Season 29 Finale, Episode 8, "The Day Of Tiva – Tali"

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

(Scene opens at Dulles Airport, passenger disembarking area, blue ropes making a path from the passenger area to the public area. Dil stands in the crowded public area, eyes searching the narrow line of passengers coming down the ramp....)

Dil: "Honey, I don't see them yet....They didn't text you and say they took a different flight, did they?"

(scene shifts lower, a 10 year old Tali is jumping up and down, trying to get a better look over the crowd of people..)

Tali: "NO!...And don't say that!....They're here...I know it!..."

Dil: "How about I get you up higher, and you be the official lookout....huh?"

(Tali looks up at Dil, eagerly nodding her head up and down..)

Tali: 'Yes, Uncle Dil...Yes!"

(Dil leans down, Tali raises her arms up in the air, and Dil places a hand under each arm, lifts her up, and plants her firmly on his shoulders, holding the legs dangling over his shoulders...)

Dil: 'There...Appropriate Recon Position...Head on a swivel, soldier!"

(silence)

Dil: "See anything?"

(silence....then...A squeal of joy...)

Tali: 'I SEE THEM!....UNCLE DIL, I SEE THEM!...."

(scene shifts to the disembarking passenger line, Tony and Ziva looking out over the people waiting....Ziva begins jumping up and down...)

Ziva: "TALI!....I SEE YOU!...."

(Without another word, Ziva begins pushing through the crowd, Tony following directly behind....The people in front of them begin yelping out....)

(scene shifts to Ziva, pushing through the crowd, she plants a finger on someone's elbow, they yelp and rub their elbow, Ziva pushes past him, a quick pinch of a man's ear, and the man stops, rubs his ear, looking around, Ziva pushes past him....Tony sees...)

Tony: "Ziva...no fair using Mossad pressure points!"

Ziva: "I want my Tali!...."

Tony: "Then step aside and let me show you how to make a hole!..."

(Ziva steps aside....Then Tony begins barreling through passengers....)

Tony: "Out of the way!...My wife is about to throw up!"

(Tony pushes another man out of the way, hard...)

Tony: "She's going to be sick!...Move!"

(The crowd hears...men and women both turn back towards him...)

Tony: "She's sick!...Look out!"

(The crowd parts, fearful of a sick woman...)

Tony: "This how Charlton Heston parted the Red Sea...."

(Ziva, hanging onto Tony's belt in the back...)

Ziva: "I do not think Moses told the Red Sea that he was going to be sick..."

Tony: "Working, isn't it?"

(Another warning from Tony, more people clear the way in panic, then Ziva whips around Tony....Dil lowers a squirming Tali to the floor, and the girl runs to her mother as Ziva breaks free and runs towards them.....)

Tali: "MOMMY!....DADDY!"

(Ziva reaches her first, immediately dropping to her knees, hugging Tali tight....)

Ziva: "My beautiful Tali....Oh how I missed you!"

Tali: ‘I missed you too!...Is it true? Mommy...please tell me....Is it true?”

(She sees Tony....breaks away, runs to Tony...He lifts her up, hugs her....)

Tony: “Hey kiddo!...Did you miss me?”

(Tali hugs his neck, tightly squeezing it....)

Tali: “YES!....Is it true?...Daddy...please tell me it’s true!”

(Dil walks up....)

Dil: “Sorry...she wouldn’t wait at the house...”

Ziva: “No, Dilbert...it is perfect...thank you for bringing her..”

(Dil looks to Tony and Tali, seeing them embrace)

Dil: ‘Ziva...not my business, but be prepared for your girl....She’s sky high about you and Tony getting married”

Ziva: “She is? I do not know why....We have lived together as a family for years....”

(Dil shakes his head....)

Dil: “I don’t know, Ziva....but it seems to be something big to her...Anyway, let’s go get your luggage and get you home...You have to be tired after that flight...”

(scene shifts to Dil’s Suburban, pulling up to the front of the large motor home Tony and Ziva have parked in the area of The D Ranch they purchased)

Dil: “You sure you don’t want to spend the night at the house?”

Tony: “No...it’s good, brother...thanks...We need to unpack, get settled....”

(Tony turns to Tali, sitting in the row behind Tony and Dil..)

Tony: “Would you rather sleep in your room at the Ranch? All your stuff...”

Tali: “NO!...I want to be with you and mommy!...NO!...”

(Dil looks back at Ziva, a quick “I told you so” look)

Dil: “When she heard you were coming home, she had me move her stuff back to her room in your place”

(Tali takes Ziva’s hand....and with an excited face...)

Tali: “And then you and Daddy can tell me it’s true!....”

Ziva: “Yes, dearest...See? It’s official”

(Ziva holds up her left hand....The engagement ring from Paris still on her hand...Tali looks at it, and shouts out)

Tali: “He finally gave it to you!....You are wearing it!..”

(Tali looks at Tony, curious...Tony gives a small grin)

Tony: “She found it when she was helping with the laundry....I kind of explained why I had it....”

(Ziva turns to Tali...)

Ziva; “Tali...how long ago did you find it?”

(Tali thinks....then...)

Tali: “We were still in Paris....so....(She thinks) “so...I was 8....”

(Ziva looks at Tali, mild disbelief)

Ziva: “Tali, that was 2 years ago....”

(Ziva looks towards the front seat at Tony....her face distressed...Tony shrugs...)

Tony: “Like I said, I’d had it a while...”

Tali: “And Daddy said he was waiting for just the right time....And he made me promise not to tell”

(Dil places the SUV in gear, then starts to open his door)

Dil: “Guys...I’m leaving this one to you two....I’ll help you get unloaded, then I’m heading out....”

(Tony looks at Dil, and in low voice...)

Tony: “Coward”

(Dil replies in the same low voice)

Dil: “Damn right....This is on you, brother...”

(scene shifts to them entering the motor home....scene shows luxurious living room, two couches..Tony wheels the luggage back to the larger bedroom, leaves the suitcases on the floor....He returns to the living room, finding Ziva and Tali sitting at the small eating table....Ziva looks up at Tony, shrugs...)

Ziva: “Our Tali has called a family meeting....”

(Tali looks up, smiling)

Tali: “I saw it on one of your movies, Daddy....Now...sit...”

(Tony sits....Tali places both hands on the table...and in the most mature voice she can muster...)

Tali: ‘Now...here we are....You, mommy, have a ring on...”

(Tali turns to Tony, and in the same serious tone...)

Tony: “You, Daddy...gave it to her”

Ziva; “Yes, honey....that is what happened....”

(Tali takes Ziva’s hand..pulls it across her, and places it on top of Tony’s hand....and officially declares...)

Tali: “And never will you two part...”

(Tony and Ziva both look at Tali, surprised....)

Ziva: “Tali, honey....what is this about?....This is not like you....”

(Tali looks at Ziva....her face begins softening....)

Tali: “I want you and Daddy to be married....I want it so bad....”

Tony: “Tali...we are getting married....I promise...”

(Tali looks at Ziva...)

Ziva: “Yes!...I promise as well”

(Tali says nothing....then..)

Ziva: “Honey...why is it so important to you? Your father and I, we are happy...You are our daughter....”

(Tali shakes her head.....)

Tali: “I know...but...(pause) “...I get afraid....”

Ziva: “Afraid of what, my dearest?”

(Tali looks at Tony, then back at Ziva....)

Tali: “That you will be gone again....and I would never see you again...”

(Ziva wraps her arms around her daughter....Tali buries her face in Ziva’s arm...)

Ziva: “No my child...never again...no....”

(Tali is silent.....Ziva holds her tighter...her face still buried in Ziva’s arms, Tali speaks softly...)

Tali: “If you and Daddy get married...you can never never never leave again....”

(Ziva nods...)

Tali: “It’s the law....You have to stay together....It says so in that book...”

Tony: “Honey...what book?”

Tali: “I got a book on weddings...and it says, very clearly....that no matter what, sickness or health, rich or not rich, that never will you ever ever part...”

(Tony looks over at Ziva...raises his eyebrows...)

Tony: “That’s what it says...You ready for that?”

(Ziva looks down, kisses the top of Tali’s head....then at Tony...)

Ziva: “Yes..I am very ready for that....”

(Tali perks up....looks at Ziva...)

Tali: “Good!...So....when are you getting married?”

(Tony and Ziva look at each other....Ziva answers first...and emphatically...)

Ziva: ‘Soon...very very soon”

(Tali squeals with joy.....)

Tali: “I CAN’T WAIT!”

(Tali runs from the table....)

Tali: “I’M CALLING EVERYBODY!...MY MOMMY AND DADDY ARE GETTING MARRIED!”

(They both look at Tali running off, squealing again....)

Tony: “Well...no pressure...right?”

(Ziva looks towards Tali, seeing the child disappears into her room....)

Ziva: “Anthony....what have I done?”

(He shakes his head...)

Tony: “No, Ziva...what have WE done....”

(Tali pokes her head back out of her room, looks at them both....)

Tali: ‘I just wanted to make sure you were still there.....”

(She disappears again...)

Ziva: “We need to talk....”

Tony: “About Tali?”

Ziva: “No...yes..but we need to speak about our wedding day...”

Tony: “Hey...don’t rush this because of her...as long as she knows it’s happening, she’ll be okay”

(Ziva stares at him for a second...)

Ziva: “No, husband of my heart....This is about me....It is I who want to rush it..”

(Tony looks at her, then breaks out into a smile...Ziva looks back at him, her face serious)

Ziva: “Oh...you think this is funny? I do not...I think....”

Tony: “Ziva....”

(She stops...)

Tony: “I’m just happy....that’s all...”

(Ziva's face saddens...she touches his hand...)

Ziva: "Anthony...I am so sorry for..."

(He stops her...shakes his head...)

Tony: "We're getting married...and you want to. No pressure from me, or anyone else...you, Ziva David, want to marry me...That's what I'm happy about..."

Ziva: "Then it is settled...." (nods her head) "I shall be happy too"

(She looks back towards Tali's room...)

Ziva: "And our Tali is happy....That, my beloved, makes me happier than a slopping pig..."

Tony: "Uh...that's a pig in slop....a pig in slop, Ziva..."

(Ziva looks at him self-righteously)

Ziva: "No...a pig in the slop has not eaten yet...a slopping pig is eating already...my pig is better..."

(She nods her head for emphasis)

Tony: "Ziva....." (he shakes his head, grinning to himself) "...I love you"

(She leans back, crosses her arms over her chest)

Ziva: "You love me because I am wiser than you....Admit it"

(Tony smiles again....)

Tony: "You are the pig wisdom champion...I admit it"

Ziva: "Thank you....it is about time you recognized that"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the D Ranch....early evening...Dil in the kitchen, cooking, Nell at the kitchen table, sticking a toothpick in a bowl of sliced jalapenos....Dez sitting, watching Nell....)

Dez "I've seen you do that a hundred times...I still can't believe you eat those"

Nell: “I crave them!...It’s like I can’t get enough!”

(Dil calls out while he’s stuffing a chicken breast)

Dil: “That’s why I stuffed the chicken breasts with those things....”

Dez: “In the chicken, in the salad, in the beans....”

Nell: “As an appetizer...”

(She sticks another jalapeno slice with a toothpick, pops it in her mouth...both women look towards the front door...)

Dez: “We expecting anyone?”

Nell: “No...but I'll go see who it is”

(Dez gets up....)

Dez; “I’ll go....by the time you waddle to the front door, they might be gone”

(Nell looks at Dil....)

Nell: “Do I waddle?”

(He shrugs....nods yes)

Dil: “You waddle....”

(Nell looks down at her huge belly....smiles)

Nell: “That’s because I’m pregnant”

(Dil looks at her...)

Dil: “You are pregnant”

(Nell smiles bigger)

Nell: “I know...”

Dil: “Real pregnant”

(Nell’s smile gets even bigger....)

Dil: “Super big pregnant”

(Nell keeps smiling....)

Nell: “What are you doing?”

Dil: “Watching that smile of yours....”

(pause...and out loud to himself)

Dil: “God, how I love to see you smile....”

(Nell looks at him, then her eyes moisten..)

Dil: “Nell?....”

(She stares at him..then..)

Nell: “I love you so much, Dil”

Dil: “Well honey...I love you too...Is something wrong?”

(She shakes her head slowly, still looking at him...)

Nell: “I’m just so happy....And I’ll never understand why you love me....”

(Dil comes over, kisses her lightly...)

Dil: “With all my heart, Nell...and more...”

“Barf”

(They look up, Dez standing in the doorway, a man behind her, his wide brimmed sheriff's hat in his hand...)

Dez: “Dil...Sherrif Jim’s here to see you”

(An older man, in his 60’s, stands...his county sheriff's uniform on, his belly sticking over his belt...)

Sheriff: “Mr. Bosworth....I’m sure sorry to bother you...”

Dil; ‘No bother, sheriff....what can we do for you?”

(The man looks at the kitchen table....then at Dil....)

Sheriff: “Mind if I sit? Been a long day....these old legs get tired this time of day”

(Dez pulls out a chair for him..)

Dez: “Sit, Sheriff....and help yourself to some jalapenos...)

(The sheriff looks at the bowl...then shakes his head)

Sheriff; “No thanks...tryin’ to quit”

(The sheriff sits....and begins haltingly...)

Sheriff: “Mr. Bosworth....”

Dil: “Dil...or Dilbert...please...”

(The sheriff nods...then begins to speak)

Sheriff: “Dilbert...sir.....I need...I mean, I heard....that maybe you could help me....”

Dil: “How?”

Sheriff: “It’s not official...or military...it’s....”

(The man looks off for a few seconds....)

Sheriff: “I need your help sir....and I need it bad....”

(Dil takes a pot off the burner, cuts off the gas....he sits at the table...)

Dil: “Jim...what’s going on?”

(The older man hesitates....then)

Sheriff: “My granddaughter....Stephanie Ann....Her father and my daughter....they haven’t seen eye to eye for a long time....They’ve been fighting...I hear it ‘cause they live with me..Ever since Ann passed away....”

Dil: “Jim...I knew your wife passed away....We sure are sorry...”

(The man nods)

Sheriff: “Thank you.....7 months ago....(shakes his head) “Ann sure loved that child...”

Dil: “Jim...what’s wrong?”

Sheriff: “Sorry...I get sidetracked easy....(thinks for moments....) “Oh yea...Stephanie Ann....Her daddy took her and is hiding her”

(He stops talking....everyone waits for more....The sheriff looks around....)

Sheriff: “I need help in finding him...I can’t use my men....he’s her daddy...he hasn’t done anything illegal...but I know Stephanie Ann is in trouble....And Mr. Bosworth...I really need your help in finding them....”

(Dil is quiet....Nell and Dez both look at him....)

Dil: ‘I’m not sure how I could help you....I’m not law enforcement....and like you said, he hasn’t done anything illegal...And what you’re asking is not exactly what I’m suited for....”

(The sheriff stares at Dil....)

Sheriff: “I heard you hunted people...I need a person hunted”

Dil: ‘That was what I used to do, sheriff...I don’t do that anymore....Besides...you do have men....”

(The sheriff shakes his head)

Sheriff: “Can’t...he’s not doing anything wrong, at least in the eyes of the law....But he’s up in those mountains over there...”

(He nods towards the hills)

Sheriff: “He’s a bad man, Mr. Bosworth, but he’s an outdoorsman...and a damn good one...My men would never find him....at least, not before Stephanie Ann got sick....”

Nell: “Oh my god...what do you mean...sick?”

Sheriff: “She has asthma real bad...and when I went into her room, and found her gone....Her inhaler was still on the table....and she don’t go nowhere without it....”

Dez: “How old is she?”

Sheriff: “10....kinda small for her age....”

Dil: “Jim....I sure would like to help you.....but....”

(Nell and Dez glare at Dil....Nell kicks him under the table....Dil winces,…)

Dil: “But, yea....”

(Nell begins to smile...)

Dil: “Maybe I could take a look...”

(Nell’s smile gets bigger....)

Dil: ‘Prissy needs to get some exercise....”

(Nell’s smile gets wider.....Dil shakes his head....)

Dil: ‘Aw hell...I’ll go look for the kid....”

(Nell leans over, kisses his cheek....)

Nell: “Thank you baby....”

Dez: ‘Yea, butt head...thanks....”

(They are interrupted by a loud roar coming from outside....Dez starts to get up)

Dez: “I know...I know...I’ve been gone, so it’s my turn to feed the cat”

(The sheriff looks out the windows on the back door....his eyes wide)

Sheriff: “What the hell was that?”

Dil: ‘Our cat”

Sheriff: ‘Your cat?”

Dil: ‘Yea...our pet cat...”

Nell: “Her name is Kitty....”

(Dez walks to the refrigerator, opens the door, takes out a whole raw chicken....The shelves show 3 more chickens stacked...She takes the chicken, holding onto a wing while the rest dangles down, walks out through the French doors, the sheriff’s eyes following her the entire time....)

Sheriff: “What’s she doing with that chicken”

Nell; “Feeding Kitty”

(Another loud roar fills the air....They hear Dez shouting outside)

Dez; “Here Kitty Kitty.....Here Kitty Kitty....”

(Another roar..then they hear Dez yell...)

Dez: “Well here, dammit!...”

(silence. A few moments pass....Dez walks back in, rinses off her hands...sits at the table...The Sheriff still staring at her...Dez looks at them....)

Dez: “What did I miss?”

Nell: “Nothing...Dil’s going to go look for the little girl...”

Sheriff: ‘Mr. Bosworth...I’m sure obliged to you...Everyone knows that you’re the best man in those mountains...And they say you can ride a horse like no one’s business...So...”

(The sheriff pauses...stands....hat in his hands, his face lowered)

Sheriff: “Mr. Bosworth....My Ann...She loved that child...and with her gone, and my daughter and her man fighting....well...Stephanie Ann’s the only good thing I got left in that house.....”

Dil: “Jim....give me an hour to get some stuff together....Could you get me some information? Something on your son in law?...And some pictures....”

(Dil thinks...)

Dil: “Nell....would you call Caprice..She said something about coming out tonight to see you.....”

Nell: “Hats...Gibbsy bought me some hats....”

Dez: “Boy, did he ever....”

Dil: “Well yea....see if Caprice....”

(He looks at Nell...blank face)

Dil: “Hats?”

(Nell nods excitedly...)

Nell: “Hats...GIGI PIP originals!...And there’s a white one!...I’m wearing it to the wedding!”

Dil: “Wedding?...What wedding?’

Dez: “Duh, Bubba...Tony and Ziva?”

Dil: “Yea...but when....”

Nell: “One week! At least that’s what Tali said.”

Dil: “Week? There’s no way you women....”

(Nell raises her eyebrows, looks at Dil)

Nell: “That’s right, big boy...you can go find that little girl, or you can help us plan the wedding....we’re short on time, and could sure use the....”

(Dil immediately stands up)

Dil: “Jim...be back here in an hour....bring me what you have...And bring me some of your granddaughter's clothes...stuff she’s had on recently....”

Nell: ‘So...call Caprice to bring Daisy?”

Dil: ‘Yea...I need Daisy....”

(Nell smiles..)

Nell: “I love you baby...thank you....”

Sheriff: ‘Yes sir....thank you....I’ll be back as quick as I can....and...”

(He gives a small smile...)

Sheriff: “My Ann....I’m pretty sure she’s thanking you too....”

(Another loud roar....Dez goes to the French doors, opens one and yells outside...)

Dez: “NO MORE!...DON’T BE SUCH A PIG!”

(The sheriff stares at the windows...disbelief on his face)

Nell: “Kitty wanted seconds....”

(The sheriff stares back at Nell)

Sheriff: “A cat....”

(Nell nods, sticks another jalapeno slice)

Nell: “Yep...Kitty...”

(The sheriff reaches for a toothpick...)

Sheriff: “I think I’ll have one of those after all...”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Tony and Ziva’s motorhome, night time...Ziva sitting on Tali’s bed, Tali laying down, has a book in her lap)

Ziva: “Tali, honey....Do you mind if I ask you some things?”

Tali: “Yes...of course...you want to know who to invite, where to have the wedding....You can ask me anything! I have it all planned out!”

(Ziva looks at her daughter....)

Ziva; “No Tali....I want to ask you why you are so afraid that I will leave you....I would never do that...”

(Tali rubs her hands together, nervously...)

Tali: “I know”

(Ziva looks at her daughter...places her hand over Tali’s hands, stopping the wringing)

Tali: “Tali...talk to me”

(Tali is quiet....)

Ziva: “Tell me why you are afraid I will leave you”

(Tali waits...then..)

Tali: “Because you did before”

(Ziva closes her eyes...her heart drops...)

Tali: “But Daddy told me why....I understand...”

Ziva: “What is it your father told you?”

Tali: “That it was because you loved me”

(Ziva nods)

Ziva: “Yes....what else?”

(silence)

Tali: “That bad men were looking for you...and if they found you, they might hurt me....So, you gave me to daddy to protect me...”

(Ziva thinks...)

Ziva: “Do you remember anything about that?”

(Tali nods...then..)

Tali: “Some...I remember I was real scared....”

(Tali thinks back...then her face scrunches....)

Tali: “And I don’t want....I don’t want.....”

Ziva: “Oh, Tali....”

(Ziva takes Tali, hugs her close....and Tali, in a weak voice...)

Tali: “I don’t want to feel like that again....I don’t want to ever ever feel like that again....”

(Ziva holds her daughter as the child softly cries...then....)

Tali: “When I was older...I would wake up at night...and I would be scared...”

Ziva: “My Tali...I am so sorry....”

Tali: “It’s okay...Daddy would help me...”

Ziva: “How would your Daddy help you?”

(Tali remembers...)

Tali: “I would get up, then go to Daddy’s room...and I would get into bed with him....He was asleep...Most of the time, he would wake up, tuck me in...Sometimes though, he would stay asleep...and I would know he was scared too...”

Ziva: “Scared? Your Daddy?”

(Tali nods her head)

Tali: “I would go in....and your picture would be on the bed next to him....And his pillow...it was all wet....”

(Ziva holds back a sob...looks away....)

Ziva: “I did not know that”

(Tali nods....)

Ziva: “Can I tell you a secret?”

Tali: “Yes...”

(Ziva smiles a small smile...)

Ziva: “I used to cry myself to sleep too....Many times....”

(Tali looks at her mother...)

Tali: “Why is it a secret?”

Ziva; ‘I do not know,,,,sometimes we keep things to ourselves that embarrass us...”

Tali: “You should tell Daddy....I think he would want to know...”

Ziva: “Why would he want to know, my angel?”

(Tali shrugs....)

Tali: “So he would know you missed us, too”

(Ziva hesitates...then nods...)

Ziva: “I will tell him...maybe soon...”

(Tali smiles....and yells out...)

Tali: “DADDY!...”

(Ziva’s face goes into shock....)

Ziva: “No Tali....not now....”

(Tony stands in the doorway...)

Tony: “You rang?”

(Ziva looks at Tony...a pained look on her face...)

Ziva: “Our daughter was telling me about how she used to get into bed with you”

Tony: “Yea...the kiddo would get scared...She’d come to Daddy....Like she should have...”

(Ziva is quiet....Tali pokes her arm...)

Ziva: “I will...I will...”

Tony: “Will what?”

Ziva: “She was telling me sometimes....that when she came to your bed....that you had my picture...and that she saw...”

(Tony quickly finishes the sentence)

Tony: “...she saw her handsome father....”

(Ziva shakes her head...)

Ziva; “She saw that you had cried yourself to sleep”

(Tony says nothing...he stares at Ziva...then, finally, he shrugs...)

Tony: “Yea...sometimes...(pause) “What can I say?”

(Ziva looks at Tony....her face falling...)

Ziva: “I too would cry myself to sleep....” (pause) “..many times...”

(Tony’s face shows mild surprise....)

Tony: “I didn’t know....”

(Ziva nods..she pauses...then she reaches out her arms to Tony....He comes to her, sits by her...Ziva wraps one arm around Tony...then she takes the other arm and pulls Tali to her....)

Tali: “Mommy?...Are you afraid?”

(Ziva shakes her head ‘no’..)

Tali: “But you are crying...”

(Ziva nods....)

Ziva: “People cry when they are happy too, my daughter”

(Tali looks up....)

Tali: “Then Daddy must be happy too....”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the kitchen of the D Ranch, Caprice sitting at the table with Nell and the Sheriff...Dil nods to Caprice)

Dil: “I filled her in...She’s one of the best medical people in the country...She’s going to stay here in case your granddaughter needs help real quick...If she does, my sister can get her to me”

(Daisy yips, dances...)

Dil: “And this girl is the best tracker I’ve ever seen....If anyone can find her, it’s this dog”

(The sheriff looks at Daisy....)

Sheriff: “That’s one big dog”

Dil: “She’s a handful, that’s for sure...”

(Daisy cocks her head, looking at Dil...Dil talks to her)

Dil: “You know we’re talking about you....don’t you?”

(Daisy yips)

Caprice: “Sheriff...If you don’t mind me asking....Why did this man take your granddaughter into the mountains...Why not take her somewhere else? Like his parents, or an apartment.?”

Sheriff:: “Because he’s an idiot, that’s why....The boy has always had a fool notion that if Stephanie Ann spent some time in the mountains, the clean air would cure her of her asthma....Truth is, the pines up there are her worst enemy....”

(Dil stands...begins taking items off the table, and placing them in a set of leather saddle bags...)

Dil: “I've got everything I need...Already got a bedroll on Prissy, and my wife here packed some food”

Nell: “Lots of ham jerky”

(Daisy starts prancing....)

Dil: “Yes, Daisy....there’s some for you too”

Sheriff: “I suspect you’ll get a start, first light in the morning?”

(Dil shakes his head....)

Dil: “No...going now...Maybe I can get a glimpse of his campfire...you never know”

Sheriff: “But Mr. Bosworth....it’s near dark...in an hour, it will be blacker than the inside of a well...”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “I know...but I’ve got a full moon.....I can see”

(Dil picks up the saddle bags....kisses Nell)

Dil: “Wish me luck”

Nell: “Hold on, I’ll waddle with you out the door”

(Nell struggles to get up....finally makes it....)

Nell: “Ready...let’s go...”

(scene shifts to the front yard...Nell standing while Dil puts the saddle bags on Prissy...The horse dances, eager to get going)

Nell: “Prissy looks pretty excited”

Dil: “Yea...ever since she jumped that fence, she’s been itching to get out...”

(Nell strokes Prissy’s face..)

Nell: “I remember her back when...”

Dil: “Me too...”

Nell: “You were about to have to put her down”

Dil: “Uh huh...then, as I remember, there was a certain young lady that got her to eat...Saved her life”

(Prissy moves her head up and down....nudges Nell’s hand....Nell looks at Dil...)

Nell: “Dil?”

Dil: “Yea, baby?”

Nell: “Thank you for doing this”

Dil: “Hard to say no when your wife and sister are kicking you under the table”

(Nell looks at him for a moment, studying his face)

Nell: “You are such a good man”

(Dil stops strapping the bags....he turns to look at her...)

Dil: “Thank you...A man needs to hear that from the woman he loves”

Nell: “I do love you...that’s for sure..”

(He smiles...kisses her cheek)

Dil: “Man needs to hear that too”

(Dez steps outside, walks to Nell....)

Dil: “Gotta go....”

(Prissy rears up on her hind legs, Dil expertly stays in the saddle, letting the horse have some fun...Nell and Dez both watch...)

Dez: “Gotta admit...my brother cuts a heroic figure....”

(Nell nods...)

Nell: “He’s a man, sis....He’s all man...”

Dez: “Yea...but don’t tell him....he’ll get the big head...”

(pause)

Dez: “You tell him that all the time...don’t you, sis?”

(Nell nods...)

Nell: “Yea...a lot....”

(Dez shakes her head...)

Dez: “Damned if you two just might make it to forever”

(Nell smiles, watching her husband race off across the pasture, watches quietly as Prissy and Dil leap over the fence at the base of the hills, Daisy leaping beside them....)

Nell: “Planning on it sis....I’m sure planning on making it to forever...”

(scene shifts to the mountains...A man sits by a campfire, small tent raised, pot of stew cooking on the fire...The man calls towards the tent)

Man: “Stephanie Ann?...You hungry”

(a small girl comes out of the tent, standing, then brushing herself off...)

Stephanie: “I want to go home, daddy.....I don’t like it out here”

Man: “Honey...it’s going to help you...I promise....”

(The girl rubs her eyes...)

Stephanie: “My eyes burn. And they itch....all these pine trees....pretty soon it will be hard to breathe...and I can’t find my inhaler....”

(The man closes his eyes, rubs his face....He speaks low to himself)

Man: “Dammit, Kyle Edwards...you forgot the inhaler....”

(scene shifts to Dil, rocky hillside, low brush....riding the mountainside, listening and watching....)

Dil: “Smell anything girl?”

(Daisy stops...sniffs the air....then starts trotting again)

Dil: “Nope....”

(Dil looks up towards the peak of the small mountain they are on)

Dil: “Let’s head up there....If nothing else, it will give us a better view of the mountain”

(Daisy automatically shifts course, trotting up the side of the mountain....Prissy prances, then begins picking her way through rocks and shrubs, Dil letting the horse choose the way....Soon, the trees grow dense...Dil pulls back on the reins....)

Dil: “let’s stop for a while....take a breather, ladies....”

(Dil dismounts, ground tethers Prissy, slips an oat bag over her nose, giving her a small portion of feed....He tosses Daisy a large piece of ham jerky, then takes a smaller piece out for himself...He sits on a rock, bites off a piece of jerky, then takes his phone out, sees he has a text..a small smile forms)

Dil: “Nell...”

(He reads the text, smiles again....)

You are the best man I have ever known. I am so proud to be your wife

(He types back)

Smile for me

(He waits...then the reply comes back)

I did!

(He types back quickly...)

I know! I can see the ranch glowing from here!

(He waits...then...)

You are a goofy man....143

He quickly types back...

1432 – signed, Goofy

(His phone signals another text....it’s from Dez)

BARF

(Dil smiles to himself, then gets up....He takes the oat bag off Prissy, and notices Daisy sniffing the air...)

Dil: “You lead the way girl....we’ll follow...”

(He senses something...he raises his head, eyes searching...He turns...then a small smile...)

Dil: “Well...hello...”

(20 feet away, the mountain lion sits, watching him, her ears up, listening...)

Dil: “Torres and Ellie aren’t here...so you’re taking the night off?”

(The big cat opens its enormous mouth, and yawns...)

Dil: “So you’re bored....Wanna come along and keep us company?”

(He waits...the huge cat stares at him....Then the cat stands....)

Dil: “Guess that’s a yes....”

(He taps his heels to the horse, urges Prissy up the hill...)

Dil: “Priss...how come you’re not afraid of that cat?”

(Prissy keeps on moving forward...Daisy trots in front of them)

Dil: “Guess it’s a good thing that you’re not”

(scene fades out to Dil sitting tall on Prissy, Daisy trotting in front, and a huge mountain lion trotting alongside them all, as they enter the tree line...)

(scene fades to black and white)

SUNDAY NIGHT

(scene opens in the Motorhome...Tony and Ziva’s bed...lights out....Ziva has her head on Tony’s chest, one arm on his chest, both their eyes open...They lay there quietly, not moving...then..)

Tony: “You don’t have to do this because of Tali”

(she nods her head against his chest)

Ziva; “I am aware”

Tony: “I can talk to her...she’ll understand that a woman needs time...lots of time...to plan a wedding”

(She says nothing)

Tony: “I think she’s happy just knowing someday we will..”

(Ziva promptly raises up, props herself on one elbow, her head held up by her hand, looks at Tony)

Ziva; “Are you saying you want to wait? I do not understand!”

(He looks at her....shakes his head)

Tony: “No...That’s not what I’m saying at all”

Ziva: “Then what are you saying?”

(He waits...then)

Tony: “I’m just saying you don’t have to do this because someone else wants you to...That’s all”

(Her face distressed)

Ziva: “You do not want to get married....That is it, is it not?”

(He pulls her head back down to his chest)

Tony: “Down Ziva...you’re reading too much into this”

(She nods....)

Ziva: “I want to marry you”

Tony: “ I believe you”

Ziva: “Very soon”

Tony: “Okay”

(she’s quiet again.....long moments pass)

Ziva: “You did not tell me about.....” (pause) “...those nights”

Tony: “I didn’t want you to know”

Ziva: “Why?”

Tony: “Because it would guilt trip you...And I didn’t want to do that”

Ziva: “It would not guilty my trip....It would have been impossible to trip a guilty that was already tripped”

(He is silent...then...)

Tony: “I actually understood that”

Ziva: “Good. I said it plainly enough”

(more silence...then..)

Ziva; “Anthony...”

Tony: “Yea”

Ziva: “I am so in love with you”

(he is silent...)

Ziva: “And I am so happy”

(he is still silent...)

Ziva: “But I do not know how to tell you...or show you....But I am trying....”

(He is quiet still.....She reaches up to his head, notices that his face is turned to the side, away from her...her hand moves to the pillow by his face...she feels the wetness on his pillow...She snuggles closer to him...)

Ziva: “I will love you forever, Anthony”

(She feels his hand reach for her hair....he begins to stroke it...)

Ziva: “If you dream of every tomorrow, Anthony Dinozzo...I will be in that dream, loving you”

(He surprises her by reaching around her...rolls over to face her....and whispers...)

“That’s how you show me”

(Then he kisses her....and she wraps her arms around his head and pulls him closer...then...)

Ziva; “I think we have a visitor”

(Tony rolls over...he sees Tali standing in their doorway, dressed in a little girl's nightgown....)

Tali: "Can I come sleep with you?"

(Tony smiles....)

Ziva; "Of course, dearest....come here..."

(Tali runs to the bed, jumps up, and snuggles in between them....)

Ziva; "Darling...did you get scared?"

(Tali nods her head....Then she takes her hands, and lays one on Tony, one on Ziva)

Tali: "It's okay now....Both of you are still here...."

(In a few minutes, they hear the even sound of Tali breathing in her sleep)

Ziva: (whispers with a small grin) "Sorry...."

(Tony reaches over, pushes a strand of hair out of Ziva's eyes, whispers back...)

Tony: "It's okay...this is perfect"

(He still stares at her in the dark)

Tony: "So are you"

(Ziva smiles contentedly, mouths, "I love you", and closes her eyes)

(During the night, Tony wakes...he takes his hand and feels the pillow by his face..he goes back to sleep with a slight smile on his face...The pillow was dry)

(scene fades to black and white)

MONDAY MORNING

(scene opens in the motorhome, Tony, Ziva, and Tali having breakfast at the small eating table. Ziva is eating a bagel, topped with an enormous amount of cream cheese, while Tony and Tali eat bowls of cereal...)

Tony: “Did you know you go through an entire package of cream cheese when you have those?”

(Ziva looks at the bagel she’s holding...then nods)

Ziva; “You do not eat cream cheese on your cereal....So, it is not your concern”

(Ziva tears off a piece of the bagel, puts it in her mouth...Tony is staring at her as she eats...Ziva covers her mouth with her hand)

Ziva: “You are making me too self aware! Why do you do that?”

(Tony grins...)

Tony: “I like watching you eat”

(Tali watches them banter)

Ziva: “What is it? Do I have something stuck in my teeth?”

Tony: “No...I just like watching a woman eat”

(Ziva stops...looks at Tony....)

Ziva: ‘A woman”

Tony: “Uh huh”

Ziva: “Any woman”

Tony: “Several”

(Her eyes widen)

Ziva: “Several women....”

(Tali watches them go back and forth....concern begins to show on her face)

Tony: “Yes”

(Ziva leans back....taps the table with her finger....)

Ziva: “How many women?”

(Tony looks at his hand...starts counting his fingers....Ziva’s face starts to scowl...)

Tony: “I don’t know...more keep popping up”

Ziva: “And...Anthony....my darling husband to be....What are the names of these women?”

(Ziva waits....Tali waits....then..)

Tony: “Ziva”

Ziva; “That does not loosen the noose around your neck..The others?”

(Tony shrugs....takes a spoonful of cereal)

Ziva: ‘Anthony!...Who are the others!...”

(Tony swallows....)

Tony: “Promise you won’t kill them?”

(Ziva’s eyes get big...)

Ziva: “WHO ARE THEY?”

(Tony takes a breath...)

Tony: “Well...there’s Ziva....”

Ziva: “Yes....go on...”

Tony: “There is Ziva the mother...Ziva the Mossad,...Ziva the friend...and my favorite...Ziva the woman I’m marrying”

(Tali begins to smile....Ziva sits back, glaring, trying to suppress a smile....She picks up her napkin, wads it up, throws it at Tony...)

Ziva: ‘You are horrible and cruel....”

(He shrugs)

Tony: “I like watching all of them eat....”

(Ziva lowers her head, smiling...takes another piece of bagel, holds it up to her mouth....)

Ziva: “You may watch now...”

(She pops it in her mouth)

Tony: “Which Ziva is this?”

Ziva: “The one that is going to take Tali to the Ranch”

Tony: “Ah...Ziva the mother...one of my favorites...”

Ziva: “No...it is not...”

Tony: “No?”

Ziva: “It is Ziva the woman to be married....we are planning the wedding. All the women offered to allow me to borrow one of their wedding gowns, however, we may go into the city and look..”

Tony: “Is it that important? Ziva...it’s a gown you’ll wear once....”

(Ziva looks at him....)

Ziva: “Anthony....you will see me...and the moment you see me, it has to be perfect...it will be me, giving myself to you. It must be perfect”

Tony: “Just be there....I don’t care what you wear”

Ziva: “Anthony...”

(She pauses...)

Ziva: “There is nothing that could keep me from marrying you....”

(He nods....then looks at her questioningly..)

Tony: “One slight question....”

Ziva; ‘Yes?”

Tony: “When are we getting married?”

(Ziva smiles....she and Tali look at each other, both start giggling....)

Tony: “Okay...what is this...?”

Tali: “Daddy....”

(Tali looks at Ziva...starts giggling again....)

Ziva: “Tali....tell your father when he is getting married....”

(Tali looks at Tony....then she blurts out...)

“SATURDAY!”

(Tony’s face pales....he looks over to Ziva....she is grinning...)

Tony: “As in....(pause) “...this Saturday? 5 days from today Saturday?”

(Ziva and Tali start nodding....Tali starts giggling again...)

Ziva: “Yes, Anthony....You have 5 days, and today, that you will be single....”

(She pauses...looks at him slyly...)

Ziva: “Does that make you nervous?”

Tony: “No...of course not...Me? Very Special Agent Anthony Dinozzo, nervous?”

(He scoffs....Ziva looks at Tali....they both say in unison...)

“He is nervous”

(The two start giggling again....Ziva and Tali get up, start for the door....Ziva waggles her fingers on the way out...)

Ziva; “Two Two for now!”

(They exit...Tony watches as the two walk out the door, both giggling more...He waits until the door closes...and he says to himself, out loud...)

“I’d do it today....and it’s Ta Ta for now....not Two Two”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the mountains....Dil dismounted, leading Prissy by the reins, walking through the dense trees, heading for a small clearing....Daisy is up ahead, sniffing the ground...Kitty stays to one side, slowly walking away from the clearing...Dil arrives where Daisy is sniffing)

Dil: “They’ve been here, huh girl?”

(He watches Daisy, going around in a circle..Dil sees the freshly broken up dirt..He takes a long stick and begins to dig in the circle...Ash is soon seen)

Dil: “Campfire....”

(He digs more....then he places his hand onto some of the ashes....)

Dil: “Barely warm...they cooked last night, but not this morning. They had a cold breakfast...”

(Dil walks to where Daisy is sniffing....He notices straight lines in the dirt)

Dil: “He used a pine branch to brush the dirt....”

(He looks around....)

Dil: “He’s covering his tracks carefully....Now...disgusting job, but....”

(Dil sees a large boulder near the area where the tent was....)

Dil: “Someone’s gotta do it...and that’s where I’d do it”

(Dil walks around the boulder....and he sees another circle of freshly dug dirt...He sees Daisy, standing at least 10ft away, watching him....)

Dil: “I don’t suppose I could get you to dig this up....huh girl?”

(Daisy turns her head away....her eyes shift to him, to see if he’s looking...)

Dil: “For some ham jerky?”

(Daisy turns her head the other way...and her eyes shift back to him....)

Dil: “I see you peeking....”

(Daisy keeps her head turned....and her eyes still on him)

Dil: “Thanks a lot....”

(He takes a deep breath...shakes his head)

Dil: ‘Whoever said you were man’s best friend didn’t have this in mind...”

(Dil begins to dig with the stick....He soon uncovers what he’s looking for....He moves it around....shakes his head...)

Dil: “I don’t think this is good....”

(He pulls out his phone...dials...she answers...)

Dil: “Hey Caprice....you ready?”

Caprice: (on phone) “Ready...what do you have?”

(He stirs the hole again)

Dil: “I found their latrine area....I’m moving what I think is the girl’s feces around, and it’s loose...not diarrhea, but real loose...color is darker than normal...and I don’t see any visible food particles...What does that tell me?”

(A pause)

(scene shifts to The D Ranch...Caprice, Nell, Dez, Ziva, and Tali sit at the kitchen table...Caprice on phone, putting it on the speaker)

Caprice: “It tells me you’re going beyond the call of duty, Dil...”

Dil: “Sorry....but it’s common...When you hunt someone, these things tell if they’re sick, or in some cases, if they’re running out of food, and they’ve switched to a liquid diet...”

(The women all look at each other...eyes wide...)

Caprice: “Okay...loose stool, dark....She’s close to having an asthma attack...The loose stool is indicative of a lack of oxygen, usually associated with her starting to have trouble breathing...”

(pause)

Dil: “Lots of granular fiber....”

Caprice: “Crackers....”

Dil: “I found the trash hole...they had stew last night...cold breakfast this morning...)

Caprice: “Then...are there two samples? Or one....”

(He digs....inspects the hole...)

Dil: “Good call...there are two...looks like one last night, and one this morning...They both belong to a child...small...”

Caprice: “I was afraid of that...the older one is from her meals yesterday....”

Dil: “Yea..it’s normal”

Caprice: “The newer one means she’s passing food in less than 24 hours...and her oxygen rate is low....that means, Dil..”

Dil: “That I gotta find her fast....”

Caprice: “Yes...And Dil...look for handfuls of pine needles....”

(He holds up a bunched up group of needles....)

Dil: “Already found them...If this guy thinks the air will help her asthma, he probably crunched them up and had her breathe it...the menthol will open up a stuffy nose....”

Caprice: “But to someone asthmatic, it’s the worst thing to do....”

Dil: “Yea...”

Caprice: “Anything else?”

Dil: “No...not right now, but I’ll call when I need you”

(Call ends....the women stare at the phone...)

Caprice: “That was impressive”

Dez: “Bubba’s a pro...He’s the best there is”

Caprice; “Yea...but I didn’t think anyone did all that....”

Dez: “If anyone can find that little girl in time, it’s him...”

Ziva: “I noticed...(looks at Nell) “He knew you would be sitting here...and he did not speak with you...”

(Nell gives a small smile....)

Nell: “When Dil’s on the job, he’s way way focused....but he lets me know...”

Dez: “I smell a barf moment coming....”

(Nell grins....She holds up her phone...shows texts...)

143

I miss you

Wish you were here, lonely

How's Andreas doing?

143

I miss you

I love you

Dez: "Told you so...Barf"

(Ziva looks at the texts...then at Nell)

Ziva: "There are 7 different messages...."

Nell: "Yea...he's sweet that way...He knows I get scared"

Ziva; "Afraid? What could you possibly be afraid of?"

Dez: "Everything"

(Nell nods...)

Nell: "Pretty much, yea...."

Ziva: "No...there is more to this than you say...."

(Nell looks around....)

Nell: "Is this about you getting married?"

(Ziva says nothing....then...)

Tali: "Mommy...tell her...."

(Ziva nods to her daughter)

Ziva: "Yes...it is...."

(Nell starts to move her chair out...)

Nell: "We can take a break...Ziva...let's take a walk...Okay?"

(Nell pushes herself up out of the chair...)

Nell: "Actually, you walk, I'll waddle"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on the mountain...Dil riding Prissy, Daisy trotting...then he notices Kitty stopping...sniffing....)

Dil “Kitty? What did you find...?”

(Dil stops...)

Dil; “God...I’m talking to a mountain lion....I must be nuts....”

(The huge cat backs up...then sits....the enormous cat looks at Dil...)

Dil: “You found something....”

(Dil dismounts, loops Prissy’s reins over a branch, then walks towards the large cat....)

Dil: “I am not chicken...I am not chicken....”

(pause)

Dil: “I mean I’m not a whole chicken you can eat....”

(pause again)

Dil: “Hell...I’m both....”

(He tentatively approaches Kitty....)

Dil: “Nice Kitty....”

(As if she knew what he was feeling, she lays down....He moves closer...then he sees what the cat was looking at....The remains of animal fur and entrails....)

Dil: “I’ll be damned....”

(He takes a stick, moves the fur around....he sees a large slit in the fur....)

Dil: “He took down a rabbit with a bow and arrow...hunting tip...”

(He holds his head up and looks around)

Dil: “This guy knows what he’s doing....”

(He absently minded reaches out, strokes the head of the huge cat..)

Dil: “Nice job Kitty....”

(He stops...his eyes get wide...he doesn’t move)

Dil: “I’m petting a mountain lion....”

(He dares himself to look...He slowly turns his head, then hears the big cat start purring....)

Dil: “Oh....my …..god....”

(He slowly raises his hand....and the cat moves her head up to his hand, wanting more...)

Dil: “I’m gonna die...right here....heart attack...No one’s going to believe this...”

(He begins to stroke the cat’s head again....Then he slowly pulls his phone out, stretches his arm out....)

(scene shifts to the women, still at the table...Nell is up, her and Ziva about to walk out...everyone’s phone buzzes...)

Nell: “Group text from Dil! Maybe he found....”

(laughter fills the room....then more laughter....)

Dez: “BUBBA!...WHAT THE HELL....?”

(They see a picture....a picture of Dil..his eyes are wide with apprehension, while his hand can be seen laying on Kittys head....His expression is a mixture of fear and something else...)

Nell: “He took a selfie!”

Dez: “With a mountain lion!”

Nell: “I thinks it’s so sweet!”

(The women look at Nell, shaking their heads...She looks back...)

Nell: “Well I do!...”

Dez: “Go talk, sis....we’ll let you know if Dil sends a picture of him in that cat’s mouth...”

(scene shifts back to Dil....He is standing now, Kitty stands also....)

Dil: 'Thank you for not eating my hand...."

(scene shifts to a rocky area....Kyle and Stephanie sit on a rock....Stephanie breathing in and out....)

Kyle: "That's it...get some of that fresh air in those lungs..."

(The girl struggles with her breathing...)

Stephanie: "Daddy...it hurts....I need my inhaler...."

Kyle: "We don't have it....I'm sorry...."

Stephanie: "Daddy, it's hard....I can't get a deep breath....Please....let's go home, daddy.....I want to go home...."

(She gets up off the rock....starts to walk quickly behind it)

Kyle: "Steph?...What are you doing?"

Stephanie: "I have to go the bathroom, daddy...bad...."

Kyle: "Okay..go.....I'll get some more pine needles for you..."

Stephanie: "No daddy....I can't breathe when you do that..."

Kyle: 'They'll help you...I promise...."

(The girl starts to breathe harder....She leans against a rock, pounds her chest....then runs behind the rock....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens inside the stable, Nell and Ziva walking up to Bessie's stall...)

Ziva: "I remember when this cow was different"

Nell: "Me too...I kinda miss it"

Ziva: "I am sure she does not...."

Bessie: "Moo"

(Nell smiles...)

Nell: “That was a short Moo....that means yes”

(Ziva looks at Nell...)

Ziva: “You understand this cow....”

(Nell nods her head....)

Nell: “Sometimes....most of the time I just think I do...Either way, it makes the animals happy...”

(Ziva stares at Nell for a moment....then...)

Ziva; “I do not know how to make Anthony happy”

(Nell, surprised turns to Ziva....she is equally surprised to see Ziva’s face, afraid)

Nell: “Ziva?....Of course you do!..Tony loves you!...Oh my god, seriously!...”

Ziva: “I do not know why...I am....(she stops...then) “I have never known how to show him...or any man..Although I cannot think of any other man I would have wanted to...”

(Nell sits lowers herself down on a bale of hay....Ziva remains standing...Nell looks at Ziva, and shows her own fear)

Ziva: “You and Dilbert....you are so familiar with each other....”

Nell: “I hope so”

Ziva: “You hope so...why?”

(Nell shrugs)

Nell: “I don’t know...I just say what I feel...He does too...”

Ziva; “I have seen that....”

Nell: “Ziva...what is it you really want to talk about?”

(Ziva looks away,,,then back at Nell)

Ziva; “I do not know how to tell Anthony I love him...I do not know what it is that he needs....I am confused....and...I am....”

Nell: “Scared?”

(Ziva stops....then nods....)

Ziva: “I am so afraid I will not make him happy”

Nell: “Have you asked him?”

(Ziva looks at Nell....)

Ziva: “No...of course not...”

Nell: “Why not?”

Ziva: “Well...it is because....(pause)…"

Nell: “You’re afraid you can’t be what he wants?”

(Ziva nods...)

Ziva; “What if I could not? And I would know I am not....and then....”

Nell: “And then you could try”

(pause)

Nell: “Ziva...do you love Tony?”

Ziva: “Of course I do!....I would not marry him if I did not!”

Nell: “Why do you love him?”

(Ziva is silent....then...)

Ziva: “He is the finest man I have ever known. I trust him without question...I know he is always truthful....”

Nell: “Not bad, but you just described a golden retriever”

(Ziva looks at Nell, surprised)

Nell: “Which is not a bad thing to be if you’re a man....but....”

Ziva: “But?”

Nell: “Ziva...what do you want from Tony...I mean, deep down...when you and him are sitting together, quiet...what is it you want from him...?”

(Ziva stares at Nell....says nothing)

Nell: “Inside...what do you want you’d never dare to say....”

Ziva: “I want....”

(Nell waits)

Ziva: “This goes no further, is that agreed?”

(Nell nods...then Ziva talks....)

Ziva; “I want to pull him inside me, I want to feel what he feels, and I want him to tell me what he is afraid of, and what he needs....I want him to tell me he loves me and will never leave me and I want him to adore me as I adore him.....and most of all, I want to hear from him that I make him happy and joyful, and....and....”

(She stops...)

Ziva: “But I cannot”

(Nell says nothing.....then...)

Nell: “Tell him”

(Ziva starts to protest...)

Nell: “He won’t use those things against you....”

Ziva: “I have been taught...and I have seen....that the opposite is true”

(Nell nods)

Nell: “I have too”

Ziva: “But you do that with Dilbert...do you not?”

(Nell nods)

Ziva: “Why?”

Nell: “Because I needed to know...I needed to know if this man I love would use the things that scare me...the things inside me...If he would use them against me, or laugh at me....I needed to know so I could leave if he did”

Ziva: “Penelope...that...that must have been...”

Nell: “Hard? Girl, I was terrified...I was so terrified....But...but when I told him, he told me the same things about him....So...We both took a chance, Ziva....”

(Nell pauses)

Nell: “You’re about to marry this man...You deserve to be happy...I don’t mean smiling, I mean deep, pure, unconditional, teeth gritting happy....”

(Ziva nods)

Ziva: “And Anthony deserves that too....”

(Nell nods)

Ziva: “And if I do not find this out?”

(Nell shrugs)

Nell: “You’ll probably have a pretty good life....Tony loves you...god, Ziva....You can tell...He adores you...But maybe....maybe he doesn’t show it as much as he wants to”

(Ziva listens)

Ziva; “Because I do not...”

Nell: “I don’t know...but maybe...”

Ziva; “I should ask Anthony what he wants?”

Nell: “That’s up to you...are you brave enough? Do you want to make him happy?”

Ziva: “More than anything....”

Nell: “You love him?”

Ziva; “Penelope....I love him so much it hurts inside....But I cannot say it...I cannot get it out...”

(Nell smiles)

Nell: “Scaredy cat”

Ziva: “I am not the scared cat!”

Nell: “Are too”

Ziva; “I am not!...”

(Ziva stands...crosses her arms over her chest...)

Ziva; “I will tell him!...I will today!....”

(Nell arches one eyebrow....)

Ziva; ‘What....?”

Nell: “Be sweet”

Ziva; “I do not know how to be this....sweet....”

Nell: “Dearest Tali...Darling daughter....My angel Tali....”

(Ziva looks at Nell, curiously)

Nell: “I never hear you just say, Tali...I hear you say something really sweet when you talk to her”

Ziva: “She is my daughter...of course I say those things....”

Nell: “And she eats it up...it’s one of the ways she knows you love her....It’s sweet”

(pause)

Nell: “Ziva...it’s worth the risk....If you want everything....If you want that love, and that closeness, and that thing only you and Tony can share....you have to take a chance...and god, Ziva....it’s worth the risk....Take it from someone terrified to talk about love....it’s worth the risk”

(Ziva listens.....then....)

Ziva: “Penelope.....”

Nell: “Yea...go ahead...tell me I’m crazy....and stupid...”

Ziva; ‘I love you more than you will ever know....and I respect you more than you will ever know...I do not tell you...but I am telling you now.... I am honored.....to be your friend....”

Nell: “God Ziva...you’ve never said that.....”

(Nell wipes her eyes....)

Nell: “I love you too, Ziva....”

Ziva: “I know...and I am so sorry I have not told you....”

Nell: “Go tell Tony....save some of it....”

(She wipes her eyes again...Then she feels Ziva kiss her cheek...)

Ziva: “You are....my sister...”

(Nell wipes her eyes once more, smiles)

Nell: “It’s about time....”

(Nell chuckles...)

Ziva; “You were right....”

Nell: “About what?”

Ziva: “It was worth the risk....I took this chance you speak of....”

(Nell waits)

Ziva; “And I gained a sister....”

(Nell points outside the stable....)

Nell: “Go!...Go before I’m bawling in here....!”

(Ziva smiles....)

Ziva: “Achot”

Nell: “What is that?”

Ziva: “Sister....it is what you are to me...”

(Nell wipes her eyes again...points outside....Ziva smiles, turns, and runs towards her car...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the mountain trees....Stephanie is seen, kneeling on the ground, gasping....Her father kneeling beside her....)

Kyle: “Steph....breathe...breathe....Come on now...breathe....”

Stephanie: “I.....can’t.....breathe.....help.....me....”

(She leans to one side,,,,then lays on the ground.....)

Kyle: “STEPHANIE!....”

(scene shifts to Dil, riding Prissy, slowly through the trees....looking at the ground...)

Dil: “These are fresh tracks....then they end on the rocks....dammit....”

(He pulls the reins to one side, urging Prissy to the east....)

Dil: “We’ll try and pick them up towards the creek...maybe they headed to water”

(Prissy obediently moves eastward, rider and horse moving between the trees....then he watches....)

Dil: “Daisy?”

(He then sees the mountain lion stop...looking in the same direction as Daisy....Then Daisy bolts northward...up the steep slope....The mountain lion dashes off the same direction....)

Dil: “Well, Prissy....they know more than I do...GO!”

(He urges the horse with his heels....Prissy doesn’t need to be encouraged....She runs up the mountainside, dodging rocks, trees, Dil leaning over to go beneath the limbs.....Prissy follows Daisy....A huge dead log rests directly in front of them, Daisy drops to the ground and slices underneath....)

Dil: “No Prissy...no way....Prissy you can’t make it!...NO..!”

(scene shows the beautiful white horse leaping upwards.....and over the enormous tree that blocked their path....and Prissy hits the other side at full gallop....)

Dil: “I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU CLEARED IT!....”

(Prissy ignores him...and continues to run....Dil gives the horse her head.....)

Dil: “HYA!....HYA PRISSY!....”

(Horse and rider weave through the forest, both dodging limbs, jumping boulders, both being slashed by low hanging branches...then he hears an echo through the trees....)

“STEPHANIEEEEEEEEE!”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the clearing....Dil and Prissy race into the clearing, and see Kyle Edwards standing, pointing a loaded hunter’s crossbow at him....Dil brings Prissy to a halt, dismounts quickly...the horse prances, still eager....Dil looks over, sees the small girl, laying on the ground, barely breathing....)

Kyle: “Get the hell outa here....”

Dil; “Son...your daughter needs help....now....”

Kyle: “I’ll take care of my daughter....get outa here or I swear to god, I’ll pull this trigger....”

Dil: “Your daughter is dying!...”

(Dil takes a step towards him....Kyle brings the crossbow up to his face, sighting Dil through the scope....)

Dil: “Kyle....please...I have her inhaler....I can get her to a hospital....”

Kyle: “GET.....OUT.....NOW!....”

(A low growl sounds to Kyle’s left....He swivels his head....and panic hits his face.)

Kyle: “Oh god....wolf....”

Dil: “No Kyle...that’s my dog....now put the bow down....”

(Kyle quickly rotates the weapon towards Daisy.....and a low rumble sounds to his right....Kyle quickly turns and looks....his eyes open wide...he takes a step back...)

Dil: “You got a choice, son....Be killed by that wolf dog of mine, or eaten alive by that mountain lion....They’re both with me....”

Kyle: “No....She’s my.....”

Dil: “We don’t have time for this, Kyle....put the bow down....now....”

(Kyle quickly moves the bow to his face....)

Kyle: “YOU FIRST!”

(Then over 100 pounds of raging wolf dog hits him.....He screams, tumbles to the ground, tries to get up, then he screams again, as a mountain lion clamps its jaws on the cross bow, ripping it out of his hands, shredding the dacron line used as the bow string, flings the bow to the side, then takes a step towards him, a low rumble escaping the lions’s throat....Dil seen pulling the inhaler out of the saddlebag, then dashing for the girl....)

Dil: “DAISY! KITTY! HOLD HIM!”

(He runs to the girl, falls to his knees, props her head up, and puts the inhaler into her mouth...her eyes flutter....)

Dil: “It’s okay honey...breathe....”

(He pushes the inhaler down....a hiss is heard....)

Dil: “Come one...breathe...breathe....”

(He whips his phone out with the free hand....hits speed dial...)

Dil: “Caprice...I have her...she’s not responding...I’ve tried the inhaler...”

Caprice: (on the phone) “Prop her all the way up...put her hand on the inhaler....”

(Dil obeys)

Caprice: “take your hand and press hers!”

(Dil takes the girl's limp hand....he puts it over the inhaler, then presses her hand down...the device hisses....)

Dil: "She's not...."

(The girl's hand moves.....)

Dil: "She's moving!"

Caprice: "Keep her upright.....keep her breathing and moving....We need to get her to a hospital!...."

Dil: "Is Dez with you?"

(Dez can be heard over the speaker)

Dez; "Yes!...Where are you?"

Dil: "No where you can land the chopper....wait...I'm on the north peak...almost to the top."

Dez; "Then you're about 3 miles from Flat Boulder Peak?"

(Dil looks up...thinks....)

Dil: "3 miles...maybe a little more...."

Dez: "That's the closest place to you I can land....Can you get the girl there?"

(Dil looks over at Kyle...he's kneeling, cornered by a wolf and a mountain lion...He sees Prissy...her head bobbing up and down, still eager....)

Dil: "Yea...I can get her there"

Dez: "Then get her there! We will meet you and take the girl!"

(pause)

Dez: "The father? Is he there?"

(Dil looks at the man....)

Dil: "I'll take care of him....Just meet me..."

(scene shows Dil picking up the barely breathing girl in his arms....He walks her to Prissy...Then he sits her in the saddle....)

Dil: “Honey...hold on to the horn...don’t move....”

(The girl barely nods...then she brings the inhaler up by herself, takes another dose....then holds the horn, leaning over it....Dil releases her, makes sure she doesn’t fall off....then he turns to Kyle Edwards....)

Dil: “You ignorant asshole!”

(Dil pounds his face with his fist.....Kyle covers his face with his hands, blood running between his fingers.....Dil turns to the animals...)

Dil: “Hold for a while!...Then come to me!”

(Dil turns, runs to Prissy....He leaps up on the horse, behind the saddle, lifts the girl onto his lap, then straddles the saddle...He wraps one arm around her, takes the reins in the other hand, and.....)

Kyle: “What about ……what about....me....?”

Dil: “Find your own way out you son of a bitch....”

(He turns away, kicks his heels into Prissy’s sides....)

Dil: “HYA PRISSY!...HYA!...”

(The large horse instantly takes off at a gallop....Rider and horse weaving again through the trees...Daisy and Kitty are seen, sitting....staring at the man...growls come from both animals’ throats.....)

Kyle; “No...please....don’t eat me.....”

(scene shifts to the D Rance....The chopper is seen lifting off from outside the hangar, then it banks, and the chopper hurtles over the treetops....scene shifts to inside the small chopper cabin....Dez and Caprice, some blankets, and two middle sized oxygen tanks, both with masks attached....Caprice yells above the rotors...)

Caprice: “HOW LONG?”

Dez: “30 MINUTES!...”

(Scene fades out to the chopper flying higher, trees whizzing past them as they fly up the ridge....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the motorhome....Ziva walks in...Tony sees her...)

Tony: “Hey...are you hungry? I made some cheese dip....”

Ziva; “No, Anthony...”

(He looks at her, curious)

Tony: “Something wrong?”

(She sits next to him....she takes his hand....)

Ziva: “I need to tell you something....”

(Tony raises his eyebrows....then...)

Tony: “Uh oh....here it comes....”

(she looks at him, curiously....)

Ziva; “It comes? What is ‘it’? Regardless of ‘it’....I need to know...before we are married....”

(he waits...then, Ziva takes a breath....)

Ziva: “What do you want from our marriage?”

(He looks at her, blank face)

Ziva: “Please...what is it that would make you happy?”

(She waits.....he hesitates....then, Tony has a slight smile on his face...he looks off, as if remembering...)

Tony: “There are times it’s just you and me...things are quiet...and you’ll come sit next to me, and for some reason, you need to tell me....”

(She blushes...)

Ziva: “I know what you are going to say...”

Tony: “You let the walls down...and you talk to me from somewhere inside you....a place I don’t get to see too often...”

Ziva: “Yes...I am aware...You need not tell me more”

(He continues...)

Tony: “and you tell me how you love me...and you’re soft, and it feels...it feels almost like you need me...”

(She turns away, embarrassed...)

Ziva; “I say what is the truth...Now, that is enough...”

Tony: “Sometimes”

(She looks at him...her face hurt....)

Ziva: “No...never sometimes...”

(He shrugs)

Tony: “Maybe not”

(She looks at him now, concerned...)

Ziva: “My Anthony...do you really feel.....”

(He nods...she studies him, then takes both his hands...)

Ziva: “I am so sorry...”

(small smile on Tony’s face)

Tony: “It’s okay. I’ve learned to live with it”

(Image of Nell, in the stable ”It’s worth the risk”...Ziva nods to herself...)

Ziva: “Then you should know the truth”

(Tony closes his eyes for a moment...then opens them)

Tony: “Yea...I guess I should...”

(Tony looks at her...tightens his lips...then nods slightly)

Tony: “It’s okay...I’m a big boy, Ziva...better you get this out..before we do something you really don’t want to do”

(She looks at him curiously....her face changes to shock)

Ziva: “You think...”

(Ziva's face changes to caring...)

Ziva: "Oh Anthony...."

(She lays her head on his chest....)

Ziva: "It is nothing like you feel...."

(She reaches up, puts a hand on his chest next to her face)

Ziva: "My beautiful man....You deserve to know" (pause)"..... I love you so dearly....That I need you always...I have never seen love, Anthony...My mother died, my father was never loving....and what I know, it has been learned from those that do not know or want love...."

Tony: "I know..."

Ziva; "You are my sweet, wonderful, brave man...."

(She takes her head off his chest...looks him straight in the eyes...)

Ziva; "I am marrying you because I cannot bear the thought of being without you. And I cannot imagine a world without my precious man next to me, loving me...and needing me"

(Tony looks at her, head slightly cocked)

Tony: "I do love you...But, Ziva...I don't want you to change...not for me...I'll marry you just like you are...."

Ziva: "No...I mean yes, I know you would...But you deserve more...you deserve a woman that adores you...and is proud of you...A woman that gives you more than those special moments you speak of..."

Tony: "Know one?"

(She kisses him lightly...)

Ziva: "Yes...I do.. I am that woman"

(His face blank....)

Ziva; "Anthony Dinozzo....Will you marry me?"

(He looks at her...then he looks away....She reaches out, pulls his face back, and wipes the tear from his cheek....)

Ziva: “Will you marry me, my precious man?”

(He is silent...then...)

Tony: “I love you, Ziva David...”

Ziva: “You have not answered my question...”

Tony: “Yes..I will marry you,...but you deserve to know something too”

(She looks at him for a moment...)

Ziva: “Yes...what is it?”

Tony: “Those nights...you know...the pillow thing....”

Ziva; “I am so sorry....”

(He shakes his head....then an embarrassed small grin)

Tony: “I was dreaming of you telling me the things you just told me...”

(Ziva is silent....stunned...then Tony shrugs...)

Tony: “You just made my dreams come true”

(Ziva stares at Tony for a moment, looking over his face...She says softly...)

“I love you so dearly, my sweet Anthony”

Tony: “I love you right back...Always have”

(She nods....)

Ziva: “You have...I know...”

Tony: “And I wouldn’t trade those special moments you gave me for anything in the world...”

(She studies him again.....then...)

Ziva: “Will you allow me to love you...like that....all of the time..?”

(He nods)

Ziva: “You grow tired of it...and want me to stop”

(He shakes his head ‘no’)

Ziva: “The mystery will be gone...I know you”

Tony: “Ziva...I’ve had enough mystery to last me a long time”

(She looks deeper into him....her face curious, then in amazement..)

Ziva; “You love me...You truly love me...Anthony...”

(He nods...then shrugs...)

Tony: “Can’t help It...Sorry. Tried not to....Wasn’t very good at it”

Ziva: “I have wasted so much time with my fears....I have hurt you with them...”

(He brings her close to his chest...)

Ziva: “Never again, my Anthony....Never again will be afraid to show you how I feel...”

(She reaches up to touch his face...his hand stops hers...She pushes it away, and touches his cheeks...and she wipes his tears away one more time....)

Ziva; “Forever I love you”

(He nods....)

Tony: “I won’t miss those dreams...”

Ziva: “No...you will live those dreams....I will make certain of it”

Tony: “So..you asked me...now, how about you...what do you want from this marriage?”

(She smiles against his chest...)

Ziva: “What you have given me always....”

(She sits up....looks at him...)

Ziva: “Love me, Anthony....love me like you want to love me...Show me you adore me....never let me doubt it...”

(He smiles..and overwelmed....)

Tony: “Just be there, Ziva.....”

(She lays her head on his chest....she closes her eyes....and smiles)

Ziva: “Of course I will be there....You are my husband of my heart”

(she smiles again...)

Ziva: “I will be there with the feet that ring”

(silence...)

Tony: “Bells on your toes....You’ll be there with bells on your toes...”

Ziva: “Yes.....that is what I said...”

(Scene fades out as she lays her head back down on his chest...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the chopper, Dez and Caprice approaching the large flat rock that they are meeting at....No Dil is in sight....)

Dez: “Come on Bubba....come on....”

Caprice: “I don’t see him....he has to be coming....”

(Then Dez shouts...)

Dez: “DAMN!....”

(Scene shifts to the thick tree line... horse and rider break out of the woods....Prissy running at breakneck speed, Dil whipping the reins back and forth, Prissy’s head pointed straight out, long white mane flowing back, and Dil, holding a child to his chest...Rider and horse jump over a large log, then jump again over a big boulder, landing without breaking stride, his face seen yelling.....)

(scene shifts to Dil...)

Dil: “HYA PRISSY!....HYA!....”

(Prissy jumps the last log between the forest and the rock ledge, Dil pulling back on the reins as they come up fast on the hard surface.....Prissy reins up, her front

feet pawing at the air, Dil sitting firmly in the saddle, the girl secure in his arms.....)

(scene shifts to the chopper....)

Dez: “Damn...that boy can ride a horse....”

(Caprice looks at her...)

Caprice: “That was good!...Right?”

(Dez shakes her head.....)

Dez: “That was damn near impossible....”

(She twists the throttle, lowering the chopper onto the flat rock...Dil seen dismounting, lifting Stephanie off the saddle, carrying her in his arms, heading towards the waiting chopper....He yells over the props...)

Dil; “SHE’S BREATHING, BUT BARELY!....”

Caprice; “GIVE HER TO ME!”

(Dil settles the young girl into Caprice’s lap...Caprice immediately straps the mask over her small face, and turns on the oxygen. She then adjusts the harness over both of them....She turns to Dil.)

Caprice; ‘NICE JOB COWBOY!...WE HAVE TO GO!”

(Dil salutes her....backs up from under the low blades, and steps out to walk to Prissy....He hears barking....)

Dil: “HEY GIRL!...”

(He looks around...)

Dil: “Where’s your buddy?”

(Daisy looks upwards....standing on top of the ledge above him.....)

(scene shifts to the chopper...Dez pokes Caprice, and points to the top of a ledge....Caprice shouts out...)

Caprice; ‘OH MY GOD!”

(They see Kitty, standing....and roaring at Dil.....and they see Dil spreading his arms....and roaring back....and the dance between human and animal repeats....)

(scene shifts back to Dil....He walks to Prissy, mounts up....takes the reins....)

Dil: “You did good girl...again...You saved that little girl’s life....”

(He looks at Daisy....)

Dil: ‘Thanks Daisy...you saved mine...”

(He glances upwards at the huge cat....nods to her...)

Dil: “You too...”

(Then he clicks his mouth, and gently nudges the horse...)

Dil: “We can take it easy going home, Priss....You’ve earned a rest....”

(The horse knickers....the front hooves paw the rock....She rears up, comes back down...and her head bobs up and down....)

Dil: “Well....I’m game if you are!”

(scene shifts to Dil, Prissy, and Daisy, all running full speed down the mountain trail, Dil yelling for her to go faster, Prissy answering the challenge....And along side the three of them....A mountain lion gracefully leaps over rock and stump, enjoying the feeling of being in a family again....)

MONDAY NIGHT

(scene shifts to the D Ranch, Dil, Dez, Caprice, Nell, sit outside on the back deck, talking...)

Dil: “Good to hear the girl is going to be okay....”

Nell: “Sheriff Jim said to tell you thank you....He said he’ll come by and personally tell you when his granddaughter gets a little better....”

Dez: “Yea..the guy won’t leave her...”

(Nell looks at Dil...)

Nell: “Honey...you never finished telling us what happened to her father....”

(Dil shrugs)

Dil: “I left him....Took the girl, figured if he was good enough to get up there, he was good enough to come down...”

Nell: “The Sheriff said they haven’t heard from him”

Dil: “Good riddance then”

Dez: “He probably figured out he wasn’t welcome here....headed out somewhere else”

Dil: “Maybe....”

Dez: “You think he’s still around...don’t you, Bubba?”

Dil: ‘I don’t know....He wasn’t a bad guy...not like the ones we’re used to...He was just stupid...”

(Dil pauses)

Dil: ‘But stupid people can love their daughters just like anyone else...And come looking for them...”

Dez: “That’s what Jim said....”

(Dil looks off...)

Dil: “Guess he’d know...”

(Nell listens as her husband talks.....then begins talking to Dez....then, they see Tony and Ziva walk through the kitchen and out the French doors...)

Nell: “Tony! Ziva!...We haven’t seen much of you today!...”

(Ziva blushes...)

Ziva: “We have been busy....”

Tony: “Planning the wedding...you know....”

(Nell watches...Ziva leans against Tony, her arm through his....Tony leans over, kisses Ziva on the top of the head.. Tony silently mouths to her..."Love you"...she smiles, looks back up at him, mouths, "I love you" back to him)

Dez: "Just exactly what did you two get planned?"

(Tony looks at Ziva....then...)

Tony: "You know....stuff...."

(He looks at Ziva....)

Ziva: "Yes...it was stuff"

Dez: "Funny stuff? You two look all lovey dovey"

(Ziva blushes...)

Ziva; "I do not remember laughing...."

(she pauses...then..)

Ziva; "But the other...."(smiles) "...perhaps..."

Tony: "That reminds me...I have a wedding gift for you"

(Ziva looks at him in surprise....)

Ziva; "Gift? I do not know what you mean...Was I to get you a gift? Is this some custom I have broken?..I will go immediately and get you..."

Tony: "No....you'll understand when I give it to you..."

(He pauses)

Tony: "Tomorrow"

(Ziva punches him in the side...then pulls his face down, and kisses his lips...)

Dez: "Barf"

(She looks at Tony and Ziva, shaking her head)

Dez; "I could always count on Ziva being non-barf....but now....barf...."

Nell: "And what is it that happens when Cal gets back from New York?"

(Dez grins....)

Dez; “Barforama...he’s my angel-boy”

(Ziva watches, listening....then she smiles....and looking at Nell....she mouths....)

“Thank you Achot”

(then Ziva turns back to Tony....)

Ziva: “Now, this gift...tell me...”

Tony: “Nope...not gonna do it...”

(Ziva punches his side, talks angrily...)

Ziva: “Tell me Anthony or I will.....”

(She stops...looks at the people, watching, then at Tony)

Ziva: “But I will not....”

Nell: “Aw, Ziva...that was sweet!”

(Ziva looks at Nell, nods...)

Ziva; “Yes...I am working on my sweet...And it would not be proper to have a groom waiting for me that was bruised and bleeding...”

(Tony looks at her, curiously....)

Tony: “You are kidding...right?”

(She thinks...then smiles...)

Ziva: “Yes...of course, my dearest...”

(Everyone grins...)

Ziva: “I would hurt you in places that would not show...Now...”

(She pokes a knuckle into his side..Tony grabs his side, groaning...)

Ziva; ‘Tell me what my gift is!...Or I will stop being this sweet woman I am trying to be!”

(scene shifts to outside Walter Reed Hospital, night, the park that borders the parking lot,...a man stands in the trees, concealed,...scene switches to the man...Kyle Edwards, dirty, clothes torn, watches people go in and out through the front entrance of the hospital...Scene fades out, as the man speaks out loud, in a hushed tone...)

“My daughter....That’s my daughter....”

(pause)

“No one takes my daughter away from me”

(scene fades to black and white)

TUESDAY MORNING

(scene opens inside the Simms house, Cary Ann Edwards, mother of Stephanie, comes in the house, sets her purse down....then stops...)

Cary: “No.....”

(She looks to the kitchen, directly in sight of the front door...the bread package is opened, a peanut butter jar is on the counter, jelly jar is beside it.....)

Cary: “He wouldn’t.....”

(She walks to the kitchen, holds the jelly jar....)

Cary: “It’s warm....”

(She puts the jelly back in the refrigerator, then goes to the corner of the living room, to a canvas bag, marked “Angels” on it....She pulls out an aluminum softball bat, holds it in both hands, starts towards the hallway....she calls out loudly...)

Cary: “KYLE!...”

(She takes a few more steps into the hallway, looking into Shephanie’s bedroom....She looks to her daughter’s bedside table...)

Cary: “He took the inhaler...”

(She walks a few more steps down the hall....comes to the hallway bathroom door, closed...she knocks on the door.)

Cary: “Kyle...are you in there?”

(No response...)

Cary: “Kyle!...”

(no response...She twists the doorknob and flings the door open, the bat drawn back behind her, ready to swing at whoever might be in the bathroom....scene shows an empty bathroom, the shower curtain drawn to one side, the floor still wet...two towels lay on top of the shower bar....She goes to them, feels one....)

Cary: “Damp....he used the shower.....”

(She looks around at the mess left....face starts to show anger...)

Cary: “The son of a bitch used the shower!”

(She immediately goes to their bedroom...door open....drawers are pulled out, each drawer was half empty, other clothes strewn on the floor and the bed....)

Cary: “He left!....He got clothes and left!....”

(She darts quickly to the bedroom closet, pulls down one boot....She looks inside it, pulls out a glass jar.....it’s empty)

Cary: “YOU TOOK OUR GROCERY MONEY!....”

(She throws the jar against the wall, shattering it....then she slowly lowers to the floor, and covers her face with her hands...A few tears....then the hands lower....her face is swollen, but resolute....)

Cary: “Good....At least now I know...”

(She gets up quickly from the floor.....runs down the hall to the living room, pulls her cell phone out of her purse...hits a speed dial....the person answers...)

Cary: “Daddy....Kyle’s been here....He fixed a sandwich, took a shower, and got clothes....”

(listens)

Cary: “Yes...he took the inhaler...I think he wants to take Stephanie again....”

(listens more)

Cary: “I know...I know you’ll take care of her…You always have....”

(pause...then...)

Cary: “Daddy...I’m real sorry I brought that sorry man into our lives...If I’d have picked a man more like you, none of this would be happening...”

(She listens...)

Cary: “You what? You need to tell me something....Okay....Yea...I’m going to change clothes, and be back up there....Do you want me to get you something?”

(listens...)

Cary: “Daddy....you’re sure?”

(listens)

Cary: “Yes...I know where it is....I’ll bring it up....”

(The call ends....Cary walks down the hallway to her father’s bedroom...She kneels down, reaches under the bed, pulls out a metal box with a fingerprint pad on top....She presses her thumb to it....the light on the box turns green...She opens the box...)

Cary: “You’ve always taken care of us, daddy.....haven’t you?”

(She pulls the .45 caliber revolver out of the box.... closes the box, pushes it back under the bed....)

Cary: “If Kyle messes with Daddy....”

(She spins the cylinder... checks to ensure bullets are in each slot...)

Cary: “It will be last mistake he ever makes....”

(She takes the gun, begins placing some of her father’s clothes on the bed....)

(scene shifts to the D Ranch, the back patio is full....Dil and Dez are bringing out platters of food, laying them on the table....)

Caprice: “Oh god...I love these biscuits!”

(Gibbs seen reaching for the platter of scrambled eggs...)

Caprice; ‘Jethro....that’s your third helping”

(Gibbs gets a heaping spoonful of eggs, puts them on his plate...Caprice reaches for a biscuit)

Gibbs; “That’s your third biscuit”

Caprice: “Just following your lead, dear husband”

Gibbs: “Gonna get fat if you do that”

(Caprice looks at him...)

Caprice: “Are you saying I’m getting fat?”

(Gibbs takes a bite of eggs, responds with a full mouth)

Gibbs; ‘Uh uh’

Caprice: “Then what are you saying?”

Gibbs: “That if you eat as much as I do, you’ll get fat!...That’s all...”

(Caprice looks over at Nell....)

Caprice; “Am I getting fat?”

Nell: “Caprice...I think you’re beautiful....”

(Caprice’s eyes open wide....)

Caprice: “That’s what someone says when they don’t want to tell you that you’re getting fat!....Jethro...!...”

(She turns to Gibbs...)

Caprice; “I’m going on a diet!...You have to help me!”

(Gibbs looks at her....shakes his head...)

Gibbs: “Why? You look great”

Caprice: “You said I was getting fat!...”

(Gibbs reaches for a biscuit....Caprice watches him put a generous portion of butter on it...Then he takes Caprice's plate, lays the biscuit on it, then ladles a healthy portion of white gravy on the biscuit....He puts the plate down in front of her....She stares at Gibbs...)

Caprice; "Why did you do that?"

Gibbs; "You've lost weight...you need to eat"

(She stares at him again)

Caprice: "I have?"

Gibbs; "Yea...you have...."

Caprice: "So, eating this biscuit...and the butter....and the gravy....that's a good thing?"

Gibbs: "Uh huh..."

(Caprice smiles....digs into the biscuit....puts a large portion of the concoction into her mouth...)

Caprice: "Oh am iss I oooo oood...."

Dez: "I think she said, 'damn...this is so good"...

(Caprice nods, her eyes closed in enjoyment...)

Gibbs: "Eat that one...have another..."

(Caprice stops chewing....looks at Gibbs)

Caprice; "Ah oo aying Im inny?"

(Gibbs looks at Dez...)

Dez; "She's asking if you think she's too skinny"

(Gibbs puts down his fork...looks directly at Caprice...)

Gibbs: "You're perfect. You're beautiful, sexy, and I love you"

(The people nearby stare at Gibbs....)

Dez: "Everyone...aliens have taken Gibbs again...this is an imposter"

(Gibbs shakes his head....keeps eating...)

Caprice: “I have lost weight...”

Nell: “Whatever you’ve done, it looks good on you”

(Caprice shrugs...gets another biscuit..)

Caprice: “If I’ve lost weight, I can have another biscuit....Jethro, pass me that gravy bowl...”

(Gibbs slides the bowl to Caprice, then gets up)

Gibbs: “Workers are on their way...I want to be there to meet them”

(Ziva looks to Gibbs....)

Ziva; “Thank you, Abba...”

(Gibbs looks at Ziva...)

Gibbs: “Glad to do it, Ziver...”

(Gibbs gets up, leaves the patio....)

Ziva: “He is such a good Abba....”

Dez: “Yea...he’s heading to our place, getting the stage and seat rows he had made for our wedding”

Nell: “I think it’s so sweet that you’re having it at your place”

(Ziva nods...takes Tony’s hand...)

Ziva: “Thank you Penelope....It is where our home will be...and it is where we will raise our Tali...I would like to begin building the memories...”

Nell: “And we’re happy to help you build those...”

Ziva: “I know you are...It is a wonderful feeling to know we will live with those that we love...and love us...”

Tali; “And because my best friend will be next door!”

Ziva: “Yes, dearest child...Ahnjong will be close...”

(Ziva looks at Dez....)

Ziva: “Destiny...how is she this morning?”

(Dez shakes her head)

Dez: “It’s been a tough morning....She was up all night, sick...Cal and I put her in bed with us, both of us wiping her with a cold cloth, trying to cool her body down”

Ziva: “I am so sorry, Destiny....Is there anything we can do to help?”

(nervous chuckle...)

Dez: “Ziva, believe me...if there was, I’d let you”

Tony: “You know...I’ve stayed up plenty of nights taking care of Tali, when she was sick...If you and Cal need a break, we can look after her....and Tali....she’s as good a nurse as they come”

(Dez looks down....then up...)

Dez: “Thank you Tony...All of you...thank you...Cal is...”

(She shakes her head)

Nell: “He’s taking this hard...isn’t he?”

(Dez nods....)

Dez: “I don’t know what to do....In fact....”

(She gets up)

Dez: “I need to see if Cal needs any help...”

(scene shifts to the Thomas House....Cal sitting by Ahnjong’s bed, the child laying on her stomach, bare back showing, he is stroking her hair, softly singing to the child....Ahnjong’s eyes begin to close...Cal continues singing...)

Sleep my little one

Dream of all the fun

Dream of all the play

Dream the perfect day

(He keeps humming the tune as he feels her brow)

Cal: “You are so hot.....”

(He picks up the wet cloth from the bowl of rubbing alcohol and water...wrings it out, then begins to softly run the cloth over her bare back)

Cal: “Sleep, dearest child....”

(Cal dips the cloth back in the bowl, wrings it again, then strokes the child’s back again with it....He finally sees that her breathing is even....and her eyes can be seen moving under her eyelids, signaling she’s in REM...)

Cal: “I pray you are dreaming of the perfect day, dearest child....”

(scene shifts to a large green field....Ahnjong stands in the middle of it, looking around...then she hears a voice...)

Voice: “Don’t be afraid...”

(She turns to the voice....a young girl, around her age, is reaching out, taking her hand...)

Ahnjong: “I was wondering if I would ever see you again”

Voice: “Of course you will...now...let me show you around”

Ahnjong: “This is not your house?”

Voice; “No...this is the one that is waiting for you”

(Ahjong looks around....then, excitedly....she points...)

Ahnjong: “LOOK!...It is my waterfall!”

(scene shifts to a mountainside, a stream of water pouring out, rainbows dancing in the mist....)

Voice: “Yes it is...it’s something you love very much. And it is yours with love....so, it becomes part of your home”

(Ahnjong looks at the girl...)

Ahnjong: “When will I come here?”

Voice; “I don’t know...a day is like a second, and a second is like a year...it sounds confusing, but you’ll get used to it”

Ahnjong: "My mother and my father...I will miss them...."

(The girl shakes her head....)

Voice: "No you won't...they love you...They love you so much....And when you come here, that part of them comes with you...every moment from when you get here, forever,,,, those moments are filled with the love they have for you"

Ahnjong: "Will you be here?"

(The girl smiles....)

Voice: "Every day....whenever you want me here, I'll be here..."

Ahnjong: "Then I will be happy here....Is there anything I can do for you? Something that will make you happy?"

Voice: "You make me happy....And when you get here, we will be best friends....forever..."

(scene shifts to Ahnjong's room...Cal watching her as she sleeps....Her eyes open....)

Cal: "Ahnjong....you are awake. How do you feel?"

(She nods...and starts to sit up....)

Ahnjong: "I feel better...thank you father"

(she pauses....then...)

Ahnjong; "I dreamt of a perfect day..."

(Cal shows a smile)

Ahnjong: "And my friend was there"

Cal: "The one you see in your dreams?"

(Ahnjong nods...)

Cal: "Then, as I asked you before....that is between you, me, and your mother"

(Ahnjong nods)

Ahnjong: "I know...it would make Uncle Jethro sad"

Cal: “Yes, my dear one...it would....”

Ahnjong: “Kelly said she would be there when I get there....I feel better about going now”

Cal: “Good...I have told you, there is nothing to fear....”

Ahnjong: “And you will take me...right?”

(Cal nods...)

Cal: “Yes, dearest...I will take you”

(Cal struggles...then he hears....)

“Honey....? Why don’t you let me take it from here?”

(He nods, recognizing his wife’s voice behind him....He gets up without a word...walks to her, touches her hand, and leaves the room....Dez moves to the chair he was sitting in)

Ahnjong: “Mommy?”

Dez: “Yes baby...”

Ahnjong: “Everything will be okay when I go”

(Dez nods)

Dez; “I know honey....”

Ahnjong: “Then....Why does daddy cry when I talk about it?”

(Dez shakes her head...fighting the tears herself)

Dez: ‘He’s just going to miss you, honey....Your daddy loves you way more than you will ever know”

(Ahnjong nods)

Ahnjong: “Good”

Dez: “Of course it’s good”

Ahnjong: “Kelly told me that I would take your love with me....and that I would have it with me forever and forever....”

(Dez reaches out, brings the small child to her lap....)

Dez: “Then let me give you some extra love...So you can take more with you”

(She holds the small child close...rocks her body back and forth....)

Ahnjong: “My waterfall will be there”

(Dez shuts her eyes, tears flow....)

Dez: “Good....I’m glad, honey”

(silence)

Ahnjong: “Mommy....thank you”

Dez: “For what, baby....”

Ahnjong: “Giving me love so I can have it forever”

(Dez nods...wipes her eyes....She feels a hand on her shoulder....)

Cal: “Then your mother and I....we will give you all the love you can carry with you”

(scene fades to Cal kneeling beside them, his arm around the child, kissing her cheek, as Dez leans down, kissing top of Ahnjong’s head)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Walter Reed Hospital....Sheriff Jim sits by Stephanie’s bed, watching....he hears someone enter the room....He turns his head)

Jim: “Hey honey....”

(Cary is seen walking in, carrying a leather satchel)

Cary: “Your clothes are in here....and what you asked me to bring”

(He takes the bag, sets it down beside his chair)

Jim: “I’m sure I won’t need it....But you never can tell”

Cary: “Kyle is stubborn, daddy....he’ll come”

Jim: “Then...if he does...I’ll send him away”

(Cary pulls up another chair, sits...)

Cary: “How is she doing?”

Jim: “Good..real good...The doctor took the mask off a while ago, and she was breathing normal on her own...He says maybe she can have it off tomorrow”

(Cary nods...takes her daughter’s hand....)

Cary: “I’m so sorry, Steph....your mommy has made a lot of mistakes”

Jim: “But she’s not one of them”

Cary: “No...she’s the best thing that ever happened to me...”

(She pauses...)

Cary: “Except you, dad...If I’d have picked a man more like you....”

(The Sheriff shakes his head...)

Jim: “Honey...your daddy has not always been the best man....”

Cary: “Of course you have...Mom told me all the time what a good man you were”

Jim: “Honey...we all make mistakes...Kyle is one of yours...and I made one too...like Kyle...”

(Cary looks at him,, curious)

Jim: “When your mother and I were first married....There was another woman...”

Cary: “Dad...do I want to know this?”

Jim: “You need to know this, Cary Ann...You need to know that we make mistakes....and that we can recover from them”

Cary: “Dad...I don’t know how to recover from Kyle...He’s going to be in Stephanie’s life, forever...”

Jim: “Maybe...maybe not...but you’re strong enough to deal with whatever you have to deal with”

Cary: “You made me that way....You and mom...you both always encouraged me to be me...and to believe in myself....”

(Jim starts to speak...Cary puts a hand over his mouth...)

Cary: “Dad...no...If you made a mistake, you and mom got past it...All I know is that you and mom brought me up with all the love in the world...and now that mom is gone, it’s you...and you’re showing me and my daughter, that same love....So...Some other time....Okay, dad?”

(Jim looks at his daughter....then at the child, sleeping on the hospital bed....)

Jim: “She wasn’t a mistake....not at all...”

(scene shifts to the hospital hallway....looking through the blinds on the window into the room, stands Kyle Edwards....)

Kyle: “That’s my daughter....and by god, I’m getting my daughter”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at The D Ranch, the women gathered around the kitchen table, all talking...)

Bishop: “The list...who’s got the guest list?”

(They all look at each other....)

Bishop: “There’s not guest list, is there?...Oh...my....god....”

Ziva: “I do not know who to invite or not to invite!....”

Bishop: “Ziva...do you want a big wedding...or a small wedding?”

Ziva; “I want a wedding....that is all”

Bishop “That doesn’t help much, Ziva....”

(Ziva looks at Bishop...says nothing....then she shouts...)

Ziva; “I DO NOT KNOW!....”

(Ziva lays her head on the table, and softly....)

Ziva; ‘I do not know....”

Nell: “Ziva honey....you’re getting nervous...aren’t you?”

(Ziva nods...)

Nell: “We all got nervous....it’s normal...”

Bishop: “God yes...I put my wedding dress on backwards”

(Caprice laughs(

Caprice; “I remember that....Ellie, you were about to bolt....”

Bishop: “I was!...I was terrified!”

(Ziva raises her head)

Ziva; “It is normal to be afraid?”

Dez: “Oh hell yes....All I could think about was that I couldn’t be a good enough wife for Cal....I was ready to call the whole thing off....”

Nell: “Funny how all of us thought that....and It’s also funny that not one of us worried that the man we were marrying was going to be good enough for us...”

Nell: “Our men?...Yea...right...”

Dez: “I know!...Cal, Torres, Bubba....no one thinks they don’t measure up”

Ziva; “So...what you are saying...what I am feeling....it is normal...”

Nell: “Yep...normal as can be”

(Ziva lays her head back down on the table)

Ziva; ‘Then I am very very normal”

Bishop: “Then normal up a list of people, Ziva...”

Ziva; “You do it...I am too busy being normal”

Caprice: “What about food?”

Nell: “Dil and Torres have that covered....They’re already breaking out the cookers and smokers...Those boys will be able to feed an army”

Caprice; “Set up”

Dez: “Your husband and Tony....They’re already at Tony and Ziva’s unloading the trailer...”

Caprice: “Hair and makeup....I’ve got that”

(Nell smiles)

Nell: ‘Just like last time....you made us look beautiful”

(Caprice looks at Nell, scowls)

Caprice; ‘I had beautiful women to work with....”

Bishop: “You might prepare for 6 that I know of...besides us, that is”

Caprice; “That’s right...I forgot...”

Bishop: “Vance will be bringing Loretta....”

Caprice: “That means at least 6 Secret Service men...”

Caprice: “Ring and flowers?”

Nell: “Danny gets the ring pillow, Ahnjong has the flower basket”

Caprice: “Coordinator?”

(They all look at Caprice....Ziva, her head still down, points a finger at Caprice)

Caprice: “Me? Why me?”

Bishop: “Because you’re the only one that can keep everyone in line....Hell, Caprice, you kept all of us from bolting....”

Ziva: “I will not bolt....”

Bishop: “Oh....we forgot...”

(pause)

Bishop: “What do we do with all the broken hearts out there when women find out Tony Dinozzo’s married?”

(The girls look at Ziva, smiling, waiting for a response...Ziva slowly raises a fist, then extends one finger....)

Bishop: “Okay...that’s our answer....”

(Ziva straightens out her head, still laying it on the table...)

Ziva: “I am not good enough for Anthony”

Nell: “Honey...yes you are....”

Ziva: “He has a present for me”

Nell: “And you haven’t opened it yet? Girl, I’d be chomping at the bit”

Ziva; “I am afraid to open it”

Bishop: “Why?”

Ziva: “Because Anthony does things that are so thoughtful...and I do not...”

Nell: “Honey...he does that because he loves you”

Dez: “Ain’t no doubt about that....That boy is pure in love with you”

(Ziva turns her head to Dez...)

Ziva: “Do you really think so?”

Dez: “Yes, Ziva...he’s waited a long time for this...”

Ziva: “I do not think he is as anxious as I am...”

(Dez smiles...)

Dez; “I wouldn’t be too sure of that, Ziva...”

(scene shifts to Cal and Tony, sitting on the Thomas House’s back porch)

Tony: “She’s sleeping?”

Cal: “Yes....again...”

Tony: “Does this mean....you know....”

Cal: “No...it is normal...this tiredness...the sickness....it could go on for months”

(pause)

Cal: “But let us talk of happier things, my good friend....tell me what it is I can help you with?”

(Tony leans over, his hands between his legs, the hands clasping each other....he looks up...)

Tony: “How do you love the perfect woman?”

(Cal smiles at the question...)

Cal: “Perfect? You consider Ziva David, the perfect woman....?

Tony: “Well yea....she’s beautiful...she’s smart...and she’s elegant...she doesn’t need a man, but she thinks she needs me..Cal...she doesn’t need me...I mean, if you think about it...What do I bring to the table?”

Cal: “And you are asking me this...not Jethro Gibbs, or Nickolaus...or your good friend Dilbert...you are asking me....Why is that?”

(Tony looks up at him....)

Tony: “Because you know”

Cal: “I know? Anthony...perhaps you have overestimated me....I am quite new at these affairs of the heart....”

Tony: “Maybe with your own....but you know Ziva....I know you do...I watch you watch her, and I see you taking things in....So, Cal...buddy, pal, bro...whatever...”

(He pauses)

Tony: “How do I love the perfect woman?”

(Cal leans back in his chair....he studies Tony....then..)

Cal: “Empty”

(Tony looks at Cal...)

Cal: “She is empty and she only trusts you to fill that space”

(Tony says nothing....)

Cal: “Anthony....just love her...She does not know how to love....She feels it, she has it inside her, and she is afraid of showing you that love...Show her how you feel, Anthony...She is waiting...She has been waiting for a long time, and now she is ready....Teach her how to love....”

(Tony listens....)

Tony: “I love her, Cal”

Cal: “Yes...you do....”

Tony: “Is that enough, though?...For a woman like Ziva...”

(Cal smiles...)

Cal: “It is enough, Anthony....Especially for a woman like Ziva”

(Tony is silent....then...)

Tony: “There’s something I want to give her”

Cal: “I know”

Tony: “I don’t know how she’s going to respond”

Cal: “No one ever does”

Tony: “Just give it to her?”

(Cal nods)

Cal: “With love....Give it to her, loving her, helping her, lifting her up if she falls, holding her if she is weak....Love, Anthony....She is empty....And she waits for you to show her how to fill that space”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the motor home.....Ziva is sitting on their bed, her head in her hands....Tony walks into the motor home, walks back to the bedroom, finds Ziva)

Tony: “Someone ate all the flowers....didn’t they...”

(she holds a hand out to him...he takes it...She looks upwards to him, her face fearful..)

Ziva; “I am so afraid, Anthony”

Tony: “Of what?”

Ziva; “Of being your wife...I do not know how to be a wife....”

Tony: “It’s no different than what you’ve been doing...”

Ziva; “It is very different....”

(She pauses)

Ziva: “I don’t know how it is different, but it is”

(Tony sits down next to her...she lays her head on his shoulder....)

Ziva: “I need you so much, Anthony”

Tony: “I need you right back”

Ziva; “Do you?”

Tony: “Yea...I do...”

Ziva: “How?”

(He answers immediately)

Tony: “I know what life is like without you...I know what it’s like to feel that you’re dead...I know what it’s like in the house when you and Tali leave to go shopping...and how I can tell without seeing you that you’ve come back in the house...I know without you....and it’s empty”

(He pauses..then...)

Tony: “I know what it’s like to watch you hurt...and I know it’s up to me to help you get through that hurt...and if I wasn’t there to help you, I know that no other man would love you like I do, and hold you up like I would.....I need you...I need to be there for you.”

(He stops..)

Tony: “That’s how I need you”

(She looks up at Tony)

Ziva: “That is how I feel about you....I just could not put it into those words....”

Tony: “It’s okay...sometimes words are hard to come by”

Ziva; “No....I do not mean words...I mean what I feel....Everything you described...it is me....”

(She stops....looks again at him...)

Ziva: “What are you doing?”

(He looks at her curiously)

Ziva: “You are telling me about you....Why have you not done this before?”

(He shrugs)

Ziva: “It is because I have never asked you what I asked...”

Tony: “It was time...I guess...”

Ziva: “And I am loving what you said..To hear you speak from your heart....”

Tony: “Try it sometime...it’s scary...but it’s good”

Ziva: “I shall..I promise you, I will”

(She studies his face more)

Ziva: “...Thank you, Anthony....thank you for showing me how I can love you better....I wish to be that wife to you”

Tony: “Hey...not trying to change the subject...but...did you find a wedding dress?”

Ziva; “I found 3...but not one I feel will be perfect for this...for you....”

(He stands....)

Tony: “Give me one minute”

Ziva; “Anthony? What are you doing?”

Tony: “Your wedding gift....It’s time”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Walter Reed Hospital...Kyle Edwards waits...then sees his wife leave the room, talking to a nurse...He hugs the wall, moving closer to the

window....He reaches the window, keeping an eye on the hall Cary just walked down, anxious about her returning....)

Kyle: “Her I can handle..but the old man....”

(He moves his face carefully to the window, looking through the open blinds...He can see his daughter, laying on the bed, sleeping...He looks around the room.....)

Kyle: “OId man must have stepped out....it’s time....”

(He quickly slips into the room, and just as quickly moves to the bed....He looks at his daughter, her face calm, and peaceful...Kyle whispers)

Kyle: “Cary Ann...wake up....”

(She doesn’t move...He calls out again, softly, jostling her arm)

Kyle: “Cary Ann...WAKE UP!...”

(the small child opens her eyes....sees her father....)

Stephanie: “Daddy?”

Kyle: “Yes honey....I’m going to get you out of here....”

Stephanie: “No, daddy!...Not like before!...No...!”

(He hears the faint voice of Cary coming from the hallway....He looks at the child...)

Kyle: “Don’t say a word about me being here!...I’ll be back as soon as she leaves again!...Don’t say anything, or I’ll have to hurt your momma...you understand me?”

(The child, terrified, nods her head....)

Kyle: “I’ll be back....I love you”

(He turns, and quickly exits the room....Cary walks in, just as Kyle turns a corner, out of sight...Cary comes to the bed, seeing Stephanie is awake....)

Cary: “Honey?....Your face...what’s wrong?”

(The girl looks at her mother, terrified....and begins shaking her head....)

Stephanie: “I can’t tell you, mommy!....”

(scene shifts to Kyle...standing against a hallway wall, next to a room door, looking around the corner, waiting for his wife to leave the room....Then he is violently yanked into the empty hospital room....He is slammed against a wall, as the door swings shut...)

“Boy...I’m giving you a chance....you leave this place, you leave this town, you leave everything and everyone behind....”

(Kyle stares into the face of Jim Simms...and the barrel of a .45 revolver....)

Jim: “Now...I don’t want to kill the daddy of my granddaughter, but I promise you boy....I see your face again....I don’t care how long from now....”

(He pauses)

Jim: “I will kill you...Plain talk, boy...I will kill you...”

(Kyle stares at the man....terrified...)

Jim: “Now....”

(He releases Kyle)

Jim: “I’ve given you a chance....I advise you to take it....Now...Get out!”

(Kyle bolts from the wall....and runs down the hallway, away from Stephanie’s room...)

(scene shifts to Stephanie’s room....Cary talking to her daughter....)

Cary: “Honey...you look scared....please tell me why...”

“She’s got nothing to be afraid of....Not anymore....”

(Cary turns...)

Cary: “Daddy?”

(Stephanie’s face pleads....she stretches her arms out to Jim....)

Stephanie: “Grandaddy!....”

(Jim moves to his granddaughter....He leans down to allow her to hug him...)

Jim: “Your grandaddy’s here, honey....You don’t have to be afraid any more...”

Stephanie: “He was.....”

(He touches her lips....)

Jim: “Shhh....He’s gone, sweetie....”

Stephanie: “But what if he comes back?...Grandaddy...what if he comes back?”

Jim: “If he does....then I’ll take care of it...Baby girl...I promise....I’ll take care of it forever...”

(Stephanie looks at her grandfather.....she nods her head....)

Stephanie: “I know you will grandaddy....I know you will...”

(Cary watches the two of them, taking it in....she whispers to herself.....)

Cary: “It doesn’t matter what you did....It only matters what you become....”

(She pauses....smiles a small smile...)

Cary: “I got this...With these two behind me, I can do this...”

(She moves off the wall, and goes to her father and daughter...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the motorhome, shows Tony standing outside, door open to one of the storage compartments under the motorhome....scene shifts to Tony walking in, carrying a large, flat box, wrapped in brown paper, and tied with brown twine....He brings it to the bedroom....lays it on the bed next to Ziva...He takes a breath....then...)

Tony: “You know...when we got word that the farmhouse was blown up....I went to Israel....”

Ziva: “Yes...I know...”

Tony: “And I went to the farmhouse....”

Ziva; “I still do not know why....”

Tony: “To look for your body....”

Ziva; “It was not there....”

Tony: “Yea....I know....”

(He pauses...then..)

Tony: “Tali’s room wasn’t touched....I found something in that room....and I took it with me....”

(She looks at him curiously....Tony nods towards the box)

Tony: “I’m going to leave the two of you alone”

(She looks at the box....then towards Tony...)

Ziva; “The two of us....but Anthony....”

(As she turns, she sees the bedroom door close....She turns to the box...)

Ziva: “It is old....”

(She gently unties the brown twine, pulling it off, and setting it to one side...She pulls out the folds on the ends, carefully pulling the tape off the top of the package...)

Ziva; “But the tape...it is new....”

(She pulls the brown paper back, revealing a white box....On the lid, in gold letters, the words...)

Goldmans

Fine Garment Care

(She apprehensively pulls the lid off the box....and her breath stops....)

Ziva: “It is not possible....”

(scene shifts to the box....inside, neatly folded, is a white dress....There is a folded piece of paper in the box, old, yellowed....she carefully picks it out, opens it...She immediately recognizes the perfect cursive penmanship....)

Benjamin – Please take special care of this dress – One day my Ziva and my Tali will wear it on their wedding day

(Then she sees the signature, just as perfectly written as the note....)

Rivka David

(Ziva stares at the note....then she runs her fingers over the script....)

Ziva; “My mother....”

(Ziva’s thoughts flash....she sees herself as a small child, knee skinned and bleeding, running to the open arms of her mother, hearing herself cry out the Hebrew word for ‘mommy’....”EMA!”...)

(She picks up the dress by the shoulders....she sees the fine lace and pearl buttons on the sleeves...and a long veil folded separately...She whispers in disbelief)

Ziva: “It is my mother’s wedding dress...”

(She pulls it up closer.....she whispers...)

Ziva; “Ema”

(Her chin quivers.....She grasps the dress and presses it against her chest, and cries softly....)

“My Ema....”

(Her hands clutch the dress harder)

“It is my Ema!....”

(Then her eyes shut, her mouth opens wide....and out of that open mouth she wails a mournful cry...)

“Y EMAAAAAAA”

(She wails, and cries, then sobbing uncontrollably, cry after cry, rocking back and forth, crying out for her mother.....)

(scene shifts to Tony, sitting in the living room of the motorhome, his head hanging down, looking at the floor, hearing Ziva’s wail through the bedroom door....”

“EMMMAAAAAAAA.....MY EMMMMAAAAAAA”

5 MINUTES LATER

(scene opens to Tony, sitting, looking down the hallway....it is quiet...He gets up, walks to the bedroom, and tentatively opens the door....He sees Ziva, sitting on the bed, still holding her mother’s wedding dress to her chest, her arms crossed over the dress, hugging it...Her eyes swollen and red, her cheeks flushed....she looks at Tony....and in a small voice)

Ziva; “I have found my wedding dress”

(He nods....)

Ziva; “I will look perfect for you”

Tony: “I know”

(He pauses...then)

Tony: “I had it cleaned again...There were a few pieces of lace that were frayed..you know...time..” (pause) “..I had them repaired”

(She stares at him....shaking her head)

Ziva: “Anthony....you have had this dress for years...”

(He nods)

Tony: “Yea”

(She looks down at her engagement ring)

Ziva: ‘Such as you did with this ring”

(Tony shrugs)

Ziva: “How, Anthony....How could you keep what you felt...alive?”

(Tony takes in a breath...then lets it out...He looks at her, his face soft)

Tony: “Hope”

(He pauses..she waits...then..)

Tony: “ A dream”

(She gently takes one of his hands, places it on her cheek, closes her eyes)

Ziva; “You gave me my mother”

(She pauses)

Ziva: “You gave me my Ema back”

(He shrugs)

Tony: “I thought it would be nice to invite her to the wedding”

(Ziva continues to stare at Tony, a slight confusion on her face)

Ziva; “How do I love the perfect man?”

Tony: “I’m not perfect....we both know that”

Ziva; “You are perfect for me....”

Tony: “Then that’s good enough....”

(She pulls him closer, kissing him....and in a whisper)

“I am so very in love with you, Anthony Dinozzo....”

(He looks at her for moment, then...)

Tony: “Hey Ziva....How does it feel?”

(She looks back at him, slightly confused)

Ziva: “How does it feel? I do not understand...”

(He kisses her...then he speaks softly into her ear...)

“To be the woman that makes a man’s dream come true”

(scene fades out to Tony and Ziva holding each other, the dress on the bed, the note from Ziva’s mother, open)

(scene fades to black and white)

Season 29 Finale’, Episode 8, Part 3

“The Day Of The Tiva – Gibbs"

Wednesday Night

Ziva: “Why, Abba, do you care for me so much...It is as if I am truly your daughter”

(Gibbs looks away...then he looks down....)

Gibbs; “I’ve been waiting for years....for you to ask that question...”

(He pauses...)

Gibbs: “Hoped you never would”

Ziva: “Then, do not tell me. That you do care...it is enough”

(He shakes his head....)

Gibbs: “No, Ziva...it’s not. I need to tell you why...”

12 HOURS EARLIER

(scene opens in the kitchen of The D Ranch, the women sitting at the table...)

Caprice: “10:00 to 11:00, dress fitting...That would be Dez”

(Ziva looks at Dez, mild surprise)

Ziva: “Destiny...you know how to....”

Dez: “When you don’t have boobs, and you put on different size bogus bras, you learn to work with a needle and thread...”

Ziva: “I am sorry....I did not realize”

Caprice: “Ok, moving on....Picking out a hairstyle...that’s me and Ellie...”

Nell: “I want to help!...(sees them staring at her..) “...with the....hair...”

Unison: “NOI!”

(Nell sits back, crosses her arms over her chest...They look at her, ski cap on, hair hanging down out of the cap)

Nell: “I know....”

Caprice: “Honey....it’s not about that....We just all have certain...talents...”

Nell: “And hair is not one of mine...I know...I just wanted to maybe get...you know...some ideas...”

(They look at her, surprised)

Dez: ‘Sis...you want to do something with your hair?”

Nell: “Yes...It’s just that Ziva is so pretty...and Ellie has all that blonde hair, and Caprice...my god, her hair is like artwork...Even you, Dez, it’s grown out, and you look so cute...me...I have boy hair to go with my boy body”

Dez: “Mega pregnant boy body....”

(Nell grins...touches her tummy..)

Nell: “Yea...I am...”

Caprice: “Then 11 to 12...We all pick out a hairstyle for Mega pregnant Nell....We are going to create a masterpiece!”

Nell: “No!...It’s Ziva’s time!...I don’t want...”

(Ziva reaches over, pats Nell’s hand)

Ziva: “It would be an honor to have you with me....while we discuss the hair for the day, we can also discuss your make-up....”

(Nell looks at Ziva, eyes wide...)

Nell: “I don’t....I mean, I don’t usually....”

Caprice; “You will today, darling....”

(Caprice clicky clacks on her tablet....)

Caprice: “12 to 1, lunch, then at 1, we meet to finalize the guests, and then we get the emails out....We don’t have time for mailed invitations, so we improvise”

(she looks around)

Caprice: “Everyone set?”

Bishop: “We have our orders, ma’am”

Caprice: “Then get to it!...Chop Chop! We’re on a tight time schedule!”

WEDNESDAY NOON

(scene opens in the D Ranch kitchen, the ladies talking...)

Dez: “Sis...I gotta admit...it looks like a whole new you...”

Bishop: “She’s gorgeous!....Look at her!”

(Nell is shown, hiding her face in her hands...Caprice pulls them down...Nell seen with elegant side parted hair, layered, evenly cut at the bottom...Her eyes done tastefully, with mascara and eye shadow....)

Nell: “I am so embarrassed....Dil is going to hate it!...”

Caprice: “Honey...no man...especially you husband, is going to hate what he sees...”

(A noise at the front door....Nell and the women turn, stare....A voice comes from the living room...)

Dil: “NELL!...DEZ!...We broke from the training early...”

(Dil walks directly into the kitchen, sees Nell, he stops....Nell looks at him, apprehensive...)

Dil: “Oh...excuse me...I didn’t know Ziva had invited movie stars to the wedding...”

(He exits the kitchen, begins yelling again...)

Dil: “NELL!...YOU HOME?”

(The women are grinning, Nell is sitting back, smiling....)

Nell: “He is such a goofy man....”

Caprice; “Told you...he loves it...”

(Dil comes back to the kitchen...pokes his head in....)

Dil: “Any of you seen my wife?”

(Nell embarrassed, wads up a paper towel, throws it at Dil....)

Nell: “You are so silly....!”

(Dil looks at her...then at the other ladies...)

Dil: “I hear Nell’s voice....but it’s coming out of that movie star....”

Nell: “DIL!...Stop it!...You’re embarrassing me!”

(Dil says nothing, walks to Nell, leans over, kisses her hard.....Then stands up...)

Dil: “Always wanted to kiss a movie star....”

(Looks at the others)

Dil: “Y’all don’t tell my wife I did that”

(He winks at Nell, leaves the kitchen again....Nell smiling..)

Nell: “He is such a goofball”

Caprice: “Speaking of goofballs....who is giving you away, Ziva?”

(Ziva looks at Caprice, curious)

Ziva: “I do not believe you asked me that..”

Caprice: “Don’t be mad...He didn’t want to assume...”

Ziva; “It will be my Abba....who else would it be?...”

(Caprice grins....)

Caprice; “He’ll be glad to know that...”

Ziva: “Of course...it would be unthinkable for anyone else to perform that act....”

(She pauses....then....)

Ziva: “I would do without if he would not”

Caprice: “He will...Do you want me to tell him?”

(Ziva thinks...then she shakes her head...)

Ziva: “No...It must be me...There is something...There is something I would like to ask him...”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in a small motel, old, dark wood-like paneling on the walls....Old style TV sits on a swivel stand, one man, Kyle Edwards, sits on the bed...Next to him lay various hunting items...)

Kyle: “Here I am in a flop house motel....3 days ago, I was livin’ fine....”

(He gets quiet...then...)

Kyle: “I’m in this rat trap all because I wanted to help my daughter....My own wife turned against me....”

(He picks up the rifle...)

Kyle: “It’s her daddy’s fault....that old man’s been calling the shots ever since we got married...”

(He ejects the bullet from the gun...blows into the chamber opening, puts the bullet back in...slides the chamber shut)

Kyle: “He caught me by surprise....waved that hogleg in front of my face...What the hell was I gonna do?”

(shakes his head...)

Kyle: “This is no way for a man to live....Wife turned against him...his own daughter won’t go with him....All because of Daddy....That damned old man...”

(He looks at the items on the bed, studies them....then he picks up a small crossbow, pistol style, and begins loading up a pouch with the short metal arrows that it uses, the wicked flanged metal tips shown on the end of each one...)

Kyle: “No guns....attracts attention, and that man would have his deputies on me damn fast”

(He sights down the small crossbow...pulls the trigger....)

Kyle: “Quiet...like stalking a deer....”

(He gets up, places the crossbow and a pistol in his carry bag....zips it up...)

Kyle: “I want my daughter....and by god, I want my wife too...”

(He straps the bag over his shoulder....)

Kyle: “Sometimes a mans gotta do what a mans gotta do.....”

(scene shifts to The D Ranch, McGee pulling up in the NCIS sedan....He parks, exits, and sees Ziva coming out the front door....She walks fast to him, hugs him...)

Ziva; “I have not seen you since we left Paris....I missed you Tim...all those years....I missed my friend”

(McGee hugs her back)

McGee; “I missed you too, Ziva...We all did”

Ziva: “I am only now finding out how leaving affected everyone....I did not think my absence would create so much pain....Tim...I am truly sorry for what I did...”

(He shakes his head...)

McGee; “After I put all the puzzle pieces together, I don’t think you had much choice, Ziva....”

Ziva: “Maybe....but Tim....There is something I would like to ask...”

McGee; “Of course...what?”

Ziva: “When it was told that I was dead...”

McGee: “Yea...”

(She stops...looks at McGee)

Ziva; “You do not wish for me to ask?”

(McGee looks at her for a moment...)

McGee: “You want to know why the boss didn’t come looking for you....”

Ziva; “No...He and I have spoken, and I realized that he had a duty to his team, and to his NCIS...It was dutiful of him to not come....”

(She looks away....crosses her arms over her chest....)

McGee; “Ziva...look at me...”

(She hesitantly turns towards McGee)

McGee: “You still wanted him to come....didn’t you?”

(She says nothing....then....she nods her head...)

Ziva: “Yes...Though I know his duty...Yes...I wanted him to come for me”

(McGee stares at her for a moment....)

McGee; “Ziva...walk with me a bit....okay?”

(She nods...)

McGee: “I’m going to tell you something...and I’m going to ask you to not share it with anyone...I haven’t even told Delilah...”

(She looks at him, curious)

Ziva: “What....If it has to do with what I am asking, then yes...please tell me...”

(McGee stops....)

McGee; “When we got word that you were dead...Tony lost it...I lost it...Abbey went crazy....”

Ziva; “But not Gibbs”

McGee: “Tony’s yelling at him...”All Hands On Deck”....”

(McGee pauses...)

McGee: “We didn’t know....I swear, Ziva....we didn’t know...”

(She looks at McGee, pained expression)

Ziva; “Did not know what, Timothy?....Please....”

McGee: “We were mad...hurt...That boss didn’t change....He told us to do our jobs, to focus on work....”

(McGee stops...remembers...)

McGee: “I went home that night...I couldn’t believe he wasn’t affected...I needed to see that he was....”

Ziva; “You went to his house...”

(McGee nods...)

McGee: “I went...door was open as always....didn’t find him inside....”

Ziva: “He was in his basement...”

(McGee nods...)

McGee: “I started down the stairs....and I saw the boss...sitting in front of his workbench...And I was so mad....I needed him to care....I was ready to confront him, even if it meant my job....”

Ziva; “Oh Timothy...I am so sorry....”

(He nods...)

McGee: “I know...but when I saw him...he looked up at me....”

(McGee looks away....shaking his head....)

McGee: “I’ll never forget his face as long as I live....”

(Ziva stares...waiting...)

McGee: “His face...he was lost...he looked at me like he was begging me for something....and he said...”

“Kelly’s gone”

(McGee stops....Ziva’s hands fly up to her mouth)

McGee: “He’d lost it, Ziva....He was gone...I told him it was you...not Kelly...He told me..”

“Yea..I know....Ziva’s gone...”

McGee: “This picture we have of boss...superman...He’s not afraid of anything.....He wasn’t Superman that night....”

Ziva: “Timothy...was he...”

(McGee turns to Ziva....his face in pain...)

McGee: “He had his gun in his hand, Ziva....I took it out of his hand, put it away....”

(Ziva’s eyes tear up....her hands still to her face...)

McGee: “I sat with him for a couple of hours...We talked...We talked about why it had affected him like it did....And...the next day...He’s Gibbs again...Do your job, get to work, focus people...He was the boss....which is exactly what we needed”

(Ziva takes hold of McGee’s arm)

Ziva: “He told you why....He told you why it affected him as it did?”

(McGee stares at her for a moment....nods his head)

McGee: “Yea...he did..but I don’t think he remembers....He’s never talked about that night....or about you...dying...again...”

Ziva; “Tell me, Timothy...please...tell me why he thinks of me so....He is more Abba to me than my own father....”

McGee: “Ziva...you’re my friend...Except for Tony, probably my best friend...But this...This is something you need to hear from him.....It’s really not my place to tell you...”

(She looks at McGee....then nods...)

Ziva: “You are doing for him what you would do for me...are you not?”

McGee: “Yea...I guess I am...”

(She stands on her tip toes, kisses McGee’s cheek...)

Ziva: ‘You are the best of friends anyone could have, Timothy McGee...And I love you, very much”

(He hugs her...Then he hugs her tighter....)

McGee; “Thank you for living, Ziva.....and thank you for coming home....to us....”

(She nods her head against his chest....)

Ziva; ‘I am home, Timothy....I am with my family....I am home....”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens outside Sheriff Simm's house...Kyle Edwards stands in the trees, watching....)

Kyle; "They brought her home...."

(He looks through a hunter's single lensed scope, looking around the yard outside the house...)

Kyle: "Daddy's car is there....He can't stay there forever...."

(He turns from the house, trots through the woods, gets into his truck, lays on the bench, and closes his eyes...)

Kyle: "He can't stay forever...."

(scene shifts to The D Ranch, Dil and Nell, sitting on their bed....Nell is still made up, looking down at the bed)

Nell: "You like me like this...don't you?"

Dil: "Honestly?.....(pause).."No...I don't"

(She looks up at him in surprise....)

Nell: "You....don't?"

(He shakes his head slowly....)

Dil: "It's okay for a wedding....and you look wonderful...."

(He pauses)

Dil: "But you're not Nell...."

(She shakes her head back and forth...)

Nell: "I wish it was....I wish it was me...for you...So you could maybe have a pretty wife...."

(He looks at her curiously...)

Dil: "Pretty wife?...Nell...You are pretty!...Hell, you're beautiful!..."

Nell: “No, Dil...I know you’re being sweet....but I know that I’m not....”

(He takes her hand....and he looks directly into her eyes....)

Dil: “I walked into Cyber, looking for the woman that had saved my life....I wanted to thank her....”

(She gives a small smile...)

Nell: “I remember....”

Dil: “Then Delilah pointed you out to me...you had your back to me....and you turned around...”

(She buries her face in her hands....)

Nell: “I was such a klutz!”

Dil: “It’s mice to neat you”....”

(She laughs...)

Nell: “You did say that ….”

Dil: “I did...I was shaken to the core....There in front of me, the woman I’d waited for all my life...The one I thought I’d never meet....”

Nell: “Dil..stop...I’m going to cry...and this makeup....”

Dil: “God, she was so beautiful....Then she smiled....and I swear to you, I forgot to breathe....”

(He pauses)

Dil: “I called Sis....”

Nell: “I know...she told me...”

Dil: “And when you came here for the first time, I asked you....”Take a chance...”

(She nods...)

Nell: “And I did...You did too”

Dil: “No...I knew...I knew the first time I saw you that I loved you....this beautiful, smiling, wonderful woman....”

Nell: “I loved you too....I was so scared...You were....You are, so beautiful...so....just so...you....”

Dil: “I love you....I love you right now, but I also love my girl that takes life as it is, makes something wonderful out of something bad, and has this smile that makes every problem go away....”

Nell: “My makeup....Dil...”

(He pulls a tissue out of the box by the bed....he wipes her eyes....)

Dil: “Get movie starred up for the wedding....You look stunning....Just two things....”

(He holds up 1 finger)

Dil: “One...If a movie star does show up, don’t run off with him”

(She nods, now crying....)

Dil: “Two...After the wedding....Be who you want to be...If you want this, then do this....But if you like Nell...the Nell I’ve always known....Then be her...And let me keep looking at the same face I saw that day I first met you...”

(She leans into him....crying....)

Nell: “Dil...What did I do to deserve you?....What.....”

Dil: “That’s easy....”

(He pauses)

Dil: “You love me...You’d love me poor, heck, you were ready to love me when my legs went dead...and I could have been a cripple all my life.....”

(He holds her close...)

Dil: “You’re pure, Nell...You’re magic....You’re so good to me....and I wake up each morning thinking, “No matter what this day brings...she’s with me...She’s got my back...She respects me, loves me, and because of her, today is going to be fine....No matter what...life is going to be okay....”

(He stops...)

Dil: “That’s what you’ve done to deserve me....”

(She says nothing...she still cries, holding onto him...she finally manages...)

Nell: “I don’t know how else to be!...I love you...I love you, Dil, so much...”

(He smiles...)

Dil: “And you’re going to have my baby...”

(She smiles big....nods...)

Nell: “Yes, I am....”

Dil: “You like being pregnant...don’t you?”

(She shakes her head)

Nell: “I love being pregnant with your child...There’s a part of you in me....something we made together....and knowing that...It just makes me happy...”

Dil: “Then...if you want....we’ll have another one”

(She smiles...looks up at him...)

Nell: “Yea...Let me get used to being a mother...and then, yes...definitely....”

(He stares at her....she looks back....)

Dil: “You still look like a movie star....”

(She kisses him)

Nell: “Then kiss this movie star....I promise not to tell your wife”

(scene fades out to the kiss...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Sheriff Sims’s house, Cary sitting on the edge of Stephanie’s bed...She hears her father’s car pull out of the driveway)

Cary: “You rest now, hear...you’re had a hard time of it”

(The little girl nods....)

Stephanie: “Mommy....who was that man that came and got me?”

Cary: “I don’t rightfully know, honey....someone your grandfather knows”

Stephanie: “He reminded me of grandpa”

Cary: “He did? How’s that?”

Stephanie: “He was going to take me no matter what....Grandpa’s like that”

(Cary nods)

Cary: “Yes, honey...he is...He’s a wonderful man”

(silence)

Stephanie: “Why isn’t daddy like that?”

(Cary thinks....)

Cary: “Honey...your father is...in his own way....He just doesn’t think things through sometimes...But one thing’s for sure...He does love you....Don’t you ever doubt that”

Stephanie: “You and daddy are going to divorce....aren’t you...?”

Cary: “Honey...that’s not something you need to think about....no matter what happens, you’ll be fine....”

(The young girl rolls over....closes her eyes...)

Stephanie: “I know....I have you...and I have grandpa...And maybe daddy will think things through...”

(Cary strokes the girl’s hair)

Cary: “You want your daddy and me to work things out....don’t you?”

(The young girl...still turned away from her mother, shakes her head)

Stephanie: “No...not really”

(Cary looks at her, curiously...)

Cary: “You don’t?”

Stephanie: “He hits you....he hits you a lot....He shouldn’t do that...”

(Cary stops breathing....)

Cary: “Honey...you don’t know that...”

Stephanie: “Yes I do....I’ve gotten up at night...and I heard things...and then I saw....”

(Cary turns from the girl, wipes her eyes...)

Cary: “Stephanie...I don’t want you to think about those things.....”

(Cary stops talking, closes her eyes, then opens them when she hears the child turn towards her...Stephanie takes her mother’s hand...)

Stephanie: “Mommy...We’ll be okay....I promise...”

(Cary starts shedding tears...kisses the top of Stephanie’s head....)

Cary: “Thank you honey...that makes mommy feel better....”

(scene shifts to Kyle’s truck...He is sitting in the front seat, looking towards the Simms house....He can see the taillights of the Sheriff’s car pulling out of the driveway)

Kyle: “Knew he’d leave sooner or later...”

(He starts his truck, then slowly pulls out of the picnic area he’s parked in. He puts the truck in drive, starts down the street, towards Simms’s house)

(scene shifts to another car, further down the street from Kyle...the headlights come on, pulls slowly out from the curb, keeps pace with Kyle’s truck..)

(scene shifts to Sheriff Jim’s car...the radio crackles...)

Radio: “He’s here, Sheriff”

(Jim lifts his mic, clicks it...)

Sheriff: “Copy that...I’m in position”

(scene shifts to the other vehicle, zooms out, the words “Sheriff - Fairfax County” can be seen prominently on the side)

(scene shifts to driveway half a block from the Simms house...The Sheriff, backed into the driveway, sits, watches his house...He sees the glow of headlights coming down the street towards his house...He reaches down, starts his car)

Sheriff: “Time to end this, boy...Time my girls had a chance at life”

(the car slowly moves out of the driveway)

(scene fades to black and white)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

(scene opens at The D Ranch, Gibbs, Dil, and Torres sitting at the kitchen table, drinking bottles of beer...The women are on the back patio...They hear a car pull up....)

Gibbs; ‘Might be my poker buddy....”

(Gibbs gets up, starts for the front door...)

(scene shifts to the patio...)

Caprice: “There he goes...He’s been waiting for Victoria”

Bishop: “He is the strangest man....Most people are scared to death of him, but the children?” (she shakes her head) “He’s always had a way with them”

Ziva; “He has...it was so surprising to watch”

Nell: “Can you imagine what he’s going to be like with ours?”

(Nell looks over at Dez....Dez smiles back..)

Dez: “He’s going to spoil our kids”

Nell: “How’s your little one coming along?”

Dez: “I guess okay....it’s not like I’m a walking blimp...”

Nell: “Like me, huh?”

Dez: “Sis...you are pregnant...I mean, damn!...”

(Nell smiles...)

Nell: “I am...and you will be too”

Dez: “I’ll be waddling just like you....It’s not going to be a pretty sight...”

(They look through the French door windows, and see Gibbs sit...)

Caprice; “Jimmy must have taken Victoria to play with the others...”

(Ziva looks at Gibbs.....then she gets up...)

Ziva; ‘Excuse me...I have a question to ask him...”

(Caprice looks at the others....)

Caprice; “She’s going to ask him to give her away”

Dez: “Well duh...who else would it be?”

Caprice; ‘I know...Ziva knows..you know...but Jethro never takes things for granted...”

(scene shifts to Gibbs and Ziva walking out front....They walk to the wooden ranch fence, both stop, lean on the fence....)

Gibbs: “What’s on your mind, Ziver?”

(She smiles....)

Ziva: “Will you please be the one to give me away Saturday?”

(Gibbs smiles back...)

Gibbs: “Yea...works for me”

Ziva: “You are smiling...”

Gibbs: “Maybe”

Ziva: “You do know....you do know how important you are to me....Do you not?”

(He looks away....)

Gibbs: “Yea....I guess...”

(Ziva looks at Gibbs....watching his face....)

Ziva: “I am so grateful to you, Abba....You have been the father I wish I could have had”

(Gibbs keeps looking away, then turns to her...)

Gibbs; ‘Don’t be too hard on Eli, Ziva...he had a hard job”

Ziva: “So did you....But you were still....”

(She pauses...then...)

Ziva: “Why, Abba, do you care for me so much...It is as if I am truly your daughter”

(Gibbs looks away...then he looks down....)

Gibbs; “I’ve been waiting for years....for you to ask that question...”

(He pauses...)

Gibbs: “Hoped you never would”

Ziva: “Then, do not tell me. That you do care...it is enough”

(He shakes his head....)

Gibbs: “No, Ziva...it’s not. I need to tell you why...”

(He places his hands in his pockets...then...)

Gibbs: “Let’s take a walk...”

(They walk..towards the tree line and the hills...)

Gibbs: “You want to know why....”

Ziva; “Yes...I do...If you are willing.”

(He is quiet as they walk, then...)

Gibbs: “Kelly”

Ziva: ‘Kelly...your daughter...I do not understand...”

Gibbs: “If she had grown up....I don’t know, Ziver...I think...At least I hoped...that she would be like you”

(Ziva looks at him in amazement....)

Ziva; “Like me?...No!...You would never want..”

Gibbs: “You’re strong...hell, Ziva...you’re the strongest person...man or woman, I know...And you read people well...She would have needed that...”

(Gibbs keeps on walking....he stops...turns to her...)

Gibbs; “But most of all...I wanted her to have what you have...inside...The part that made you give up Tali because you loved her...The one that made you come back to Dinozzo...”

(He looks up at the night sky)

Gibbs: “You love strongly, Ziva...And...”

(He shrugs)

Gibbs: “I just saw Kelly in you” (pause) “Maybe too much....”

(another pause)

Gibbs; “Still do”

(He turns to her....)

Gibbs; “I didn’t come after you because I fell apart....I failed you, Ziva..It wasn’t about duty, or the team, or anything except.....”

(She takes his hand...holds it to her cheek...)

Ziva; “I am so sorry....That is not your fault...It is mine...”

Gibbs: “I should have come....but..”

(silence)

Gibbs; “I thought about finding your body....and every time I thought about that...(pause) “I...”

(Ziva remembers McGee...."He was holding his gun”

Ziva: “You would have seen Kelly....all over again...”

(He nods...then he looks away...She can see the moonlight reflecting off the tears beginning to form in his eyes...)

Gibbs; “Yea....”

(Ziva looks up at Gibbs....)

Ziva: “You will give me away...but I will always be your daughter”

(He nods)

Gibbs; “Hope so”

Ziva; “And I will try and be the best daughter I can be....For you...and for Kelly”

(He surprises her....he turns and hugs her....)

Gibbs: “Just be you, Ziver...And be happy...I just want you to be happy....”

Ziva: “I am...I have always loved Anthony...but it is only lately...that I found out how much...I am very happy, Abba...”

(He grins....Then pops her on the back of the head)

Gibbs; ‘Good, daughter..”

(She pops him right back....)

Ziva; ‘Good you too, Abba”

Gibbs: ‘Now...can we go back? People will think we’re having some sort of serious talk...”

Ziva; ‘And we could not have them think that, could we?”

Gibbs: “Nope...I’m too fun of a guy to have a serious talk...”

Ziva: “You are a very serious man, Abba....”

Gibbs; “Well...don’t tell anyone...okay?”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the Simms house, Kyle’s truck heading towards the house, when a car pulls in front of his truck, slamming on the brakes, squealing to a stop...Kyle sees the sign on the car, immediately...)

Kyle: “$@$%$%... The old man!...”

(Kyle puts his truck in reverse, turns to look out the back as he starts to reverse...and sees out the back window...)

Kyle: “Another one!....Dammit!...”

(Scene shows a second Sheriff’s car, blocking the road behind him, the blue lights on top begin to flash...)

(scene shifts to inside the Simms house, Cary, in the living room, sees the blue reflection of the lights on the living room curtains....She immediately gets up, goes to the window, pulls back the curtains....)

Cary: “Oh god....Kyle....He can’t be that stupid....”

(scene shifts to outside...Sheriff Jim gets out of his car, walks to Kyle’s truck, now stopped...Jim taps his flashlight on the driver’s window....)

Sheriff: “Out boy....”

(Kyle rolls his window down, half way....)

Kyle: “I ain’t done nothing wrong!...You can’t stop me from seeing my daughter!”

(Jim pulls a folded up group of papers out of his back pocket...He shoves them through the open window...the papers fall to Kyle’s lap...)

Sheriff: “Can now, boy...That’s a Restraining Order...Around here, we call it a “Stay Away Order”...Says you can’t come within 100 yards of Cary or Stephanie....And boy, you’re mighty close....”

(Kyle looks at the papers...picks them off his lap, throws them on the floor of the truck)

Kyle: “You can’t keep me....”

Sheriff: “I can do pretty much what I want to do, son...And now that it’s legal...I can bring in my men...And not one of them like you, Kyle...”

(silence.....then...)

Kyle: “You know this doesn’t end here...”

(Jim nods his head...)

Sheriff: “I know...But I have to try”

(Kyle leans on the steering wheel of his truck, looks towards the living room window, sees the curtains drawn back...)

Kyle: “She’s watchin’....You get to play the hero, Sheriff...”

(Kyle turns to the Sheriff)

Kyle: “Won’t always be that way”

(He rolls up the window...puts his truck in reverse....The Sheriff signals his deputy to move his car...The blue lights go off, the other car moves back and into an empty driveway, allowing Kyle to turn around and leave...The deputy gets out of his car, walks to the Sheriff)

Deputy: “You know he’ll be back”

Sheriff: “You would know better than me”

Deputy: “Maybe”

(The Sheriff looks at his deputy....)

Sheriff: “I know you two used to be best friends....and I know why you’re not anymore...”

(The deputy looks towards the house....Cary is standing outside, looking at him...)

Deputy: “Yea...you know”

(The Sheriff looks towards Cary....then back at his deputy)

Sheriff: “I promised I wouldn’t say anything...I’ve kept that promise...But son...some day...you two are going to have to tell that little girl...”

(The Deputy looks again at Cary...she is still standing outside, staring at him)

Deputy: “Just take care of ‘em, Sheriff....I’ll be around if you need me”

(The Deputy turns....The Sheriff calls out to him)

Sheriff: “Dammit, Brad!..They told her you were dead!...They told her you were killed over there!...What was she supposed to do?”

(The deputy, still walking away, calls back...)

Deputy: “What she had to, I guess...”

(scene fades out to Brad walking to his car, the Sheriff watching him, and Cary, still on the front porch, watching him get in his car....)

(scene fades to black and white)

THURSDAY MORNING

(scene opens in the motorhome, Tony and Ziva in bed, eyes open)

Ziva: “When are you going to tell me?”

Tony: “Now”

(She rolls over on one elbow...smiling...)

Ziva; “Where?”

Tony: “Someplace you’ve been”

Ziva: “Do not do this to my Anthony!...Where are we going on our honeymoon?”

(Tony grins...)

Tony: “To see an old friend”

(Ziva scowls)

Ziva: “I have many friends....in many places...that does not tell me anything!”

(Tony looks at Ziva....smiles a small smile...)

Tony: “A friend that knew Tali....Your sister Tali...You told me he knew her pretty well...”

(She thinks....then her face lights up...)

Ziva: “Portugal? To see Jacob?”

(Tony nods....)

Ziva: “Anthony!...It is perfect!....”

(She stops....)

Ziva: “But...I promised Tali.....”

Tony: “She’s going....”

(Ziva says nothing....looks at Tony....then...)

Ziva: “It is our honeymoon”

Tony: “I know...but we’ve been honeymooning for what...years?”

Ziva: “But still....”

Tony: ‘It’s not just you and me, Ziva....it’s Tali too...She’s, I guess...getting married too”

(Ziva turns on her back, stares at the ceiling)

Ziva: “You have kept this from me, Anthony Dinozzo”

Tony: “Kept what?”

Ziva: “What a wonderful man you are....it is not fair....”

Tony: ‘Have I been not so wonderful?”

Ziva; ‘No...but you have not been this kind of wonderful...My mother’s dress....this trip...Tali...”

(She turns back to him....)

Ziva; “You have been hiding this man from me!...”

(She turns back onto her back)

Ziva: “I will be a good wife....”

([pauses)

Ziva: “If it kills you...I will be a good wife”

Tony: “if it kills you...not me...”

Ziva: “No...I meant what I said....I would not kill you, obviously...but I would hurt you...”

Tony: “Why would you hurt me?”

Ziva: “So that I could care for you...and show you what a good wife I could be”

(Tony thinks...then...)

Tony: “I think that sort of makes sense...If you look at it from a Ziva way of thinking”

Ziva; “Thank you...”

Tony: “You want to tell her or should I?”

Ziva: “We should do it together...”

Tony: “Like a husband and wife...”

Ziva: “No...as a father and mother...we are not husband and wife yet”

Tony: “I like the husband and wife thing better....”

Ziva: “Then you tell her as husband, and I will be the mother”

Tony: “Compromise....”

Ziva; ‘Yes...it is how I am....and you may say thank you at any time”

(silence)

Ziva; “You are welcome”

Tony: “I didn’t say thank you, yet”

Ziva; “But you were thinking it, and you do not want me to hurt you”

(Tony grins...)

Tony: “It’s going to be a fun life”

(She turns back to him, moves closer...)

Ziva; ‘It is going to be a wonderful life, Anthony...”

Tony: “And if it’s not?”

Ziva: “It will be....”

Tony: “Because I don’t want you to hurt me....right?”

(She pulls him closer)

Ziva; “You are a wise man, Anthony Dinozzo”

Tony: “No, I’m a man that doesn’t like pain”

Ziva; “Then it is settled.... We will have a wonderful life....”

(scene fades to black and white)

THURSDAY NOON

(scene opens at inside grocery store...Brad pushing a cart, putting coffee in the cart...a voice rings out....)

“BRAD!”

(He looks up, sees Stephanie running towards him....He kneels down, catches her hugs her....)

Brad: “Hey!..What are you doing here?”

(Cary moves into the scene, pushing a loaded cart)

Cary: “She’s helping her mother shop”

Brad: “She’s okay to get outside? I mean...just two days ago....”

(She nods)

Cary: “The doctor said getting out would be good for her...i just need to keep an eye on her”

(He lowers his voice...)

Brad: “But you...is it a smart idea to be out...?”

Cary: “life goes on, Brad....we have to eat...”

(He looks at her for a moment...then nods)

Brad: “Well...it was good seeing you again...”

(He starts to push his cart by hers....)

Cary: “Brad....Please....”

(He shakes his head....)

Brad: “It was 10 years ago, Cary....let it go...I have...”

Cary: “No...it was like it was yesterday....”

(He looks away...nods...)

Brad: “Yea...I know...me too”

(He looks down at Stephanie, finds she’s been paying attention to the two of them....He kneels down again...)

Brad: “Keep your mother safe...okay, tiger?”

(Stephanie nods....hugs Brad’s neck....Brad stands up....)

Brad: “Gotta go....”

(He leaves his cart by the shelves, walks down the aisle towards the front doors....Cary watches him as he leaves...)

Stephanie: “Mr. Brad’s a good man...isn’t he, mommy?”

(Cary nods....)

Stephanie: “You should have married him instead of daddy....”

(She looks up, blinking away the tears....)

Cary: “Come on, Steph...we need to finish shopping”

Stephanie: “What else do you need?”

(She watches as Brad exits the store, the doors shutting behind him)

Cary: “What I need isn’t on a shelf, honey.....Come on...let’s go check out”

(scene shifts to the parking lot of the grocery store, Brad gets in his private car, pulls out....)

(scene shifts to Kyle, sitting in his truck, watching...)

Kyle: “Just can’t give it up....can you buddy?”

(He sits...waits...then he sees Cary and Stephanie walking out of the store, pushing a cart full of bags....)

(scene fades to black and white)

THURSDAY NIGHT

(scene opens at the land around the motorhome....Ziva leans against Gibbs, looking out over the benches and the stage...)

Ziva: “It is beautiful....thank you”

(Workers can be seen putting finishing touches on the stage)

Gibbs: “Want it to be what you want”

(She looks over the stage...a tall hill comes directly down behind the stage...)

Ziva: “It is more than what I could ever want”

(Gibbs puts an arm around Ziva)

Gibbs: “Got some time?”

Ziva; “Of course....”

Gibbs: “I want to talk with Dinozzo about something....Wanted to put it by you first”

(She turns to him, curious..)

Ziva; “Me first? What is it, Abba?”

(He starts explaining.....she looks at Gibbs, nodding, asking questions...then he finishes...)

Gibbs: “What do you think?”

Ziva: “What of McGee? What would he think?”

Gibbs: “He couldn’t say yes fast enough”

(Ziva thinks....then looks at Gibbs)

Ziva: “I think it is wonderful...Yes...you have my approval...”

Gibbs: “Okay...then I’ll go talk to him...”

(He turns, then stops...looks back at Ziva)

Gibbs: “You know it would mean he’d be gone sometimes”

(She looks out over the land...sees Dez and Cal working on the benches....then Nell and Caprice, placing flower holders in the aisle...Dil, Tony, Palmer and McGee are sitting on a bench, laughing....Then she sees Tali and Ahnjong, playing with Victoria and Danny...She turns back to Gibbs...)

Ziva: “I will be fine...”

(She looks back to the family)

Ziva; “I am home”

(scene fades to black and white)

Season 29, Season Finale’, “Day Of The Tiva – We Do”, Part 4

FRIDAY MORNING

(scene opens on the back deck of the D Ranch, the entire NCIS group sitting at a long table, everyone talking, passing food...)

Bishop: “Gibbs..stop it!”

(Gibbs caught handing a sausage patty under the table to Daisy...)

Gibbs: “Hey...I just wanted to share the joy...”

Bishop: ‘I didn’t burn them!...You haven’t even tried one!”

Gibbs: “I’m waiting to see if Mutt likes it!”

Torres: “Hey...they really are good....”

Bishop: “Thank you Nick....”

(Gibbs tries one...his eyebrows go up....Bishop watches....waits...)

Gibbs: “Not bad”

(He takes another bite....)

Gibbs: “Pretty good...”

(Gibbs looks over at Bishop...She leans back, does scrunchy mouth thing, then smiles...)

Bishop: “We figured out why I burn everything”

Torres: “Yea...it’s kinda embarrassing....you know...”

(Gibbs looks...waits...)

Torres: “It’s my fault....”

Gibbs; “Your fault, Torres?”

Torres: “Yea...I mean, Bish is in the kitchen cooking...and I walk in....And she has her apron on...”

Bishop: “My mother gave it to me...It’s my favorite apron”

Torres: “Mine too”

Bishop: “For different reasons, Nick...”

Torres: “Look...I look at Bish in the apron...and I’m like, wow...she looks good...and then, you know....”

Bishop: “Everything burns”

(Gibbs looks, waits....)

Gibbs: “Everything burns because of the apron?”

(Caprice rolls her eyes...)

Caprice: “He’s clueless...”

Gibbs: “What?”

(Caprice leans over, whispers in his ear....He nods...)

Gibbs: “Okay...I get it...”

(Looks at Bishop)

Gibbs: “So...don’t wear the apron...”

(Bishop smiles....shakes her head)

Bishop: “I like wearing the apron”

(Gibbs takes another sausage patty...bites into it...looks at it...)

Bishop: “That was from the last batch...Torres walked in...”

Gibbs: “I get it....Caprice has....”

Caprice; “Jethro....”

Gibbs: “What?”

(Caprice looks at Gibbs, then sees Torres and Bishop are watching...waiting...)

Caprice: “I have a bright green wig....Jethro likes it”

Torres: “So....you don’t cook in that wig....”

(Caprice grins...)

Caprice: “Not if I don’t want burned food”

Gibbs: “We order out a lot when she wears it”

(Torres and Bishop start laughing, Caprice looks at Gibbs, shaking her head)

Bishop: “Anyway....it’s the apron...and Torres...Not me”

(Gibbs looks down at Daisy....)

Gibbs: “Hear that mutt...you may not get any more ham jerky..”

(Daisy cocks her head...ears go up...she looks at Gibbs, then over at Bishop....She begins to whine...)

Torres: “Uh oh...”

Bishop: “Daisy, don’t worry....I’ll keep on making your jerky...”

(Ziva watches the interchange between Bishop, Gibbs, and Torres...She leans over to Tony...)

Ziva: “Do you ever think I will be able to do that?”

Tony: “Which one...the apron or the wig?”

(She pokes him in the side)

Ziva: “You have never needed encouragement, Anthony Dinozzo”

(Tony grins...)

Tony: “Neither have you”

(She nods..)

Ziva: “I do not dispute that....Do you have any complaints?”

(She smiles, waits...)

Tony: “Me? Complaining about too much of you? HA!....”

(Ziva smilles again...then starts to take a bite of food)

Tony: “I’m surprised we don’t have another kid on the way”

(She smiles again....takes a bite...Tony looks at her...)

Tony: “Ziva...this is where you say not ever....”

Ziva: “I am simply smiling, Tony...it means nothing”

Tony: “Nothing means nothing with you....”

(He looks at her...starts shaking his head...)

Tony: “Wait...you’re not trying to tell me....”

Ziva: “No, I am not...”

Tony: “But Ziva...you’re smiling...”

Ziva: “I am simply stating that there are times these things happen....and if it did, we should embrace it with the joy intended”

(Tony keeps looking at her....Then he looks around the table, sees Nell with her big tummy...then Dez, seeing Cal kiss her cheek, then gently pat her belly...Bishop and Torres smiling while Little Nickie sips on a cup...)

Tony: “They’ve gotten to you....”

Ziva; “I do not know what you mean...”

Tony: “All the babies....here...It’s gotten to you....”

Ziva: “No, Anthony...But I do know...that having another child...in a place that was safe...”

(She stops)

Ziva: “It is nothing....and it is obvious you do not wish for another child...So, we will not speak of it anymore...I share your feelings on this, so we are good....”

Tony: “Okay....So, pass me another biscuit?”

(She picks up a biscuit, throws it on his plate....)

Ziva; “There is your biscuit...”

(Tony looks at the biscuit, then he looks at Ziva....)

Tony: “Let’s take a walk....”

(Ziva shakes her head....)

Ziva: “No...it is not necessary, Anthony....We do not need to discuss....”

(He takes her hand...)

Tony: “Please?...Ziva...?”

(She nods...)

Ziva; “You have asked politely...I will walk with you”

(They get up....walk off the deck, through the olive trees....)

Tony: “Now..tell me what’s going on in that head of yours”

Ziva: “Nothing....It was merely a thought...It is gone now”

Tony: “A thought about having another baby....”

Ziva: “No...it was possibly my biometric alarm clock going off....I have hit the snooze button”

(Tony looks at her....then...)

Tony: “Do you want another child?”

Ziva: “No...”

Tony: “You look at Nell, Dez, Bishop...and you don’t want one?”

Ziva: “No...I do not wish to be that large...You do not know what it was like...”

Tony: “You were hiding...you were moving from place to place....It wouldn’t be like that this time”

Ziva: “Anthony...it seems as if you are trying to persuade me to have another child”

Tony: “No...just telling you it would be different...”

(She stops...looks down....)

Ziva: “Would you be.....angry....?”

(He takes her chin in her hand...tilts her face up towards his)

Tony: “Be angry that you wanted a child with me?....Not a chance, Ziva David”

Ziva; “I do not want anything that would disrupt what we are doing, Anthony...”

Tony: “Doing?”

Ziva: “This thing....this time we are in...it is....it is...”

Tony: “Happy?”

(She nods)

Ziva: “Yes....happy is a good word...”

(Tony looks at her....then...)

Tony: “I’m going to say one more thing about this...and then, we don’t talk about it anymore...”

(She nods...and Tony says, softly)

Tony: “You want to see happy?...” (pause) “...tell me we’re having a baby...Then you’ll see happy...”

(Her face shows shock....)

Tony: “Now...let’s go back and eat...I hear another biscuit calling my name...”

(He takes her hand, leads her back to the table...They sit...Ziva is staring at Tony, surprise on her face...)

(Tony looks at her plate....gets some eggs, puts a large helping on the plate...)

Tony: “You need to eat”

(She looks at the plate...)

Ziva: “I do?”

Tony: “Yea...you need to get into practice....The whole eating for two thing...”

(Her eyes get wide...then..)

Ziva; “I am hungry....”

(She looks back up at him...)

Ziva; “Anthony.....”

Tony: “I love you too, Ziva”

(She smiles. Then the smile gets bigger...then she digs into her food)

(scene shifts to the Sheriff’s station...Jim in his office...a knock at his door...)

Sheriff: “Come in...”

(The door opens...his deputy, Brad Ellis, walks in)

Sheriff; “Brad...what’s on your mind?”

(Brad stands...He hands the Sheriff a 3 X 5 card...)

Sheriff: “What’s this?”

Brad: “A signature card...from my bank...”

Sheriff: “What the heck for, son?”

(Brad fidgets....then...)

Brad: “Sir...I figured...this thing with Kyle....It might not end up....it might end up bad...”

Sheriff: “Okay...maybe....but what’s that got to do with this card?”

Brad: “Well sir...about that conversation we had....”

(He hesitates....then...)

Brad: “When I got back...and found out about Kyle and Cary....and Stephanie...”

Sheriff: “Brad...sit down....”

(He shakes his head....)

Brad: “Respectfully...no sir...What’s done is done...I don’t blame her, I don’t hate her, I don’t.....(pause) “I don’t anything....”

Sheriff: “Then what’s this card about?”

Brad: “When I came back....and I saw Stephanie for the first time...” (pause) “...I knew....”

(The sheriff hangs his head....)

Sheriff: “I know you did...I did too”

Brad: “Does Cary...Does she know?.....”

Sheriff: “Of course she does,...A woman knows...Hell son...all she had to do was do the math. You came home on leave...then one month later....”

(Brad looks at the sheriff in surprise...)

Sheriff: “She knows, Brad....She knows Stephanie is your child...”

(Brad looks off....his face in anguish.....Then, he turns back to the sheriff)

Brad: “Then...Sir...I’ll stay until this plays out, one way or the other...I’ll do what I can to help you protect both of them....But after that....Sir...I have to go....”

Sheriff: “Go? What do you mean, son?”

(Brad shakes his head)

Brad: “I can’t stay around here...knowing she knows....I just can’t...Not with another man...It’s” (pause) “It’s too hard, sir.”

(He turns....walks away...)

Sheriff; “Brad...this card...?”

(Brad stops, does not turn....)

Brad: “When I got back, I started saving money for my daughter...I guess maybe...I guess maybe I thought things would turn out different...I put in what I figured child support would be....every payday... just never stopped”

(The sheriff looks at the man, shocked...)

Brad: “There’s a little over $48,000 in that account...been putting money in for 8 years now...When I go, sir...I’d be grateful if you gave it to her...Sign that card, take it to bank...They’ll take care of everything from there”

(Brad walks out of the office, closes the door....The sheriff looks at the door, speechless.....He looks at the card, then back up at the door...)

Sheriff: “You are an incredibly stupid man....Or an incredibly good man”

(The sheriff looks up at the ceiling)

Sheriff: “A little help from you telling which one he is would be nice....”

(He looks down...then back up...)

Sheriff: “Sorry...Please...and amen”

(scene fades to black and white)

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

(scene opens at the wedding site, all benches set up, stage is up, workers are cleaning up the ground under the benches and around the area...Caprice’s voice is heard....)

Caprice; “Tony!..Left!..more left!...”

(Tony is seen at the stage, McGee next to him, moving two steps left...)

Caprice; “Cal will be in the middle!..CAL! THE MIDDLE! NOT THERE!.....Now...Ziva!...Can you hear me?”

(A voice from the motorhome calls out...)

Ziva; “We can hear you!...”

(Gibbs walks over....)

Gibbs: “She’s coming out of the motorhome?”

Caprice: “Well yes!...there’s no stable, or barn, or house.....Where else does she come out from?”

Gibbs: “Jesus, McGibbs!...”

(Caprice snaps back)

Caprice; ‘You have a better idea, Jethro?”

(He thinks....then he turns to her...)

Gibbs; “Yea!...I do!...”

Caprice; ‘What?”

(He tells her....her eyes register surprise....then she nods....)

Caprice: “Yes!...Do it! Chop chop! Quick! Do your job!”

(Gibbs walks off...yells out...)

Gibbs; ‘PALMER!...KACIE!...TORRES!...”

(scene shifts back to Caprice....)

Caprice; “Ziva!..Change in plans!...You’ll be coming down the center aisle!”

(scene shifts to Ziva, standing at the center of the aisle in back....)

Ziva; “I am standing in grass!”

Caprice; “That will change!...Get with the new program!”

(Ziva salutes Caprice, stands at attention)

Caprice; “Very funny, very funny...Remember, you girls drafted me to do this!...Okay...we do this without Jethro...he’s busy....Danny...Stand in for your father!”

(Danny smiles...He walks to Ziva....stands next to her, grinning...)

Danny: “You ready, sister?”

(Ziva smiles at Danny)

Ziva: ‘If your father is my Abba, then yes, sister is appropriate”

(She takes his hand)

Ziva: “I am as ready as the Freddy is, Abba Jr...”

(Danny looks up at her, confused. Ziva looks back down, shrugs)

Ziva: “You will figure it out”

Caprice; “Okay...the music has started!....You two...come on down!...”

(Danny proudly walks Ziva down the center aisle....)

Caprice; ‘Slower!...Let people see her dress!...”

(Danny slows....then they finally get to the altar...Cal steps up...)

Cal; “And who gives this woman’s hand today in marriage?”

(Danny smiles big...)

Danny: “The baddest, best, shoot first ask questions later NCIS agent there ever was!”

(Ziva breaks out in laughter....Caprice and the rest too.....Ziva recovers...)

Ziva; “Her Abba does....”

Tony: “I like Danny’s better...”

(Ziva scowls at Tony....Tony turns to Cal)

Tony: “But she’s the boss...”

(Ziva smiles...nods to Tony...Cal whispers to Tony...)

“Indeed”

(Tony looks at Cal in surprise...)

Cal: “However, she is quite the beautiful....boss....as you say”

(Tony looks at Ziva, grins)

Tony; “Indeed”

Caprice; “Enough funny stuff!....Get to it people!...Do your jobs!....Where is Tali? Tali!...You need to be up there!”

(Tali is seen running onto the stage....She takes her place...stands, smiling at her mother, still approaching the stage)

Tony: “Hey Tali....”

(Tali looks at Tony....)

Tony: “What do you think....”

(She goes to Tony, Tony whispers in her ear....She looks at him, and nods up and down, excitedly...)

Tali: “We do?”

(Tony nods....)

Tony: “It only seems right, kiddo....”

(Tali hugs Tony....Tony hugs her back, tightly)

Tony: “I love you, kiddo...”

Tali: “I love you so much, Daddy!....I am so happy!...”

Tony: “I know you are, honey...your daddy’s happy too”

Tali: “I think it would be perfect....What do you think Uncle Cal?”

(Cal looks at her....kneels down....)

Cal: “I think it would be one of the most wonderful things anyone could ever do”

(She hugs Cal....)

Tali: “I love you, Uncle Cal...I love you so much, too....”

(Cal is affected by the display of emotion...)

Cal: “My little one...I..I love you too....”

(Dez watches, smiling....She leans to Bishop...)

Dez: “Tali does love her uncle Cal...”

Bishop: “It shows...They have some sort of special bond....that’s for sure”

Dez: “But, you know...she loves all her uncles...”

Bishop: “I know...Torres knows too....He says of all the people at this Ranch...that Tali stands out....”

Dez; “Her and sis....maybe that’s why Tali and Nell are so close”

(Bishop nods)

Bishop: “God, Dez...if you could have known Nell before Dil....She was so reserved....so quiet....you never saw her laugh, or smile like she does”

Dez: “Well, she sure does smile now....”

(Bishop looks over at Dil, helping Nell into a chair)

Bishop: “They are such a good couple...”

Dez: “She sure has made my brother happy...”

Bishop: “That make you feel good?..I mean, of course it does...but you’ve known him all his life...”

Dez: “Bish..you have no idea...The change in my brother...How happy he is....What a difference Nell has made in him”

(Dez nudges Bishop in the side...)

Dez: “Like you and Torres...”

(Bishop nods...looks towards her husband, still working on the stage...)

Bishop: “I think about ... sometimes...We almost didn’t make it...”

Dez: “But you did.....”

(Bishop nods....)

Bishop: “I know...But I was walking away....I had told him good bye...”

(She stares at Torres....then...)

Bishop: “I gotta go....”

(Dez watches as Bishop walks quickly to Torres....He looks up, surprised to see her....)

Torres: “Yea, Bish...what’s....”

(She grabs him...holds him tight....)

Bishop; “I love you Nick....I swear, I love you....”

(Torres hugs her back....then...)

Torres; “Hey..I love you too....Is something wrong?”

(She shakes her head, then tears flow....)

Torres; “Bish...what....”

(She hugs him again....)

Bishop: “I need to feel this is real....”

(Torres does....then..)

Bishop: “We almost didn’t make it, Nick....I almost walked away from you....”

(Torres nods...)

Torres; “I know...but...We’re here, El...We’re here, and you’re my wife...and we have a baby....Just....El...We made it....”

(Bishop nods....)

Bishop: “I know...I’m sorry, Nick....This wedding...the stories...everything I guess just got to me....”

Torres: “It’s okay...I don’t want you feeling sad, but I like the hugs...”

Bishop: “I still don’t tell you enough....I will...I promise...I’ll get better....”

Torres: “El...I’m happy...I know you love me....”

(She nods, hugs him again....then breaks, wipes her eyes....)

Bishop: “I have to get back to the rehearsal....I love you, Nick...”

(She dashes off, back to Dez....She reaches Dez...)

Dez: “One of those moments?”

Bishop: “Yes...a big one...Emotions are running high...At least mine are”

Dez: “Cal and I had ours about an hour ago....This wedding..yea....damn, girl...it’s like being on a roller coaster...”

(Bishop looks out, crosses her arms over her chest, looks at Dez)

Bishop: “We do have the coolest weddings...don’t we?”

Dez; “No doubt about that....uh oh...Sarge is barking...”

(scene fades out, Caprice ordering Ziva to the stage, Dez and Ellie scurry to take their assigned seats....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the Simms house...Cary pulls into the driveway, she parks...Stephanie runs inside, Cary starts to gather her plastic bags out of the back seat...”

“I’ll help you with those...”

(She jumps, startled....She turns around....her eyes wide....)

Cary: “Brad....!”

(He reaches for some bags....)

Brad: “I’ll help you get them in...”

(She doesn’t move)

Cary: “What are you doing here?”

(Brad looks at her for a moment...then...)

Brad: “I thought maybe we needed to talk”

(She nods....)

Cary: “Yes..we’ve needed to for some time now”

(She pauses....)

Cary: “What made you finally decide this?”

(He is quiet for a moment...then...)

Brad: “Seeing you in the store...seeing Stephanie...Something said, “Stop running”

(She straightens up from inside the backseat of the car, faces Brad)

Cary: “You never told me what happened over there...”

Brad: “I know”

Cary: “All I knew is that they told me you were dead....They told me they couldn’t tell me how...or where...but you were dead....”

(He nods...)

Cary: “If I had known you were alive....No matter what...no matter how bad....I would have waited, Brad...You have to know that....”

Brad: “No more talk about that...”

(she ignores the statement...and continues)

Cary: “Brad!...Two years!....I didn’t hear from you or know you were alive..”

(She yells out...)

Cary: “FOR TWO YEARS!....”

(She turns away from him...hugs herself... begins crying.....)

Cary: “I hate this...I hate all of this....Most of all I hate pretending....”

“Pretending what?”

(They both turn....Kyle Edwards is standing at the end of the driveway)

Cary: “Kyle....you’re not supposed to be anywhere near me....”

Brad: “Kyle...you gotta go....I do not want to arrest you....”

(Kyle stares at Cary, ignoring Brad....)

Kyle: “Pretend what, Cary....That you love me? I figured that one out a long time ago...So...what...”

Cary: “Kyle..please leave....please...before Stephanie sees you”

Kyle: “Pretend what, Cary?”

Cary: “No Kyle...please go....”

(He takes steps towards her...his voice harsh...)

Kyle: “PRETEND WHAT?”

Cary: “Kyle...NO!..NOT HERE!”

Brad: “Enough....Kyle..last warning....”

(Kyle’s face is red, his eyes glaring..He comes towards her, faster)

Kyle: “PRETEND WHAT, YOU LYING BITCH!”

(He steps by Brad, grabs Cary by the hair, pulls her towards him, screaming at her....)

Kyle: “TELL ME!...”

(Cary screams out in pain....Without warning, Brad hits him in the face, knocking him back....Kyle lets go of Cary’s hair, remains on his feet....and in a growl...)

Kyle: “You know what she’s talkin’ about...don’t you, #$$%@#…"

Brad: “Kyle...I’m arresting you....”

(He reaches behind, starts to pull out the handcuffs...then Cary screams...)

Cary: “KYLE!..NOOOOOOO!.”

(Brad looks towards Cary, then at Kyle....Kyle stands, his pistol drawn, pointing it at Brad....)

Kyle: ‘Steph’s your daughter....ain’t she?”

(Brad calms...hands out, speaking evenly)

Brad: “Kyle..put the gun down....”

Kyle: “SAY IT!...”

Brad: “Kyle...PUT THE GUN DOWN!...”

Kyle: “SAY IT!...SAY SHE’S YOURS!..”

(Brad waits....then...)

Brad; “Yes...she’s my daughter....but Kyle, you raised her...you’ve been her father...She doesn’t have to know!”

(Kyle lowers the gun, raises his head and screams.....)

Kyle: “DAMMIT!”

(Kyle whips the gun back up towards Brad)

(3 quick loud shots are heard.....Kyle’s eyes stare straight ahead....He whispers...)

“Didn’t see that...coming....”

(He falls to the ground, and they can now see Jim Simms standing, the large revolver out, the barrel still smoking, still pointed at Kyle.....then in a voice barely above a whisper....)

Sheriff: “You didn’t give me any choice, Kyle...you stupid son of a bitch...you didn’t give me any choice...”

(Cary runs to Kyle, drops to the ground next to him....)

Cary: “Why Kyle...Why did it have to be like this...Why?”

(He tries to speak.....then his breath stops....his head falls over, his eyes close...Cary covers her face with her hands....)

Sheriff: “Cary....honey....”

(She lowers her hands, looks at her father...he nods towards the front door....Stephanie stands on the front porch, her eyes wide, shock on her face, staring at Kyle’s body.....)

Cary: “Oh god....Stephanie.....”

(scene fades to black and white)

FRIDAY NIGHT

(scene opens at the wedding site, sun going down....)

Tony: “Well...it’s different...I’ll give Gibbs that...”

Ziva; “I think it is perfect”

Tony: “Perfect? How could that....be perfect?”

Ziva; “It was where we started, Anthony....All this...you and I....”

(Tony looks, cocks his head...)

Tony: “Yea...I can see that...”

(scene shifts to the far end of the benches..A large tent is set up, on the sides, in big letters...)

NCIS EVIDENCE TENT

AUTHORIZED PERSONELL ONLY

Tony: “Yea...if I squint...it makes sense”

Ziva: “I think it was a wonderful idea....”

Tony: “I guess it’s better than you coming out of the motorhome...”

Ziva: “Abba had tables put up in there, and portable air conditioners, and he brought mirrors.....”

(Tony turns to her....)

Tony: “There’s nothing he won’t do for you, Ziva...”

Ziva: “I know...”

(She looks up at him..)

Ziva; “Do you think he knows I love him?”

(Tony nods)

Tony: “Yea...I think he does”

(She leans against Tony...)

Ziva; “I am happy”

Tony: “Me too...and I think our daughter is happiest of all...”

(Ziva smiles...)

Ziva: “Yes...especially when we told her she was going with us on our honeymoon...”

Tony: “She’s been packing ever since we told her. She’s been on that computer, constantly, reading all things Portugal”

(Ziva looks off towards the Ranch....)

Ziva: “It was a wonderful thing you did, Anthony....getting her the ticket....wanting her to go...”

Tony: “I guess...I guess it’s because she’s getting married too...”

(Ziva thinks...nods...)

Ziva; “Yes...she is”

(Ziva looks towards Tony)

Ziva; “I am so sorry your father cannot be here”

(Tony looks down)

Tony: “Thanks...he didn’t want to say it, but I knew...”

Ziva: “The trip would be too much for him”

(Tony nods)

Tony: “You know...Dad loves you”

Ziva; “I do know that...I love him as well...And Tali...she thinks he hung the man in the moon”

(Tony chuckles...)

Tony: “That being said...” (pause)”.. maybe I should tell you what I did....”

(She looks at him curiously....)

Tony: “You know when you saw us whispering on the stage at the rehearsal?”

Ziva; “Yes...”

Tony: “Well.....”

(She looks at him suspiciously....)

Ziva: “Anthony...what did you do?”

(He leans down, whispers in her ear....Ziva’s eyes light up...then she hugs him....)

Ziva; “It is wonderful!...Anthony!....”

(He looks down at her....)

Tony: “Remember?”

(Still holding him, she looks up at his face)

Ziva; “Remember what?”

Tony: “Yesterday, you asked me what I wanted from this marriage....One of the things I said was, I wanted to be able to love you...The way I wanted...”

(She nods)

Ziva: “These things you speak of...like the dress...the ticket for Tali...and this, with Tali....This is what you meant by....you wanted to show me?”

(He shrugs his shoulders...smiles...)

Tony: “Yea...pretty much”

(She lays her head on his chest....)

Ziva: “And these things....I did not allow you to do them.” (pause) “...I do not have the words to tell you...”

Tony: “I just need three, Ziva”

(She nods)

Ziva; “I love you so much”

Tony: “That’s 5”

Ziva: “It is my love, therefore, it will be according to my rules”

Tony: “Speaking of rules....it’s about time...”

Ziva; “I know....it is time for me to go the house...while you go to our home. I have many things to do...And you.....”

Tony: “Can’t see the bride the day of the wedding....That’s the rule”

(She smiles up at him....)

Ziva: “I left you something inside....So you would not miss me so much”

Tony: “Better be a big something...”

Ziva; “Go...miss me, Anthony Dinozzo....and remember what I have told you...”

(He waits, she gives a small smile, kisses him lightly on the lips....then..)

Ziva; “I will be there”

(scene shifts to the motorhome. Night time, lights on inside...Tony walks in, looks at the empty space...lets out a sigh...)

Tony: “Guess it’s me and Audrey Hepburn tonight....”

(He reaches to an end table to pick up the remote control, and under it, he sees several folded sheets of paper....and in Ziva’s handwriting, the outside says....)

My Love

(He sits down on the sofa, opens the folded papers, and begins to read)

My Husband Of My Heart,

I walked into NCIS, so afraid, so knowing you had lost Caitlin. When I sat at the desk, I saw you. You gave me the most beautiful smile, and it was that moment, I knew somehow, that you would be in my life.

(He reads..Ziva talks about different times they kissed, how they fought, and then....)

When I left you at the airport, I boarded the plane, I sat down, looked for you out the window, and I saw you standing where I kissed you goodbye, still looking at me. I wept. I wept because I was leaving, I wept because you were not there. I mostly wept because I did not know if I would ever see you again.

(He wipes his eyes, and reads more...then he gets to the part about Tali.)

I knew you would love Tali....I knew she would be in the care of the most loving man there is. I wanted so badly to tell you she was your daughter myself, but I could not. People have asked me how I could be sure you would take her. My answer then, and is today, before we marry, that I look at you, and I have the one thing I have never had in a man. That thing is called Faith.

(Tony covers his mouth with his hand, tears fall....he continues)

You have my heart and you have my soul. I promise to take care of yours, as you give yours to me.

Thank you, my dearest Anthony, for being the man that I can have faith in. Thank you for loving me, a woman that did not know how to love. Because of you and because of Tali, who you raised in love, I know how to love.

I will be there

Ziva

P.S. You said there was something, and if I told you that something, I would see happy on your face. It is my hope, soon, that I will be able to say that, and see that. It is time, my Anthony

(He reads the P.S. over and over again, his tears dropping onto the paper, nodding his head...)

Tony: “It’s time....It’s time, Ziva”

(He leans back, takes the remote, and finds the movie he wants...He turns it on, and fast forwards to a part he's looking for...He finds it...The title of the movie shows...)

MY FAIR LADY

(He hits play....and begins singing along to the tune in the movie....)

I'm getting married in the morning

Ding dong the bells are gonna chime

I'm getting married

I'm getting married

Just get me to the church on time...

(He grins to himself....)

Tony: "Or the tent...I need to get to the Evidence Tent on time..."

(scene shifts to the kitchen of the Ranch, Ziva walks in, most of them are in the kitchen...Tali sees her and begins smiling....)

Ziva: 'I have left him to himself...."

Tali: "Was it sad, mommy?"

Ziva: "Yes and no, dearest....We knew why"

Caprice: "I had Gibbs strapped to a hospital bed...."

Bishop: "Oh god, that was funny...."

Torres: "Oh yea...We think you got him to say yes with morphine"

(Caprice glares at Torres...)

Caprice: "I only used it in the beginning....The rest I left to his undeniable love for me, that he couldn't say no to."

(a pause...then in unison, the other say..."

"Morphine"

(Caprice leans back....)

Caprice: “Only a little”

(The room gets quiet....Ziva looks around, sees everyone smiling at her...)

Ziva: “Why are you smiling at me...”

Bishop: “We’re not smiling at you, we’re smiling with you”

McGee: “Guess who called and will be coming together....”

Ziva: “I do not know...I had nothing to do with contacting people...”

(McGee grins....Ziva’s face brightens...)

Ziva: “Abby!”

Mcgee; “And Ducky...They’re coming together”

(scene fades out to Ziva’s face, both shock and joy together)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the Simms’s house....The last of the police cars are seen leaving, their beacons turned off, the coroner’s van pulls off. People in the neighborhood are seen standing in their front yards, looking....Sheriff Simms and Brad stand in their front yard, watching the cars leave.....)

Brad: “They’ll have more questions, but it was a good shoot, sheriff”

Sheriff: “Nothing good about any shoot...”

Brad: “I know...but in this case....You saved my life”

Sheriff: “Don’t know if he was gonna shoot or not...But....it is what it is, son....It’s not the worst of my worries right now...”

(Brad looks to the house...)

Brad: “She’ll be okay in time...”

Sheriff: “She saw her grandfather kill her daddy....I don’t know if that ever gets better...”

Brad: “Then you obviously need to talk to her...I’ll leave you to your family, sheriff....”

(Jim looks at Brad....)

Sheriff: “Appreciate it if you’d come in, Brad....That little girl heard what you said about being her father”

(Brad looks at the house again....then nods)

Brad: “Guess I have to face it...No running from this”

(Jim looks at Brad....)

Sheriff: “Kyle would of run....I guarantee that”

(Brad takes a deep breath...)

Brad: “I’m not Kyle”

Sheriff: “No, thank god you’re not...but you are that poor girl’s father....maybe you can start being that father now?”

(Brad looks at Jim, then nods....)

Brad; “Hell of a way to start off”

(The sheriff pats Brad on the back)

Sheriff: “It’s never easy, son...Take it from someone who’s been there”

(They both walk towards the house....scene fades out to the front door opening, the two men walking inside. The door closes behind them)

(scene fades to black and white)

FRIDAY NIGHT

(scene opens in the Simms’s house, Jim and Brad walk in...Cary is sitting on the sofa, Stephanie sitting next to her, upright, hands folded in her lap...As they walk

in, Stephanie's eyes follow Jim, step by step, until he sits down in a chair near her...He looks at the child, and softly...)

Jim: "Honey...I'm so sorry you had to see that"

(He looks at Cary, she shakes her head slowly, mouthing, "I don't know"....Jim looks back to the child)

Jim: "Stephanie....are there some questions you want to ask me?"

(Stephanie sits, not moving, still staring at him....then she slowly shakes her head,…)

Stephanie: "No, Grandpa.."

(The girl slowly turns her head, and looks at Brad....His face is pained...)

Brad: "I'm sorry, honey....I'm so sorry..."

(The girl looks at Brad for a moment....then...)

Stephanie: "Are you my father?"

(He hesitates....and then...)

Brad: "Yes, honey...I am"

(The girl nods her head....)

Stephanie: "Okay"

(The small girl looks up at her mother....she looks towards the outside, where everything happened..)

Stephanie: "He hit you.."

Cary: "I know, baby...."

(Jim and Brad both look at Cary, both faces saying, "I didn't know")

Stephanie: "Mommy...I don't know how to feel"

(Cary closes her eyes, tears form....)

Cary: "Baby...that was your daddy...It's okay to feel sad..."

(Stephanie nods...)

Stephanie: “I guess....”

(The girl looks to Jim.....)

Stephanie: “Grandpa....You feel really, really sad right now....Don’t you?”

(Jim nods...)

Jim: “The saddest I’ve ever felt....”

(The child surprises them, by getting up, walking to her bedroom, coming back....)

Stephanie: “Here...if you hold her for a while, it helps”

(He looks down...her favorite stuffed panda bear is laying in his lap...)

Stephanie: “it works...I hug her all the time”

(She looks at Cary...)

Stephanie: “Daddy would scare me...So I know it works”

(Jim picks the bear up, leans back in the chair, and holds it with one arm to his chest...His face sad.....)

Cary: “Honey...that was a nice thing to do...Are you sure you don’t need her yourself?”

(Stephanie shakes her head...then she looks at Brad...)

Cary: “Are you going to be around, now?”

(Brad doesn’t answer...he doesn’t trust his voice...then...)

Brad: “That depends on you, Stephanie....I’d sure like to...but I would understand if you didn’t want me to”

(She looks up at Cary.....)

Cary: “He’s right, honey....it really depends on you...”

Stephanie: “Is he really my father?”

Cary: “Yes honey....he is...”

(She gets up, walks to Brad....his face showing the apprehension...)

Stephanie: “Is that why you’ve been so nice to me?”

Brad: “Partly....part is because you’re my daughter....but part because I just like you”

Stephanie: “I’m glad you like me...I like you too....”

(He fights the tears.....Then she turns, looks at her grandfather....and her face starts to quiver. For long moments, she stands perfectly still....She speaks, one word....)

“Grandpa....”

(She turns again, looking out towards the front of the house....then she looks again at her grandfather..)

“I’m sorry.....”

(Then she runs to him, holding her arms out, crying....)

“GRANDPA!...”

(Jim picks her up, holds her next to his chest, and with the tears streaming....)

Jim: “I’m sorry honey....I’m sorry....I’m so sorry.....”

(scene fades out to Sheriff Jim, holding his granddaughter, rocking her back and forth, the words, “i’m sorry” being said again and again...)

(scene fades to black and white)

WEDDING DAY MORNING

(scene opens at The D Ranch, morning..The women are sitting at one end of the long table, bowls of fruit sitting on the table...)

Caprice: “snacks....no cheese....nothing that will make you bloat...”

Dez: “No cheese?”

Caprice: “Nope...it gives you gas”

(Dez does ‘eeek’ face....)

Dez: “Wow...how unromantic is that?”

Ziva: “I cannot eat!....I am too nervous!...”

Caprice; “Ziva, honey, you have to eat...it’s going to be a long day, and you don’t want to get real hungry right before, and start pigging out”

Nell: “And she’s right about the cheese....”

Dez: “I remember....damn, Nell....”

Nell: “i didn’t know!...I’d never gotten married before!”

(The men, at the other end of the table, load their plates with eggs, pork chops, bacon, biscuits and gravy...Nell looks over at the food...then looks down at her cantelope....)

Nell: “I’m eating for two!...”

(She gets up, slides her plate next to Dil...smiles at him.., then sits.)

Nell: “Hey”

Dil: “Hey back”

(She looks at his plate, full of food....)

Nell: “Are you going to eat all that?”

(He says nothing...switches his full plate with her plate full of cantaloupe...)

Nell: “You are so sweet!..”

(She lunges at her food....)

Ziva: “I will soon be eating for two as well!.... I will need to practice!...”

(Ziva gets up, sits next to Nell....Then she notices everyone at the table, staring at her....She blushes....)

Ziva; “I meant...”

(They still stare, no one moves...)

(Then Ziva smiles...embarrassed)

Ziva; “No, I am not...”.(pause) “We have spoken about it...and.....We want to have another child!”

(Cheers erupt, the girls moving their plates to the other end, their forks digging into the large platters of meat and eggs....)

Caprice; “Hell yes! Eat up!...We’re celebrating!...”

(Tali gets up, runs to Ziva...her face filled with excitement.)

Tali: “Really? For real?”

(Ziva nods, stroking her daughter’s hair)

Ziva; “We have talked of it, sweet girl.....and yes...we believe it is time...”

(Tali jumps up and down....)

Tali: “A brother!...I want a brother!...”

Ziva; “Tali...it does not always work to our wishes....A boy or girl, we do not care...”

Nell: “I think this is so wonderful!”

(She turns to Ziva)

Nell: “Hurry up and do it!...You and Sis can be pregnant together!”

Dez: “Oh yea...me and Ziva...we’ll both learn how to shoot and hit something, with a big belly”

Ziva; “It is not that difficult...I can show you”

(Dez looks at Ziva....)

Dez: “I was joking”

Ziva: “I was not....I can show you. But your ability to roll and shoot is quite hampered”

(Dez shakes her head, smiling...)

Dez; “I love this family!”

Caprice: “Well, eat up ladies....We have work to do....One hour, Ziva...Me, Dez, you...hair time!”

Dez: “Ellie...You have fancy nail duty...right?”

Ziva: “Nails?”

Bishop: “Nails Ziva...you have short fingernails...With that dress, how we’re going to make you look....damn, girl...you need some long ones...I’m putting them on while they do your hair”

Ziva: “I will have long fingernails?....How strong are they?”

Bishop: “Acrylic...so they’re pretty strong...”

Ziva; “I have always wondered if I could sharpen the edges...”

(They look at her....she looks back...)

Ziva; “But I will wait until another time....”

Dez: “Yea, Ziva...no slicing up bad guys on your wedding day...”

Ziva: “Unless it becomes necessary...of course...I will remember”

Dez; “Sure...you never know when Russian paratroopers are going to drop in....”

Nell: “No worries...I’ll have the drones up, circling the ranch...We’ll know if there are any unwanted guests...”

Ziva: “Thank you, Penelope....that is very kind of you”

Nell: “Welcome...just doing my job, ma’am”

(Nell looks around)

Nell: “Dez...I just noticed...Where is Cal?”

Dez: “He’s over at their place...talking to Tony...”

Nell: “Last minute advice?”

Dez: “I guess....I don’t know...Cal and Tony have done this bonding thing...”

(scene shifts to the motorhome....Cal and Tony, sitting at the small eating table...Tony holding up the note Ziva left for him...)

Tony: “So you see....It’s intimidating...”

Cal: “That she thinks of you that way?”

Tony: “Yea...kind of...She’s set the bar kind of high, don’t you think?”

(Cal looks at Tony, and smiles...)

Tony: ‘I hate it when you do that...You’re about to tell me I’m stupid...”

Cal: “No...not at all...but...”

Tony: “Oh yea...here comes the ‘but’...”

Cal: “She did not set that bar, Anthony....You did”

(Tony looks at Cal.....listening...)

Cal; “She is telling you what you are...and she has watched, and judged, and seen, who and what you are, for many years”

(pause)

Cal: “Her letter to you...i do not know it, other than what you read to me...but Anthony...She has written you a mirror...What you read is a reflection of what you are”

Tony: “I haven’t...I haven’t looked at it that way”

Cal: “Anthony, you see yourself as this playful man, and in some ways, the way you used to be....But then you were given Tali....and the man you really are, was forced to show himself...”

(Tony smiles...)

Tony: “It threw me for a loop”

Cal: “Of course it did...Everything in your life changed”

(pause)

Cal: “Tell me....Does...or did...Ziva fall in love easily? Quickly?”

(Tony looks at Cal suspiciously)

Tony: “No...she didn’t love...not like anyone defines it...”

Cal; “How long did it take her to tell you that she loved you?”

(Tony shakes his head...)

Tony: “Years, Cal...too many years”

Cal: “Anthony....a woman such as Ziva....She has given you her heart...and you will have it, yours to love or destroy, for the rest of your lives”

Tony: “Cal...that’s...”

Cal: “Terrifying?”

(Tony nods...)

Tony: “Yea...”

Cal: “How terrifying was Tali?”

Tony: “I can’t even describe it....I worried, lost sleep, was too harsh, too soft, I was all over the place”

Cal: “But it would seem she is aware she is much loved...”

Tony: “Yea...that much I got right”

Cal: “Then...that is all that matters...is it not?”

(Tony nods....)

Tony: “Thanks...but there’s one thing...”

(He pauses)

Tony: “I love her, Cal....I love her like no one else...like I could never describe...It’s been 16 years I’ve known her...I’ve loved her....I don’t know...most of those years..”

Cal: “And she has done the same”

Tony: “Yea...that’s what she says”

Cal; “And now...she wishes to marry you?”

(Tony smiles....)

Tony: “She says that too”

Cal: “And have you ever known Ziva to say something she does not mean?”

(Tony slowly shakes his head....Then he looks at Cal...)

Tony: “We’re going to be alright, aren’t we? I mean, we’ve had this great love story...and now...”

(Cal stops him)

Cal; “Anthony...Now that you are marrying Ziva, you believe the love story is over...”

Tony: “Well..it is...kind of...at least that’s what I’ve seen...”

(Cal leans over, faces Tony...)

Cal: “No, Anthony...What I wish you to believe, and know...If you want it to be...”

(Cal delivers the line sincerely)

“The real love story between you and Ziva is just beginning”

(Tony stares at Cal for a moment....)

Tony: “Say that again...”

(scene shifts to Dez and Ziva, sitting by themselves at the patio table, the rest inside...)

Ziva; “Destiny....please...may I ask something..”

Dez: “Yes, Tony loves you”

(Ziva smiles....)

Ziva; “I believe that...He has shown me, all these many years”

Dez; “Okay...then what?”

(Ziva takes a breath...then...)

Ziva: “How do you and Caelesti...I have watched...and you are married...and what I see....”

(Dez interrupts her...)

Dez: “Ziva...you’ve never had girlfriends...have you?”

(Ziva looks at her....then starts shaking her head...)

Dez: “Let me tell you something about girlfriends...”

Ziva; “Please...this is all so new to me”

Dez: “First....We just love the hell outa you”

(Ziva’s hands go up and cover her eyes...)

Ziva; “Please tell me that is true”

Dez: “Honest to everything, yes...we adore you”

(Ziva nods her head, her face still covered)

Dez; “Now...we have that settled...and since we do, you don’t have to beat around the bush...so..what is it?”

Ziva: “How do you and Caelesti stay so much in love? You are married...”

(Dez chuckles...)

Dez: “Ziva...I asked Cal the same question....I asked him why he’d stepped up his game, after we got married”

Ziva; “Please...what do you do...?”

Dez: “Honey....we’ve been trained to think that the courtship is the romantic part, and the marriage is the end of that courtship”

Ziva; “Yes...I do not want that!”

Dez: “Here’s the best way I know to look at it...And my husband taught me this...”

(pause)

Dez: “The romance doesn’t end with “I do”...That’s when it should begin”

(Ziva drops her hands...)

Ziva: “Please...say that again so I will fully understand...”

(scene fades to black and white)

WEDDING DAY AFTERNOON

(scene opens in the Evidence/Dressing tent....Ziva, Caprice, Bishop, Dez, and Nell walk in, carrying the dress...Caprice hangs it on the rack Gibbs set up, and unfolds the 3 part mirror brought in for the dressing of the bride...)

Ziva: “I cannot believe Abba did all this...”

Bishop: “Thank Jimmy and Kacie...they were the ones that got this thing set up”

(Ziva watches as the other women set things up, busy, happy, smiling....She sits on a chair, remembering the first day she came to NCIS, how afraid she was...She says out loud to herself....)

“We have come so far together”

(The other women stop....they turn to look at Ziva...)

Caprice: “Ziva, honey...what did you say?”

(Ziva, embarrassed....)

Ziva; “I am sorry...I was speaking to myself...”

(Dez walks over to her, kneels down, hugs Ziva)

Dez: “Yes, Ziva...we have come a long way”

(Dez leans back...looking at Ziva)

Dez: “Some together, some apart...but we’ve all been connected”

(The others gather, pull up some chairs...and sit in a small circle)

Caprice: “We have...some of you longer than others....”

Bishop: “And some, Caprice, with more affect than others...like you..”

Caprice: “No...but thank you Ellie...all I did was marry Jethro...”

(Ziva laughs...)

Ziva: ‘The accomplishment was not marrying Abba, but making him happy...”

Bishop: “And STAYING married”

Dez: “That is SO true!”

Bishop: “Ziva...you’ve known him longer than anyone here...Has he changed that much?”

(Ziva thinks...smiles....then she shakes her head)

Ziva; “No...he has not changed at all...not really”

Bishop: “How can you say that?”

Ziva; “I am sorry...what I meant was...what you see in Gibbs now...It is the same as he was then...But now...Now he shows it...not as much as some men, but he shows it much more so than before”

Dez: “She’s right...you had to know Gibbs one on one...If you were hurting, or in trouble...(she thinks) “Gibbs would be there”

Nell: “Gibbsy was always there for me...Sometimes I don’t know how he knew it, but I’d get a call, and he’d be on the other end...I’d be bummed...or afraid...”

(She imitates Gibbs’s gruff voice)

“Hey Nell...I believe in you”

(some chuckles)

Ziva: “That is what I mean...I remember when he was in the coma...and came out with his memory gone...I remember how angry, and sad, and helpless I felt because I could not help him”

Caprice: “But you did...He told me...”

(Ziva smiles slightly)

Ziva: “It was one of the very few times I showed emotion in front of someone else...But....” (she shrugs) “I knew...somehow...he was my Abba...”

Caprice: “How about Tony? Has he changed that much?”

(Ziva laughs out loud)

Ziva; “Oh yes!...My Anthony has changed....”

Bishop: ‘You think? That man....it was like he took nothing seriously...”

Ziva: “Until it was needed”

Bishop: “Then he was right there...Always...And under that smile, and his laugh...”

Ziva: “And his sorority ways....”

Bishop: “You mean fraternity ways?”

Ziva; “No...I think I said it right...”

(more chuckles...Ziva thinks....)

Ziva: “I wish others could be here for this...”

(A voice sounds out)

“You mean this girl party?”

(They look at the voice...and in the entrance to the tent....Abby stands, her black lace umbrella over her shoulder, high boots, black dress meeting the top of the boots, and her dog collar...Ziva stands up....)

Ziva; “MY ABBY!”

(Abby smiles, and they meet, embrace...)

Abby: “I was not going to miss this for anything in the world...”

Ziva; “Oh, Abby...I am so glad to see you!....”

Abby: “Everyone’s decent, right?”

(She pauses)

Abby: “Well...not too decent, there is a honeymoon coming up....”

Ziva: ‘Yes, Abby...We are decent...”

(Abby smiles...)

Abby; “One second...”

(She exits the tent...and pulls a man in by the hand....)

Ziva; “DUCKY!...”

(Ziva covers her face with her hands....and begins crying....)

Caprice; ‘ZIVA!..THE MAKEUP!”

(Ziva lets her hands down, hugs Ducky fiercely....)

Ziva: “Ducky...Oh I am so glad to see you!...”

Ducky: “Ms David...Wild Yorkshire Terriers could not halt me from attending this ceremony....It has been much too long in the making”

Ziva; ‘I know...and I am sorry....I have been...I have been the fool”

Abby: “NO YOU HAVEN’T!...” (pauses, smiles) “Tony just needed the time to grow up...”

Ziva; ‘I assure you, Abby...he has...”

(Abby grins...)

Abby; “I know...We went and saw him first...”

Ziva; ‘You saw Anthony first? How could you?”

Ducky: “We merely wanted to get the immaterial out of the way...So that we could spend our time with the most beautiful, mysterious, and wonderful, Ziva David!”

(Ziva smiles....hugs Ducky again)

Ziva; “You have not changed one bit, Ducky...You are the same charming and sweet man you always were”

Abby: “Hey...we’ll talk later, okay? There’s a few people out there we want to see and hug too...”

Ziva; “Abby...Ducky...you have made this nervous woman a very happy woman...Thank you for coming...And yes, we will talk more...after...”

Ducky: “After the wonderful Ms. David becomes the wonderful Ziva Dinozzo....I am so thankful that I lived to see this day....”

Ziva; ‘Come now, Ducky...you will be around to see our children grow up...”

(Ducky smiles a sad smile...)

Ducky: “God willing and the creek does not rise above its banks...”

(Abby hugs Ziva, then Bishop, then the others....She says to Dez...)

Abby; “I don’t know you, but I hear you’ve got some awesome wigs...If you need a storage box for them, and you want them protected, I have an extra coffin I’m not using...it would be perfect...”

(She turns, and they both leave the tent...)

Dez: “How funny...a coffin for wig storage...”

Ziva: “She was not making a joke...”

Bishop: “Nope...the girl has a couch and a bed made out of a coffin....”

(Ziva grins...)

Ziva: “And I do believe Timothy McGee has some personal knowledge of that bed?”

(Caprice and Dez look at her....shocked)

Dez: “NO!...”

Ziva; ‘Oh yes....she and Timothy were quite an item in the beginning...”

Bishop: “Yep...Tim went from shy boy to an experienced man overnight...”

Ziva; ‘Our poor Timonthy...He was not aware of what had hit him...”

Caprice; “Well..ladies...it’s time we got back to work...It’s close to showtime”

Ziva: “Yes...thank you...but before we do....”

(She pauses, and looks at all of them...)

Ziva: “I have never had what is called, girlfriends...I thought it silly and immature...”

Dez: “Kinda is!”

(Ziva shakes her head)

Ziva; “But now...I know...It is a most wonderful thing....Thank you....”

(She stops....)

Caprice; “Ziva...don’t...”

Ziva; “...for being.....”

Caprice; “Oh hell...here it goes...”

Ziva: “...my friends....”

(She sits again, breaks down, and cries....)

(Caprice throws her hands in the air)

Caprice; “And there you have it...the first makeup rainout....”

Ziva; “I.....(sobs) “I am so sorry...”

Caprice; ‘Honey...if we don’t at least have one of these, the wedding isn’t legal...”

(Caprice and Dez approach Ziva with a box of kleenex and the makeup box...)

Dez: “Repair time....Ziva...Head up!”

(scene fades out to Dez and Caprice wiping and blotting Ziva’s face)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the Mills’s house...Cary goes to the front door, opens it, and Brad is there....)

Brad: “Still okay to come over?”

Cary: “Yes...of course...come on in”

Brad; “How is she?”

Cary: “A whole lot better than I thought she would be...”

Brad; “Her and Jim okay?”

Cary: “If you call her sleeping on his lap all night, in his recliner, okay, then yes...it’s okay”

Brad: “I really thought it would be worse”

Cary: “Me too...but it seems...somehow...Stephanie had been pulling away from Kyle for some time now...I didn’t see it..I don’t think Kyle did either”

Brad: “Okay...good...So...if she’s okay...maybe I better...”

(She takes his hand....)

Cary: “Maybe you better tell me what happened over there...”

(He doesn’t reply)

Cary: “Please, Brad...I still need some closure....”

(He looks down.....then up, then nods)

Brad: “Short or long version...”

Cary: “Short for now...Stephanie could come out of her room at any time”

Brad: “Okay...”

(He takes a breath...)

Brad: “We were ambushed...12 of us, in a place we weren’t supposed to be...”

(He stops...then..)

Brad: “9 of my men were killed...”

Cary: “I’m so sorry.....”

Brad: “3 of us lived...and all 3 of us wished we had been killed in the first attack”

Cary: “Why?”

Brad: “Being the prisoner of the Taliban...and being an officer...”

(He stops....)

Brad; “It’s easier if I show you...”

(He unbuttons his uniform shirt...he pulls it off, then he turns around...Cary gasps....)

Cary: “Oh god, Brad!....”

(His back is covered with long scars, burn marks..he turns around....)

Brad: “These...”

(He points to two healed bullet wounds on his side)

Brad: “I got trying to escape....This....”

(He points to a long scar on his forearm...)

Brad: “I got when one of the guards decided I wasn’t cooperating...and he sliced my arm with a long knife...”

(She stares...tears form in her eyes....)

Brad: “Almost 2 years...I was a prisoner...”

Cary: “How...how did you get out...”

Brad: “Escaped through a hole in the fence....crossed 8 miles of dessert and mountain, at night...finally ran into one of our patrols...”

Cary: “Why...Why didn’t they tell me? Brad, I called...I went to the capital...They all told me to go away and to quit asking questions...Then a man came out, told me he was sorry, but you had been killed in action....That’s all they told me...”

Brad: “That’s all they could...If they had told you where I was, and why I was there...Major political and military trouble....We were in an area that was marked as a Red Zone...A zone that we were not allowed into...”

Cary: “So they told me you were dead? That’s ridiculous!”

Brad: “No...it’s not...if they had told you I was a prisoner...what would you have done?”

Cary: “I’d have screamed to the top of my lungs!...I’d have made them get you out!”

Brad: “And that’s exactly why they couldn’t tell you....”

(She reaches out...touches several scars....)

Cary: “I could have helped you heal....”

Brad; “I know you would...I...At night...I’d close my eyes...and would think about you....I’d think about you, caring for me....Making me smile, no matter what the pain was...”

(He stops...He squeezes his eyes shut....)

Brad: “I wanted to be with you so bad....”

(She cries....touches his scars again...)

Cary: “I’m sorry I wasn’t there....God, Brad...I was so stupid...I’m so sorry I didn’t wait....”

Brad: “Wait for a dead man?...No, Cary...You did what you had to do....”

(She starts sobbing....)

Cary: “I had your baby, Brad....I had your baby in me.....I shouldn’t have done anything....” (looks away) “God, this hurts so much....”

(He embraces her....and he holds her while she cries....)

Cary: “I’m so sorry Brad...I’m so sorry....I’m so sorry...”

IHe continues to hold her....)

Brad: “I’m sorry too, Cary...I’m sorry I didn’t come back sooner....”

(She stops crying....but still holds on to him...)

Cary: “Brad...I have to ask something....”

(She pauses...)

Brad: “No...I didn’t”

Cary: “Didn’t....” (pause) “...what...?”

Brad: “Stop loving you”

(She begins crying again....)

Cary: “God....Brad....”

Brad: “I’m sorry....I shouldn’t have said that...I had no right. And especially now....Cary....Just forget I said that...Please....”

(She shakes her head against his chest....)

Cary: “No...I can’t. And I won’t...My husband just got killed, my daughter was kidnapped, ...and dammit, I just felt for the first time in 8 years some happiness...and I don’t feel bad!...I’m sorry...but I don’t feel guilty!”

(scene shifts to the hallway of the house...Jim is standing with Stephanie, around the corner....He looks down at her, puts a finger to his mouth and whispers)

Jim: “Shhh....let them talk”

(Stephanie pulls her grandfather’s arm, his head down...she whispers in his ear)

“I don’t feel bad either...”

(He kisses the little girl on the cheek...he picks her up...and whispers again)

Jim: “Let’s go watch cartoons in your room....”

Stephanie: “And let the grownups talk?”

(He nods....)

Jim: “Yea...let’s us kids go watch us some funny stuff...”

(She lays her head on his shoulder, looks back towards the living room....she blinks, then lays her head back down...whispers...)

“I love you grandpa...”

“I love you too, little lady”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the Dressing Tent...Ziva standing to one side, Caprice touching up her makeup, Dez working on the last portion of her hair....)

Caprice; ‘There...I think we’re done...”

Dez: “One sec...I want this to be perfect”

Ziva; “Yes please..thank you...make it perfect...”

Dez: “Okay...let’s take a look....”

(Ziva turns to face them....silence....they stare at her....)

Ziva; “What is wrong?...Tell me!...Why are you not speaking?”

(Caprice takes her arm....)

Caprice; “Come here, Ziva...look in the mirror...”

(Ziva hesitantly walks to the mirror...She stands in front of it....”

(Silence...)

(scene shifts to Tony, McGee, and Cal, standing at the front on the stage....)

Cal: “Anthony...a warning...”

Tony: “Too late for warnings preacher...”

Cal: “This one, there is time...but unfortunately, no solution...”

(Tony looks at him, curious)

Cal: “This was told to me by Leon Vance, as he did our vows....He said...You will never see her more beautiful than when you see her coming towards you, to marry you...”

Tony: “Trust me, Cal...I’ve seen Ziva at her most beautiful...I don’t think I could take it if it got any better...”

Cal: “We shall see...”

(Tony looks at him again....then...)

Tony: “Indeed...”

McGee: “Tony...he’s right...just be prepared...”

Tony: “I’ve seen every movie wedding there is...I’m vaccinated against brides, McSappy...”

(McGee smiles....)

Cal: “Gentlemen...we are about to start...”

(Soft music begins to play, and Tali comes out of the tent, wearing a long white gown, her hair done elegantly on top of her head, curls coming down on the sides of her head...She has a slight bit of makeup on...She comes down the aisle, smiling from ear to ear, looking at her father....)

Tony: “Now that’s beautiful”

(McGee whispers..)

McGee: “Shut up Tony!”

(Tony grins...Tali reaches the stage, steps up, and takes her place to one side....Then....the wedding music starts)

Soft guitar music begins, The Wedding Song by Paul Stookey

He is now to be among you at the calling of your hearts
Rest assured this troubadour is acting on His part.
The union of your spirits, here, has caused Him to remain
For whenever two or more of you are gathered in His name
There is Love, there is Love.

(Ziva walks out of the tent, Gibbs at her side, her arm through his...The crowd turns to see the bride....There is a silence...There is awe on the faces in the crowd...Ziva is stunning)

A man shall leave his mother and a woman leave her home
And they shall travel on to where the two shall be as one.
As it was in the beginning is now and til the end
Woman draws her life from man and gives it back again.
And there is Love, there is Love

(Ziva walks out, the wedding gown spectacular in its design...The sleeves run to her wrists, small pearls lining the sleeve, lace at the end, delicate, beautifully woven by some artist many years ago...The dress hugs her figure, the neck line comes up fully to her throat, the lace on the collar matching that on her wrists...)

Gibbs: “Here we go, daughter”

(Her face glows...her hair pulled tightly back, then woven into a complex bun that rises up from the back of her head, ...In her hair, there lay strands of small white pearls, evenly draped around her hair...Then...The long, delicate, almost transparent veil that her mother wore, was attached to the back of the hair, d trailing down her back, fanning out over her long, white satin train, the lace on

the veil perfectly blending with the same elegant pattern of her train.....The wedding ensemble, and the woman wearing it was described in whispers in the crowd)

“Perfect”

(They take their first steps down the aisle)

Well then what's to be the reason for becoming man and wife?
Is it love that brings you here or love that brings you life?
And if loving is the answer, then who's the giving for?
Do you believe in something that you've never seen before?
Oh there is Love, there is Love.

(The crowd gasps....whispers of ‘most beautiful bride ever” and “She is magical” and more, are heard....Ziva looks straight at Tony, and smiles....She silently mouths..”*I am here*”)

Oh the marriage of your spirits here has caused Him to remain
For whenever two or more of you are gathered in His name
There is Love, there is Love

(scene shift to Tony’s face....blank, awestruck...His smile turns into a reverential look...He looks at Ziva and silently mouths back....)

“You are perfect”

(She smiles....and when she sees what she never thought she would see, she begins to tear up....)

(scene shifts Tony’s face....a single tear drops down his cheek....)

Ziva; “My love...”

(Gibbs and Ziva stop...Cal steps up, and speaks out....)

Cal: “Who gives this woman’s hand in marriage?”

(Ziva squeezes his hand...and whispers...)

“Thank you, for always being my Abba”

(Gibbs replies...)

“Always will be, Ziver”

(Cal looks to them....his eyebrows raise....and Ziva breaks tradition, turning and hugging Gibbs tightly...)

Ziva; “I love you, Abba”

Gibbs: “Hey..You’ll always be my daughter...Let’s do this...”

(Gibbs turns to Cal...)

“I do...Her Abba...Her Abba gives her away”

(Then Gibbs raises Ziva’s hand, as she elegantly and softly walks towards Tony....Gibbs places it perfectly into Tony’s outstretched hand, then bride and groom face each other at the altar, holding each other’s hands....Tony still stares at her...and not being able to help himself...He says aloud...)

“You are so....”

(Ziva tears up...looks lovingly at him...and Tony finishes...a whisper...)

“...perfect”

(Ziva’s eyes water, and the first free tear drops down her cheek...Then more, when she looks at Tony....and she whispers back...)

“I am here”

(then she reaches gently up to his face, wipes a tear from his cheek...)

Cal: “In all my years, in all my travels, I have never known a couple more in love than these two...It is a beautiful thing born out of pain...They have suffered

hardships...suffered separation....and they have suffered sacrifice....All in the name of the purest love there is...Now, the end of one journey, and the beginning of another, as we commence with the vows of holy matrimony...”

(Cal looks to Tali....)

Cal: “Tali? It is time...”

(Ziva looks and shows surprise)

Cal: “Ziva David.....Do you take this man as your lawfully wedded husband?

(Ziva smiles, and...)

“I do”

Cal: “Tali Dinozzo...do you approve of this marriage? Do you accept this man to be the forever love and husband of your mother?”

(Tali smiles big...)

Tali: “YES!”

(Ziva looks at Tony....mouths...)

“You did this?”

(He nods.....And Ziva begins to cry openly....)

Cal: “And Anthony, do you take this.....”

Tony: “Yes...I do...”

(Cal continues with the marriage vows, and comes to the ring part..)

Cal: “May we have the rings please?”

(Ahnjong proudly dressed in a dress that matches Tali, lifts the white satin pillow up that holds Tony’s ring...Danny, dapper in his black suit, smiles from ear to ear, then holds up his pillow for Tony to take Ziva’s ring...)

Cal: “Ziva David...with this ring, you grant Anthony access to your heart and your soul...”

(Ziva nods, smiling, and places the ring on Tony's finger....Then Tali starts to cry....)

Tali: "I am so happy!..."

(In the crowd, sobs, sniffles, and the sounds of kleenexes being pulled from boxes can be heard...)

Tony: "Here, honey...."

(Tony reaches down, picks Tali up, and holds her...)

Cal: "Anthony...with this ring, you give Ziva access to your heart, your soul...and gives you the joy you have wished for forever..."

(Tony looks at Tali's face, holding her to his chest...)

Tony: "Tali...want to help me? My hands are kinda full..."

(Tali nods...she takes the ring from Tony's hand, and looks to him, hesitant...)

Tony: "You put it on her....."

(scene shifts to Gibbs...he lets out a sniffle....and...)

"Aw jesus....."

(Caprice pulls him out a kleenex, hands it to him...)

Caprice; 'That's your daughter up there...."

(He turns his head, wipes his eyes...)

(scene shifts back to Tali....she looks at her mother, her little eyes wide with wonder...Ziva, through tears...)

Ziva; "Yes, my beautiful Tali...please help your father..."

(Then Tali places the ring on Ziva's finger....and Ziva come undone....She throws herself into both of them, crying...)

"I love you ...I love you both so much....."

(She backs up....looks at Cal...His face is glowing, his eyes swimming with gold flecks...)

Ziva: “I am sorry....”

Cal: “Bride....Never apologize for loving the man you are marrying....”

(Ziva composes herself, and looks again to Tony....)

Cal: “If you were not aware, the bride is wearing the wedding dress that her mother wore to be married to Ziva’s father....and at that wedding, words that are thousands of years old were spoken...”

(Ziva looks to Cal...wonder on her face...He looks at her, and a small smile, Cal speaks, looking directly at Ziva)

Cal: “Her mother and father, spoke the words....”

“Aht Lo Leh-Vahd"

Cal: “Which, in ancient Hebrew means...”

(Ziva whispers the words as Cal tells the crowd)

“You Are Not Alone”

(Ziva looks in disbelief at Cal....He whispers to her....)

“It was a beautiful wedding”

(Ziva still looks to Cal...then for short moment, closes her eyes...whispers to herself)

“Ema”

(Then Ziva loses it again....sobbing....wiping her face, while Cal faces the crowd....)

Cal: “And now...I proclaim, you are husband and wife...Let no man rent asunder, what God has put together...”

(He turns to Ziva, Tony, and Tali, he motions for them to face towards the crowd, many with wet faces....)

Cal: “I proudly present to you for the very first time....Anthony and Ziva...(pause) “..and Tali Dinozzo....”

(The crowd stands.....then some of their faces turn towards the open pasture next to the wedding site....)

Tony: “Uh oh...”

Ziva; “What?”

(At the edge of the open field, just off the wedding site, a row of animals, politely, and respectfully, standing...)

Cal: “And those, ladies and gentlemen, are the animals of The D Ranch, showing their approval of this wedding....”

(Scene shows Prissy, a flowered garland around her neck...then Bessie, her cowboy hat proudly tied to her head...then Daisy, her front paws prancing...then, with a roar...A huge mountain lion opens its jaws and sounds its approval...The crowd stares in disbelief)

Tony: “Wow...bet you don’t see that at many weddings”

(Ziva start laughing.....she tries to stop, but can’t....)

Ziva; ‘It makes everything perfect!....”

(Others begin laughing, as Daisy and Kitty begin to romp in the field, playing....the scene surreal, as the mountain lion chases the dog, and they reverse, the horse prancing, wanting to play, and the cow mooing...in a cowboy hat)

Ziva: “Anthony....”

(She looks at the animals playing, then to the crowd, her eyes picking out Abby, Ducky, then finally, Gibbs...She smiles to herself...

Ziva: “It is perfect!...My Anthony.....It is the most wonderful wedding ever!...”

(She leans against her husband, kisses her daughter, then kisses Tony...)

Ziva; “Anthony...”

Tony: “Yes?”

(She smiles, looks up to him, her face happy....and she says to him...)

“I am here”

(Tony smiles back...and tells her)

“Thank you, Ziva Dinozzo....”

(He pauses...then)

“For making dreams come true...”

(Tony looks at his daughter)

“Tali? What do you think?”

(Tali nods...wiping her face....)

Tali: “I am so happy....”

(Then she yells out...)

“I AM SO HAPPY!”

Tony: “Hey Ziva...think I could hold Tali up in the air? With those animals out there, it’s a perfect Lion King moment...you know, the movie...Pride Rock...when Rafiki held the baby lion up...)

(She punches him in the side...)

Tony: “OW!...Or..maybe not...”

(scene fades out to Tony and Ziva standing, Tali in Tony’s arms, Ziva with her head resting on his arm....and she whispers....)

“Ema...It is perfect...My family...My life..It is perfect”

(scene fades to black and white)

THE RECEPTION

(scene opens at the Thomas House area, Cal and Dez’s house the center of attention, as the attendees of the wedding move to the BBQ pits, smokers, and rows of large coolers set up to serve the guests. Ziva is inside the house, alone, in Cal and Dez’s bedroom, changing out of her wedding dress, into less formal clothes...there is a knock at the bedroom door...)

Ziva: “Yes...who is it?”

Tony: “Your new husband...let me in while you’re naked”

(Ziva smiles, goes to the door, opens it...Tony is seen, big smile on his face...then the smile drops)

Tony: “You’re dressed”

(Ziva walks away from the door towards the bed)

Ziva: “You missed the opportunity, funny man...I am already dressed”

(Tony walks in, sees the wedding dress laid out on the bed)

Tony: ‘Kinda wish you’d stayed in that dress”

Ziva: “My husband....if it were practical, I would have...but...”

(Tony has moved to the dress, picks up one of the sleeves...)

Tony: “It was perfect...you were perfect in this dress”

(Ziva walks next to him...looks down at the dress)

Ziva: “It was....the dress, I mean....and I will never forget what you did...”

(Ziva begins to fold the dress over....Tony stops her...)

Tony: “No.....”

Ziva; “But Anthony...I must care for this dress.....It must be carefully....”

(Tony lays a hand over hers, presses her hand down, laying the dress back down also)

Tony: “Caprice and Bishop will take care of that...”

(Ziva looks at Tony, questioningly...)

Ziva: “I need to ensure it is kept...It must be ready for...”

Tony: “Tali...I know...”

(Tony looks at the dress again....speaks while looking at it)

Tony: “There is a dress storage company in D.C...They keep special dresses and clothes for the White House...other big wigs...Bishop has the storage bag it goes in...It’s only 4 blocks from Water Reed...Caprice will take it...”

Ziva: “Anthony...I do not understand....”

(He looks at her, small smile...)

Tony: “I knew you’d want it kept safe...So, I’ve already set it up...There’s a storage area already reserved...”

(Ziva looks at Tony, then smiles...)

Ziva: “You want it kept for our Tali....Do you not?”

(Tony scowls...)

Tony: “Me? That’s way too sentimental for the Very Special Husband....”

(Tali comes running into the room, looking...she sees the dress....)

Tali: “Daddy!...Is it time to put it in the bag so it can go.....”

(Tony scrunches his face....Ziva looks at Tali, smiling)

Ziva: “So it can go where, little one?”

Tali: “Daddy said he wants it specially saved so I can wear it someday!...”

(Tony looks at Tali...)

Tony: “Snitch”

(Ziva looks up at Tony, pulling on his shirt...)

Ziva: “You have been discovered, Very Special Father....”

Tony: “Husband...Very Special Husband....”

Ziva; “No....not at this moment...you are the Very Special Sentimental Father...”

(she stands on her tip toes, kisses him)

Ziva; “Thank you, Anthony...”

Tali: “Daddy...didn’t mommy look wonderful in this dress?”

Tony: “Pumpkin, your mommy looked more than wonderful in that dress....”

(He looks at Ziva...)

Tony: “She looks more than wonderful no matter what....In fact...I may ask her to be my date for the Reception...”

Tali: “Daddy...you are so silly...She is your wife now...she will always be your date...”

Ziva: “Yes..I will....it is the law..is it not, my beautiful child?”

(Tali looks up at Tony, nodding her head)

Tali: “Yes it is...mommy has to be your date forever and forever”

(Tony kneels down to Tali...)

Tony: “Honey...Your mother is not going to be my date because she has to...”

(He turns his head, looks at Ziva...)

Tony: “She’s going to be my date because she wants to”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the Mills’s house...Brad, Cary, and Stephanie sit in the living room...A State detective walks out of the hallway, into the living room...)

Detective: “I don’t see anything that we need ma’am....”

(He hands Cary a piece of paper)

Detective: “This is giving you legal clearance to do whatever you want with his belongings, ma’am”

(Cary takes the paper, places it face down on the table next to her)

Cary: “Thank you...”

(The detective looks at Cary, then at Stephanie...)

Detective: “I’m sorry ma’am...for your loss”

(Cary nods at the detective....she watches him walk out of the house...)

Cary: “Dad called them in....He didn’t want any doubts...”

Brad: “Your dad’s a smart man..”

(Cary nods, looks over at Stephanie...she's holding the Panda bear she gave to her grandfather)

Cary: "Steph? You okay over there?"

(Stephanie nods...stays silent...)

Brad: "Look...you have things to do...I'm going to go..."

Cary: "Where?"

Brad: "I don't know...I've got three days off, supervised leave...it's department policy"

Cary: "I meant....Are you leaving...? Dad told me about....you know....what you wanted to do"

(Brad gets up...))

Brad: "I don't know, Cary...I really don't know..."

(He walks towards the door...He feels his hand being taken...He turns...looks down...Stephanie has gotten up, walked to him...in a quiet voice, the girl lifts her Panda up to him..)

Stephanie: "Here"

(Brad looks at the girl....)

Brad: "Honey...I don't want you to not have your friend...."

Stephanie: "It's okay...you look really sad...Maybe she can help you"

(Brad kneels down...)

Brad: "Stephanie....I want you to have all the sad help you can get...."

(She surprises him by hugging his neck....)

Stephanie: "Then don't go...Don't go, Mr. Brad..."

(Brad closes his eyes....hugs the child back...)

Brad: "Steph....honey...sometimes people need to..."

(The girl's voice raises...)

Stephanie: “NO!...”

(She hugs his neck tighter)

Stephanie: “Please....Mr. Brad....please....”

Cary: “Steph....Mr. Brad needs to go....”

(The girl loosens her grip on Brad, then turns her head to her mother)

Stephanie: “Mommy...Why do you want Mr. Brad to go?”

(Cary looks at Brad, then at her daughter)

Cary: “I don’t, honey....”

(Brad stands...wipes his eyes...)

Brad: “Well...since it’s two to one.....maybe...”

(Stephanie smiles at Brad...)

Stephanie: “Pizza....Okay?”

Brad: “Pizza?....”

Stephanie: “It’s Pizza night...we always have pizza and me and mommy watch a movie...sometimes we make popcorn too....”

(Brad looks over at Cary...she shrugs....)

Cary: “It’s always just us two....It would be nice if we had a third...But..that’s up to you...”

Stephanie: “Please, Mr. Brad? Please please please....I promise to be a good girl and be nice, and not cry at the sad parts....”

(Brad looks down at the girl...)

Brad: “I don’t know...what good are sad parts if you can’t cry?...If I came, I’d have to at least get sniffles at the sad part.....”

(Stephanie smiles)

Stephanie: “I’ll sniffle too....you and me can be the snifflers...”

(Stephanie looks over at her mother...her face is turned away...)

Stephanie: “Like mommy now....she’s practicing for the movie...”

(Brad looks towards Cary, her face still turned away....she wipes her face with the sleeve of her blouse)

Brad: “Steph...maybe you and me can make your mom smile....”

Stephanie: “That would be nice, Mr. Brad...Mommy hardly ever smiles....”

(Cary can be seen, face still turned, holding her hand to her mouth...Brad looks down at Stephanie...)

Brad: “Gosh...it looks like us smile people have our work cut out for us”

(The girl smiles, nods her head...)

Brad: “Okay..it’s set...the women win this round...I’ll be here...”

(He hugs Stephanie, then turns and reaches for the door...)

“Wait!...”

(He turns, finds Cary heading quickly for him...She hugs him briefly....then...)

Cary: “Thank you...”

(Brad nods....a small smile...)

Brad: “Gotta make mommy smile....I’m not just a cop, I’m also the Smile Police...It’s the law, ma’am...”

(Cary allows a smile....Brad sees it...smiles back)

Brad: “Good to see you obeying the law ma’am...I’ll see you tonight...”

(He turns, opens the door...then stops...)

Brad: “Hey...anything I need to bring tonight?”

(Cary looks at him for a moment....then...)

Cary: “A smile?”

(Brad gives a small salute)

Brad: “I’ll bring extras....The Smile Police are always prepared ma’am...”

(Scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at The Thomas House area, people gathered, talking, laughing, eating....Tony and Ziva, standing with Dil and Nell, are accepting congratulations from several people, when two men come up, shake their hands, give them both pats on the back, then slight congratulatory hugs....Tony turns to Ziva...)

Tony: 'Secret Service...they're checking us for weapons"

Ziva: "Weapons? I do not need weapons to..."

Tony: "Ziva...."

(Ziva closes her mouth....)

Ziva: "I do not have nor do I know of any weapons...."

"Forgive them, Ziva...they're just doing they're jobs..."

(Ziva turns to the voice....her face brightens up...)

Ziva: "Madame President!...I am so glad you came!"

(Loretta seen hugging Ziva...)

Loretta: "Not today, Ziva...It's Loretta...I am so happy for the both of you!"

Ziva: "Thank you...It has been a long time to come..."

Loretta: "So I hear...My agents and the Marines at Camp David have done nothing but talk about you, and Agent Torres, and Captain Bosworth....You three put on quite a show at Camp David..."

Ziva: "It was an honor and a privilege to help you....(a slight grin) "And a small bit of fun"

(Ziva smiles....)

Loretta: "Well, I'm glad you think so....When you get back...I'd like to talk to you about something"

Ziva: "Something? I do not understand..."

(Loretta looks at Ziva, then at Tony...)

Loretta: “I hope you have a great honeymoon...”

(Loretta moves off...)

Loretta: “When you get back...Captain Bosworth knows how to get hold of me”

(POTUS moves off, accompanied by Simon and the other agents...)

Ziva: “I do not know what she means...”

Dil: “You made quite an impression on the Service Detail and the Marines...She wants to talk to you about providing some training for those people...especially the women on the Detail...”

Ziva; “I am quite surprised to see here here..”

Dil: “Well...with everything we have here, and the geography...They’ve determined that this is one of the most secure places POTUS could be. I think we’ll be seeing a little more of Loretta in the future”

(He pauses)

Nell: “But that’s for later...for now, it’s your wedding reception....Come on Ziva...come waddle with me...”

(Nell winks at Ziva...then whispers)

“Like the eating for two...you need the practice”

(Ziva giggles...Nell looks at her in shock)

Nell: “Ziva..did I just see you giggle?”

(Ziva nods...)

Ziva: “Penolope...I feel so much happiness inside...so...”

(She thinks..then nods her head)

Ziva: “Yes..I do believe that was a giggle...”

Nell; “Good for you....now that you have a bunch of girlfriends, you’ll need to be able to do that”

(Nell takes Ziva by the hand, leads her over to McGee and Delilah, talking with Abby and Ducky, along with Gibbs and Caprice...Dil and Tony, watching the two walk away...

Tony: “Training, huh?”

Dil: “Yea...like you helping Gibbs....”

(Tony looks at Dil in mild surprise)

Tony: “He told you?”

Dil: “A little...He asked me if you were up for it”

Tony: “I’m still thinking about it”

Dil: “Sure you are”

Tony: “It would mean being in the office”

Dil: “Around the NCIS team”

Tony: “Giving them the benefit of my vast experience in investigative work”

Dil: “Oh yea...Absolutely”

Tony: “The tricks...how to get a witness to talk..how to interrogate a suspect....No one was better than me at that”

Dil: “Especially the women....”

(Tony smiles)

Tony: “Yea...especially the women...”

(They both get quiet...then...)

Tony: “I need to shut up, don’t I?’

Dil: “If you want to live...yep...”

(They both look at Ziva, smiling and hugging Abby and Ducky...)

Dil: “She sure was beautiful coming down that aisle”

Tony: “Uh huh...I kinda noticed”

Dil: “Kinda? Brother, you looked like you’d been slapped in the face with a dead fish”

Tony; “That bad, huh?”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “That bad”

Tony: “I may want to leave out the female witness interrogation part...”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “Good thinking”

Tony: “I’ll stick to investigating...a keen eye, attention to details, hidden clues...”

Dil: “Campfire chats...”

(Tony turns to Dil..)

Tony: “You head about that? They like it, right? I always thought it was a great way to keep everyone on the same page....”

(Dil shakes his head, starts to walk off)

Dil: “Come on, Dinozzo....let’s eat..”

(Tony begins walking with him...)

Tony: “It’s famous...right? How’d you hear about it? What did they say?”

(scene fades out to Tony continually asking more questions...Dil shaking his head...both walking)

Tony: “I knew it would catch on!”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on the back deck of the Thomas House...Caprice talking to Ducky...)

Caprice: “I really want you to come to the house, Dr. Mallard...From what I hear, you would enjoy it”

Ducky: “Madame...you could live in a tent, and I would come just to spend time with the woman that tamed our Jethro...”

Caprice: “Oh no....no one tames Jethro..”

(Ducky smiles...and in a lower tone)

Ducky: “My dear woman...the change in that man is a joy to see...And it is obvious, the difference is you. I often wondered if he would allow himself to love any woman...since..(pause) “...since the past....”

Caprice; “Since Shannon...It’s okay...He’s told me..and I’m okay with it”

(Ducky looks at Caprice, surprised)

Ducky: “He has spoken with you about that? I am quite.....surprised...”

Caprice; ‘I want him to...It’s part of what makes him who he is...And god, Dr. Mallard...A man can’t keep that to himself...it would eat him up inside”

Ducky: “Indeed it would!”

(He looks off to Gibbs, standing, eating a sandwich)

Ducky: “.....and it did....for so many years.....”

(He shakes his head)

Ducky: “it was incredibly sad to watch, dear woman...”

(Ducky looks back to her..)

Ducky: “Mrs. Gibbs....You are indeed an incredible woman....”

Caprice; ‘No...I’m just.....”

Ducky: “Madame...accept it from someone who has known Jethro for all these years....and seen some come and go...You ma’am...are an incredible woman..”

(Ducky takes Caprice’s hand, kisses the back of it....)

Caprice: “So it’s true”

Ducky: “What is true?”

Caprice; “Jethro said you could charm anyone, anywhere....”

(Ducky smiles....)

Ducky: “I would like to think I have a certain....”

Caprice: “Savoir-faire?”

Ducky: ‘Yes...yes...indeed...”

Caprice: “Have you been talking to Cal? He’s an ‘indeed’ person...”

Ducky: “Dr. Caelesti Nuntio? Why the man is one of the most celebrated physicians in the world! Of course I have been conversing with him!...It was, and hopefully will continue to be, a great honor! But....”

(Ducky pauses)

Ducky: “It was hard to determine if he was actually interested in what I had to say, or he was being exceedingly polite”

Caprice: “He’s something.....I love the guy...He’s about the finest man you’ll ever meet”

(She looks at Ducky...)

Caprice: “What did you notice about him? The most, I mean?”

Ducky: “An easy answer to what could be a complicated question....His eyes....Incredible eyes...”

Caprice: ‘And?”

Ducky: ‘A most rare event....it was as if gold particles were floating in iris and pupils both”

(Caprice smiles...)

Caprice; ‘That means....He was interested in what you had to say....and he loved you as a person...”

Ducky: “I would like to think what you’ve said is true...but alas, you were not there...and now, you are the one being exceedingly polite...”

Caprice: “No...”

(She pulls Ducky to one side...tells Ducky about the eyes...Ducky looks at her...then smiles...)

Ducky: “Mrs. Gibbs...I will forever be indebted to you for disclosing that fact to me...Thank you”

Caprice; “You’re welcome, Dr. Mallard...”

(He pulls Caprice’s arm through his....)

Ducky: “Call me Ducky...or Duck for short...I believe we are beginning what may be a wonderful friendship....”

(scene shifts to Gibbs, standing alone, finishing his sandwich..Then he hears....)

“You hate me, don’t you?”

(Gibbs looks up....)

Gibbs: “Abbs...”

(She shyly waves...)

Abby: “Hey Gibbs”

(Gibbs looks at her for a moment....then...)

Gibbs: “I’ve missed you....”

(Abby grabs Gibbs, hugs him....her voice breaking...)

Abby: “I miss you....So much...”

Gibbs; “I miss you too, Abby...I have for a long time”

Abby: “You don’t hate me?”

Gibbs: “Abby...I could never hate you...”

Abby: “When I left...I didn’t even talk to you...”

Gibbs: “You didn’t have to talk to me, Abby...I knew...”

Abby: “Knew what?”

(He is quiet...then...)

Gibbs; “That you needed to do something else...Something more....Abby...”

Abby: “I’m so sorry I didn’t talk to you....”

Gibbs: “It’s okay Abbs...”

(They break the hug...)

Abby: “I LOVE Caprice! She is so cool! Does she have any tatoos? She does...doesn’t she...I just love her!”

(Gibbs chuckles)

Gibbs; “Yea...she’s a keeper”

Abby: “You better! Gibbs, she’s amazing! She knows some of the same people I know, and she’s this badass nurse, and she’s so beautiful, and she’s....”

(Abby stops...looks at Gibbs....Then suddenly hugs him again)

Abby: “I MISS YOU SO MUCH!”

(She pulls away...and gets a sly smile on her face....)

Abby: “Gibbs....I want to meet someone...”

Gibbs; ‘Aw geez, Abbs!..Now?”

Abby: “Yes...now...”

Gibbs: “Okay...which one is the victim...?”

Abby: “Daisy”

(Gibbs looks at her in surprise)

Abby: “And Kitty”

(Gibbs starts chuckling....)

Gibbs: “Daisy I can do....the cat?..””

(He shakes his head....Then...)

Gibbs; “Hey Torres!..”

(Torres hears, trots over...)

Torres: “Hey Abby...yea, Gibbs?”

Gibbs; “Abby hear wants to meet Kitty....You think it’s okay?”

Torres; “Okay? It’s muy ok!...”

(Abby starts clapping her hands....Torres call out)

Torres: “Hey Kitty!...Where are you?”

(A rustling at the fence line...then the huge cat leaps over the fence...and stands at the edge...)

Torres: “I want you to meet someone...She’s cool....”

Abby: “Oh my god....she’s so beautiful! That’s close enough...I don’t want to scare her...(pause, then a joyful squeal) “She’s so beautiful!”

Torres: “Hear that Kitty? You have an admirer....”

(Kitty takes a few tentative steps towards them....)

Abby: “Torres!..She hears you!”

Torres: “Of course she hears me!...She’s a good cat!”

(Torres turns to Abby)

Torres; “Kneel down...and stay still...”

(Abby does....and step by step, the big cat walks closer....)

Torres: “Now, reach your hand out....”

(Abby, smiling hugely, puts her hand out....and Kitty comes closer, then finally, the cat lowers her head, and places it against Abby's hand.....then Abby whispers...)

“Gibbs Gibbs Gibbs!...Look!”

(Gibbs, staying still himself....)

Gibbs; “I see it Abbs...she likes you”

Abby: “How do you know?”

Gibbs: “She didn’t eat your hand”

(Abby turns, scowls at Gibbs...then back to the cat)

Abby: “Now, you wouldn’t do that, would you...you beautiful kitty you...”

(Abby bravely rubs the cat’s ears....Kitty purrs....Abby squeaks....)

Torres: “Okay, Kitty....that’s enough...you go and play, okay? Go chase a squirrel or something”

(The cat gives one final push against Abby’s hand, then turns and leaps over the fence)

Abby: “Torres! Why....”

Torres; ‘She’s a wild animal, Abby....If she gets too used to humans, she’ll start coming close all the time....”

Abby: “And you don’t want her getting too used to humans...You’re right....”

Gibbs: “Come on Abby....there are some others that would like to meet you....”

Abby: “Me? Why?’

Gibbs; “Because I’ve told them you’re the best that ever was....Now come on, let’s go find the mutt”

(scene shifts to Ziva and Tony, standing near the open area, looking back on the people at the reception)

Ziva; “I am happy, Anthony....”

Tony: “I’ll do my best to keep you that way”

Ziva; “No...yes, I know you will, and I love you for that...but...what I meant was...”

(She pauses.....)

Ziva: “I do not know what I meant”

(Tony puts an arm around her shoulder, pulls her against him)

Tony: “Talk to me...tell me what you’re happy about...”

(She looks off, then back towards the D Ranch, then back...)

Ziva; “I think...finally, Anthony...I have put my past behind me”

(Tony listens)

Ziva: “For as long as I can remember, what I was, what I did...it was always with me...but now...I believe...for the first time...I am thinking of tomorrow...”

Tony: “And, what happens tomorrow?”

Ziva: “I don’t know...I only know I will have you...and Tali....and it does not matter what happens...I have you both”

Tony: “It’s called looking forward to life, Ziva”

Ziva; “And what does that life look like?”

Tony: “Whatever me make it ...It’s up to us”

Ziva: “My life has always been determined by others...My father, NCIS, I live in hiding because of what someone else has done, then years because of what they might do....All of it...None of it was a result of what I wanted..”

(She is quiet...then she turns quickly, faces Tony, and smiles)

Ziva: “It will be what we desire....”

(Tony nods)

Ziva; ‘And it will be our lives...good or bad....because of what we have chosen and said, and done..”

Tony: “Yea...that’s what life is...”

Ziva; “For you....but for me...that has never been what life is...”

(He holds her)

Tony: “It is now”

(He looks down at her)

Tony: “And every day that comes....I promise”

(She looks at Tony, remembering....)

Ziva; “That first day I saw you...I knew that somehow, you would be part of my life”

(She smiles...)

Ziva; “How could I know you would be my life?”

(Tony smiles...kisses her lightly)

Tony: “You could have just asked me...”

(She smiles again)

Ziva: “You knew then?”

(He nods....then he looks off...)

Tony: “Ziva....”

Ziva; “Yes?”

Tony: “You need to know something”

Ziva; “What, my love?”

Tony: “I love you”

(She looks up at him, curious)

Ziva: “I know...am I to believe that is new?”

(He shakes his head)

Tony: “No...”

Ziva: “Then what do you mean?”

(He pulls her closer....)

Ziva: “Anthony...what is wrong?”

Tony: “Nothing....forget...”

Ziva: “No..I will not...What is it you wanted to tell me?”

(silence...then..)

Tony: “I want us to have that child....”

(She holds him tight...)

Ziva; “Do you? I mean, Anthony, it is not....”

Tony: “I want that child, Ziva...I want to go through that with you, be there, see it being born....”

(She continues to hold him....then she feels him hugging her tighter..She tilts her head upward...)

Ziva: “Then, my precious husband....that is what we will do...”

(He nods...)

Ziva: “Then you and I...we will go forward, living a new life....”

(He pauses)

Ziva: “And we will create a new life...one that we know will be loved, and surrounded by love..Not fearing anything.”

(They hold each other)

Ziva: “Anthony..”

Tony: “Yea”

Ziva: “We are here....in spite everything that came against us....We made it..”

Tony: “Yea...we did, didn’t we?”

Ziva: “And by the way, dearest sweet man...I told you what is so”

Tony: “You did? Told me what?”

(She smiles, looks up at him...)

Ziva; ‘That I would be there....and I was”

Tony: “Yea...you sure were”

(He holds her again, close....and they stand, still, embracing.....The scene shows Ziva’s face, laying against his chest, then a single tear falls on her arm....she lightly kisses it.....She mouths, silently...)

“I am here”

THE END