it back around so we can read them, we will, Tali..."

Tali:"Okay...and then you will understand..."

(Tony looks at Ziva...she's not okay)

Tony: "Hey...you okay?"

Ziva: "Tony...there's something going on...no, I'm not okay.."

Tony: "Something spooky? You can say it...I feel it..."

Ziva: "You feel it too? It's as if..."

Tony; " We're about to get a message.."

Ziva: "Yes...but from who? Or where?.....(she moves closer to Tony) Please...hold me closer"

(Tali and Suzie turn the board over...Just the sight of Kelly's writing affects Ziva...She pales...)

Ziva: "We must stop this...Tony..."

Tony; "Too late"

(Tali has begun reading....)

Tali: "Number one...'Daddy is always right"

Torres: "Love it"

Bishop: "You would"

Tali: "Number two...'Mommy is always righter than daddy"

Bishop: 'HA!"

Suzie: "Rule three...'Don't tell daddy you know about rule number two"

(several curious looks from men, chuckles from the women)

Suzie: "Rule number four (Suzie looks directly at Ziva)...'Even if you are gone, if you love someone, you are still with them"

Ziva: "Yes..(voice wavering).they are...."

Tali: "Rule number 5...."Wear a bow in your hair to remind mommy and daddy that you are a gift"

(Tali smiles at Ziva and pats her bow, giggles.....Ziva's face is in shock, her chin quivers)

Ziva: "Tony...help me"

Suzie: "Rule number six (Suzie and Ziva lock eyes)...'If you dream, you never die"

(Ziva breaks....covers her face...Tali runs to her....)

Tali: ' Don't cry, mommy...This was for you!...We love...we never die..my Sissy and your Sissy live...they live in our dreams!"

(Ziva breaks again, falls to her knees, she embraces Tali...)

Ziva: (crying) "You are my gift..you are the gift I do not deserve....I love you so much, Tali.....I am so sorry I hurt you by going away...please Tali baby...I was wrong. I was so wrong!...Please forgive me! Please forgive your mommy"

(Tali leans back, takes her mother's face in her hands, one small hand on each cheek, and looks her straight in the eyes, her voice changes to a serious tone, almost an adult voice..)

Tali: "I dreamed about you every night....I felt you, always...Rule number six, mommy. Love means we never die.. And you didn't die."

(McGee watches, and a small smile forms on his face...)

McGee; (to self) "Love means never having to say you're sorry"...Dinozzo nailed it..."

(McGee shivers...goose bumps running up and down his arms, then his back...He looks at Bishop and Torres, sees them wiping their arms, shivering)

McGee: (to self) "Delilah...I love you"

(scene shows mother and child holding each other, both weeping... Ziva reaching out for Tony, his own tears showing...McGee's phone signals a text from Delilah)

Text: "Did you just call and I missed it?"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in safe house, Beth and Ruth sitting at small kitchen table, one guard is there, Roberta..Roberta is short, muscular, brown hair pulled back in severe bun...She's wearing black

jeans, white Tshirt, ball cap that says "HPS" across front..Daisy is napping in front of small fireplace in the front room)

Beth: "Roberta, time for shift change?"

Roberta: "Just about...sorry it's been so boring"

Beth: "But boring is good, right?"

Roberta: "At first, but trust me, it creeps up on you"

Beth; "Shouldn't you plan outings, you know, like the zoo, a museum, a laser tag place?"

(Roberta looks at Beth...waiting.....)

Beth: "Yes, I was kidding..."

Roberta: "Not what bothers me"

Beth: 'You're thinking...right?"

Roberta: "Yea...kinda sounds cool...I'll think on it"

(Ruth walks in....)

Ruth: "I'm going to put a bottle of booze in each room"

(Roberta looks at Ruth, same way she did at Beth)

Beth: "Think that's a good idea too?"

Roberta: "Waiting...."

Ruth: "That way I can go from room to room, take a shot...just like bar-hopping"

Roberta: "Boom...there is it is..it's already creeping in"

(Ruth goes to kitchen sink, washes hands...looks out kitchen window)

Ruth: "Roberta....any reason two men should be climbing over the back fence? They're in the corner...hidden behind the big bush"

(Roberta is up instantly, gun drawn, pushing Ruth away from the window...She looks...)

Roberta: "Daisy!..Where is that dog?"

(Ruth points at the back door at the side of the kitchen...it's open..)

Ruth: "She went out...in a hurry"

Roberta: "I need both of you in front living room....now!"

Ruth: "Are we in danger?"

Roberta: "From me if you don't move!"

(Beth and Ruth both dash for the front room, they pull he couch out, crouch down behind it...Roberta watches out the window at Daisy, hugging the side fence....trotting towards the bush, then slowing...she crouches, then gets on her belly....she begins slinking under the bush....)

Roberta: "You ladies in there?"

(Ruth and Beth both call out they are...Roberta pulls out cell phone, dials..She watches the bushes....Then she sees Daisy dash back out, heading for the front)

Roberta: "It was too easy...damn!"

(She darts for the front room, just as a loud boom and barrage of pellets blows off the front door deadbolt...the front door breaks open, a man is standing, shotgun coming up...then he dissapears off the porch..snarling and screaming is heard as a flash of black and brown fur is seen going past the door...)

Roberta: "Daisy! Back door!"

(Roberta turns to head for the back door, remembering Daisy went out, and it was open...she runs in, gun up, cocked...She turns the corner with her finger on the trigger, just as the two intruders that had jumped the fence were coming in...Four quick shots later, they lay dead...one on the back stoop, one laying half in the kitchen, half out)

Roberta: "Ladies! Sound off!"

Beth: "Beth!"

Ruth: "Ewwwww!"

(Roberta turns and heads for the living room, finding Beth standing by the fireplace, Ruth standing in the doorway, leaning out, looking out over the side of the front porch...Roberta follows, pulls Ruth back in, then leans out, gun first, and sees what Ruth saw)

Roberta: "Yea...Ewww"

Ruth: "That's a guard dog, right?"

Roberta: "That's some kinda dog...I don't know what kind...but she's something"

Ruth: "Should you call an ambulance?"

(Roberta looks at the would be intruder, shotgun laying at his side...nis neck is torn out, half of it missing, blank, dead stare on man's face...)

Roberta: "Maybe call a sponge crew...that's nasty"

(Daisy comes trotting in the back door, head hung low, sniffing each of the two men on the floor...satisfied, she trots to the front porch, sniffs the first one...knowing they are all dead, she trots to Ruth and Beth, sniffs them,,,knowing her charges are safe, she heads back to the front of the fireplace, walks around in a circle, then lays down...15 seconds later, she is snoring....Roberta looks at Ruth, then at Beth...awe on all their faces...)

Ruth: "That was weird..."

Roberta: "No....that was a badass dog pissed off her nap was interrupted"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Gibbs's old house...everyone gathered in the driveway, calm has been restored)

Barb: (handing McGee large, flat box) "I had this box from when I had a picture of our family blown up...I think it will protect the board pretty well"

McGee; "It's perfect Barb, thank you so much...and thank you for today...it was....It was meaningful"

Barb; "I'm a woman, Tim...I'm no expert, but it sure seemed like that lady needed some closure on something"

McGee: "Yes ma'am..and I think she got it.....it was a good thing..A real good thing"

(Ziva walks up, kneels down and hugs Suzie)

Ziva: "Honey, I don't know how, or why, but you are very special...and you are part of us now.."

(Suzie blushes, twirls around, embarrased...then her face brightens up..She tugs her mother's pants leg...Barb bends down, Suzie whispers in her ear)

Barb; "Oh my gosh! I almost forgot! Don't go!"

(Barb runs back in the house, then quickly comes out, holding an envelope)

Barb: "We have a mail holder in the kitchen...heck, every house here has one...it was here when we moved in, it was handy, so we used it...My husband was going to paint the trim several months ago, so he took it off...and this was stuck in behind it..."

(Barb hands McGee an envelope...obviously very old, worn, the white envelope had yellowed..it was addressed to Gunnery Sgt Leroy Jethro Gibbs, Afghanistan...the writing was child like, and in big letters on the front, 'Happy Burpday Daddy!")

Barb: "I think that little girl wrote her daddy a letter, and it got slipped in the back instead of the box...it's been there for...what...20 years?"

(McGee holds the letter, stares at it...smiles..)

McGee; "Ma'am...this may be a bigger treasure than the board...Thank you for keeping it...I'll make sure the boss gets it"

Barb: "Don't thank me...thank Suzie...her father was going to throw it away, but Suzie would have none of that...The day you called me about coming here, she ran in her room and took it out from her special hiding place....ran to me laughing, saying daddy was finally going to get his letter.."

(McGee looks at Barb, then down at Suzie...he kneels down to her...)

McGee: "Honey, you did a great thing..Thank you...and the daddy...Honey, he needs this more than you will ever know"

(McGee looks up at Barb, mouths, "May I ?" Barb nods yes quickly, with a smile...McGee leans towards Suzie and gives her a kiss on the cheek)

McGee; "That's from the daddy...he would want you to have it"

(McGee turns to the group)

McGee: "Let's head for the hotel, guys....it's been a long day...I can check on the boss, we can get something to eat, and then, I think we need some alone time to read our letters from boss...."

Ziva; "Yes...I am both eager and afraid"

Bishop: "Afraid? I can't wait!"

Torres: "I think she means she's afraid there is something in them telling us he's retiring...."

McGee: "As much as I hate to say it, I'd prepare myself for that...whether it's in the letter or not..."

(Quiet, each one thinking their own thoughts, they get into the SUV...This time it's Ziva and Tali in the back seat....Ziva sits, Tali lays down, her head in her mother's lap....Ziva strokes her daughtter's hair....Tony sees them in the rear view mirror, smiling as Ziva mouths "Thank you")

Torres; "Hey, I got a text from Hart"

(Torres reads text...face goes to surprise)

Torres: "Hey Bish..You know that 2 story you like?"

Bishop: "I love that house! It is so cute!"

Torres; "uh...it needs some remodeling..."

McGee: "I got one from Vance...our little vacation is cut short...He needs us back by tomorrow night"

Ziva: "And us...?"

McGee: "Yep...you two are invited"

Tony: "I get my old desk back"

McGee: "You'll have to fight a monkey for it"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Interrogation Room, triggerman for the bomb in the baited safe house sitting on one side of desk, Vance on the other...Melissa Hart is in viewing room, Jack is present also)

Jack: "Have you ever seen Vance do an Interrogation?"

Hart: "No...and I confess I'm a little nervous"

Jack: "Why? You've seen them before"

Hart: "Jack, as much as I'm a cheerleader for this cause, I am still an officer of the court. If I witness innappropriate behavior, the prisoner's constitional righs being dismissed, it's a problem"

Jack: "Vance? (chuckles) You'll be fine...Leon is a by the book guy..."

Hart: "But I hear he's pretty successful at it"

Jack: "Yea, he is....Just watch, Melissa..."

(scene shifts to Interrogation Room...Vance opens the prisoner's file...)

Vance: "Seaman Buford Gooseberry....I find this one of the most confusing sessions I've ever had to walk into"

(extreme country accent)

Buford: "YOU think it's confusing? You oughta be sittin' on my side of the desk"

Vance: "Why is it so difficult for you to understand? From what I read, it's pretty straight-forward...you planted a bomb, intenided to kill federal witnesses, took money for it...."

Buford: 'Didn't intend to kill nobody, boss..Ain't in me"

Vance: "I would say a bomb is pretty intentional, seaman"

Buford: "Boss, if I wanted that house to boom, it woulda boomed...fact is, it flashed..I set the tank up to spray, set the remote ignition box up in front of it, put the tank by the front window so the flash would blow it outa the house and not do any more damage...made a mess a the front parlor, but nothin a few coats a paint wont fix (pauses) Well, maybe some sheetrock,...but weren't nobody in the house anyways.."

Vance: 'How did you know that?"

(Buford looks at Vance, sizing him up)

Buford: "You're not real smart, are you? Ain't nothin to be shamed of, we can't all be rocket scientists"

Vance: "I'm not sure that's relevant"

Buford: "It is if you the boss a the people set that house up...dang, they was stupid"

Vance: "Explain, Buford...."

Buford: "You got some a those, what you call....crime scene photos?"

(Vance pulls out file, opens it, pictures in it)

Buford: "It rained the night before, right? Look at the sidewalk..got some low areas, water puddled"

(Vance looks at the scene photos, nods his head in agreement)

Buford: "So, you cain't walk on the sidewalk with out puddle jumpin..Means the yard's muddy too..."

Vance: "Okay..."

Buford: "Look at the front porch....what do you not see?"

(Vance looks,,,,begins to see)

Vance: "Footprints"

Buford: 'Nope...nary a muddy one, porch, steps, nothin'...Now, you tell me how anyone gets in that house without leaving muddy footprints on that front porch..."

Vance: "They went in through the back door"

Buford: "Same thing, bossman....no prints....and...your high falutin secret agents began turning on the lights, make it look like someone's home..."

Vance: "Yes...that's correct"

Buford: "Why the hell would anyone turn the upstairs light on first? Walk up the stairs in the dark, knock your knees on who knows what, then turn on a light? Not much sense in that...add that it's a two story house in the middle of a passle a others, which, means rugrats, and not one toy, bike, hotwheels, or headless doll in the yard...Don't know why all them dolls are always headless, but they are...Personally, I think we got us a generation of head rippers comin' up and no one notices it, but that's just me. You might wanna start plannin for that now...you know..get ahead of it"

(Vance sighs, looks at the photos...)

Vance: "So you knew no one was in the house...but you planted a bomb anyway.."

Buford: "Bossman, when those boys tell you to do somethin', you do it...I just got some limits on what I'll do...killins one of 'em"

Vance: "Those boys?"

Buford: "JAG lawyers, boss...About a year ago, I slipped up and brought me some goody goody from back home,..."

Vance: "Goody goody?"

Buford: "Meth...don't particulary like it, but those JAG boys do....and when I went afore the judge, we struck us a deal...I get probation, they get the goody goody...then they keep accusing me a stuff, I get charged, then probation, and the first time I say no to their con fangled dirty deeds, I'm in jail for purty much the rest a my life"

(Vance reels back in surprise)

Vance: "You were supplying the JAG court with methamphetimines?"

Buford: 'Oh hell yea....them boys like to party"

Vance: "Buford, are you telling me that the entire JAG court at Quantico, is dirty?"

Buford: "Oh gosh almighty no, boss....most of 'em are pretty good ol boys and gals...it's two of 'em...but they's kinda high placed, so, you know..."

(Vance sits back....thinks....)

Vance: "Buford, how would you like to help your country?"

Buford; "I smell a deal comin...So...come on with it, bossman...(Buford stares at Vance) "You ain't wantin to get high too, are ya?"

Vance: "No...but thank you for the offer, Buford...so, are you interested in helping us? In return for, say....maybe we make this go away and you can go back to being a good Navy man? Without the goody goody..."

Buford: "If it includes never seein' that damn monkey again, it does...I swear...that thing jumped on me, and I like to shit my pants then sat down in it.....They done paid me to kill it, but hell, boss, it's an animal! I ain't got nuthin against it...My uncle had one for a pet, name was John Wayne..the monkey, not the uncle...won it in a poker game at a circus... He trained it to check his stills back home...little thing could almost make a batch all by his lonesome..Kinda cute, too..poor little guy died from a bad liver....we had us a monkey alcoholic..but dang, get ol John Wayne riled up and that thing could toss him some poo...You know they do that, right?."

Vance: "Yes..all too well....

Buford: "And I walk in right when someone done stuck a hornets nest up his wazoo..."

Vance; "The timing does point towards bad luck"

Buford; "Hell boss, I done lived with bad luck ever since I got in the Navy...joined up cause they needed boom boys..."

Vance: "Boom boys?"

Buford: "Yea, boom boys...ya see, I come from East Texas, and we do lumberin...them stumps are mighty stubborn, so we got to blow em outa the ground...I just had a natural talent for it, and the Navy said they'd pay me to do it...And pay to fix my teeth....see?"

(Buford smiles...shows brilliant teeth)

Vance: "Impressive"

Buford: "Came in having to slice my apples afore I ate 'em, now I eat em like a normal human bean..even got me a city gal for a girlfriend...she's got good teeth too"

Vance: "Congratulations, young man..."

Buford: "Hell, it weren't hard...city gals been datin city boys, and city boys just seem to think theys all that...If a city gal gets lucky enough to meet someone like me, you know.... that knows some country lovin..."

Vance: "I'll be sure and keep that in mind, seaman...thank you"

Buford: "I'd sure like to see her again...she's a good 'un...got 3 kids, and 3 baby daddys, but she's promised to stop her errant ways of sinful fornication and just be sinful with me...and them boys need a daddy...figured I could teach 'em how to handle dynamite, C4, you know...a trade..."

Vance: "Maybe, seaman, your luck and your girlfriend's luck is about to change..."

Buford: "That'd be nice, bossman...my life...I just didn't know any better..."

(Buford pauses, thinks)

Buford: 'Ya know, bossman...i grew up with a name like Gooseberry...I mean some 400 years ago, some great granpappy or somethin or the other was walkin through the woods and saw a gooseberry bush...I guess he got all riled up likin it and said, "I declare our family will forever celebrate the gooseberry! We will now be the Gooseberry family!"...god...what a dumbass..."

(Vance begins to chuckle...)

Buford: 'Hey...in that deal thing...you think there's a boy we might help? I was told by those JAG boys to make sure a young fella stumbled..if you know what I mean..."

Vance: "I'm sure, seaman, that there are many cases that will come under review...is here one in particular?"

Buford; "Yea...there's a corporal by the name of Evans....man they done him wrong...made me make him look wrong in the head...a little goody goody in his scrambled eggs, and hell...he was rarin to go...but boss, there's wrong and there's real wrong...but when they take fine men like Evans, blackmail me to rile 'em up...that's on another level a wrong. They done ruined his life, and it weren't his doin'....."

(scene shifts to Viewing Room)

(Jack looks at Hart, Hart looks back)

Jack: "What....do...you do....with that?"

Hart: "Certainly don't put him on the stand....wow..."

Jack: "I hate to say this, but I like him"

Hart: "What's not to like?"

Jack; "Got great teeth"

Hart: "Knows a trade"

Jack: "Knows some names too"

Hart: "Hell yes he does....and I bet he can help connect some dots"

(scene opens in Southern California, SUV with the team in it pulls up to small one story house, attached garage in front, neat yard, one bike and one doll laying in front yard....with a head...Tony turns off the engine, but no one exits the SUV)

Tony: "Ok guys....here we are...the one time home of Gunnery Sgt Leroy Jethro Gibbs"

(Torres is staring at the front walkway, front door...)

Bishop; "Torres?"

Torres: "It's weird...once upon a time, Gibbs used to walk up that sidewalk...he'd pick his daughter up, swing her, give her a kiss....that front door would open, and his wife comes outside, hugs him...And none of them had a clue about what was going to happen"

Bishop; "Yea...its sad"

(They see the garage door begin to open, standing in the opening is a young woman, approximately mid 20s, blue jeans and a Washington Redskins football jersey on...She walks up the SUV..)

Woman: "Mr. McGee?"

(The team exits, the woman steps back, intimidated by the number of people getting out...McGee climbs out of the back area, walks to the woman, offers his hand...she takes it)

McGee: "Mrs. Hawthorne? I'm Tim McGee...technically, Special Agent McGee, but this is a personal visit, so..."

Woman: "It's nice to finally meet you, Mr. McGee...I'm Barbara...people call me Barb"

McGee; "Nice to meet you too, Barb, call me Tim...okay?..Let me introduce you to the rest of the team..."

Barb: "Team?"

McGee: "Ma'am, we are all NCIS agents, past and present...and we all consider the Boss family..."

Tali: "Except for me! I'm too small to be an agent...but when I'm bigger...I'm going to be just like my mom and dad!"

Barb: "Oh my...what a precious girl!...And your bow...it's beautiful!...(Barb turns towards the garage..."Suzie? Could you come out and meet our guests? There's a girl here, just your age.."

(A shy girl, very pretty, her hair curled in ringlets, comes walking out of the garage...)

Tali: "You wore a bow too!"

(The girl blushes, turns around to show the big red bow pinned to her hair)

Barb: "I swear, ever since we found the sign, she's been looking forward to this day. Insisted on her hair being done and the bow....She won't tell me why..in fact, she says she doesn't know why...."

Tali; (excited) " I know!"

Ziva: "Tali, are you going to tell us? Why is this such a secret?"

Tali: "Because it's a rule, mommy!"

Barb: "Oh god....yes, it is...."

(The team looks at her in surprise, all except McGee...He is seen walking back to the SUV, leans against the back tailgate...crosses his arms...looks off away from the house and them....Tony sees him...walks quietly to him, while the rest of the team introduce themselves)

Tony: "Tough on you?"

(McGee nods)

Tony: "Hey, McSentimental, for what it's worth, I know..."

McGee: "I know you do, Tony....It's just so...."

Tony: "Sad, unfair, life-changing..."

McGee: "I suppose there's a movie to go with it?"

(Tony thinks...smiles...)

Tony; "Love Story"

(McGee looks at him curiously....)

McGee: "Love Story? Really?"

Tony: "I'll tell you, but you can't tell anyone I told you"

McGee: "Tony...remember? I keep secrets...you, on the other hand..."

Tony: "Love means never having to say you're sorry" Death bed scene, Ali McGraw, Ryan O'Neil, two kleenex box scene, guaranteed to get you lucky with your girl"

(McGee stares at Tony.....nods his head)

McGee; "Yea...somehow, Dinozzo.....it makes sense"

(Tony leans back on the back of the SUV next to McGee...They both look outward, thinking their own thoughts)

Tony; "Our lives changed when we met Gibbs"

McGee: "Yea...big time"

Tony; "They began to mean something"

McGee; "We became part of something bigger than we were"

(Ziva turns to see them...she stands...stares....)

Bishop: (to ziva) "Guy talk?"

Ziva: "Heart to heart guy talk...Tony misses Tim so much..."

Bishop: "Seriously?"

Ziva; "Yes...Anthony can be....difficult to make friends with...he can be abrasive"

Bishop; "I hear his treatment of McGee in the beginning was pretty brutal"

Ziva; "insanely brutal...it was wrong....Then...."

Bishop: "Then?"

Ziva: "I don't know what 'then' was...but one day, something changed in Tony...I think it was when Tony fell in love with Renee Benoit...and had to tell her he never loved her...which was a lie..."

Bishop: "Maybe Tim helped him?"

Ziva: "Tim told Tony he knew he was hurting...Tony had never had someone offer help, or friendship, anything like that....but Tim did...."

Bishop: "You okay talking about that? I'd want to forget who Nick loved"

Ziva: "No, it is okay....it is part of what made Anthony who he is today...Tim, as much as Gibbs, helped Tony become the father he is today...to be able to say 'I love you' without covering it up with a joke"

Bishop: "wow...I didn't know.."

(They are interrupted by Tali screaming...."There it is! There it is!"...Both McGee and Tony stand up straight, look towards the garage, and see Suzie coming out, carrying a poster board, blank side showing....Tony and McGee walk to join the team...waiting...)

Tali: "Suzie, you want to do this together?"

(Suzie excitedly shakes her head 'yes'...)

Ziva; "Tali, honey, turn it around! We're dying to see it!"

(Tali and Suzie giggle, then turn the poster board around to show the writing...When they do, a hush comes over the group....The title of the poster board, written in a child's handwriting, large purple letters, reads...)

KELLYS RULEZ

(scene fadest to black and white)

(scene opens in PSA corporate office, Dr. Eric Timmons present, conference table with several men and women sitting, Dr. Timmons walking back and forth, pacing, waving his arms...angry...)

Eric: (screaming) "HOW CAN SHE DO THIS! How can she say these things! (looks around the room) "I pay each of you $500 an hour to protect me from crap like this! Someone say something!"

(The room is silent....one man bravely raises his hand...Eric points at him.)

Eric; "You! Speak!"

Atty #1: "Sir, we offer a press statement, declaring none of it is true?"

Eric: "Brilliant...)(*&% Brilliant...as opposed to 'It's all true"...Brilliant..."

Atty #2: "We blame it on her....she was the one that wrote all the procedures..She's the one that should be sued!

Atty #1: "Uh, sir...she had fully confessed to doing do, however....it was al within legal medical guidelines...plus....sir...(clears throat, then speaks fast) " Shewas offeredfullimmunityforhertestimony"

(Eric stares at the attorney....)

Eric: "Say that again....slower, please"

Atty #1: "She...was....offered....full....immunity...."

Eric: "DON'T SAY THAT!"

Atty #1: "Yes sir"

Eric: "Okay....financial...where are we..?"

Accountant: "We are at 43 a share, sir"

Eric: "You told me we were at 65!"

Accountant; 'That was 30 minutes ago, sir"

Eric; "Cash on hand..."

Atty #3: "Frozen sir"

Eric: "Of course it is...Wait...this is a civil suit...they don't freeze assets in civil!"

Atty #3: "FBI, sir...they froze them all about 2 hours ago...."

Eric: "FBI? What the hell?"

Atty #3: "FBI filed intention to file criminial actions against you....both personally and corporately....We should receive notice of that shortly...."

Eric: "Okay...jesus....personal cash...I need both Cayman and Bahamas liquidated...set up a new account for me, have it wired...."

Atty #3: "Also frozen sir...I'm sorry..."

Eric: "HOW? SHE NEVER KNEW ABOUT THEM!"

Atty #3: "A warrant for full financial knowledge was filed yesterday...it also included warrants for your phone records and emails...They found it"

Eric; "So....are you saying I'm broke?"

Accountant: "Not broke sir...your net worth is close to 3 billion....you just can't touch any of it...."

Eric; "Okay, okay....let's think clearly....how much is she asking for?"

Atty #1: " 1.7 sir"

Eric: "One point seven million....Hell, pay her....it's worth it"

Atty #1: "Sir...that's 1.7 billion....with a 'B', sir"

Eric: "&##$...#$&$$# 9^%$# !!! "

Atty #3: "My thoughts exactly sir"

Eric: "Buford Googleberry"

Accountant: "Gooseberry, sir"

Eric: "Whatever...get him for me....i have work for him"

Atty #1: "Sir...he's in custody....NCIS has him...and he's talking...he made a deal with Melissa Hart"

Eric: "God I hate that woman....Okay, what does Stanford have to say? He's the one that started all this...."

Atty #2: "Uh...sir....he killed himself...3 days ago....."

(Eric takes that news in....processes it...)

Eric: "At least he can't testify against me...there's always an upside...Okay, time for plan B...someone call Senator Perry...and get Senator Blankshire on the phone too....they owe me...by god, and if they don't pay up with some favors, I'll bring down the entire Intelligence Committee....I'm fixing to make it too messy to hurt me...1.7 billion....When donkeys fly...."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Gibbs's old house, team has moved into the garage, along with Tali and Suzie, and Barbara....Tali and Suzie have just turned the posterboard over....)

Tony: "So, his daughter had rules too....guess it ran in the family"

Ziva: "I think it's sweet. She wanted to be like her daddy"

Torres: "When did Gibbs do his rules? All at once? Over time?"

McGee: "Gibbs wasn't the first in the family...it all started when he and Shannon met...She had the rules...not Gibbs..."

Bishop: "Seriously?'

McGee: "Yea...boss told me...He asked her why she had rules, and she told him,"every one needs something to live by"

(Tali runs up, tugs on Tony's pants leg...)

Tali; "It's time...let's read Kelly's rules"

Tony: "If you turn it back around so we can read them, we will, Tali..."

Tali:"Okay...and then you will understand..."

(Tony looks at Ziva...she's not okay)

Tony: "Hey...you okay?"

Ziva: "Tony...there's something going on...no, I'm not okay.."

Tony: "Something spooky? You can say it...I feel it..."

Ziva: "You feel it too? It's as if..."

Tony; " We're about to get a message.."

Ziva: "Yes...but from who? Or where?.....(she moves closer to Tony) Please...hold me closer"

(Tali and Suzie turn the board over...Just the sight of Kelly's writing affects Ziva...She pales...)

Ziva: "We must stop this...Tony..."

Tony; "Too late"

(Tali has begun reading....)

Tali: "Number one...'Daddy is always right"

Torres: "Love it"

Bishop: "You would"

Tali: "Number two...'Mommy is always righter than daddy"

Bishop: 'HA!"

Suzie: "Rule three...'Don't tell daddy you know about rule number two"

(several curious looks from men, chuckles from the women)

Suzie: "Rule number four (Suzie looks directly at Ziva)...'Even if you are gone, if you love someone, you are still with them"

Ziva: "Yes..(voice wavering).they are...."

Tali: "Rule number 5...."Wear a bow in your hair to remind mommy and daddy that you are a gift"

(Tali smiles at Ziva and pats her bow, giggles.....Ziva's face is in shock, her chin quivers)

Ziva: "Tony...help me"

Suzie: "Rule number six (Suzie and Ziva lock eyes)...'If you dream, you never die"

(Ziva breaks....covers her face...Tali runs to her....)

Tali: ' Don't cry, mommy...This was for you!...We love...we never die..my Sissy and your Sissy live...they live in our dreams!"

(Ziva breaks again, falls to her knees, she embraces Tali...)

Ziva: (crying) "You are my gift..you are the gift I do not deserve....I love you so much, Tali.....I am so sorry I hurt you by going away...please Tali baby...I was wrong. I was so wrong!...Please forgive me! Please forgive your mommy"

(Tali leans back, takes her mother's face in her hands, one small hand on each cheek, and looks her straight in the eyes, her voice changes to a serious tone, almost an adult voice..)

Tali: "I dreamed about you every night....I felt you, always...Rule number six, mommy. Love means we never die.. And you didn't die."

(McGee watches, and a small smile forms on his face...)

McGee; (to self) "Love means never having to say you're sorry"...Dinozzo nailed it..."

(McGee shivers...goose bumps running up and down his arms, then his back...He looks at Bishop and Torres, sees them wiping their arms, shivering)

McGee: (to self) "Delilah...I love you"

(scene shows mother and child holding each other, both weeping... Ziva reaching out for Tony, his own tears showing...McGee's phone signals a text from Delilah)

Text: "Did you just call and I missed it?"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in safe house, Beth and Ruth sitting at small kitchen table, one guard is there, Roberta..Roberta is short, muscular, brown hair pulled back in severe bun...She's wearing black jeans, white Tshirt, ball cap that says "HPS" across front..Daisy is napping in front of small fireplace in the front room)

Beth: "Roberta, time for shift change?"

Roberta: "Just about...sorry it's been so boring"

Beth: "But boring is good, right?"

Roberta: "At first, but trust me, it creeps up on you"

Beth; "Shouldn't you plan outings, you know, like the zoo, a museum, a laser tag place?"

(Roberta looks at Beth...waiting.....)

Beth: "Yes, I was kidding..."

Roberta: "Not what bothers me"

Beth: 'You're thinking...right?"

Roberta: "Yea...kinda sounds cool...I'll think on it"

(Ruth walks in....)

Ruth: "I'm going to put a bottle of booze in each room"

(Roberta looks at Ruth, same way she did at Beth)

Beth: "Think that's a good idea too?"

Roberta: "Waiting...."

Ruth: "That way I can go from room to room, take a shot...just like bar-hopping"

Roberta: "Boom...there is it is..it's already creeping in"

(Ruth goes to kitchen sink, washes hands...looks out kitchen window)

Ruth: "Roberta....any reason two men should be climbing over the back fence? They're in the corner...hidden behind the big bush"

(Roberta is up instantly, gun drawn, pushing Ruth away from the window...She looks...)

Roberta: "Daisy!..Where is that dog?"

(Ruth points at the back door at the side of the kitchen...it's open..)

Ruth: "She went out...in a hurry"

Roberta: "I need both of you in front living room....now!"

Ruth: "Are we in danger?"

Roberta: "From me if you don't move!"

(Beth and Ruth both dash for the front room, they pull he couch out, crouch down behind it...Roberta watches out the window at Daisy, hugging the side fence....trotting towards the bush, then slowing...she crouches, then gets on her belly....she begins slinking under the bush....)

Roberta: "You ladies in there?"

(Ruth and Beth both call out they are...Roberta pulls out cell phone, dials..She watches the bushes....Then she sees Daisy dash back out, heading for the front)

Roberta: "It was too easy...damn!"

(She darts for the front room, just as a loud boom and barrage of pellets blows off the front door deadbolt...the front door breaks open, a man is standing, shotgun coming up...then he dissapears off the porch..snarling and screaming is heard as a flash of black and brown fur is seen going past the door...)

Roberta: "Daisy! Back door!"

(Roberta turns to head for the back door, remembering Daisy went out, and it was open...she runs in, gun up, cocked...She turns the corner with her finger on the trigger, just as the two intruders that had jumped the fence were coming in...Four quick shots later, they lay dead...one on the back stoop, one laying half in the kitchen, half out)

Roberta: "Ladies! Sound off!"

Beth: "Beth!"

Ruth: "Ewwwww!"

(Roberta turns and heads for the living room, finding Beth standing by the fireplace, Ruth standing in the doorway, leaning out, looking out over the side of the front porch...Roberta follows, pulls Ruth back in, then leans out, gun first, and sees what Ruth saw)

Roberta: "Yea...Ewww"

Ruth: "That's a guard dog, right?"

Roberta: "That's some kinda dog...I don't know what kind...but she's something"

Ruth: "Should you call an ambulance?"

(Roberta looks at the would be intruder, shotgun laying at his side...nis neck is torn out, half of it missing, blank, dead stare on man's face...)

Roberta: "Maybe call a sponge crew...that's nasty"

(Daisy comes trotting in the back door, head hung low, sniffing each of the two men on the floor...satisfied, she trots to the front porch, sniffs the first one...knowing they are all dead, she trots to Ruth and Beth, sniffs them,,,knowing her charges are safe, she heads back to the front of the fireplace, walks around in a circle, then lays down...15 seconds later, she is snoring....Roberta looks at Ruth, then at Beth...awe on all their faces...)

Ruth: "That was weird..."

Roberta: "No....that was a badass dog pissed off her nap was interrupted"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Gibbs's old house...everyone gathered in the driveway, calm has been restored)

Barb: (handing McGee large, flat box) "I had this box from when I had a picture of our family blown up...I think it will protect the board pretty well"

McGee; "It's perfect Barb, thank you so much...and thank you for today...it was....It was meaningful"

Barb; "I'm a woman, Tim...I'm no expert, but it sure seemed like that lady needed some closure on something"

McGee: "Yes ma'am..and I think she got it.....it was a good thing..A real good thing"

(Ziva walks up, kneels down and hugs Suzie)

Ziva: "Honey, I don't know how, or why, but you are very special...and you are part of us now.."

(Suzie blushes, twirls around, embarrased...then her face brightens up..She tugs her mother's pants leg...Barb bends down, Suzie whispers in her ear)

Barb; "Oh my gosh! I almost forgot! Don't go!"

(Barb runs back in the house, then quickly comes out, holding an envelope)

Barb: "We have a mail holder in the kitchen...heck, every house here has one...it was here when we moved in, it was handy, so we used it...My husband was going to paint the trim several months ago, so he took it off...and this was stuck in behind it..."

(Barb hands McGee an envelope...obviously very old, worn, the white envelope had yellowed..it was addressed to Gunnery Sgt Leroy Jethro Gibbs, Afghanistan...the writing was child like, and in big letters on the front, 'Happy Burpday Daddy!")

Barb: "I think that little girl wrote her daddy a letter, and it got slipped in the back instead of the box...it's been there for...what...20 years?"

(McGee holds the letter, stares at it...smiles..)

McGee; "Ma'am...this may be a bigger treasure than the board...Thank you for keeping it...I'll make sure the boss gets it"

Barb: "Don't thank me...thank Suzie...her father was going to throw it away, but Suzie would have none of that...The day you called me about coming here, she ran in her room and took it out from her special hiding place....ran to me laughing, saying daddy was finally going to get his letter.."

(McGee looks at Barb, then down at Suzie...he kneels down to her...)

McGee: "Honey, you did a great thing..Thank you...and the daddy...Honey, he needs this more than you will ever know"

(McGee looks up at Barb, mouths, "May I ?" Barb nods yes quickly, with a smile...McGee leans towards Suzie and gives her a kiss on the cheek)

McGee; "That's from the daddy...he would want you to have it"

(McGee turns to the group)

McGee: "Let's head for the hotel, guys....it's been a long day...I can check on the boss, we can get something to eat, and then, I think we need some alone time to read our letters from boss...."

Ziva; "Yes...I am both eager and afraid"

Bishop: "Afraid? I can't wait!"

Torres: "I think she means she's afraid there is something in them telling us he's retiring...."

McGee: "As much as I hate to say it, I'd prepare myself for that...whether it's in the letter or not..."

(Quiet, each one thinking their own thoughts, they get into the SUV...This time it's Ziva and Tali in the back seat....Ziva sits, Tali lays down, her head in her mother's lap....Ziva strokes her daughtter's hair....Tony sees them in the rear view mirror, smiling as Ziva mouths "Thank you")

Torres; "Hey, I got a text from Hart"

(Torres reads text...face goes to surprise)

Torres: "Hey Bish..You know that 2 story you like?"

Bishop: "I love that house! It is so cute!"

Torres; "uh...it needs some remodeling..."

McGee: "I got one from Vance...our little vacation is cut short...He needs us back by tomorrow night"

Ziva: "And us...?"

McGee: "Yep...you two are invited"

Tony: "I get my old desk back"

McGee: "You'll have to fight a monkey for it"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the Wyndham Oceanside Resort Hotel....Team is checked into rooms...scene opens in McGee's room...he has placed bag on luggage stand, sitting on the bed, on phone)

McGee: "Yea, Boss...it was pretty emotional...Uh huh...I know...not your cup of....coffee. By the way, Kasie still getting you your regular?.....Why don't we hold off before you put her in your will, boss.....Absolutely not! No, he is not cute and no, he is not well-behaved...No, Palmer cannot give him a sedative before he came up.....Yes, boss, I know you hate the floor nurse, but no, boss, letting a monkey loose in her station is not a good tactic..."

(McGee and Gibbs keep talking, Gibbs filling him in on what he knows about DC, McGee inputting the work he's done per Vance's request, into the conversation)

McGee: "So, Margaret Hart has been up to see you?"

Gibbs: (on phone) "Word gets around, huh McGee?"

McGee: "That's unusual for her...."

Gibbs: "I know"

McGee; 'You know....she's always kind of had her sights set on you"

Gibbs: "A man could do worse"

McGee: "Sure has pretty eyes"

Gibbs: "Uh huh.."

McGee: "Morphine kicking in, boss?"

Gibbs: "Oh yea"

McGee; "By the way, I have something for you"

Gibbs: "Camp Pendleton souvenier pencil sharpner?

McGee; "No, it's a letter"

Gibbs: "That's my gift?"

McGee; "A letter got stuck in the mailbox at your old house...It's from Kelly to you...it never got mailed"

(Silence on the phone)

McGee: "Boss?"

Gibbs: "Hurry back, Tim"

McGee: "On it, boss"

(McGee hits 'end call', starts to put phone down, but hesitates...)

McGee;: (to self) "Do I call you now or after....?"

(He decides on after....McGee places the phone on the charger by the bed, closes his laptop, props up some pillows, and lays back...He looks at the envelope marked 'Tim/Delilah', recognizing Gibbs's handwriting that hasn't changed from the first time they met...he opens the envelope, pulls out a folded piece of notebook paper, the message on it handwritten, also...)

TIM & DELILAH'S LETTER

Tim,

There is no better man that walks this earth than you. I never had a son, but if I had, no matter how hard I tried, I could never have raised him to be the man you have become. I have been hard on you, I'm sorry. I only know one way, mostly wrong, and I hate myself for that, but you stuck it out, you didn't run, you stayed. I am a better man because you did. Thank you. (hold on, that damn nurse is here. She is evil) New rule, Tim..Never fight with your nurse, they always win)

There will come a time soon I hand this team to you. It will finally be in the hands of a man that deserves it. Don't be too hard on Leon...He is a good man, a good leader, and he thinks the world of you. So do I

Delilah,

From analyst, to broken, to married, to being a mother, to having your own federal agency. You have met every challenge in your life and beat it. I was part of the team that chose that Directorship,

and my choice was you. Not because of Tim, or knowing you as a friend, but because you were the best person, man or woman, for the job. I will be handing the team to Tim, sometime soon. I'm also handing my best friend off to you. He will be in better hands than mine could ever be. Always remember that a man judges himself by how his wife judges him.

Gibbs

(McGee reads the letter again, not having to read between the lines. His boss, and best friend, was hanging it up.)

McGee: (to self) "I dont understand any of this"..He picks up his phone and calls Delilah)

McGee: "Hey honey...I need your help...I know we agreed that I'd read it here, then you'd read it when I got home, but I want to read it to you...."

(McGee reads the letter to his wife)

Delilah: "That doesn't sound like him at all..Tim, is Gibbs dying?"

McGee: "If he is, he hasn't said anything to me...but it's exactly what it sounds like...."

Delilah: "Can you find out?"

McGee: "I don't know...I'm not sure it's my place..."

Delilah: "Was Gibbs really on that committee that chose me?"

McGee: "Oh yea....it was something.."

Delilah: "You knew when it was happening?"

McGee: "Some...but it's not important right now"

Delilah: "He said some nice things...almost as if he was saying things he wish he could have before"

McGee: "Yea...but what I read is that he's saying good-bye...Delilah...I dont know if..."

Delilah: "He's part of you, Tim, I know that. He's been a father to you"

McGee: "Yes...(voice breaks)...he has"

Delilah: "Then tell him"

McGee: "Delilah, he hates that stuff...you know that"

Delilah: "Tell him. He might hate it, but he deserves it"

McGee: "I love you...kiss Johnny and Morgan goodnight for me"

Delilah: "Who's going to kiss me goodnight?"

(Tim smiles....)

McGee: "What are you wearing?"

Delilah: "More than I will when you get home?"

McGee: "Good answer"

Delilah: "He's right, you know"

McGee: "About what?"

Delilah; "There is no better man than you"

McGee: "I need to hear that...from you"

Delilah: "You haven't mentioned something"

McGee; 'What?"

Delilah; 'He said you were his best friend"

(There is silence...in her mind, she can see Tim struggling to reply....)

Delilah: "I know. I know, baby. And I'm proud of you"

(Delilah hits 'end call", places the phone down in her lap. She can see him, still struggling, not knowing how to respond. She smiles, knowing her man is happy. And that makes her happy)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Vance's office. Vance sitting behind his desk, looking at his visitor, the Secretary of State)

SecState: "Looks like we have a mess, Leon"

Vance: "Well, ma'am, at least this time we didn't create it"

SecState: "And no foreign presidents are inolved"

Vance: "Thank god for that"

SecState: 'No nuclear bombs are going off"

Vance: "Thank HIm again"

SecState: "He's thinking of retiring, isn't he?"

Vance: "Looks like it...he says it..but..."

SecState: "I'll miss him"

Vance: "I doubt it" (laughing)

SecState: "No, really...that man..."

Vance: "Grows on you?"

SecState: "Like a fungus"

(Both laugh....)

Vance: "Have you come to some solution to our man, Corporal Evans?"

(SecState fills Vance in on her decision....)

Vance: 'Can you do that?"

(SecState leans back, crosses her arms, stares at Vance with a "Do you know who I am?' look)

Vance: "Yes, I guess you can...I like it...A lot"

SecState: "He's still in your custody, isn't he?"

Vance: "Yes ma'am, he is...so, is that why I'm graced with a personal visit?"

SecState: "Yes, as a matter of fact....but there's one more reason"

Vance: 'Which is?"

SecState: "I wanted to see that damn monkey...If I'm going to pin a medal on him...."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in hotel room...Torres and Bishop, finishing bringing in their gear...both plop noisely on the bed)

Torres; "I'm drained"

Bishop: "Me too"

Torres: "Want to take a nap before we read it?"

(Bishop thinks, does scrunchy mouth thing...looks at Torres)

Bishop; "Do you?"

Torres: "Yea, I thought we'd wait,,,you know...it's probably nothing"

(Torres gets up, picks envelope off the dresser, puts it in a drawer, closes it)

Torres; "There...it's out of sight"

Bishop: "Right...good move..."

(Bishop and Torres look at each other...both bolt upright, race to the drawer, grab the envelope, sit on bed, cross-legged, Bishop starting to open it)

Bishop: "Wait...you do it"

Torres; "Not me! You've known him longer! You open it!"

Bishop: "We'll open it together"

Torres: "Okay....you take one end, I'll take the other"

Bishop: "No! We'll tear it!...Give it to me...."

(Bishop opens the envelope, pulls the hand written note out...)

TORRES & BISHOP'S LETTER

Torres and Bishop,

Who won the argument about opening the letter? My money is on Bishop

You are both so different, but I've never seen two people need each other more. Accept that, love it, learn from it, grow stronger from it. I watched you two from the beginning, seeing in you what I saw in Shannon and me when we first met. Nick, you are fearless. Bishop, you have become fearless. Alone, each of you would do fine. Together, there is nothing you can't do. Nick, you will be responsible for a woman with a brilliant mind, and a hurt soul. Help her repair it. She's worth it. Bishop, you have a man that will need you every day, just as I needed Shannon every day. When I lost her, I lost me. Don't let Torres get lost.

Don't ever ask the other to stop being who they are. Don't ever stop supporting who the other needs to be. You've both waited a lifetime for this. You have, in front of you, the chance to live a life very few get. Forgive. Make allowances for mistakes. Believe in magic, it's real.

I have the highest respect and admiration for each of you. You are my friends. There is no higher compliment I know to give. Thank you for choosing to serve our country, and each other, with me.

Gibbs

(They both read it again, silently, taking in the parts that mean the most to them)

Torres: "He sees more than I thought he did"

Bishop: "Ya think?"

Torres; "He's always seen us together"

Bishop; "So did I"

(Torres looks at Bishop, questioning...)

Torres; "Seriously?"

Bishop; "Yea. But you were...."

Torres; "Not your type?"

Bishop: "I was going to say, 'out of my league"

Torres: "That's more like out of your mind"

Bishop: "No, it's not...every woman that came in the office glanced at you...twice...Witnesses..the same thing...and here I was, plain Jane scarecrow...hair tucked under a hat, ugly slacks..not much makeup..."

Torres: "I forgot to breathe"

Bishop: "What? What's that got to do with.."

Torres: "The first time I saw you...I forgot to breathe...I almost passed out. I don't think I have ever seen, or ever will see, a woman...you know..."

Bishop: "A woman what? Why do you do that?"

Torres: "A woman so beautiful. Ever.."

(Bishop blushing, trying not to smile)

Bishop: "You are such a liar, Torres!"

Torres; "No...I came in, and you were at your desk...you did the squinty eye thing..."

Bishop; 'I was trying to fake not gawking"

Torres: "Then you did that scrunchy mouth thing you do when you're thinking"

Bishop; "All the better to keep my mouth from dropping open"

Torres; "You were married."

Bishop: "Yes, I was...and I was not going to allow myself anything that would hurt that marriage"

Torres: 'That's part of what makes you, you"

Bishop; 'You know what else makes me, me?"

(Torres does not answer)

Bishop; "You"

(Bishop pushes Torres down on the bed, lays next to him)

Torres: 'Now, Bish?"

(Bishop lightly punches Torres on the arm)

Bishop; 'No..tempting though, but no...Gibbs said I had a hurt soul..."

Torres; "Hey, maybe he was wrong..you know...kinda..."

Bishop: "No, NIck, he was right. That man...he sees thing in people..it's scary..But anyway..you deserve to know just how hurt it is..."

(They talk..long into the night, Bishop finishes, wipes eyes.....)

Torres: 'I'm sorry. I can't change yesterday...but you know, if you'll let me..I can help today..and tomorrow..."

Bishop: 'I know. And I'll let you. I promise"

Torres; 'I guess you deserve the same, huh?"

(Bishop says nothing..just waits)

Torres; "I grew up afraid...I lived afraid..."

(And the talk continued....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Interrogation Room, SecState is sitting on one side of the table...Director Vance and an accompanying NCIS agent are escorting corporal Evans down the hall towards the room)

Evans: "Sir, may I aske why I'm being questioned again?"

Vance: "It's not an interrogation, son..."

(They approach the door, pass a janitor in the hallway, using a spray cleaner to wipe down water fountain...Evans stares at him, then away....Vance begins to open the Interrogation Room door.....Evans spins, snatches Vance's gun out of his holster)

Vance: "Stop! Evans!"

(He sees Evans turn away from him, towards the janitor...The janitor is dashing by them both, through the open door, gun coming up fast....Evans aims on instinct, fires three rounds, not hearing the screams of SecState in the room...The janitor screams as well, his gun drops, the man's arm is bloody now, two of the three rounds pierced his forearm....The NCIS agent immediately has the janitor on the floor, kicking the gun out of reach)

Evans: (handing gun back to an astonished Vance) "There wasn't time to ask.."

Vance; "How?...How.?"

Evans; "He's one of the men that alwasy pushed me...I don't know who he really is, but he's not a janitor...he's a Navy man"

(SecState pokes her head out the door...eyes wide....)

Vance; "Ma'am, you okay?"

(SecState looks at the scene, still wide-eyed, nods her head yes...Vance looks at the janitor on the floor...takes off his jacket, walks into the Interrogation room, throws his jacket up and over the camera mounted on the ceiling)

SecState: :"Leon? What are you...."

(Vance..angry....grabs the wounded arm of the shooter, drags him into the Interrogation Room, the man screaming out in pain...)

Vance; 'Who paid you?"

(The man moans)

Vance; "WHO PAID YOU?"

(Nothing)

(Vance kneels, makes a fist, extends one knuckle, grinds it into one of the wounds, keeps pressing....the shooter begins screaming more)

Vance; 'WHO?"
Shooter: "Major Giles! Oh god stop...! "Giles heard of the deal!...STOP! YOURE KILLING ME!"

Vance: "Why? You wouldn't get away? Why?"

Shooter:'They'd get me out! 2 million! Rio! STOP! OH GOD...STOP!"

(Vance gets up, the man reaches for his arm, blood pouring out, he begins whimpering...)

Vance; (wipes hand off) "Sorry ma'am....needed to know"

Evans; "Ma'am...you have some questions for me.....oh....you're....I've seen you on TV...."

Vance; "Corporal Evans....you just saved the life of the Secretary of State of the United States of America"

Evans: "Does that mean I can get a cell with a window?"

SecState: "Young man....excuse me...this is...unsettling....I came to NCIS, and no Gibbs...but someone tries to kill me....hahaha...imagine that....hahahahahahahaha...."

Vance; "Madame Secretary? Hold on now...."

Evans: "Is she okay?"

Vance: (chuckling) "Yes, corporal...she's fine...and so are you...your charges will be reviewed, then dropped...you will spend some time in witness protection, then at least 2 months in therapy, here in DC, then you'll be transferred to a combat unit"

(Evans stares, unbelieving,...Vance points at the SecState...)

Vance: "Her doing, son..."

Evans; "Sir...I get to be a soldier again?"

Vance: "Yes, son...you are a soldier"

(SecState is leaning up against a wall, laughter had died, she's regaining control...Then she looks up and see Evans, and he waves, not knowing how to address the Secretary)

Voice: "Is it clear?"

(Vance sees Kasie, holding Chipper)

Kasie: "You called for us, sir?"

(SecState, fully composed, walks into the hallway...)

SecState: "Okay...it's all good now....this is nothing I can't handle..."

(She looks down the hall, sees Kasie, holding Chipper....Chipper gives her a huge monkey smile)

Vance: "Ma'am?"

(SecState points at Chipper)

SecState: "My monkey?"

Vance; "Your monkey"

(It started with a giggle...then a chuckle....then more....much more....Vance turns to Evans, shakes his hand)

Evans; "Thank you, sir...but her....is she okay? I mean, will her decision...."

Vance; 'It will be fine, son....Welcome to High Power DC Politicians"

Evans: "No wonder toilet seats cost $500"

(scene fades to black and white)

TONY & ZIVA'S LETTER

(scene opens in Tony and Ziva's hotel room...Tali is sitting in chair watching TV....Tony and Ziva placing Tali's snacks in room fridge and on top...Ziva has finished making some hotel room coffee in the maker)

Tony; "We can order room service for that, you know"

Ziva: "At what? $10 per cup? I am not going to take advantage of Gibbs's generosity like that"

(Ziva sips some coffee..face twists up..She picks up room phone)

Ziva: "Yes, I would like a carafe of coffee please...and some powdered hot chocolate...oh really? Yes! We would love some...thank you"

Tony: "Donuts coming?"

Ziva: "Bagels"

Tony; 'Cream cheese?"

Ziva: "Lox"

(Tali, still looking at TV, sticks her finger in her mouth...makes retching sound)

Tony: 'She knows things..."

Ziva; 'Yes, she does...sometimes too much...I would prefer, dear, if we waited until our daughter was asleep before we read Gibbs's letter..."

Tony: "Yea...kinda anxious, you know....That scenario at the house has me on edge"

Ziva: 'Very...I share that with you...in hearts"

Tony: 'Spades...I'll share that with you in spades"

Ziva: "What difference does it make? Hearts, spades, clubs, it is ridiculous"

(As she's talking, she keeps looking at the envelope....She looks at Tony...he's reading a text..)

Tony; 'McBabysitter is on his way up...he said he hates to eat alone and wants a dinner date with Tali"

Ziva: (stares at Tony) "Thank you for asking him"

Tony: "It's what I do, baby"

(knock at the door...Tali jumps up and runs to the door....tries to jump up and look out the peephole, but can't make it...Tony walks over, lifts her up so she can see....Tali begins waving through the peephole...Tony lets her down, Tali opens the door)

Tali: "Uncle Tim! Macaroni and Cheese and Pasketti!"

McGee; "Too much starch, Tali...how about chicken lips and dog tails?"

Tali: "Only if they have cheese on them"

Ziva: "Thank you, Uncle Tim...very much....it would have been difficult..."

McGee: "I know...we're good, Ziva"

(McGee and Tali exit the hotel room, McGee holding her hand as she skips down the hall….Ziva watches them leave, then closes the door....Just as she does, a knock....room service cart....it is rolled in, and the food and coffee moved off the cart onto the small table in the room....once settled, Ziva hands the envelope to Tony.....)

Tony, Ziva

Dinozzo, if there was one man I'd trust to stand with me against the worst odds, it would be you. You went from Baltimore street cop to being one of the finest agents any agency could ask for. The trust I have in you, that others have in you, is rare. I salute your courage, and your friendship. But it is after you left that you found out how strong you could be. You had to be both father and mother to Tali, and it is this, that you found the best part of what a man can be, you found the mother in you. That is where you found your ability to keep calm in front of Tali, then fall apart privately...You found out about a little girl's heart, that it is bigger than all ours put together...You put yourself aside for someone else, and it is there you became what you are today. I was proud of you as an agent..that does not compare to what I think of you as a father and mother both.

Doter...I will never forgive myself for not going after you. I was afraid...I had seen the body of one daughter, I could not bear to see another. I was wrong....I should have known, should have felt, because I know you...I know the woman you are, and I know the strength in you. I also know, doter, the pain in you. But I've seen what Dinozzo has done for you, what Tali has done for you, and finally, I see this woman that rarely smiled, beam...There is a joy in you, and that gives me some joy, too. Now, you and Tony....The two of you have something that survived death, time, temptations, more...you two are forged in fire, and because of that bond, I hope you find the strength to be soft with each other. My best memories of Shannon and me are when I risked it all, showing my fears and my weaknesses. .

Somehow, hell, I don't know how, but you and Kelly are linked. Things have happened above my pay grade, but they happened, and here we are, sharing dreams that no one would understand or believe...It is how it should be, though, between an abba and a doter....Shalom, Ziva...you are loved.

(They both are silent...finally)

Ziva: "I am so tired of crying, Tony....but..."

Tony: "He loves you, Ziva...Gibbs, he really does...and no jokes, you know I mean..."

Ziva; "Yes..I know..I had not thought anything different....Gibbs was...and is...(wipes tear) my abba... my daddy"

Tony: "I know. It's part...He's part of you, of me,.."

Ziva: "He is part of us, Tony....he is the reason for us..."

(Tony folds the letter up, starts to place it back in the envelope..notices something)

Tony: 'Hey, there's a card in here..one of those fold over type"

(Tony turns the envelope upside down, shakes it....a small folded card comes out and lays on the bed...on the outside, it reads..)

DINOZZO - EYES ONLY

Tony: "I guess this is for me"

Ziva; "Yes...I am okay with that...."

(Tony picks it up, moves to the corner of the room, sits in a chair, opens the card and reads it....He closes his eyes, wipes his face, places the card down....He looks at Ziva...eyes red....a helpless look on his face....)

Ziva: "Anthony? Tony? What is wrong...?"

(Tony continues to stare at her.....his thoughts racing....then he covers his face with his hands, and begins crying)

Ziva: "TONY!"

(Ziva walks quickly to him.....Tony picks the card up, hands it to her....he looks away from her...Ziva opens it and reads it...her face shows concern, then fear....)

Ziva: "Yes...we have never faced this, and we must....If you will"

(Tony turns to her, stares....struggling...)

Tony; "In my head I know...I've gone over it a hundred times and I know it was the right thing to do...."

Ziva: "But in your heart?"

(Tony doesn't answer...he simply raises his hands, then drops them....)

Tony: "It was six years"

Ziva: "Yes..I know"

Tony: 'You did the right thing..."

Ziva; "Did I, Tony? Maybe for Tali,, but for you? Was it right for you, my dearest?"

Tony: "It didn't matter...Tali mattered..."

Ziva: "Yes you did matter...and I left you...to believe I was dead"

(Tony uncovers his eyes, she can see the pain he's been holding)

Tony: "Six years...I grieved..I cried so much I didn't have any tears left...I was so..."

Ziva: "Hurt...it's okay to say...Tony, I was so wrong..."

Tony: "You didnt know...I loved you...but I didn't show it...not really...How could you have known?"

(Ziva embraces him....he places his head in her neck....)

Ziva: "Tell me...tell me you love me....Then please...please forgive me"

(Tony breaks....)

Tony: "I loved you so much...I loved you from the beginning...I love you now...i'm an idiot..."

Ziva: "Will you forgive me? Can you?"

Tony: "Yes...I do...I'm sorry I held it in...Everything...not telling you what I felt, not telling you in a way you needed....Yes, I forgive you...."

(They embrace, holding each other, rocking, slowly, back and forth....The card from Gibbs gets nudged, and opens...It has two words written on the inside)

Forgive Her

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in hospital room, Gibbs lying on bed, hitting call button, rapidly...Nurse come in...)

Nurse: "Sir, how can I help you?"

(Gibbs coughs into tissue...holds the tissue out to show the nurse...it's coated with blood)

Nurse: "Give me information, sir....when did this start?"

(Nurse pushing call button by side of bed)

Gibbs: "About an hour ago..tasted it....can't breathe."

Nurse: "Have you eaten anything from the stash you have hidden? Peanuts, anything with sharp edges?"

Gibbs: "No..just water"

(Nurse examines Gibbs's throat, flashed light into mouth)

Nurse: "No abrasions....can you..."

(Gibbs immediately shoves the nurse away from him, turns to side, begins coughing heavily....blood and fluids come spraying out of his mouth, coating the sheets)

Nurse: (turning to hallway where other nurses have responded to the call)

Nurse: 'Get Doctor Trammel STAT! Internal bleeding, lung tissue, patient having trouble breathing, starting oxygen.....and get an OR prepped NOW!"

Nurse #2: "Ma'am, it's the doctor that normally makes that call.."

Nurse: "GET AN OR READY NOW! This is a *^%$ing national hero, and he's in serious trouble! GET A ROOM READY NOW!"

(Doctor Trammel comes rushing in, takes one look at Gibbs, sees Gibbs in distress...moaning, trying to breathe....)

Gibbs: "Doc...." (takes a ragged breath) "Help...me"

Trammel "Listen to your charge nurse! Get OR #2 ready STAT! "

(Gibbs begins coughing again, more fluids, more blood.....Gibbs leans back, lays head on pillow...)

Gibbs: "Shannon" (then nothing)

(The monitor flatlines....the steady beep ominous)

Trammel: "Where's my damn crash cart? Get it now! We've lost him and I'll be damned if this man dies on my watch!"

(Crash cart comes rolling in fast...Nurse hits switches, rips Gibbs's gown front open, doctor places paddles on chest...)

Doctor: "Clear!"

(Gibbs's chest jumps)

(scene shifts to darkness...Gibbs alone, standing in hospital gown.. nothing around him....)

Gibbs: "Shannon?"

(nothing...only silence)

Gibbs: "Is it time? I'm ready....Shannon? Where are you?"

(A flash of bright light, the feeling of being sucked into a vacuum..Gibbs screams into the darkness...no sound leaves his mouth...more bright lights, noise...voices..)

Nurse: "We've got a heartbeat! BP rising!"

Doctor: "Roll him in now! Call Dr. Franks! Tell him I need him now!"

Gibbs: (weakly) "No...I want to go.....let me go..Shannon"

(The doctor looks at the nurse...questioning)

Nurse: "His wife doctor...she's been gone 20 years..."

Doctor: (To Gibbs) "If you've waited 20 years, Gibbs, you can wait a little longer....you're not going to go see her as long as I'm your doc..."

Gibbs: (weakly) "Asshole"

Doctor: "That's what I want to hear....(to techs running in) "1 minute guys! That took you too long! People live or die by heartbeats, not minutes! Get him in the OR now!"

(Nurse looks at monitor)

Nurse: "Doctor, BP crashing....Pulse ox level 94...doctor...."

Gibbs: (whisper) "Told you...so..."

(The monitor sounds the long tone again.....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on airplane, team on board, including Tony, Ziva, and Tali...)

Tony: (to McGee) "Any update on the boss?"

McGee: "No...I called before we took off and everything was the same..."

Tony; 'Why do I have such a bad feeling?"

McGee: "We all do, Tony...this isn't good"

Tony: "You ever think anything could beat him?"

(McGee thinks...looks away for a second...then back to Tony)

McGee: "Yea...If he stops wanting to live..."

Tony: "Shannon"

McGee: "Yea...Shannon"

Tony: "Ziva says she's met her....in a dream...."

McGee: "Boss has done that...swears it happens"

Tony: "He's told you that?"

McGee; "One night...in the basement..."

Tony; "Bourbon?"

(McGee smiles....remembers....)

McGee: "Lots"

Tony: "You believe him?"

McGee: "Do you believe Ziva?"

Tony: "I don't know...I know she believes it"

McGee: "I didn't believe him....not until yesterday"

(Tony leans back in seat....staring straight ahead)

Tony: "Yea...that was creepy"

McGee: "Is there a movie for this one?"

(Tony thinks...remembers earlier)

Tony: "Yea...Love Story...it didn't end well for Ryan O'neal.."

McGee: "Didn't end well for Ali McGraw, either"

(scene shifts to Vance's office..Vance behind desk, Daisy laying on floor next to Vance's desk....Daisy gets up, starts pacing....)

Vance: "Girl? You need to go outside?"

(Daisy begins to whine....heads towards office door...jumps up, starts pawing at door handle...)

Vance: "Hold on girl....."

(Vance gets up, opens door, Daisy bolts out.....Vance following her....Daisy dashes down the stairs, enters empty bullpen, she looks around...trots to next aisle of desks, whimpering, looks down the aisle...she glances towards the elevator... Vance coming down stairs....Daisy returns to the opening of the bullpen...She raises her head and howls, mournfuly....Vance looks at her as his face drops..."Oh no"..Daisy goes to Gibbs's desk, sniffs...lays down by Gibbs's chair, looks up at Vance....whines, and lays her head down on her paws...)

Pam: "Director Vance!"

(Vance jerks his head around, sees Pam at the railing...frantic...)

Pam: "Sir..it's the hospital!...Please come...hurry..."

(scene shifts back to airplane)

(McGee and Tony contnue talking...They are interrupted by the stewardess...she leans over Tony, talks in a low tone to McGee....McGee nods his head, stewardess straightens up....McGee starts to get up)

Tony; "Tim?"

McGee: "Vance is on the cockpit radio....something's happened..."

Tony: "You want me to...."

McGee; "I'll let you know"

(McGee gets into the aisle, walks briskly behind the stewardess...they get to cockpit door...it opens...The co-pilot exits, motions McGee to enter..)

Pilot: "Special Agent Mcgee? You have emergency traffic on the headphones...."

(The stewardess picks up the co-pilot's headphones laying on back of his seat, hands them to McGee...McGee puts them on, adjusts the mic in front of his mouth)

McGee: (into mic) "NCIS Special Agent McGee"

Vance: (on headset) "Tim....Gibbs died...."

(McGee feels his knees buckle, he grabs the back of the pilot's seat for support....) "Oh no...sir...."

Vance: "They lost him twice....He's in the OR now...one of his ribs splintered off and punctured his lung, plus his colon is perforated.....he has internal bleeding, bad....he almost bled out inside, and the toxins released through the colon, they were poisoning him....Doc told me the only reason he hasn't died yet is his nurse has insisted on enemas..they kept his colon clean...same.nurse caught the blood in the lungs in time....but he went...(voice breaking)..He went....."

McGee: "But he's alive now?"

Vance: "Yes...but Tim.. the doctor...he told me Gibbs doesn't want...(throat swells up, unable to speak)...."

McGee: "He told you Boss doesn't want to live"

Vance: "Yes...how did you...."

McGee: "Director...on this trip...he wrote each of us letters.....the only way to describe them are...goodbyes..."

Vance: "Well then, McGee, we don't let him!"

McGee: "Sir?"

Vance: "How many times has that man saved your life? The others? How many times?"

McGee; "Countless, Director..."

Vance: "Then get back here and save his, McGee! You hear me? (Vance begins yelling) HE NEEDS HIS BEST FRIEND TO GET BACK HERE AND SAVE HIS LIFE! SO GET TO WORK, MCGEE!!"

(Vance slams down the phone...covers his face with his hands)

(McGee hands the headset to the stewardess, without a word...turns to head back to seat)

Pilot: "Control DC, increasing to maximum power, fuel fine....we're in a hurry DC...copy?"

(McGee turns to look at the pilot...The pilot taps his headphones, signalling he heard the call..McGee nods a 'thank you'...exits cockpit...The co-pilot takes his seat, the door closes....The pilot can be seen pushing the throttle slowly forward...the accelaration can be felt on the plane)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Hart's office, 2 FBI agents present, sitting in front of her desk, Hart is in her chair, leaning back)

Hart: "You want me to back off....why, agents?"

Agent #1: "Ms Hart, I don't think you have any idea how sensitive a matter this is"

Hart: "I have every idea how sensitive it is..."

Agent #1: "Then you agree...."

Hart: "I don't agree to shit, agent...I have a client, and I will represent her in every and any means possible...You folks can go off and play, hiding your heads in the sand..."

Agent #2: "Maybe, ma'am, you don't realize just how difficult we can make your life...your business"

(Hart begins laughing....The agents look at each other, perplexed)

Hart: "Boys, you go right ahead...do what you do....but....If you,... Agent Frick, and you,... Agent Frack, if either of you interfere with me? I swear to god, I'll raise hell itself above your heads, then drop it down on you! You.....you have no idea what I know, what I've hidden, what I can bring to light..."

Agent #1: "If I didn't know better, ma'am, I would consider that a threat"

Hart: "It is, agent...I play by different rules than you do..and...on behalf of the my client, I'm suing the entire PSA network, it's parent company, and Dr. Timmons personally, for every dime, dollar, and credit line they have....and while we're at it? I also represent another client...by the name of Chipper."

Agent #2: "You can't represent a monkey, ma'am..."

Hart: "The hell I can't! Would you like the case presedence? Would you like the state Supreme Court ruling? I'm going to get a monkey...yes, a monkey, agents....more money, more comfort, and more bananas than you can shake a stick at!"

Agent #2: "You're crazy!"

(Hart leans back, starts tapping the fingertips of both hands together....she smiles..."

Hart: "Damn right I am....but I"m crazy smart, too....You're here because you're scared...correct that...because your boss is scared, and you've been sent to find out what I know...."

(Hart opens desk drawer, pulls out file...on the front, it reads, FBI INVOLVEMENT/TIMMONS...both agents stare at it...she picks it up, hands it to the agents....Agent #1 reaches out for it...Hart quickly snatches it back, out of his reach...)

Hart: "Oh, you wish, agent....."

Agent #1: "I think we're done here"

(in her best imitation of Tombstone scene..)

Hart: 'Well.....bye"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in safe house...Beth, Ruth, Roberta and Sam present...Gathered in kitchen, sitting at small kitchen table)

Beth: "How do we tell you apart?"

Roberta: "I'm Roberta, she's Sam...Samantha, legally, but she hates the name"

Ruth: 'It's incredible...you're identical...I cannot find any difference..."

Sam: "Mine are bigger"

Roberta: "Only because you bought 'em"

Sam: "So, they're still mine"

Roberta: "You are such a tramp"

Sam: "At least I have a social life"

Roberta: (to Ruth and Beth) "She calls having 3 different profiles on one dating site, a social life"

Sam: (To Beth and Ruth) "Each one is a different personality...it allows me to choose men according to the mood I'm in..."

Roberta: "Yea...and that mood changes often...so do the men"

(Ruth and Beth are looking back and forth, following the siblings' dialogue..)

Ruth: "Sisters...I wish I had one..."

Roberta: "It works out....she's a halfway decent shot"

Sam: "Better than you...anyday"

Roberta: "Ha! You wish"

Beth: "Do you ladies...do this often? This protection thing?"

Sam: "All the time, Beth...our boss, Ms. Hart? She's a badass...takes on cases others won't..That comes with complications...."

Beth: "And you two.....uncomplicate things?"

Sam: "Pretty much"

Ruth: "After what happened, are the two of you enough? There were three of them, and we don't have the dog..."

Roberta: "We get Daisy back this afternoon....and sometimes it's not about the number, it's about the firepower"

Beth: "You mean guns? You have more than what you have on?"

(Roberta and Sam look at each other....nod...Sam gets up, walks to kitchen island...holds one drawer handle, twists it until it clicks...reaches under ledge of island top, moves another handle over....the side of the island pops out....Sam opens the side door of the island all the way, both Beth and Ruth gape....)

Beth: "Oh....my ....god"

(The side 'door' opens to reveal a rack of weapons hanging on pegs...pistols, two shotguns, boxes of ammo, and an assortment of knives)

Roberta: "House belongs to Agent Torres...after we began using it as a safe house, that Gibbs guy comes over and builds this island...he's pretty handy with the woodworking..."

Ruth; "Yea...and handy with those weapons, I guess?"

(Sam and Roberta look at each other and laugh...)

Roberta: "Ma'am...that's one man you don't ever want on your bad side...Trust me"

Beth "My mother says he's in bad shape"

Roberta: "Yea...our boss goes and sees him every day"

Beth: "Are they friends?"

Sam: "Ms. Hart wishes it was more, but she knows her place"

Beth: "Her place"

Sam: "Yea...second place...behind his wife...she's been dead around 20 years"

Beth: "He still hangs on to that?"

Roberta: "Does...the man was committed to her...still is"

Beth: "I guess that's sweet in a way...But doesn't he get lonely?"

(Roberta and Sam look at each other, start laughing..)

Roberta: "He's a man, darlin'...No, he's only lonely when he wants to be...and when he's not, well..."

Beth; "Ms. Hart?"

Roberta; "Not that we know of....but heck, who knows? That woman knows how to keep a secret...it's kept her alive in this city"

(Both Sam and Roberta's phone rings....they answer...both listen, then hang up)

Sam: "Come with me! Roberta, outside....electric meter! That was the trail agent"

(Sam grabs Beth's hand, Ruth follows, they are quickly led out the kitchen door, Sam's gun drawn....Roberta draws her gun, heads out front door then immediately to the left...)

Beth: "What the ...?"

Sam: 'Meter reader...."

Beth; "So?"

Sam: "The house in on averaging....they don't read the meter but once every six months...it was read last month"

(scene shifts to side of house....Electric company man has clipboard, writing down the numbers on the meter...He jumps when he hears...)

Roberta: "Drop it! Back away from the house!"

Man: "What/ I'm just here reading the meter, lady! Put that gun down...jesus!"

Roberta: "To late for him, pal.....back away....and for the record, meter readers use a hand held device, digital....the clipboard thing is pretty old school...."

(The man backs up, hands up.....Roberta kicks the man's toolbox open...)

Roberta: "Well, well, well....since when did the electric company get into the bugging business?"

(The open tool box reveals several electronic listening devices...)

Roberta: "Agent....?"

Agent; "Timbers, ma'am...I have my credentials...Jesus lady! Put the gun down!"

Roberta: "Reach slower...."

(Agent slowly pulls badge and ID out of back pocket....hands it to Roberta.....She looks at it....Immediately hits the man on the back of the head with her gun...he drops, unconcious...)

Roberta; "FBI agents in this area come out of DC...not New York, idiot...jesus, I wish you guys would pay attention to detail..."

Roberta: (on phone) "Ms. Hart? They tried again.....yea...meter man this time....Uh, no ma'am, it may be a few minutes until he's able to answer questions...yes ma'am...he's napping....kinda..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at safe house...Ruth and Beth on front porch with Sam...Roberta inside with FBI agents...)

Ruth: "They came pretty quick"

Sam: 'The boss called 'em...it's their jurisdiction"

Ruth; "He doesn't seem to be talking"

Sam: "Nope"

(They see a red Ferrari pull up, engine roaring, screeching to a halt in front of the house...Allison Hart exits the car, tight jeans, leather boots up to knees, white peasant blouse....Every male agent in the yard stops and looks)

Beth: "She does make an entrance"

Sam; "Yes, she does....and she knows the affect it has...she uses it"

Beth; "Can she get the man to talk?"

Sam: "No need to....he's already told me what we want to know..."

(Beth looks at her, surprised)

Sam; "Just doin' my job, ma'am"

(Beth walks down the porch, towards Hart...they meet halfway, Sam hands over a thumb drive...Hart gives her a quick hug, heads towards house...)

Hart: "You ladies okay?"

(Both Ruth and Beth nod their heads)

Hart: "Hired by your husband, Ruth....he's running scared...we need to be careful.."

(The lead FBI agent walks up)

FBI: "Counselor"

Hart; "Agent"

FBI: "You staying?"

Hart: "Nope...got business back at the office"

FBI: "In other words, you have what you need already"

(Agent looks at Sam and glares...Sam blows him a kiss)

Hart: "Have a nice day, Robert"

(Hart tips his hat, watches Hart get into the Ferrari, she starts it, gives it gas, tires smoking as she flies down the street)

FBI: "God that's a woman"

Sam: "Then stop playing around and ask her out"

FBI: "I'd like to live till retirement, thank you"

Sam: "Scared, Bob?"

FBI: "No....just know my limitations"

(FBI Bob walks away....Sam shaking her head)

Sam: "Ms Hart likes the guy...he's smart...confident..."

Beth; "So, why doesn't he..."

Sam: "Same thing...his wife died 3 years ago...the man's still in love with her"

Beth: "He and Gibbs both....makes me want to go get a dead husband"

(Beth and Sam look at each other and start laughing.....Sam heads inside the house)

Sam; "Classic, Beth...you're okay....it's time for a beer and talk about dead husbands...or killing them...either one might be fun..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Hart's office...Director Vance and SecState sitting in chairs across a small coffee table...Hart sets down silver tray, 3 small glasses, one bottle of whiskey)

SecState: "Are we celebrating?"

Hart: "Either that or drowning my sorrows....guess it depends on what you are here for...If you're telling me you're shutting me down, I'll need those other glasses...is you don't mind"

SecState: "I don't think you'd take too kindly to being shut down, Ms. Hart...the Director of the FBI called me...a tad bit upset..."

Vance: "He wants that file, Ms. Hart...the one with...."

Hart: "Yes, I know the one..."

(Hart gets up, walks to other side of the desk, opens drawer, pulls out the FBI INVOLVEMENT/TIMMONS label on it...Hart places it on the desk in front of SecState)

Hart: "It's yours..."

(SecState looks at the file, does not move to open it)

SecState: "Just so you know, the people named in that file have come forth...they chose to ask for mercy as opposed to be indicted and convicted"

Hart: "I see"

Vance; "JAG is going through a complete vetting of prevous cases...the two sitting judges involved in this have been arrested and are waiting trial"

Hart: "Dr. Eric Timmons?"

SecState: "Oh honey, he's going away for a while..a long while..."

Hart: "So, the file... it served a purpose, I guess"

SecState: "Yes...its a dangerous file, Ms. Hart"

Hart; "Maybe"

SecState; "There's more...the 'meter reader'? He finally talked..."

Hart: "Yes..I've already filed the appropriate injunctions...those assets are frozen"

Vance; "The meter reader was hired by Timmons' corporate attorney"

Hart; "I know"

Vance: "Your girl got him to talk before the FBI got there, didn't she?"

SecState: "And you got the injunction freezing the assets filed before they could hide them..."

(Hart remains silent..no change of expression on face)

SecState: "Now we have a problem, Ms Hart"

Hart: "There's no problem..I want 60 million for my client..after taxes, after my fees and percentage, I want Agent Torres's houses brought back to better than original condition, and I want Dr. Ruth Timmons to receive full custody of Chipper...and I want a food stamp card..."

SecState: "Food stamp card?"

Hart; "And I want 'Chipper' printed on it...it's for his bananas and oranges...for life"

SecState: "Anything else?"

Hart: "Ruth Timmons gets full immunity...from everything"

Vance: "You're leaving out something...."

Hart: "Oh yea....I want the PSA corp to donate to Beth's cause...generously"

SecState: "Thank you...she'll appreciate it"

Vance: "Do we have a deal?"

SecState: "I can guarantee the works of PSA will continue, under the watchful eye of my daughter..The Board of Directors has some good men and women..Beth will be a new board member, by the way...But...The work they do...."

Hart: 'I know...a lot of good comes out of it...I just want the animals treated humanely"

SecState: "So?"

Hart: "Are you authorized to negotiate this on Timmon's behalf?"

SecState: "The Attorney General had the proper documents signed by him maybe an hour ago...Yes, as a member of the government, who employes PSA, yes, I do"

Hart: "Then.....We have a deal, madame Secretary.....Oh...one more thing..."

SecState: "Oh god...I hate 'one more things"

Hart; "You're running for the Maryland Senate seat next year, correct?"

SecState: "That is not public, Ms. Hart..."

Hart: "When you pin the medal on Chipper..."

SecState: "Oh god..."

Hart: "There will be quite a few of my guests at the ceremony...between them all, they represent over a million voters in the state...and they will be donating to your campaign..."

SecState: "But...why?"

Hart: "You're a good person, ma'am...I'd like to see you elected. Those men and women owe me."

SecState: "And what do you want in return, Ms. Hart...I am not one of those..."

Hart: "A small thing....I'd like my travel reciepts back..."

SecState: "Your travel reciepts? I don't understand...."

(Hart reaches over the table, opens the FBI INVOLVEMENT/TIMMONS folder, dumps out the contents...Hart's travel reciepts)

(SecState and Vance both look at the pile, amazed...then smiling.....)

Hart: "Sometimes a gal has to do what a gal has to do....And sometimes that means bluffing with a pair of 2s"

(Hart reaches for the bottle, pours three stiff drinks...)

Hart: "To Gibbs...Where everything messy starts..and may he recover to create more"

Vance; "Without that damn monkey"

SecState: "I have to pin a medal on that monkey...maybe I'll have Chipper tell the Director of the FBI about the file he wants so much...."

(SecState starts to giggle..."Hell, he can pin the medal on Chipper"...laughter starts...)

Hart: "Leon?"

Vance: "Ma'am...let's focus on being mad..."

SecState: "I bet the little turd starts throwing poo...hahahahahahha...maybe at the President!.Or the Speaker of the House! .Oh lord.What is the appropriate dress code for a formal poo slinging?...hahahahahahahahhahah.."

Hart: "Leon, is she okay?"

Vance: "oh yea..she's fine..."

Hart: "My candidate for Senate...the giggling politician....Well hell, there's been worse"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in hospital waiting room....full team, including Tony, Ziva, and Tali, sit, waiting....)

Ziva: "Tali, honey, do you understand what is happening?"

Tali: "I guess I do...he's really sick"

Ziva; "Yes, baby...."

Tali; "Poppy"

Ziva: "What did you call him?"

(Tali shrugs, walks off to look out hospital windows)

McGee: "It's been 5 hours....he's been in surgery for 5 hours..."

Bishop: 'That's not good...but it's better than the doctor coming out to tell us he didn't make it"

(On cue, the surgeon walks through the swinging doors...his scrubs blood soaked...The team all get up, walk to him quickly....The doctor holds up his hand...)

Doctor:"Please...not too close...I haven't had time to change my scrubs...you dont want any part of what I have on me"

McGee: "Doc...how is he? What..."

(The doctor shakes his head....)

Doctor: "Your boss has led an intersting life...there are so many scars, wounds....I took two pieces of metal out of his stomach lining that had been there for who knows how long....the trauma jarred them loose from where ever they had been sitting, and they cut his intestine...Honestly, ladies, gentlemen, I don't think I've ever seen a man so.....wounded"

McGee: "He's been through a lot, sir....he's done it for others...his life has been about..."

Doctor: "I know, Agent...we all know who he is...and we're all taking it personal..."

McGee: "So, where are we?"

Doctor: "Agent, I've repaired everything I could...I called in two other docs...the best there is...and they repaired what I could not....It's up to him now, agent"

Bishop: "To him?"

Doctor: "He needs the will to live...he needs to want it....but so far, he seems to have given up"

McGee: "He'll fight doc...he's always fought...(voice straining) He wont give up, doc...I promise...he's...(tears start) He's..."

Tony: "He's the strongest man we know doc..."

(Ziva looks around....)

Ziva; "Tali?...Has anyone seen Tali?"

(scene shifts to the Operating Room...nurses are tending to Gibbs...another doctor is stitching....And then the worst nightmare for any medical team happens....A little girl has walked directly into the operating room, unnoticed...She is at Gibbs's side before they can stop her, their faces screaming their horror.... She has taken his hand)

Tali: " Poppy"

(He finds himself In the darkness again, he hears a voice.....)

Gibbs; "Kelly?"

Tali; "It is not time yet, Poppy"

Gibbs; "Kelly? I hear you....where are you?"

Tali: "Tali, Poppy...It is not time.... your cake is not done yet"

Gibbs; "I want to be with Kelly...please....."

Tali: "Not yet...your cake"

Gibbs: "No! Not this time! "

Tali: "Poppy, ...go back...."

Nurse: "Doctor! His BP is rising! He's breathing...he's breathing in deep"

(The doctor rushes to Gibbs...one nurse rushes out of the OR to the doctor talking with the friends....The OR team looks around...the little girl is no where to be seen)

(scene shifts to waiting room..Doctor still talking with McGee and team...A nurse bolts out of the door...)

Nurse: "Doctor, you're needed now!"

(The team looks to her....their anxiety clear...She breaks protocol...)

Nurse: "His blood pressure is rising..he's breathing..Doctor, he's fighting!"

(Ziva looks behind the nurse and sees Tali exiting the OR area, running down the short hallway to the open doors to the waiting room where the nurse is...she runs behind the nurse and doctor...unnoticed...Ziva says nothing...she goes to her daughter...kneels down)

Ziva: "Where have you been? Tali! Where have you been?"

Tali :"I went to see Poppy..."

Ziva; "Poppy? Do you mean Gibbs?"

Talii (smiling) "Yes, mommy....your abba...my poppy..."

Ziva; "What did you see? Baby, are you okay?"

(Tony has come over....he kneels down)

Tony: "Tali, did you go into the room where Mr. Gibbs is?"

Tali: "I had to...."

Tony; "Why honey...why did you have to?"

Tali: "To show him my bow! It's a rule you know"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in hospital room....Gibbs sleeping, McGee sitting beside his bed, eyes closed, chin on chest, sleeping...he hears something...head bolts upright)

Gibbs: (raspy voice) "Hey McGee"

(McGee stands up quickly, anxiety on face...)

McGee: "Boss! You're awake!"

Gibbs; "Ya think, McGee?"

McGee: "It's been a while...2 days since the surgery"

Gibbs: "Jesus...I'm sore"

McGee; "Yea....you've been cut on and opened up and cut some more..."

Gibbs: "Thirsty..."

(McGee looks around for water...sees none....he hits the call button on the bedside)

Gibbs: "Oh god...nursezilla will come"

McGee: "That bad?"

Gibbs: "Shes evil, Tim....pure mean evil"

Nurse: "I heard that!"

Gibbs: "Save me, McGee!"

(through door comes a petite nurse,,,,late 40s, beautiful eyes, porcelain skin...and an enormous amount of red hair pinned up on her head)

Gibbs: "Isn't she horrible, McGee?"

McGee; "Got her some red hair boss"

Nurse: "This week...we'll see next week"

McGee: "Oh yea, boss...she's a monster" (smiles at the nurse)

Nurse: "Your boss is a sweetheart...we've become very intimate"

(McGee raises his eyebrows, looks at Gibbs....)

McGee: "Boss? You dog, you!"

Gibbs: "She means the enemas, McGee..."

McGee: 'Oh..."

Nurse: "You are Agent McGee?"

McGee: "Yes ma'am...you can call me Tim"

Nurse: "He's been calling for you....all through this...'Get Tim...Tim will take care of things...Tell Tim"...All I heard was Tim, Tim, Tim..."

(McGee smiles..looks at Gibbs...)

McGee: "Everything's under control, boss....it's waiting for you when you get back..."

(The nurse looks at McGee...shakes her head 'no'...Gibbs turns his head away from McGee)

Gibbs: "I don't think so, Tim"

McGee: "Boss...it's early..."

Gibbs: "No...Tim, it's been coming...I'm tired, Tim. I'm just so tired"

McGee: "Poppy"

(Gibbs's eyes widen...)

McGee: "It's what Tali called you"

Gibbs: "Cake..she said cake?"

McGee: "I don't know about a cake, boss...sorry...but I know we need you...and all I can ask you to do is think on it...."

Gibbs; "Yea...I'll think...after I sleep..."

McGee: "Hey boss, the nurse? She's a doll"

Gibbs; "Yea...I know..."

(Gibbs gets quiet...closes eyes...McGee starts to quietly walk out of the room)

Gibbs; "Tim"

McGee: "Yea boss?"

Gibbs; "Thank you"

McGee: "For what"

Gibbs: "Everything...all the years...everything"

McGee: "You're more than welcome...it's been my pleasure...Hey...god, I almost forgot.."

(McGee pulls the letter from Kelly out of his jacket pocket...he explains to Gibbs how it came to be and why he has it...Gibbs takes it, looks at it...he closes his eyes, tilts his head back....pain of memories are clear on his face)

McGee;: "I'm going to give you some privacy...I'll be back tomorrow...try and sleep"

(Gibbs nods head...his eyes still closed...His knuckles are white from holding the envelope so tight...McGee exits...Gibbs looks at the envelope, running his fingers over the handwriting....)

Gibbs: "Happy Burpday...that was so you..."

(He carefully pulls on the opening...the glue long ago dried...the flap comes up easily...he pulls the neatly folded letter out, hesitates...afraid to open it)

Gibbs; "Talk to me honey...daddy needs you...god, I need to hold you..."

(He opens it...smiles...then the tears start...She's drawn a crude picture of a birthday cake...candles...a stick figure of her beside it...a cartoon balloon caption coming out of her mouth, reading "buuuurp!!!!!"...Then the letter..)

Hi daddy! Happy Burpday! (excuse me, hee hee)...I am so sory you wont be here for your burpday, but me and momy wanted you to hav a cake! Mommmy said you wer buzy fighting bad guyz, cause that is what you were born to do.

When all the bad guyz ar gone, your cake will be redy! But not til then! I lov you so much daddy! I will have your cake, and a real prety red bow in my hair, cauze I am your present! ...So go get bad guyz! Dont stop til they are all gon!

I love you soooo much and miss you sooooo much!

XOXOXOXO!

Kelly!

PS! I have rulez now too! I will sho you when you get home!

(He reads it again, then again....touching each letter she wrote, smiling at the misspelling...and starts saying, over and over..."The cake..it's not ready yet..."

He presses the letter to his chest...Then the tears start, trying to stop them, but a useless attempt..A loud sound escapes his mouth, then the sobs begin...his shoulders shaking, he tries but can't stop....Too many years of pain and grief and sorrow, all come pouring out, he cries out once, a noise from deep inside....He hides his face in his pillow to try and stop the sounds... .)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in bullpen...Team sitting at their desks, Tony in a chair next to McGee, Ziva in one next to Bishop..Daisy still curled up by Gibbs's chair...McGee's phone rings...he sees it's Gibbs...everyone looks, knowing what's coming...Daisy sits upright, ears perked)

McGee: "Hey boss...you're on speaker..everyone is here...How are you feeling?"

Gibbs: (yelling in raspy voice) "I'll tell you how I'm feeling, McGee! LIke slapping each one of you on the back of the head! When I get back, I better not find a backlog of paperwork or reports or anything! And where's my granddaughter Tali! ...."

(The bullpen goes into shock....smiles start to form, Ziva's hands fly up to cover her big smile..Daisy starts dancing on her front paws, whimpering with joy..)

Gibbs: "Team, there are still bad guys out there! .....

:THIS IS WHAT WE WERE BORN TO DO, PEOPLE!

GET TO WORK!"

THE END

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