LET NO MAN RENT ASUNDER

"Let No Man Rent Asunder", Prologue

(scene opens Ft Benning, Georgia, a large field,hills, trees, rumbling of heavy artillery equipment, part of the Marine Tank Training Center…4 M1A1 70 ton attack tanks are rolling forward, side by side. On top of the tank, a futuristic looking machine gun and missile launcher sits beside the turret hatch, a large 4 inch lens on the launcher, connected to a video screen inside the tank, gave the tank gunner a real time view of the surroundings. Next to the video screen was a small touchpad, allowing the gunner to lock in on GPS coordinates transmitted to the tank, and upon command, fire up to 3 Javelin Anti-Tank missiles…The unit was known as The Protector Remote. Built and installed on U.S. Military tanks in 2020 by General Dynamics, it singe-handedly tripled the effectiveness of the Abrams tank, as well as protecting the crew inside, eliminating the need for a soldier to be topside, exposed to enemy fire….The hatch opens, and Gunnery Sgt Blake Whitaker rises up from inside the tank…The other 3 tanks are seen doing the same…Whitaker clicks his neck microphone, transmitting his voice to the tank closest to him…)

Whitaker: "Attack 2, you see them?"

(on radio) "Negative on eyesight, but my coordinates match yours, Whit….Training targets 1.2 miles, 88% due east"

Whitaker: 'They see us yet?"

(on radio) "Negative…no lock or fire signal detected"

(Whitaker smiles to himself….)

Whitaker: "What you say we light 'em up?"

(radio) "Oh yea….just wish we could turn the volume up on their threat detector…"

Whitaker: "Affirmative, A2…The shriek isn't exactly the real thing, but it will scare the bejesus outa them"

(radio) "Roger that, Whit…and you can't tell me beating Captain Wise-ass isn't going to make you smile a bit…"

(Whitaker looks over in the distance, towards the area where they other training tanks would be…All he sees are trees and hills, but he know the GPS coordinates he has locked in, would take a Javelin missile over the hills, and drop straight down on an unsuspecting tank….The image of the tank blowing up, Captain Scott Wise with it, did put a smile on his face…The smile turned into a grimace, as the thoughts of the Captain with Rebecca….)

Whitaker: (to self) "She was mine, you son of a bitch…you just had to have what you shouldn't have, didn't you?"

Whitaker: "Attack 2, lock in and on my signal, let's burn the son of a bitch"

(Radio) "On it, Sarge…"

(Both tank drivers lower into their vehicles, the hatch closes..scene shifts to inside the tank…)

Whitaker: “Tommy boy, light his sorry ass up!”

(Corporal Tom Hugo, nods….checks the coordinates and the fire ready button….He confirms his data, checks one more time to confirm the Training Mode icon is lit, then presses the ‘Lock Target’ button…)

Hugo: “Locking in now, Sarge…”

(scene shifts to outside the tank….The Weapons pod on top of the tank turns towards the east, the launch tubes lower to adjust for distance…..)

Hugo: “Digital missile away sir, on 5,4,3…”

(view of the top of the tank shows a stationary launch pad…)

Hugo: “2,1,….”

(The lights on two of the launch tubes turn from green to red, signaling a successful training launch. The third tube shows the cover on the tube flip down, the green light turns to red, and the rear of the launch tubes shoot flames out of the rear, then one live missile dramatically leave the tube…)

Hugo: “WHAT THE HELL!”

(Whitaker immediately recognizes the feel and sound of a live missile leaving his tank…He yanks the mic off the wall, presses the button allowing him to speak to the other tanks on the field)

Whitaker: “LIVE LAUNCH LIVE LAUNCH LIVE LAUNCH…BAIL ATTACK 4..BAIL ATTACK 4!”

(View shifts to 1.2 miles away, a crew, being shoved out by a yelling Captain Scott Wise, scrambles out of the tank as the Live Fire warning came over the speaker inside their tank….)

Wise: “OUT OUT OUT!”

(Captain Wise has his crew out….He scrambles out of the hatch, sees his crew running, then looks up… and sees a fire trail heading directly for him…)

Wise: ‘Oh god……”

(Scene shows the tank exploding into a giant fireball……)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS bullpen, Gibbs at his old desk, McGee at his, and Dawson sitting at Bishop’s old desk….McGee on the phone…)

McGee: “Yes….we’re on it….”

(He ends the call….looks at Gibbs who is staring at him, eyebrows arched…)

McGee; “Should I have let you take that?”

Gibbs: “NO, McGEE!”

(McGee stares for a second…)

McGee; “You really should have taken that call, boss…”

(Gibbs throws his arms in the air….)

Gibbs: “McGEE! WHAT IS IT?”

McGee: “Can’t tell you boss….Director’s orders…No more field work for you until…” (looks at the clock) “ 2 hours from now, 5 oclock”

(Gibbs looks for Bishop, then Torres…then back at McGee)

Gibbs: “Hell, it’s 5 o,clock somewhere!”

(Dawson looks over at Gibbs….blank face)

Dawson: “You know, if this was one of those musical TV shows, you’d stand up and start singing “It’s 5 o’clock Somewhere”, then me and McGee would do a two step dance in the bullpen”

(Gibb stares at Dawson….Mcgee stares at Dawson…..no one speaks…then…)

Dawson: “Or not…you know…”

(Gibbs face shows confusion)

Gibbs: “Start singing? Why?”

Dawson: “You know….in those shows….”

(Gibbs is still staring at her confused..she waves her hand in the air…)

Dawson: “Never mind…I didn’t say it….”

(Gibbs shrugs, looks at McGee)

Gibbs: “McGee…Bishop and Torres are out at the Honeymoon Ranch doing weddy things…You don’t have a choice!”

(McGee looks around….blank face)

Gibbs: ‘Dammit, McGee! I’m cleared for field, okay? What is the call?”

(Dawson is watching the two of them debate back and forth….shaking her head…McGee and Gibbs both notice, turn to her…)

Gibbs: “You got something to say, Probie?”

Dawson: “I got plenty….but I kinda like this job…”

McGee: “Dawson, we’re just following the proper procedures…The order regarding Assistant Director Gibbs says we cannot….”

Gibbs; (voice raises) ‘WE?...Since when do WE follow procedures?”

(McGee looks at Gibbs…nods…)

McGee: “The proper procedure “I” am following….”

Dawson: “McGee…why don’t you just tell him? You ain’t gonna stop him, and he sure won’t listen to reason….”

Gibbs: “Hey!”

Dawson: “And he sure as hell is going to get it outa you….So..why avoid the unavoidable?”

(Gibbs and McGee look at Dawson…then at each other….)

Gibbs; “I like her”

Mcgee: “Me too, boss….Can we keep her?”

Gibbs; “Only if you feed her and take her for walks…”

(Dawson shakes her head more…)

Dawson: “Y’all worse than my brothers….”

McGee: “Okay, boss….Yesterday, Ft Benning…Tank exercise…supposed to be digital effects, but somehow a live Javelin missile got launched…”

Gibbs: “Yea…and…?”

(McGee stares for a moment….)

McGee: “Crew got out of the target tank…all except the tank commander….Captain Scott Wilson…”

Gibbs: “Yea…okay…….Why are we getting the call? Local MP’s can’t handle it?”

McGee; ‘The Gunnery Sargent that gave the command to fire had a serious altercation with the Captain..something about a woman”

Gibbs: “Aw, McGee..damn…They think the Gunny fired a live round on purpose? That’s stupid….”

McGee: “They want it investigated….There’s more…”

Gibbs: “There always is, McGee”

McGee: “According to dispatch, they want the Firing system investigated…This is the 3rd failure in 2 weeks…and it’s on the Kongsberg Remote Weapons Firing System…..)

Gibbs; “The what?”

McGee: “The tank remote control thingy”

Gibbs: “Yea…I knew that….”

McGee: “The system’s been used for years…no failures…An upgrade was done late 2020, and now 3 failures….They want us to take a look at the manufacturer of the system, see if there’s anything we can see wrong with it”

Dawson: “We do tank systems? Way cool!”

Gibbs: “No, Dawson, we don’t!”

(He turns to Mcgee)

Gibbs: ‘We doing tanks now?”

McGee: “Combination of the Gunnery Sargent and the control systems…When you get right down to it, boss, it’s a high tech cell phone…The military contract with General Dynamics is one of those sacred cows…They’ve been building the Abrams for over 20 years, and want the investigation carried out away from Ft Benning, and with the proper clearance, which we have….And since the agency now knows we have…..”

(McGee nods towards Dawson)

McGee: “Miss Communication Whiz Kid on our team….”

(Gibbs gives small grin)

Gibbs: “Yea, Dawson…works for me!”

(Dawson looks at McGee and Gibbs, wide eyed..)

Dawson: “Oh no…that’s outside anything I know…”

Gibbs: “Too late, Dawson…”

Dawson: “Oh god no…I’m just a rookie…”

Gibbs: “Probie”

Dawson: “You can’t expect me to….”

McGee: (grins) “You’ve got lead on this one, Probie….”

(Gibbs turns to a wide eyed fearful Dawson…)

Gibbs: “Yea Dawson……what’s our next move?….(pause)..”Boss?”

(McGee looks over at Gibbs, shakes his head while looking at Dawson)

McGee: “I’m waiting to see if she starts singing and dancing”

(Scene fades out to Dawson’s face, disbelief and panic)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the D Ranch…Nell, Dez, Bishop and Caprice sitting at kitchen table….Torres on patio holding Little Nickie)

Bishop: “Okay Ms Wedding Planner….what’s it gonna be? Pink, Coral, or White?”

Caprice: “Wedding Planner? Who elected me….”

(All three girls point at her)

Caprice; “That’s not right…..”

Nell: “Caprice! You’re perfect for it!...You have taste…”

(Caprice thinks…nods)

Caprice: “Yes…I believe I do”

Dez: “And you’re creative!”

Caprice: “Okay…I can see that….”

Bishop: “And forceful when necessary!”

(Caprice looks at Bishop….frowns…)

Caprice; “But I’m not a bitch!”

(All three girls shake their heads….agree with her…Caprice sits back, crosses her arms….stares at all three)

Caprice: “Then what’s up…what’s the real reason….?”

(The girls all look at each other…then Bishop leans forward)

Bishop: “Caprice…you’re the only one of us not getting married….the job’s yours by default”

(Caprice looks at Bishop wide-eyed…then she looks at Nell and Dez….they both nod…Caprice’s eyes start to well up with tears…)

Nell: “No, Caprice! No…don’t be sad…..”

Caprice; (sniffs) “I’m not getting married….and you are….(small sob) “I got married in a hospital room….”

(Caprice lowers her face to her arms on the table….)

Caprice: “I had to move a bedpan to have my honeymoon….(sniff) “

(Nell and Dez stare at Bishop……Bishop looks at them, nods her head)

Bishop: “True story….I guarded the door”

(Caprice sits up quickly….her face has a smile…)

Caprice: “We could renew our vows!”

Dez: “Caprice! It’s too soon for that!”

(Caprice looks at Dez…her face falls….)

Caprice; “I know…dammit….”

Nell: ‘But Caprice…you’re such an important part of the wedding! It’s almost like it’s yours!”

Caprice: “Oh yea..(pause) “…I am?”

Dez: “Yea, McGibbs…you and butthead are giving us away….”

(Caprice looks at Dez….her face blank….then slowly, her chin starts to quiver…..then she begins to cry….)

Caprice; “Oh my god…! I’m the mother of the brides! (pause…then sob) “I’m the…(sob) “…mother…god, I’m so old…”

(scene shifts to large corporate office….A well dressed executive sits behind a large desk….A man dressed in black pants, black sweater, black jacket, sits in front of the desk…)

Exec: “I need this taken care of…quickly”

Man: “Yea, I wouldn’t want to be you when General Dynamics finds out you’ve been selling them computer boards made in China, buying them for $28, selling them to the government for $6200…And then when the U.S. Marines find out they got a dead Marine because of that?...(shakes his head, whispers) “ Damn….!”

(The man starts laughing…..The exec is not humored)

Exec: “They’re investigating! Take care of it!”

(The exec slides a folder over….the man in black opens it…..looks at the picture….)

Man: “An old agent, a computer geek, and an ex cop? Is this a joke?”

Exec: “I’m told they’re dangerous….”

Man: ‘Brother…They are nothing….But you’re right, I am dangerous” (looks at the pictures) “…..these people are dead”

(The exec looks off to the side)

Exec: “I don’t want to hear anymore…just do your job….”

(The man stares at the exec….then he rubs his fingers together….The exec opens a drawer, pulls out an envelope, slides it across the table)

Man: “Nice doing business with you”

(The man picks up the envelope, opens it, pulls out a check….The image shows $100,000, bottom left hand corner of the check says “Consulting”….The man starts chuckling…)

Man: “Consultant…yea…that’s a good one….”

Exec: ‘Then go consult…consult your ass off….just hurry”

(The man stuffs the envelope in his jacket pocket….gets up, gives a two finger salute to the exec…)

Man: ‘Gotta go consult”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS bullpen, afternoon, Gibbs, McGee, and Dawson at their desks, doing paperwork. McGee looks up at Gibbs…)

McGee: “Any word yet, boss?”

(Gibbs looks up at McGee….he stares…then his eyebrows go up….McGee looks back down at his paperwork)

Dawson: “Is that the “Don’t bother me McGee”, stare?”

McGee: “No, it’s the ‘do your job stare”

Dawson: “They all look alike…how do you tell them apart?”

(Gibbs looks over at Dawson…stares…then eyebrows raise….Dawson quickly looks down at her papers)

Dawson: “That was the “Don’t ask stupid questions stare”

(Gibbs, still staring at Dawson)

Gibbs: ‘Ya think, Dawson?”

Dawson: “No sir..I don’t think…I just do my job…just like I’m supposed to….No thinking here, sir, you can be sure of that”

(Gibbs looks over at McGee, both give small grin…Gibbs shrugs)

Gibbs: “Yea…you can keep her, McGee”

(Dawson looks over at McGee, then at Gibbs….she sees Gibbs staring at her, and her head snaps down to focus on papers…They are interrupted as Kasie walks into the bullpen….She stops at the entrance, crosses her arms, stares at Gibbs, saying nothing…her foot starts tapping…Gibbs, still focused on papers, points at McGee without looing up…Kasie changes her stance to face McGee, arms still crossed, foot still tapping….McGee looks up at her, curious…)

McGee: “Yes, Kasie?”

(She says nothing…unfolds her arms, points one finger towards the elevator stairway….McGee looks at the stairway, sees nothing)

McGee: “What?”

(Kasie says nothing, then stomps her foot….Gibbs, still looking down, starts smiling…Kasie catches it….She turns back to Gibbs, her arm, hand, and finger still stretched out, pointing towards the stairs…)

Kasie: “You knew about this?”

(Gibbs looks up, stares at her…)

Gibbs: “About what?”

Kasie: “The reason you guys didn’t go to Ft Benning!”

Gibbs: “Yea?...What reason would that be?”

Kasie: “You know dang well what reason!”

(Gibbs does his arms in a “What’s the problem” motion)

Gibbs: “What? I just made it easier for you to investigate the parts!”

(Kasie fumes, looks at McGee…then at Dawson…Dawson stares back at her)

Dawson: “This is my “I know nothing” stare”

(Kasie yells)

Kasie: “THERE IS A BIG TANK OUTSIDE THE EVIDENCE ROOM!”

Gibbs: “Yea? So?”

Kasie: ‘IT’S ASSIGNED TO ME!”

Gibbs: “Okay…It’s evidence….so, go interrogate it!..(pause) “Hell, Kasie, I don’t know…Go do evidence stuff!”

(Kasie stares at Gibbs..)

Kasie: “There are two!…One is on a trailer…blown to hell….They’re outside…They need to be moved…No one will help me!”

Gibbs: “Jesus, Kasie…then move ‘em!”

Kasie: “Me?”

Gibbs: “Yea, Kasie…you! How hard can it be?”

(McGee looks at Gibbs…start of fearful look….)

McGee: “Boss…that may not be a good idea….”

(Gibbs throws his pencil down, gets up….)

Gibbs: “Fine..I’ll go move the tank….Christ…you people…you act like you’ve never driven a tank”

(The all look at each other…..)

Dawson: “Same as an Urban Assault Vehicle….one big joystick, push, pull, right, left……”

(Kasie stares at Dawson for a second)

Kasie: “You….Probie….Come with me!”

Dawson: “Hell no!”

Gibbs; ‘Dawson, go give her a hand….go on….”

(Dawson looks at Gibbs in disbelief….)

Dawson: “This is where he says, “Go…it’ll be fun he said….you’ll do fine, he said….”

(Gibbs looks at Dawson….Dawson finally gets up…)

Dawson: “Fine…I’ll drive the tank….I mean…what could happen?”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in SecState’s office…her aide, Helen Brewer, in her 70’s, stands in front of her desk…)

SecState: “Helen, take those, send them to the appropriate people….and double check my tabs on security clearance….some of that is sensitive”

Helen: “Got it, ma’am….”

SecState: “And tell them to keep their mouths shut…..I am so sick and tired of hearing people talk about items that they have no business knowing….”

(Helen grins….)

Helen: “And would there be one in particular?”

(SecState looks up at Helen….her face confused)

SecState: “How does he do it? It’s driving me nuts!”

Helen: “He’s an investigator ma’am…”

SecState: “Bullshit! Someone’s feeding him information! It’s the only way Gibbs knows stuff….(pauses) “Hell..even before I know it!”

Helen: “Ma’am, Agent Gibbs, in spite of his…(pause) “…less than sparkling personality, has the respect of much of Washington..it’s entirely possible he’s in the loop on more than we think”

(SecState ponders what Helen says….then shakes her head…)

SecState: “It’s not like he’s untrustworthy…”

Helen: “No ma’am…I think he’s proven that”

SecState: “Still pisses me off”

(SecState smiles at Helen, then walks around from behind her desk, sits in a chair…she motions for Helen to do the same)

SecState: “Helen, how long have you been my aide?”

(Helen grins..)

Helen: “Oh…from the start, ma’am….”

SecState: “I wanted to run for Congress….that was….(thinks)..”

Helen: ’32 years ago”

SecState: “God, I remember that day….you were the only one that believed I could do it”

Helen: ‘Always have. Always will, ma’am”

(SecState stares at her friend for a moment…)

SecState: “He makes me pee my pants”

(Helen bursts out in laughter…SecState joins her….)

Helen: “Ma’am, as much as I’ve enjoyed this, I do need to get those memos out….But….ma’am…you want to covertly investigate General Dynamics?”

SecState: “I don’t have a choice, Helen….a missile was fired. What if it had been pointed at civilians?”

Helen: “NCIS has the tanks ma’am…and the recovered parts of the missile…maybe wait until they take a look and find something? Even if GD is blameless, this investigation says “we don’t trust you, even though you’ve served us well for 50 years…”

(SecState listens….then nods….)

SecState: “Hold the memos…let’s give Gibbs 48 hours….”

(She stands, then looks back at Helen)

SecState: “Who are the suppliers?”

(Helen lifts the file SecState gave her…rifles through the pages…)

Helen: “Just one that could be involved….Unless you want to blame the tread factory…everything’s made on site by GD, except for the treads and the circuit boards”

(SecState stares at Helen)

SecState: “Chance Hawkins..Hawkins, Incorporated”

(Helen nods)

SecState: “God, I hate that man”

Helen: “Me too, but don’t say it out loud”

SecState: “The Son In Law of the Vice President….how the hell did that happen?”

Helen: “Same way most contracts happen here, ma’am…the wrong way”

(SecState shakes her head)

SecState: “Helen, pull some info on Hawkins….not the normal press release stuff, I want to go deeper…And do NOT tell anyone what I’m doing….I don’t need that imbecile coming after me asking why I’m threatening to take the food off his grandkids’ dinner table”

Helen: “The man is an idiot…I’ll give you that”

SecState: “One heartbeat away from being the Idiot In Chief….damn….what a great country we live in”

(Helen chuckles, then asks SecState)

Helen: “Any word on your invitation yet?”

(SecState frowns…)

SecState: “No…and dammit…Leon says it’s a closed ceremony….”

(Helen allows herself a hidden small smile)

Helen: “Closed to you? I thought….”

SecState: ‘Yea…me too….Evidently that decision I made to rescue those children caused more damage than I thought it would”

Helen: “They’re loyal to each other, ma’am…fiercely loyal”

(She nods)

SecState: “I know….but…..(pause) “Dammit, Helen, sometimes I hate this job”

Helen: “It’s the price of power, ma’am…and not too many people will be attending…”

SecState: “Only the ones that they consider family….I was starting to think….I don’t know, Helen….Leon…that team….God, they’re close. I can’t imagine what it must feel like to be part of them”

Helen: “You did get an invite to the Reception…”

SecState: (sighs) “I know…and that in itself is something…only an elite select few got those…”

Helen: “And my phone has not stopped ringing…Guess who called and begged me to get you to get him invited…”

(SecState looks at Helen, confused…Helen smiles..)

Helen: “Come on…guess…guess….”

SecState: “I don’t know! Who?”

Helen: (smiles) “Who is…..(pause..then…) “One Heartbeat Away from being Idiot in Chief…”

(Helen bursts out laughing…)

SecState: “No way!”

Helen: “Yes! He said he had White House photographers already set up to travel, and……”

(SecState stares….)

SecState: “And what? What?”

(Helen whispers)

Helen: “He said if you get him an invite, he’d name you his running mate for the Presidential election 3 years from now….”

(SecState’s eyes get wide….Helen waits…..then…)

SecState: “Oh god….(snort)…”Oh god….that imbecile running for President…..(snort)..”Hahahahaha……”

Helen: “Ma’am…? Are you okay?”

(SecState looses control, bolts from her chair towards the bathroom in her office…Helen calmly walks to SecState’s desk, pulls a pair of sweat pants out of the drawer, places them in SecState’s chair…She shakes her head, walks out of the office, goes to her desk to prepare the documents for the Hawkins investigation….She opens her desk drawer, looks at a small envelope, smiles….the writing on the outside reads…)

“Be there… “

(underneath, scrawled in barely legible letters…)

“Jethro”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in executive office of Chance Hawkins, CEO, Hawkins Inc…The same man as earlier is sitting in front of him, opening a file folder with pictures…The images show hills and trees, several beautiful homes set against the hills…The sign above the road leading to one says:

THE D RANCH

Hawkins: “My dumbass father in law came through…”

(The man looks at the pictures)

Man: “Nice place…what does that have to do with us?”

Hawkins: “Matthew Morris…that, my violent friend, is a wedding site…next weekend…”

Morris: “Yea? So?”

Hawkins: ‘Your targets will all be there…The entire NCIS team….at a wedding…with hills and rocks and cliffs nearby...”

(The man stares at the pictures…)

Morris: “There is a cliff…hell, there’s even a waterfall…”

Hawkins: “Uh huh…A natural disaster waiting to happen”

Morris: “How’d you get these pics?”

Hawkins: “My father in law wants an invite to that wedding more than he wants me to stay quiet about my consulting job. Being seen there would be a huge political feather in his hat”

Morris: “Oh, that consulting job…the one that pays you 20 million a year to parade your father in law’s name out there?”

(Hawkins scowls….but nods his head)

Hawkins: “Yea….”

(Morris looks at Hawkins, raises his eyebrows)

Morris: “The VP wants to be at the scene where an entire wedding party gets killed? That’s nuts!”

Hawkins: “No….that’s my father in law. He thinks he can play the hero or something”

(Morris shakes his head)

Morris: “How the hell did he ever get elected VP? The man’s more crooked than you are!...(pause) “As if that were possible”

(Hawkins chuckles)

Hawkins: “He wasn’t elected…The President got elected. VP’s are like your girlfriend’s little brother. You end up taking them with you on your date…But when little brother controls 100 million in dark money that goes towards the President’s campaign fund….That, my friend, will get you elected to any office in this country”

Morris: “Chinese money….”

Hawkins: “Chinese money….spends the same as any other money”

Morris: “That goes through you”

(Hawkins grins)

Hawkins: “That MOST of it goes through”

Morris: “And they can’t scream too loud if you skim some, right?”

Hawkins: “Scream? Hell, brother….they expect it. If I don’t, they get nervous”

Morris: “Let me guess…This is the same Chinese company you buy the circuit boards from?”

(Hawkins nods)

Morris: “And the same one that funded your start up?”

Hawkins: “One in the same…and they are going nuts over there about NCIS investigating the misfire….(Pauses)…”Oh…and I got word from the President of China himself…He said don’t underestimate that Gibbs guy and his people…Seems like the Chinese President is quite fearful of those people”

(Morris laughs….)

Morris: “Fearful, huh….anything in it for me if I kill Gibbs?”

(Hawkins looks off, shakes his head)

Hawkins: “You’d be doing them a favor, that’s for sure”

Morris: “They must have a lot to hide to want a Federal Agent dead. You kill one, and people start digging”

Hawkins: “Yea…Maybe that’s why they want everyone dead. Kill one, it’s an investigation. Kill a bunch, and it’s a damn tragedy. One fed dead starts investigations, the other gets hashtag movements that die the next day”

(Hawkins grins at Morris)

Hawkins: “Hell, Morris…who knows…They might be so grateful, maybe they’ll get you elected VP”

(Hawkins pauses..looks in the file, sees geological reports….then he looks up at Hawkins)

Morris: “Geological reports…they have something to do with me?”

Hawkins: “They point out fault lines in the cliffs…All it will take is a couple of small charges, nothing big that attracts attention…knock those areas loose, and the side of the hill comes down on them”

(Morris studies the reports…then pulls out some pictures…He stares at them, one by one)

Morris: “The fault line diagrams….there’s no waterfall on them”

(Hawkins nods)

Hawkins: “Yea…I noticed that too…somehow, and none of the geologists know why, the waterfall is new…I mean like a month new. None of them can figure it out….Doesn’t matter, the weak areas in the cliffside are still there….Blow them, and the party gets a cliff falling on them, plus they get the waterfall falling down on them at no extra charge”

(Morris continues to study the pictures. Hawkins looks off to the side)

Hawkins: “Any word on my laptop?”

(Morris shakes his head)

Morris: “None…you really have no clue where you left it?”

Hawkins: “No…dammit…I dropped it off to be repaired…and lost the receipt…I was too high to remember where”

Morris: “I wouldn’t worry about it…who would mess with it anyway?”

Hawkins: “It’s got emails on it…between me and China…Those emails talk about getting the money from them to my wife’s father. It’s a cluster waiting to happen”

Morris: “Wow…it’s won’t take too much to connect those dots…you’re talking about the Vice President…”

Hawkins: “Yea….and DC would go ballistic if it came out right before an election. (shakes his head) “ Chinese money got the President elected…The same Chinese money that makes fake circuit boards that kill Marines”

Morris: “This is bad stuff, Hawk…it goes deep”

Hawkins: “You have no idea, Matt….”

Morris: “Then I want more money”

(Hawkins stares at Morris….then shrugs…He opens a desk drawer, pulls out another envelope…tosses it on the desk in front of Morris….)

Hawkins: “You’re a dangerous man, Matt…but you’re predictable…”

(Morris stares at Hawkins for a moment, then picks up the envelope, opens it….a slip of paper containing a string of numbers along with a URL indicating the website of a bank in Grand Cayman…)

Hawkins: “Bitcoin account…Check it out…you’ll find your name on the account….”

Morris; “These are look and see numbers, pal…..I need the login and password to be able to get to it…We’ve done this before, Matt…you know the drill ”

Hawkins: “I know…You get them when the job’s done”

(Morris looks at Hawkins….Hawkins grins)

Hawkins: “Stiff you, pal? No offense, brother, but there’s a lot on the line here, and you’re the smallest part of it. No one wants you pissed off…Pissed off people make waves…”

Morris: “Yea…and they also die”

(Hawkins shrugs)

Hawkins: “Part of the job, Matt…But you’ve kept your mouth shut about all the others, and, you’re damn sure not a patriot…You were chosen because you keep your mouth shut…”

Morris: “Man….this is scary stuff you’re in…I don’t want anyone getting nervous and wanting to tidy up a loose end…Mainly a loose end named Matt”

(Hawkins shakes his head)

Hawkins: “My friend…there’s one thing that should put your mind at ease…”

Morris: “Yea…what?”

(Hawkins stares at him for a moment…then…)

Hawkins: “You’re not already dead”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the D Ranch, night time….Nell, Dez, and Dil, sitting in the living room, watching a movie…)

Dil: ‘You ladies actually LIKE this movie?”

Nell: “Oh yea! The vampire is super cute and the girl is super nerdy, and her best friend is a werewolf…It’s so romantic!”

Dez: “I don’t know, sis….the guy is …hell…he just does whatever the girl wants….die for her? Sure! Glad to!...Get my family killed protecting you? Why not?....”

Nell: “He just loves her unconditionally…(looks at Dil) “Right, honey?”

(Dil looks at the movie, then at Dez….then at Nell)

Dil: “Oh yea…absolutely….I’d sacrifice Dez to save you”

(Dez’s mouth flies open in disbelief)

Nell: “You are so sweet!...(looks over at Dez)..”And thank you for dying for me sis….that’s sweet too”

(Dez’s mouth opens wider)

Dez: ‘How come I die?”

(Nell points at Dil, then herself,,,,,smiles)

Nell: “True love never dies”

(Dez shuts her mouth….stares at them)

Dez: “You’re both assholes…I’ll put my angel man up against those wanna be badboys any day!”

(Nell laughs, gets up from the couch)

Nell: “Sorry…gotta go powder my nose”

(Dil looks at her curiously….)

Dil: “You’re not wearing makeup”

(Dez rolls her eyes as Nell walks out of the living room and down the hall)

Dez: “She has to go potty, knucklehead”

(Dil stares down the hallway)

Dil: ‘She’s going to your bathroom…..”

Dez: “Yep”

Dil: ‘We have our own bathroom”

Dez: “Sure do”

Dil: ‘How come sometimes she uses ours and sometimes yours?”

(Dez looks at him blankly…shakes her head….)

Dez: “I knew this time would come….I just didn’t think it would be while you were so young”

(Nell comes walking back in, heads for seat on couch next to Dil)

Dez: “Sis..honey…you’re going to want to come sit by me…..Just trust me”

(Confused, Nell sits by Dez….Dez looks at her confused brother…)

Dez: “Bubba…I hate to be the one to tell you…but….(looks at Nell) “This woman here you love more than life itself? The one who walks on water in your eyes, when she walks on dirt, you kiss that ground she walks on?”

Nell: “Ooooo…I like this!”

Dil: “huh?”

Dez: “Baby brother….contrary to what you might think…(looks at Nell, sad expression) “This bride of yours? Well….when she does the big dog potty, rose petals do not fall outa her butt”

(Dil stares at Dez, blank…Nell instantly turns crimson red, pulls a pillow over, covers her face)

Dil: “Huh?”

Dez: “Bubba…it takes a while for a woman to use a shared bathroom….I mean, sleep with you? Bingo…Have your child? Oh yea….but…use that same bathroom as you and leave any trace that she’s anything but fairy dust and sparkles? (shakes her head) “Dil, honey…that takes time…”

(Nell’s face, behind the pillow, turns a deeper red)

Nell: (whispers) “oh god oh god oh god oh god”

Dil: “Do we really need to be having this conversation?”

Dez: “Yes, Dil…we do”

(Dil looks over at Nell…then back at Dez)

Dil: “I don’t believe you”

Dez: “Nell…tell him…”

(from behind the pillow, Nell’s pitiful voice can be heard)

Nell: “I’m sorry!”

Dil: “So…let’s say that’s true…It’s not…but pretend it is….That means I’ve offended her by using our bathroom…Which means maybe I should use yours too?”

Nell/Dez: (scream) “NO!”

Dil: “It’s settled…I am”

(Nell looks at the TV screen…an outdoor wedding scene comes up…White lace everywhere, white strands hang from trees…flower petals falling from the sky as the young bride walks up the earthen aisle)

Nell: “THAT! I WANT THAT!”

(Dez looks at the scene….cocks her head to one side…)

Dez: “Yea…I can see that….”

Nell: “No..I was kidding….I’m happy being there getting married to that man over there”

(She looks curiously as she sees Dil get up, walk to the window facing the east….he stands, looking out the window at the hills between the D Ranch and Cal’s house…)

Dil: “It’s perfect”

Nell: “Yes!”

Dez: “I don’t think that’s what he means, baby girl….”

Dil: “Shooters…the hills are perfect for hiding them…And the people coming….high value targets, hush hush ceremony, minimal security.”

Dez: “Yea…it is perfect…so…what do we do? Sensors? Cameras?”

(Dil shakes his head….)

Dil: ‘I want Daisy”

(Nell gets up, joins Dil's side….she looks outward also, her tone changing)

Nell: "Use our two birds…I'll bring in 3 more from the office warehouse…Tommy can operate them"

Dil: "He good enough to monitor 5 birds?"

(Nell thinks back to Korea…..nods her head)

Nell: "Yes…he's good enough. Two pairs can be put on circular autopilot, the 5th one, he'll operate manually…Now…the wedding is at 3pm…sun will be just over the hills…we'll have daylight for two hours, then once the sun sets behind the hilltop, it's almost instant darkness for the reception…But…(pauses, thinks) "..If we use the VU 2130 polaroid lenses on two, then the dual lense night vision cams on the other two, we'll have full coverage with minimal definition loss"

Dil; "Yea..for what we can see….but…"

(Nell shakes her head)

Nell: "The polaroid birds have look down infra red….I can set the cams to a 3 hour rolling darkfall sensor, linking the sensor to the image processor…Your server is fast enough to handle that…, and they'll adjust frequencies as the light fades…we'll have a clear look down no matter how fast the dark comes"

(Dez is looking at Nell, awed….Dil looks back at his sister…shrugs)

Dil: "Told you…smartest person in any room."

(Nell doesn't hear..she's focused)

Nell: "Granite…heat will bounce…I'll need to calibrate to compensate or get false readings…Near the waterfall will be toughest….mist confuses the heat and image sensors…"

(She stares at the area to the east, near Cal's house….she nods)

Nell: "That's where we park Daisy"

(She looks at Dil)

Nell: "If you were doing this….when would you start prepping the area?"

(Dil looks at the area…then at Nell….He nods to her…)

Dil: "We'll get those birds up tomorrow. Dez can put them on two bird shifts"

Nell: "Good…"

(She looks up at him, smiles…)

Nell: "No one is going to stop me from marrying you, Dil….No one…."

(He looks back at her…his face looks confused)

Nell: "Baby? You okay?"

(He looks away from her….stares towards the Thomas house)

Dil: 'Yea…I'm fine…I just..Sometimes what I feel overwhelms me…"

(He then looks back at her)

Dil: "We're getting married…This Saturday…I swear to you…"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on the hillside near Cal's house….Morris sits in a thicket, sitting on a rock, pulling out a foil wrapped sandwich, opening it and chewing on it as he looks through binoculars)

Morris: "Perfect spot…."

(He takes a towel, wipes water droplets off his face..He sees the mist has soaked the bread on his sandwich… he crumples the sandwich up in the aluminum foil he brought it in, tosses it to the ground)

Morris: "Damn waterfall….but it's good cover…These folks have drones, they have cams…….what they don't have…"

(He pulls out a small plastic wrapped object, holds it out in front of in him with one hand…in the other, he holds a small black box with a digital readout …The label on the package reads…)

C-4

(He attaches the black box to the clay like substance, pushes the timer button…The digital readout begins to light up)

Morris: "4 days and 17 hours…"

(He begins to smile…He completes his original thought…)

Morris: "What they don't have, is a lot of time left…"

(scene shows Morris pulling two more small packages out of his backpack. He attaches similar timers to each one… then begins planting the C-4 packages in crevices aligning the circled areas on the pictures)

(scene fades to black and white)

WEDNESDAY

(scene opens in NCIS lab, Kasie standing by her monitors, turned towards the door. Techs are trying to roll an evidence table into the lab, piled with small pieces of debris from the blown up tank. They manage to wedge the table in the doorway, stopping its movement. She notices the techs are not wearing gloves)

Kasie: (voice raised) "Is this the first time you brought evidence to me? (louder) "YOU'RE TOUCHING EVIDENCE!"…

(She takes a breath…closes here eyes, calms, then opens her eyes..She speaks evenly and calmly…)

Kasie: "I don't want either of you touching anything"

(The calm passes…)

Kacie: (yells) "You're idiots! Now…Raise your hands over your heads!"

(The two techs look at each other in confusion…then back at Kasie)

Tech: "Raise our hands?"

Kasie: "YES!"

(The click of a gun is heard….A voice they all fear whispers behind them)

Gibbs: “Reach for the sky, Pilgrim”

(The techs immediately raise their hands straight towards the ceiling….fear on their faces…Kasie’s face shows surprise..Gibbs pokes his head from behind the terrified techs, looks at Kasie)

Gibbs: ‘What’s next, sherrif? Want me to run ‘em outa town, or can I just shoot ‘em?”

(Kasie places both hands on her hips…appears to be contemplating the choices)

Kasie: “I say shoot ‘em…but before you do, can you cut a finger off each one? I need to take their prints, so….”

(She leans forward, yells at the techs)

Kasie: “SO I CAN TELL THEIR PRINTS FROM THE EVIDENCE PRINTS!”

(Gibbs looks at Kasie..raises his eyebrows..Kasie yells again)

Kasie: “GET OUT! GET OUT BEFORE HE SHOOTS YOU!”

(The techs scurry hurriedly out of the doorway, leaving the evidence cart behind, wedged in the doorway)

Kasie: “Thank you, Gibbs…now…could you please help get that cart in here?”

Gibbs: “No”

Kasie: “No?”

Gibbs: “No…not until you throw me some gloves….(small smile) “I’m afraid you might tell me to shoot myself!”

(She stares at Gibbs…then…)

Kasie: “I have your prints on file…I’ve even memorized your prints, Gibbs…I even dream about your prints!”

Gibbs: “Yea? Why?”

Kasie: (yells) “BECAUSE YOU KEEP TOUCHING EVIDENCE!”

(Gibbs shrugs, then looks at the wedged table…he backs up on step, raises one leg, kicks the table…it pops through the door, rolls directly in front of Kasie…she looks at it, nods..)

Kasie: “Nice shot”

(Gibbs reaches down, rubs his thigh…)

Gibbs: “Well, Kasie, I try….”

(Kasie starts looking through the pile of evidence…She begins throwing pieces in a bucket…Gibbs watches, curious)

Gibbs: ‘What the hell are you doing?”

Kasie: “Dumpster diving….If you see any small green plastic pieces, give a shout out…”

Gibbs; “How many of these tables have you been through?”

Kasie: “This is number 3”

(Gibbs reaches in his jacket pocket, pulls out a small envelope….he tosses it to Kasie..she catches it, looks curiously at it…)

Gibbs: “Is that what you’re looking for?”

(She stares at Gibbs…then looks in the envelope, dumps the contents on her table…flat green plastic, circuit wires imbedded in the plastic show…)

Gibbs: “You told the Benning crew to collect plastic pieces…So…they collected plastic pieces”

(She stares at him for a moment…looks at the contents from the envelope, then back at Gibbs)

Kasie: “How long have you had this?”

Gibbs: “I don’t know…all day? It came in a separate package”

(She begins tapping a foot, staring at Gibbs)

Gibbs: “Hey! I got distracted!..Now…what do you have for me?”

(She turns to her monitor, starts clicky clacking…An image of an undamaged circuit board comes up….The circuits in the board can be seen through the amber colored hard gel covering the board, ¼ inch deep….Kasie holds up a 3 inch square piece, one edge jagged, of broken circuit board taken from the evidence envelope Gibbs gave her….)

Kasie: “What’s the difference in the two?”

Gibbs: “One’s blown up?”

(She rolls her eyes)

Kasie: “Other than that”

(Gibbs stares at the image then at the piece)

Gibbs: “Gel coating?”

Kasie; “Bingo!...This image shows a fully functional GEU-CCA missile control and remote guidance circuit board…The manufacturer coats each board with a gel, it hardens, and Booya! Protective coating!”

Gibbs: “Okay…so?”

Kasie: “They’re made that way to protect the circuits from shock, weather, banging around….no matter what happens, these circuit boards will keep functioning….”

Gibbs: “Yea…(pause) “Can you get to the point, Kasie?”

(Kasie holds the broken piece of plastic up again)

Kasie: “This one has no gel…And.....it was not made in the U.S, AND…it is also not the specs called for…”

Gibbs: “In what?”

Kasie: “The nose of the Javelin missile Gibbs….the guidance circuits…The circuitry in the tank weapons systems…Plus according to Major Mass Spec over there, the piece I put in to be analyzed should be ready….”

(Gibbs eyebrows raise)

Gibbs; “Am I supposed to care?”

(Kasie’s machine beeps….she clicky clacks….A radiology spectrum graph appears on the screen, then a number…)

21%

(Kasie smiles….turns to Gibbs)

Kasie: “Bisphenol, 21%”

(Gibbs stares)

Kasie: “The circuit boards in the tank that misfired? They weren’t made in America like the contract calls for….”

(Gibbs stares…his head cocks to one side…Kasie smiles….)

Kasie: “China..only one place on the planet manufactures plastic with that low a Bisphenol rate, Agent Gibbs…Poor quality, cheaply made Chinese parts are being put in our Abrams tank weapons board and missile guidance systems….”

(Gibbs stares….his face begins to anger…Kasie’s face too)

Kasie: “You want to know what happened to our Marine?”

(Gibbs waits..then Kasie holds up the broken piece of plastic)

Kasie: “This is your Cause of Death”

(Gibbs turns…walks out quickly and purposefully..Kasie watches him run up the stairs, taking two at a time….She shakes her head…)

Kasie: “Oh boy…someone is in for a world full a hurt”

(She hears quick steps approaching….Gibbs appears in her doorway…He walks to her quickly, kisses her on the cheek, then pops her on the back of her head)

Gibbs: “Good work!”

(He turns and trots back out….Kasie rubs the back of her head, smiling….)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at The D Ranch…Nell and Dez in the drone control room, standing…at the consoles, Tommy sits, looking at the set up in awe…)

Tommy: “Ma’am…this is where you live…”

(Nell smiles)

Nell: “Yea”

(He looks around…eyes wide)

Tommy: “This is a multi function drone control system….these are only found….”

Nell: “At our office, FBI, NSA…yea..I know”

(Tommy looks at a shelf…two large aluminum boxes with latches sit…)

Tommy: “Those are the Desert Rotor HOTAS Dual-monitor portable Ground Control Systems with dual monitors…”

(Nell smiles again)

Nell: “Yea…dual monitor internal Intel processors, HD, solid state drives”

(Dez looks at Nell, curious)

(Tommy sees the digital readout, notices “DISARMED” lit up in green letters)

Tommy: “You have armed drones”

Nell: “Uh huh….”

Tommy: “You don’t actually stock armament here….(pause)…”..uh….do you?”

(Nell smiles…moves a case on the shelf over, revealing palm press pad…She presses her palm against the screen…The light turns from red to green…a click on the door is heard…Tommy is looking on in shock, as Nell swings the door outward, revealing the Armament Room, with rows of guns, weapons, and behind a wire screen on one of the walls, Hellfire missiles on racks, with boxes marked UAV 200 Round Belt)

(Tommy stares…..then looks over at Dez…)

Dez: “You about to wet your britches, drone boy?”

(Tommy nods his head up and down)

Tommy: “Maybe…”

Nell: “We wanted you to make a run over the hills before the wedding…get used to the topography and rock formations….”

Tommy: “Yea…yea…”

(He looks at the controls…then at the array of monitors in front of him and on the wall above the main monitors…)

Nell: “Can you handle 5?”

(Tommy looks at the controls…then at her….)

Tommy: “Yes…I can..But ma’am…”

Nell: “But if you had some help, you’d feel better?”

(Tommy nods…embarrassed)

Tommy: “Yes…I’m sorry, ma’am…Maybe someone else….”

(Nell interrupts him)

Nell: “That’s one of the reasons I love you, Tommy….I can trust you…No one can work 5 at once…Not effectively…So…knowing you’d feel that way…I brought you…”

(She turns to the door….In the doorway, rolls a wheelchair…in the wheelchair sits a young woman, legs gone from the knees down….She sees Tommy….shyly smiles…Tommy takes a breath….then…)

Tommy: (whisper) “Tabitha”

(Tabby gives an embarrassed smile…blushes…)

Tabby: “Thomas”

(He stares at her…..)

Nell: “Dez, this is Tabby….she’s the whiz kid I told you about”

(Tommy ignores the talk…he's staring at Tabby)

Tommy: "I didn't think I'd ever see you again….(blushes) "I mean…you left the hospital…and then nothing…."

Tabby: "I know…I'm sorry…."

(Nell is watching the two of them, big smile on her face…Dez crosses her arms, shakes her head…)

Tommy: "I miss our talks"

Tabby: "I know…I do too…you were so sweet…you came every day to the hospital…I used to look so forward to you coming…"

Tommy: "Then why….I still don't understand…"

(Tabby smiles…blushing..)

Tabby: "I got scared, Thomas…I'd never had a man…not a good man like you…even look at me without turning away…"

Thomas: "I never turned away…I never would.."

(Dez rolls her eyes….Nell dabs her eyes)

Tabby: "Can we start over..maybe..? By me helping you? (pauses…her face pleading) "…please?"

(Tommy gets up…he walks to her chair, gets behind it, then rolls her to the other console area…he pulls the console chair away from the bench, then rolls her close to it…)

Tommy: 'Here…we'll share the drone controls. You get to choose your drones first..."

(Tabby looks at him, then smiles shyly again)

Tabby: "That is so sweet, Thomas..You don't have to do that….."

Tommy: "I know…but it's what I want to do"

(Nell quietly but enthusiastically claps her hands, smiling….Dez looks at Nell, then at Tommy and Tabby….then back at Nell, then at the two young people…)

Dez: "Oh god….nerd love.."

(Dez looks at Nell…then…)

Dez: "Barf"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Hawkins's office, him standing at the side of the desk, looking at the TV screen mounted on the wall…Stock reports are shown on the screen..Matt Morris stands back, watching…)

Hawkins: "Your job done?"

Morris; "Perfectly…charges set, timers on"

Hawkins; "Good…nice job…."

Morris: "Thanks…It will be fun to watch"

Hawkins: “Watch?”

Morris: “Yea…a landslide killing a wedding party? What respectable hit man could pass that up?”

(Hawkins looks at his friend…shakes his head)

Hawkins: “Matt…you ever heard the term ‘sociopath’?”

(Morris grins)

Morris: ‘Every day since my first therapist….”

Hawkins: “Seriously?”

Morris: “Yea…I was 12”

Hawkins: ‘So…did they treat you?”

(Morris gives a sarcastic grin)

Morris: “Hard for a dead woman to treat anyone….”

(The TV beeps….Morris motions to the screen)

Morris: “You’re climbing”

Hawkins: “Yea…time to sell the shell stock”

Morris: “The stock that your bogus company owns?”

Hawkins: “Same one…We’re about to peak….but….”

Morris: “You think you’re going to dive?”

Hawkins: “No…we’ll climb more…but I want to bring it down….”

Morris: “Down? Why?”

Hawkins: “Because I’m getting an influx of capital…I want to buy my own stock at a lower price….and if I sell off the shell company stock, it’ll spook Wall Street into selling too, and the stock will dive…I dive, I buy me…it’s a nice setup”

Morris: “So you end up controlling more of the company stock….”

Hawkins: “That’s the idea”

Morris: “Let me guess…The Chinese are giving you the money…”

(Hawkins shakes his head….)

Hawkins: “No…my imbecile father in law is…”

(Morris’s face shows shock)

Morris: “WHAT?”

Hawkins: (grins) “Yea….he’s transferring 82 million into the Contractor Pool account later today…I sell off, push the stock down, buy heavy, but at the lower price. I purchase more stocks and margins before it climbs, and I hand him back 82 mil to replace the money he sent me, plus about the same amount to him personally, in the form of stock worth twice as much tomorrow”

Morris: “Uh…buddy…that’s kind of illegal, isn’t it?”

(Hawkins grins)

Hawkins: “Oh yea….and the old man loves this game. I’m his personal money genie in a lamp”

Morris: “Let me guess..he sells right away, banks the money for his campaign”

Hawkins “Quite true, Matthew….you’re catching on. Except he doesn’t sell on the market, that’s to transparent to everyone…He sells the stock to me”

Morris; ‘And you buy it back from him at what…a discount?”

Hawkins: “80 cents on the dollar…He won’t squeal…it’s the taxpayer’s money anyway….It’s coming from what they call…Discretionary Funds”…He puts the money back in 2 days, the OBM, Office of Budget Management, never knows, and he banks a cool 40 million in profit…”

Morris: “And you do this over and over……You don’t even use your own money”

(Hawkins shakes his head side to side)

Hawkins: “No..I risk nothing…It’s all taxpayer money…..(pauses, look of awe on his face as he watches the screen) “…God, I love this country!”

(scene shifts to SecState’s office…Loretta at her desk, Helen in front, sitting..Loretta stares at the documents in front of her…)

SecState: “Is this correct?”

Helen: “Yes ma’am…it’s been checked and double checked”

SecState: “Helen…if this is correct..If Hawkins, Inc is buying knock off circuit boards from the Chinese, is he selling the parts to us?”

Helen: “Hard to tell without a physical inventory…”

SecState: “Money trail?”

Helen: ‘We’re blocked out, ma’am…Hawkins’s financials have been declared off limits”

SecState: “And do I need more than one guess as to who authorized that?”

Helen: ‘The man that wants to make you Vice-President…”

(Helen grins….SecState rolls her eyes and shakes her head)

SecState: “So we’re at a dead end….”

Helen: “So far….but ma’am…these things have a way of working out on their own…(grins to herself)…”Have faith ma’am”

(Loretta turns to Helen, concern on her face)

SecState: “You don’t think Gibbs knows about this already do you?”

(Helen looks back, disbelief on face)

Helen: “Ma’am?”

(SecState looks away, shakes her head again)

SecState; “No…he couldn’t…we just found out..”

(She pauses…then looks at Helen)

SecState: “How the hell does he know things? It’s driving me nuts!”

Helen: “Oh ma’am, I wouldn’t worry too much. There’s no way he’ll get wind of this..”

(SecState smiles…)

SecState: “Have faith….that’s what you said?”

(Helen nods to her, then exits the room)

(scene shifts to Helen’s desk…she opens a drawer, pulls out a small cell phone…she powers it up, types a text, then sends it. She deletes the text, then powers the phone down, wipes it with a cloth, places it back in drawer, closes the drawer)

Helen: “Faith? Yes…But loyalty wants its own time too”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the hills on the other side of the D Ranch….view is from the eyes of an animal….The creature sniffs the air…sits…rests..and sleeps….in its dreams, it feels, rather than sees….)

Dream: “Trust…Bond….Trust….Love…”

(A rabbit makes the unfortunate decision to run from the creature….it wakens, leaps up, runs, pounces, feeds…..After the meal, its hunger satisfied, it sniffs the air again…it looks up at the tall hills in front of it….and knows it’s getting close…then it thinks…)

“Friend…Trust…”

(The scene pans back, showing the animal…A beautiful tan colored mountain lion trots upwards through the trees….the thoughts focus on…)

“Seek”

(scene shifts to the Thomas House….Cal stands on the back patio, looking up at the hills, staring….Ahnjong stands at his side, holding his hand)

Ahnjong: “Papa-san Cal? What is it you see?”

Cal: “Nothing, dearest…I see nothing….”

Ahnjong: “Then it is a sense you feel….”

(He looks down at the child, smiling at the girl standing at his side)

Cal: “You are too perceptive, Ahnjong….”

(He looks up at the hills…)

Cal: “Something is coming, child…”

(Ahnjong looks in the area Cal is looking…)

Ahnjong: “Is it danger?”

(Cal closes his eyes….then opens them…)

Cal: “No, child…there is no evil in it…only…(pause)..”

Ahnjong: “Only what, Papa-san?”

(Cal thinks…he looks towards the waterfall, knowing what it represents….then back to the area at the top of the hills..)

Cal: “Grace….it is seeking Grace, child…The only pure love it has ever known”

Ahnjong: “Is that bad?”

(Cal looks at her…kneels to her level…and with his hand on her cheek, he speaks softly)

Cal: “It seeks unconditional love, child…(kisses her cheek) “The kind momma-san and I have for you”

(Ahnjong places her hand on his, and speaks softly in her child’s voice)

Ahnjong: “I will miss you both so much…”

(He is overwhelmed….He hugs her close to him, then looks up over her, and sees Dez, standing in the doorway, watching, listening, weeping….Cal turns Ahnjong around…when the girl sees Dez, she shrieks….)

Ahnjong: “MOMMA-SAN!”

(The girl runs to Dez…Dez catches her, lifts her up into her arms, hugs her tightly, her eyes closed, wiping them with a sleeve so the child doesn’t see the tears…Cal watches, feeling a mixture of joy and sadness…He whispers to the sky…)

Cal: “So..This is why you love them so….”

(He pauses)

Cal: “Now I know….”

(He smiles at Dez, seeing her extend an arm out, inviting him into the embrace….He joyfully complies….)

(scene shifts to the hillside, darkness….the cougar pauses its trot…sniffs the air, then looks in a direction over the hill…he senses the air currents coming from the flatlands on the other side, running up the hill, to the top, then down to it…The large cat takes in several breaths, processing the information running through its nostrils and brain…The winds from the Thomas House bring strong and clear information)

“Family…His family….Love…Trust…”

(The cougar takes one more breath in….its eyes squint)

“and sadness….”

(The cougar resumes its trot up the hill, following the scent it caught weeks ago….the cat thanks the winds for bringing it the gift it did, a gift that revealed what started this strange journey…)

“Cub…Grace human has a cub….Go…Protect…Family…”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS bullpen, night…Gibbs sits at his desk, looking at the Navy yard through the window….His phone signals a text….He looks, recognizes the number…He reads the first of two texts)

Hawkins inc…knockoff parts…china…Money trail = Vice President and Son in law. HOLY COW!

(Then one more text that Gibbs smiles at)

I will be there

(Gibbs places the phone back in his pocket, continues to look out the window…)

Gibbs (to self) "I'm coming after you"

(He sees one of the ships unloading men down the walkway….Young sailors proud to serve their country…Then he thinks of one Marine that got his men out of a doomed tank, putting them first, an act that cost him his life….He pulls out the phone again and reads the text..His face hardens….)

Gibbs: "And I'm coming after you hard"

(scene fades out to Gibbs looking out the window into the night, the lights of the Naval ships glowing over the water)

(scene fades to black and white)

Thursday Morning

(scene opens in NCIS bullpen, early morning, darkness still showing through the windows..McGee, Torres, Dawson sitting at their desks. McGee has big screen up, the logo for Hawkins, Inc..Torres yawns…)

Torres: "Sorry…Nickie had us up all night…"

McGee: "Been there, Torres….you get any sleep?"

Torres: 'No man…just showered, changed, came on…"

Dawson: "Well, I got no baby, and I got no man, so I was sleeping just fine till you woke me up…"

McGee; "Sorry everyone, but orders from up top. We need to go over this before the rest of the teams come in"

Torres: "Cool!…We doing more stuff we shouldn't do?"

McGee: "I'm not sure I'd put it that way, Torres….but…."

Dawson: "Go on..say it…"

(McGee looks at Dawson, then at Torres….)

McGee: "We're about to start an investigation into the killing of a Marine that involves or may involve the Vice President, his son in law, China, and insider stock trading on accounts that are protected by Presidential Order"

(McGee lets the words sink in…..)

Torres: 'So yea…basically, stuff we shouldn't do"

Dawson: "Shouldn't do works for me…Is this where someone says if I talk about it to the wrong person, I disappear never to be seen again?"

(She chuckles at her joke….She looks around, sees that neither McGee or Torres are smiling….)

Dawson: "It was a joke, guys….Right? You know…as in funnin'?"

(Both McGee and Torres start shaking their heads back and forth…Dawson stares for a moment, then shrugs)

Dawson: “Okay…it’s not like I have a life anyway…So…what do we know?”

(McGee turns to the TV, clicks the remote…The image of Chance Hawkins comes up…)

McGee: “Chance Hawkins, CEO and majority stockholder of Hawkins, incorporated…mid level supplier to General Dynamics, mostly circuit board parts for Abrams tanks weapons modules and Guidance boards for the nose of the Javelin missile….Hawkins manufactured and sold the circuit boards for the tank that misfired, killing a Marine Captain”

Dawson: “Okay…but the boards Kasie got from the scene aren’t kosher”

Torres: “Muy not kosher”

McGee: “We have a tip saying we should follow the money between Hawkins, China, and the Vice President”

Dawson: “So…we splitting up who we gonna bust?”

McGee: “No…we’re going to do what each of us do best…..”

(McGee hits the clicker…A graph comes up of Hawkins Inc stock prices…The bar shows a level performance indicator…)

McGee: ‘It’s normal…until….Yesterday..”

(McGee points to a dramatic decrease in stock prices…)

Torres: “No Bueno! Why the sudden drop in price?”

(McGee clicks again…)

McGee: “SIL inc sold almost 1.2 million shares of Hawkins stock….”

Torres: “Dump?”

McGee: “It appears so…that drove the stock down…”

Dawson: “But today?”

McGee: “The Bell rings on Wall Street in…..”

(He clicks the remote…Live TV comes on….ZNN Business Report…the reporter starts reading from his papers)

Reporter: “The Bell just opened up and folks we’re off to a rocket fast start! After yesterday’s sell off on Hawkins, the stock dropped to a record low…First seller was SIL, inc, a private equities firm, then the rest of the Bears followed suit…”

(TV shows rapidly increasing digital numbers)

Reporter: “The Trust Fund Partners, S&B, Solomon and David, dove in this morning and already purchased….are you ready buyers and sellers? S&D just purchased 62 million dollars of Hawkins stocks, at the bargain basement price of $142 per share….The Bulls are now, as we talk, buying up Hawkins stock in a frenzy, further driving up the share price….Our ZNN Business analysts predict that Hawkins will level off at a lifetime high share price of $365 per share, and if it does, S&D stands to make a clean profit of over $200 million!”

(The reporter shakes his head)

Reporter: “Not bad for half a days work…..And now…on to other news”

(McGee clicks off the TV show, back to the images,,,He looks at Torres…)

McGee: “Nick…We have a man protected by the President, watching his stock dive…and that company did nothing to stop it…Why?”

(Torres opens a desk drawer, pulls a cell phone out…He looks at McGee, with a smile…)

Torres: “Let’s find out…Is the Public Relations number for Hawkins on there?”

(McGee clicks through Hawkins phone directory…and the title and number appear….Torres looks at the number, and begins dialing…Dawson looking on curiously, McGee starts smiling…)

McGee: “This is great, Dawson…watch…”

(Torres listens as the dialed number rings…it answers….Torres puts the phone on his desk, on speaker…)

Phone: “Hawkins Public Relations, how can I help you?”

(Torres pulls off a perfect clipped, British accent)

Torres: “Yes yes…Brentworth Edward Tompkins here, Palace Trading News…Yesterday, mate, Hawkins incorporated was attacked by a sell off…And Chance Hawkins, king of Hawkins, well, honestly, the bloke did nothing…you know…no pip pip or even a Cheerio! Can you tell our readers why?”

Phone: “Sir, we do not comment on daily stock sales or purchases…”

Torres: “Blimey mate! The stock dropped to what you yanks call Bottom Hades, and the king does nothing? I say, I say, that’s news! And can you comment on the buyers…this morning, your time, S&D swoops in like the Scots invading the British Isles, and captures! I say, I say, mate! Captures the sold off stock! It’s ludicrous! Are you aware the Prince himself is gnashing his crooked teeth over this? It’s a bloodbath at the palace!”

(McGee keeps grinning…Dawson’s face in in shock…)

Phone: “Sir…are you aware our financial information is protected under the Military Contract Vendor Protection Act?”

Torres: ‘Yes yes…indubidably….but this is merry old England here, and we blokes don’t have to adhere to such actions…Freedom of the Press! Yes yes! That’s what you yanks cry out when you don’t get your way, so Freedom of the Press!...Tell me…S&D…What role do they play? Are they connected to Hawkins? Blimey, chap, our sources at MI6 say…”

(Mcgee starts frantically waving his hands, running his finger across his throat…Torres mouths…)

Torres: “MI6 too much?”

(Mcgee nods his head up and down frantically)

Torres: “Sorry chap, ignore the MI6 comment….I didn’t have my morning tea”

Phone: “Sir…I’m going to put you in touch with our legal department….”

Torres: “Right right….but before you do…can you comment on the rumored connection between Hawkins, S&D and your Vice President?”

(Silence on the phone….Torres looks up at McGee….Dawson is holding her breath….)

Torres; “Mate? Are you still there?”

(The line goes dead…Everyone stares at the cell phone on the desk)

McGee: “Wow”

Torres: “Yea…wow…”

Dawson: “You wanna give me that phone?”

(They both turn to Dawson…She is standing by Torres’s desk, her hand held out)

Dawson: “The moment she said she was transferring you to legal, is the moment they began a GPS trace….We’re in my area now, boys….So..give me the phone…”

(Torres picks it up, places it in Dawson’s hand….She says nothing, just starts running out of the bullpen….)

Torres: “What the…?”

(McGee looks out the window…he can see Dawson running across the front lawn of the building, straight towards the loading docs for the Naval ships….)

McGee: “I know what she’s doing….I think…She’s heading for the sailors boarding the USS Virginia…it’s about to set sail”

Torres: “Oh man…she isn’t…”

McGee: “I think she is….”

Torres: “She’s putting the phone in a sailors bag….oh man….”

McGee: “Yep…and that phone trace is going to lead whoever traces it all the way out….”

Torres: “In the middle of the Atlantic…..”

(Torres and McGee look at each other, then burst out laughing….)

Torres; “I love that girl!”

(McGee, still chuckling, turns to Torres….)

McGee: “I think…Torres…I think we just opened up the biggest can of worms ever…”

(Torres looks out the window, searching for Dawson….)

Torres: “You know what my madre used to say when you open up a can of worms?”

McGee: “What?”

(Torres gives a big smile)

Torres: ‘It’s time to go fishing”

McGee: “Yea…and I’m going fishing in their financial pond…”

(scene shifts to Hawkins Inc….Chance Hawkins on the phone, screaming…..)

Hawkins: “FIND HIM! I DON’T CARE IF HE’S IN ENGLAND!...”

(he listens….)

Hawkins: “The call came from where?”

(Listens more)

Hawkins ‘The phone is heading where? On what?”

(listens more…then screams)

Hawkins: “THEN GET ON A HELICOPTER AND FIND THE SON OF A BITCH! I DON’T CARE IF HE’S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN OR NOT!”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the D Ranch, Gibbs sitting on the back deck with Dez, Daisy playing with Ahnjong, out in the olive tree orchard…Dez stares at the little girl, Gibbs watching her)

Gibbs: “She’s happy”

Dez: “I know”

Gibbs: “It’s a good thing”

Dez: “I know that too”

(Gibbs turns to look at the girl…)

Gibbs: “Yea…it sucks”

Dez: “I know that most of all”

Gibbs: “You going to be okay?”

(Dez ignores the question…..continues to look at Ahnjong…Gibbs nods…)

Gibbs: “Yea…I know”

(Dez finally turns to Gibbs…her face anxious)

Dez: “Do you ever get over it?”

(Gibbs looks out at the little girl)

Gibbs: “No…at least not yet”

Dez: “Was it worth it?”

(Gibbs remembers…then smiles…)

Gibbs: “You mean having Kelly for a short time, then losing her?”

Dez: “Yes….If you could have, knowing what you knew was going to happen….would you have not had her?”

(Gibbs looks at her…face distraught)

Gibbs: “You mean not have her at all?”

Dez: ‘Yes…would you have chosen to save yourself the grief….”

(Gibbs starts shaking his head….)

Gibbs: “Aw Dez…no…The only thing I would have done differently is spend every moment I could with her….(pauses) “I messed up Dez…I counted on tomorrow coming…then one day, there were no more tomorrows…(another pause…he looks down) “I would have spent every today with her and Shannon……every day….”

Dez: “Does it still hurt?”

Gibbs; “yea”

Dez: “Bad?”

(Gibbs shrugs)

Gibbs: “Sometimes…but sometimes I know both of them would want me to be happy….That’s the best thing about love, Dez…you lose someone you love, and you know they loved you….you know they would want you to be happy”

(Dez stares at Gibbs…..then…)

Dez: “That didn’t sound like the old Gibbs I know…What changed….?”

(Gibbs shrugs again….looks at Dez…nods towards Ahnjong)

Gibbs: “Make her happy, Dez…love her…never let her doubt it. Never give up a chance to tell her you love her…hell, Dez, pack years into the days you have with that….It’s the best we can do”

(Dez stares again at Gibbs…)

Dez: “Thank you…”

Gibbs: “For what?”

Dez: “For being a dad to me….I know Nell is your favorite…but I’d like to think I’m in there somewhere…”

(Gibbs looks at her, eyebrows raised…)

Dez: “I’m sorry…that was wrong of me to say…”

Gibbs; “Ya think, Dez?”

(Dez turns away, ashamed)

Gibbs; “Dez…yea…I wanted Kelly to grow up and look at life like Nell does…happy…looking for the best in people…But damnit, Dez, I also wanted her to grow up like you…Strong, real, smart, brave….Dez…there’s no difference in my mind between the two of you….(pauses…looks down, embarrassed, too…) “Dez…I love you both…and I’m so proud of both of you….But I see you, and I see your strength…and god…I could only have hoped she was that strong…”

(Gibbs stops….shakes his head….then turns to walk back inside…)

Gibbs “I talk too much”

(Dez stares at him, eyes moist…He turns before he leaves…He looks straight at her…)

Gibbs: “Daughter”

(Then he turns for a final time towards the doors….)

(scene shifts to front of the D Ranch, Nell driving up in Gibbs’s NCIS sedan, Tommy in front seat of the car, Tabby in the back seat. Tommy looks out the window before opening his door)

Tommy: ‘Is that dog out there?”

Nell: “Tommy, Daisy is the sweetest dog!”

Tommy: “How many people has she killed?”

(Nell thinks…)

Nell “Not one that didn’t deserve it”

Tabby: “I’ve heard the stories! Where is she? I want so bad to meet her!”

(Nell places two fingers in her mouth, then delivers a window rattling whistle)

Nell: (yelling) “DAISY!”

(A loud bark is heard..Nell starts smiling…)

Tommy: “I heard that…it was a killer dog bark!”

(Nell moves to the back of the sedan, opens the trunk, unloads the wheelchair while looking for Daisy….)

Nell: “Anyone see her?”

(silence…)

Nell: “Tabby? Tommy?”

(Nell gets the chair out, unfolds it, starts to roll it to the door where Tabby would get out, and she sees both of them, frozen in place, Tommy standing outside the car, Tabby still in the back seat….They are both staring at Daisy, sitting on the ground, ears up, staring directly at Tommy….)

Tommy: (weak voice) “I am not food”

(Daisy cocks her head to one side)

Tommy: “I taste horrible”

(Tommy stares at Daisy, anxiety and fear on his face…his body trembling…Nell watches, stifling a laugh)

Nell: “Daisy, meet Tommy…he’s a friend”

(Daisy straightens her head….and…)

Daisy: “WOOF!”

(Tommy shrieks)

Tommy: “DON’T EAT ME!”

(Laughter can be heard from the back seat….Daisy turns her head to the area, gets up, walks to the open back door, and sees Tabby…Daisy sees the human has no legs…She steps closer to Tabby, still sitting in the back seat, and sniffs her leg area….then Daisy looks up at Tabby, and gives a small whine…)

Tabby: “Oh girl, that’s so sweet….but I’m okay with it…Don’t you worry about me”

(Daisy moves her muzzle under Tabby’s hand….Tabby begins to pet Daisy’s head…)

Nell: “She’s saying she likes you”

Tabby: “Tell her I like her too”

Nell: “You tell her!”

(Tabby looks at Daisy, apprehensive…)

Tabby: “Ok big girl, here it is….If you chase me, I can’t run…”

(Daisy cocks her head to one side)

Tabby: “I have no legs, so I’m like a diet meal….”

(Daisy cocks her head to the other side)

Tabby: “And I take lots of medicine right now, so I taste really really bitter”

(Daisy stares at Tabby…then turns her head towards Nell, and chufs…Tabby looks back at Nell…)

Nell: “She says she thinks you’re funny”

(Tommy tentatively raises his hand..)

Tommy: “I can be funny…..”

(Daisy turns to Tommy….)

Tommy: “I had oatmeal for breakfast….you’d hate eating me”

(Daisy looks at Nell, cocks her head…)

Nell: “Daisy, be nice to our guests”

(Daisy turns to Tommy…gives him a goofy, teeth-filled dog smile…Tommy shrieks)

Nell: “Thomas! She was smiling at you!”

Tommy: “That was a smile? That was her showing her teeth, establishing physical dominance and intimidation!”

(Daisy looks at Nell and chufs..Nell chuckles)

Nell; “I know girl..I think he’s funny too….but he’s real important to what we do, and I think he’s a really good person…So…why don’t you wait for Tabby to get in her chair, and you take them into the house…Okay?”

(Footsteps are heard walking up….Nell smiles big, walks to hug Gibbs….)

Nell: “My Gibbsy!”

Gibbs: “Hey daughter…the Dream Team here?”

(Nell nods, then turns her head to the car….Tommy can be seen staring at Gibbs, awestruck…Tabby is smiling…Gibbs walks to the car….)

Gibbs: “Hey Tabs….you guys ready for a test run?”

Tabby: “Ready? You bet we are!”

Gibbs: “Tommy? You good?”

(Tommy is speechless….Gibbs shakes his head, walks to Nell…)

Gibbs: “How much time do you need?”

Nell: “About an hour for them to get inside, get the drones in the air, and do some flybys….”

Gibbs: “I’ll take Daisy out in the Jeep in the pasture…You radio me if you see something, I’ll send her up to take a look”

Nell: “She sniffs, we follow?”

Gibbs: (chuckles) “Yea…”

(Gibbs turns to Tabby and Tommy…)

Gibbs: “You need an hour?”

(Tommy and Tabby nod…)

Gibbs: “Be ready in 30….”

(They both look at Gibbs in shock…they don’t move…Gibbs stares at both, then…)

Gibbs: “Come one people! Get to work!”

(Gibbs walks off, looks back at Daisy, still sitting by the car…He pats his thigh, Daisy jumps up, trots to Gibbs, following him to the Jeep..Nell looks on, following them)

Nell: “He’s nervous”

Tommy: “Nervous? Him?”

Nell: “Yea…he’s heading out there early…We’ve done this before. He waits until we see something, then goes…”

Tabby: “Is there some kind of trouble expected?”

(Nell stares at Gibbs…then at the stable, remembering men chasing her, shooting at her, having to kill men….)

Nell: “This family…Trouble always comes”

Tabby: “What happens?”

(She is quiet for a moment, then…)

Nell: “Trouble regrets it”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on far hillside, the cougar trots up towards the peak of the hill…anxious, it wants to see what is on the other side…the journey, the cold, the rain, the ice, all has come to his….The cougar quickens its pace, the trees thinning out towards the top…rocks now, but its pads easily absorb the jagged edges, allowing the big cat to begin running….and then it reaches the peak….sits…and looks out over the land….A house…a human in a loud thing, moving fast along the pasture…The winds shift, start bringing scents up to the cat’s nose….and the cat freezes…..A scent only once before felt…)

“Other”

(The mountain lion peers down the steep hill, straining to see the source….its heart beats faster…it’s eyes search…then it sees….)

“Ancient One….Revered…Other….”

(An anxiousness overcomes the big cat as it begins to prance in circles on the top of the peak….It has seen the holy of its kingdom….and the holy of the kingdom feels like…)

“Family”

(The cat, unable to contain its excitement, bounds down the hillside in the direction of the fast moving thing…)

(scene shifts to SecState’s office….She sits behind her desk, phone to her ear, perplexed look on her face….She speaks into the phone…)

SecState: “What? MI6?”

(She listens, shakes her head..)

SecState: “Mr Vice-President, I have no idea what you’re talking about…No one to my knowledge is investigating your son in law, his companies, or his stock purchasing actions…Although, I will say, the sell off by his shell corp….”

(She holds the phone away from her ear…shouting can be heard over the speaker end)

SecState: “Sir..may I remind you that we know about both Sil and S&D? You can order me to leave S&D alone, under the provisions of the Act, but that does not, in any way, shape, form, or fashion, give them protection from any illegal act”

(She places the phone down on the desk, waiting for the screaming to cease….She hears a name in the threats…she picks the phone up..)

SecState: “Sir…could you repeat that name?”

(She listens….)

SecState: “NCIS…how, Mr. Vice-President, did you come to that conclusion?”

(She listens)

SecState: “Sir…that’s hardly enough…The phone was traced to a battleship, 120 miles offshore…the fact that it originated from the Navy Yard, within 100 yards of the NCIS headquarters, is not concise enough to warrant any actions, by me, you, or any legal authority”

(She listens)

SecState: “Sir…you’ll send who?...Who is Matthew Morris?”

(silence on the phone…then finally, the VP speaks….she nods…)

SecState: “Understand sir…you got your calls mixed up…Matthew Morris has nothing to do with this…”

(The call ends…immediately, Loretta calls Helen in …..)

SecState: “Helen, find out what you can on a Matthew Morris…see if he’s linked to the VP or any of Hawkins’s holdings…”

(She relates the call with the VP to Helen)

Helen: “I’ll get on it, ma’am….”

SecState: “Helen?...NCIS…You don’t think Gibbs is….”

(She shakes her head..)

SecState: “No…he couldn’t know. No way….”

(She looks at Helen again)

SecState: “No way…right? (pauses) “God that would be horrible..(chuckles) “Gibbs…the Chinese…the..hahaha…Vice President….”

Helen: “Ma’am…? Your medicine?”

(scene shifts to Gibbs in the jeep….Daisy sits upright in the passenger seat, staring at the top of one of the hills..Gibbs’s text beeps…He looks at it…)

Matthew Morris – threat VP or Hawkins

(Gibbs immediately forwards the text to McGee)

(scene opens in NCIS Bullpen…McGee looks at the text….turns to Torres and Dawson)

McGee: 'Matthew Morris…find him! Look on Hawkins and S&D payroll….!"

Torres: "How are the banks looking?"

(McGee smiles at Torres)

McGee: "Oh Torres…it's like being in Candyland….They think the Vice President protects them from federal investigations?"

Torres; "It doesn't?"

McGee: "No…not if it's tax fraud….and the monies shifted between the VP and Hawkins come from taxpayer accounts…"

Torres; "So…we got him?"

McGee: "Not yet…yes…tax fraud…and theft…but not for murder…and that's what the boss wants"

(Dawson raises a hand…)

Dawson: "Sir?"

(McGee looks behind him…then back at Dawson…)

McGee: "Me?"

Dawson: "Yes sir….about that murder thing…."

(She swings a screen around…it shows multiple lists of phone numbers and calls on a screen)

McGee: "Yea?"

(She clicks two keys…four number/call rows line up together)

Dawson: "These are calls from the Hawkins phone listings…this call is from Hawkins himself, to China…specifically the Dragon Electronics company….manufacturer of circuit boards for Chinese cell phones…And this one, with that funky country code? That's a phantom routing number…it routes the calls from China to Hawkins…Once I was in the routing server, I was able to get a clearer picture…."

(She clicky clacks…The screen changes to 2 numbers)

Dawson: "Dragon Electronics wire transfers to Hawkins….the second one, Wire transfers from the VP's office to Hawkins…All done by phone transfer, using voice codes….Now…can you match those times and amounts to the bank transfers? If you can….We've got him for buying bogus circuit boards and selling them to the Marines….That…fellas…is evidence of Negligible Homicide"

(She clicky clacks again)

Dawson: "Oh…by the way…these numbers? Matthew Morris…monies transferred to a holding account for 1 million dollars…from China…and when I dug into the phone for Morris…..(pauses, clicks key) ".. here is the real Matthew Morris…"

(She brings up several rap sheets….a picture of Matthew Morris appears, real name Randolph Hawkins…..the brother of Chase Hawkins…and the charges of numerous outstanding federal warrants, including Murder for Hire, fill the screen)

(McGee stares at the numbers on her screen..He looks at the image of Randolph Hawkins……then he looks over at his screen….then a big smile begins to form on his face…)

McGee: “My friends….we are about to take down the Vice President of the United States….For Accessory to Murder”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the D Ranch drone control room…Tommy and Tabby sit, side by side, working the controls…4 screens are up, live views on each one, two pasture land, two hillside…Nell and Dez stand behind them)

Nell: “Tommy…our side of the hillside looks good….Want to get your birds towards Cal and Dez’s place?”

Dez: “Dez’s place?”

Nell: “Well yea…duh…”

(Dez shrugs)

Dez: “Okay…I like that”

Nell: “I miss my Sis….just letting you know”

Dez; “You’re a goober…just letting YOU know”

(Nell grins, elbows Dez…Dez grins back)

Dez: ‘No one’s ever missed me…I kinda like that feeling too”

Nell: “At least you’re next door…”

Dez: “And spend my days over here while Doctor Dolittle and his smartass Korean assistant go and tend to animals”

Nell: “She’s a doll”

(Dez smiles)

Tommy: “Is it okay to talk, ma’am?”

Nell: “Yes Tommy…we’re officially on the job…go…”

Tommy: ‘We have Agent Gibbs and Daisy at the base of the hills, just 100 yards east of the Thomas House…we’re moving up the landscape, elevation 20 feet…”

Tabby: “Thomas has the two props, I have the four…He’ll lead, I’ll go under the trees if he spots anything”

Tommy: “You want to lead?”

Tabby: “No…I’m fine…”

Tommy: “Really..I don’t mind…”

Tabby: “Okay, how about we switch in 20?”

Tommy: “Roger…”

(Tabby looks over at Tommy, blushes…)

Dez: (whisper to Nell) “Barf”

Nell: (whisper back) “They are so cute”

(Tommy stands up quickly, peering into a monitor)

Tommy: “Whoa….”

Nell: “What is it?”

Tommy: “Hovering….Tabby, can you give me a 15 second playback?”

Tabby: “15 seconds…copy…(clicky clack) “Now…”

(Everyone looks at the monitor….No one notices anything)

Tommy; “Did you see that?”

Nell: “No! See what?”

Tommy: “Play it again please…”

(The video scrambles backwards, Tommy takes the play controls…starts hitting the digital frame by frame control…Then it comes up…A momentary flash of light blue…He pauses it on the image)

Tommy: ‘THAT!”

Tabby: “It’s a reflection…it happens…”

Nell: “Micah in the sunlight? There’s plenty of it in the granite”

Tommy: “No…Micah does not reflect, it refracts…and it only shows up as a white flash or yellow flash…”

Nell: “So…?”

Tommy: “That flash is light blue…only two substances in nature reflect that color…One of them would be diamonds”

Dez: “Well dang it, there’s no diamonds up there!”

Nell: “What’s the other?”

(Tommy stares at the blurred blue flash)

Tommy: “Aluminum foil left by humans..Tabby, please lock in those coordinates on the screen”

(Tabby clicky clacks)

Tabby: “Locked in”

(Tommy hits the play button, bringing the images back to live feed)

Tommy: “Tabby…can you give me control of your drone? I want to go in closer”

Tabby: “Switching console control now…(pause) “It’s yours, just like you asked”

(Tommy smiles…Nell smiles…Dez pokes her finger down her throat)

(Tommy moves the drone carefully down between the limbs, reaching a height of 5 feet…clearing the lower limbs, he moves the drone forward….He reaches the coordinates guiding him…He begins a slow sweep of the terrain….Then he gets another blue glint…)

Tommy: “Got it”

(The image on the screen shows a large boulder, smaller rocks below it….The drone moves closer to the ground..)

Tommy: “Any rain out here in the last day ma’am?”

Nell: “No..weather’s been fine”

Tommy: “Wind?”

Nell: “We had high winds three days ago…kicked up a lot of dust…Why?”

Tommy: “Because we’ve got boot prints in the dirt….High wind would have blown them away….”

(He moves the drone over the area he’s focused on….)

Tabby: “3 times zoom”

(The image sharpens..the print of a waffle soled boot becomes clear…)

Dez: “That’s fresh…”

Tommy: “Moving to flash area”

(the image moves to a place at the bottom of the boulder, on the ground…under fallen leaves, the edge of a shiny object can be seen….)

Tommy: “Tabby, I don’t want to lose this…Can you….”

Tabby: “Moving down for a dust off….give me 30 seconds”

(Tabby’s drone moves closer…she hovers over the shiny particle, gets closer to the ground, then she hits the throttle, causing her drone to shoot straight up, but the prop wash also blows the debris off the item….Clearly seen in the image is a rolled up piece of aluminum foil…with ants making a trail directly for it…)

Nell: “There’s food in it!”

Dez: “Well I’ll be danged….We might get lucky and get some DNA….”

(Nell picks up the mic from the rack…clicks the button…)

Nell: “Gibbs…we may have it…Tommy sending a drone down….Can Daisy follow it back up?”

Gibbs: “Shoot me coordinates on my GPS…I’ll take her up”

Nell: “Copy that….you’ll be looking for a ball of foil with food in it…and it’s right next to the waterfall…”

Dez: “There’s a trail entrance 10 yards to your right, just at the base of the hill…it will take you right to it, Gibbs”

Gibbs: “On our way daughters”

(Nell and Dez elbow each other)

Nell: “He loves me more than you”

Dez: “So wrong, sis…”

(Tommy and Tabby look at each other, confused)

(crackle…then Gibbs comes over the speaker)

Gibbs: “Hey!....Do you have big cats up here?”

Dez: “Negative…some bobcats, that’s all”

Gibbs: “I’m at the trail opening….hate to break the news, but there’s a fresh print here…and it’s a big ass cat”

(scene fades to black and white)

Thursday afternoon…

(scene opens on the Thomas House hillside, in the trees, Gibbs and Daisy at the site of the foil package that was found. The crew at the D Ranch observing through the drone cameras. Gibbs is seen poking the foil with a pencil, gloves on, holding a plastic bag in one hand. The bag is labeled “Biohazard” with bright orange square, and the biohazard warning sign)

Dez: (radio) “Gibbs, sorry about the bag”

(Gibbs is seen through the drone cam view, looks at the bag, shakes his head, faces the drone cam)

Gibbs: “It works, Dez. It’s almost better”

Dez: “I use them to send blood samples and urine samples to the lab…it was the best I could come up with”

Gibbs: “You’re the attorney…will it work for chain of custody?”

Dez: “Oh yea…it checks all the boxes”

Gibbs: “Then it’s good…Now…quit talking to me! I’m trying to work!”

(Dez seen in the drone control room, extending a middle finger to the monitor…Gibbs is seen turning back to the cam..)

Gibbs: “I saw that, daughter!”

(Dez immediately pulls her hand behind her….then realizing he’s bluffing, quickly extends both hands in her salute)

Nell: “You’re predictable”

Dez: “Ya think?...Dammit”

(scene shifts to hillside, Gibbs placing the foil into the plastic bag, sealing it, then pulling marker out of pocket, labeling the site, time, then initialing the label showing the collector identity…He then furiously starts wiping ants off the bag and his hand)

Gibbs: “Yea…there’s definitely food in the wrapper…I’ve got ants all over the place”

Dez: “Good…you labeled it correctly…Wait…”

(Dez motions to Tommy and Tabby)

Dez: “I need a video clip of the drone finding the first glint…If the DNA is challenged in court, I’ll need evidence of why and how we found it”

Tommy: “Already done ma’am…(nods to Nell) “The boss stresses that…It’s second nature”

(Nell shrugs, hands and arms in “What can I say?” motion)

(Tabby seen plugging flash drive into USB port on console)

Tabby: “Marking this drive ‘Evidence Trail’…Tommy, if you can take my drones, I’ll download the appropriate video feed onto the drive”

Tommy: “Taking control…..(pauses) “ I don’t mean taking control of you, that would be horrible…I’d never do that…I meant…”

(Tabby giggles…..smiles…)

Tabby: “I know…dummy…You’re too sweet to do that…”

(Dez rolls her eyes, looks over at Nell, who is big smiling….Dez mouths “Nerd Love…Barf’…Nell mouths back, “I’m A Nerd”..Dez nods her head up and down, enthusiastically)

Dez: “That would be perfect, Tabs….please create and print a page describing the events, purpose, and your role in providing security for high profile wedding”

(Tabby looks back at Dez, surprise and curiosity on her face…Dez reads it….)

Dez: “What…you think you’re just here helping out? Nell…tell her”

(Tabby shifts face to Nell)

Nell: “Your on the books for CyberForce….(pause)…”You do want to come work with us…..(Nell’s eyebrows arch) “..Don’t you?”

(Tabby is awe struck…her face goes blank….)

Dez: “Hey Nerd Girl!..Wait…that’s Nell’s name…Hey Drone Babe…no…that’s sexist, like I care, but oh well.….Hold on….”

Nell: “Dez is trying to tell you to nod your head yes, then get back on the job…”

(Tabby’s face goes blank…she stares at Nell…then at Dez…Then at Tommy…he grins, then)

Tommy: “They do things like this…it’s way outside federal job offer guidelines, but no one complains….”

Tabby: “A job?”

Nell: “A job”

Tabby: “For real?”

Nell: “For real”

Dez: (shouts) “NEWBIE!”

(Everyone stares at her….)

Dez: “Sorry…I was still trying to think of something smartaleck to call her”

Tabby: (timidly) “Newbie works”

Dez: “Oh…reminder…that whole ‘no romance’ in the office clause in most contracts? We threw it out…No one’s been able to stop it or control it. I mean, god, Nell’s pregnant with our enforcement arm contractor, Bishop’s pregnant with a fellow agent’s baby….oh yea, Gibbs…Caprice isn’t pregnant, but I promise, it’s not for lack of facilitation efforts.….As legal advisor to CyberForce, I just want to remind you that all displays of public affection, swapping spit, or honey bumping in the office is prohibited”

(No one talks….then a crackle…)

Gibbs: “Hey! The mics open! Jesus people!...Oh, and Dez? Thanks for describing my sex life on the air!”

(The room is silent…then…)

Gibbs: “Facilitate? Christ, Dez! Facilitate?”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in SecState’s office…Loretta sits behind her desk, looking off to the side…SecState looks at her phone….picks it up, starts to push the speed dial for Vance…stops…puts the phone down…)

SecState: “You made a choice, Loretta…dammit…now live with it…live with all the damage this job does…”

(scene shifts to Helen, standing outside the doorway between her office and SecStates…She hears, stops, then turns back to her desk…She pulls out the small cell phone from her drawer….)

(scene shifts to the Thomas House hillside, Daisy seen sniffing boot tracks, following the scent, then coming back to the tracks, sniffing again, then taking another direction…Gibbs watches…)

Gibbs: (to self) “Rocks…the scent fades…you’re coming back to refresh your memory…Smart…Good girl…”

(Daisy stops…her head upright, ears up and focused…)

Gibbs; “Girl?”

(Daisy takes a few tentative steps towards another direction…then stops…A small rumble escapes her throat…..)

(scene shifts to a thicket, almost 100 yards away…in the thicket, the mountain lion stands, perfectly still…She can see the animal she refers to as Other….Now, Other senses her…The cougar closes her eyes, respect is felt towards the animal she sees..)

“Other….Honor is yours”

(Daisy emits a whine…she takes a few steps forward, stops….another whine….)

Gibbs: “Daisy! Focus!”

(She ignores her master, too focused on what she senses…..Images of a long ago past flood her mind, battlefields, forests, armor, screaming and dying, then lonely, then abused….throughout it all, she survived, lived, life after life….and now….)

(The mountain lion closes its eyes again…in its mind, it hears a word…)

“You are Other as well”

(The cougar’s eyes flash open….Then in fear, it bolts away under the cover of the brush)

(scene shifts to Daisy…the whines increase….her steps keep moving forward, away from the search site….A voice over the radio is heard)

Nell: “Gibbs? Is Daisy okay?”

Gibbs: “Hell, I don’t know! She’s seen something…and she’s freaking out!”

(Daisy stops….whines loudly….then lifts her head up to the sky and lets out a mournful howl…Gibbs recoils, physically affected by the sound….)

Gibbs: “Girl! What’s wrong? Christ, I’ve got goosebumps all over!”

(scene shifts to the cougar, running….a howl echoes off the hillside…..the cat stops, turns….listens as the howl fades….confused, fearful, its thoughts run amok)

“It calls me…it calls me….the Other…it calls me…)

(The cat closes its eyes…its body trembles….)

“It calls me Other”

(scene shifts back to the search site….Daisy stops howling, whines, then turns back to the search site…)

Gibbs; “Girl…can you tell me….please…is there something out there I need to know about?”

(Daisy stops trotting, looks at Gibbs…eyes are mournful…she whines to him…Gibbs walks to her, starts petting her head, stroking her neck…)

Gibbs; “I’m here, girl…it’s okay….”

(Daisy immediately drops her head, starts sniffing the ground….she leaps on a rock, then on another, searching, sniffing, following a scent…then, in a narrow crevice, she finds what the air brought her….She sits…turns her head to Gibbs, and begins barking frantically….)

Gibbs; “Yea? You found something? Maybe another sandwich the ants haven’t gotten?”

(He travels as fast as his still weak legs will allow him, up the rock, onto a ledge…He arrives by Daisy….He sits, takes some breaths…then sees the 2 drones arrive as well…)

Gibbs; “Drone team, Daisy has found something….I’m inspecting now…”

(scene switches to the drone control room)

Tabby: “Copy sir…Evidence video recording as well…”

Gibbs: “Following procedures…Ms. Bosworth, you want to read them off?”

(Dez was ready…she clicks ‘mute’ then speak to the room)

Dez: “The cowboy reputation he’s got? Now watch the pro in him….This evidence possibly leads to the biggest fish the agency has ever investigated…All evidence gathering needs to be by the book…We will be challenged, ladies and gentlemen…and I will not allow us to lose on a technicality”

(She clicks her mic)

Dez: “We have eyes on the crevice, Agent…please replace your gloves with a fresh set….”

(Dez continues to walk Gibbs through the evidence procedures….Gibbs complies with each one…after a few moments, Gibbs pulls a small plastic wrapped package out of the crevice…He looks at it, shakes his head….He shows it to the drone cam…)

Dez: “My god!”

(The image on the screen shows the C-4 lable…it also shows the digital timer, counting down, 2 days, 2 hours until detonation)

Nell: “That’s the wedding time!”

Dez: “Yea…sure as hell is…Thank god we found it.”

Tabby: “Ma’am..I hate to interrupt…..”

Nell: ‘Go, Tabby”

Tabby: “My father and I…At our house…We use explosives to clear boulders, and we’d take down cliff ledges that looked like they’d fall someday….That package? It’s too small…Look at the cliff and look where they are. That’s a completely different strata formation from the rest”

(Tabby commands her drone to climb…It reaches the top of the hill, then she points the camera down at the cliff…)

Tabby: “The wedding stage being set up at the bottom…you can see it….It’s right below the cliff…And that one spot they’re at won’t do it…There have to be more charges”

Dez: “My god…..”

Nell: “No…this isn’t possible….Who would…”

Dez; “Who would want to create a landslide that kills everyone in the party? Christ, Nell…you’d need both hands to count the people..”

(Dez immediately clicks her mic)

Dez; “Gibbs..it’s a charge set to bring the cliff down on the wedding party….There have to be more...Find them!”

(Gibbs clics)

Gibbs ‘Aye aye captain…we’re on it”

(Dez stares at the cliff image….then she looks at Tabby, also focused on the image…)

Dez: “Newbie…”

(Tabby turns)

Dez: “Do you know what you’ve just done?”

(Tabby pales….feeling she’s about to be admonished)

Tabby: “No ma’am….If I did something wrong, I’m so….”

(Dez doesn’t give her time to finish the sentence..)

Dez: “You just caught something that will save the lives of everyone we love…”

Nell: (enthusiastically) “And us!”

Dez: “Yea…I forgot…what the hell was I thinking?...So, Tabs baby?...”

(Dez looks straight at Tabby…Tommy grinning, Tabby in shock. Nell, proudly smiling..Dez gives a rare small smile, raises her eyebrows…)

Dez: “I guess this means…(pause) “…Welcome to our family, Newbie”

(Tabby’s eyes mist up, she wipes them with her sleeve, embarrassed)

Tabby: “Thank you…I am so…I’m..I’m…overwhelmed…(sniff)..” Miss Delilah…she made me believe in myself. That woman, so smart, so…so important…She believed in me…then I met her husband, and then others…and then the hospital…(she looks over at Tommy…) “Then this man…So smart, and important too…I know he has other women after him, god, what woman wouldn’t be after him…”

(Dez looks at Nell…Nell shrugs…)

Tabby: "….and he spends his time with me. In the hospital…at my worst, no makeup, no hair done, even my nails needed work!"

Dez: "Okay…nice call there…a gal and her nails…"

(Tabby's face brightens)

Tabby: "I know, right!"

(Dez nods)

Dez: "Oh yea…I'm with you Newbie…"

Tabby: "And he spends his time with me…he tells me about himself…and the sweet man doesn't mention one word about any of the women he's dated…"

(Tommy's eyes get wide, shocked)

Tabby: "He was so respectful…He even told me about personal stuff he does in his bathroom…"

Dez: 'GOD NO! TMI!"

(Tabby looks at her, confused)

Tabby; "He just told me about how he could reroute my plumbing so the sinks could be lower to my chair, without construction…"

Dez: (relieved) "Oh yea…the ol' lower the sink in the bathroom secret….yea…yea…good one, Tommy boy"

Tabby: "Anyway, this group of people…they all believed in me….and no one…except my dad….no one…"

(Her throat thickens…her voice fails….Tommy reaches over, shyly puts a hand on her thigh…Dez's eyes see it immediately, her face alerted)

Tommy: "You're not alone…These people..they raise the bar on everything…At work, Miss Nell won't accept average…Director Fielding, the same way…but they also won't accept average on how we work together….I promise…It will be the best place you could ever work…"

(Tabby stares at Tommy…..He blushes)

Tommy: "Plus…you know….you and I would be…you know…uh…working together…."

(Dez rolls her eyes…)

Dez: "Here we go…."

Nell: "Stop it! It's sweet!"

Dez: "Says the knocked up Assistant Director"

Nell: "It's my love child! You stop it!"

Dez: "Lust couch baby…."

Nell: "That was the sweetest moment of my life! It's my favorite!"

Dez: "You and bubba are a barf-fest…it's sickening"

Nell: "Oh….like you and 'angel baby' aren't? You're the biggest barf-fest there is!"

(Tabby and Tommy are watching them, their faces going back and forth like watching a tennis match)

Dez: “When bubba kisses you…is the kiss soft and tender or is it passionate and hard?”

(Nell blushes)

Nell: ‘Yes”

Dez: “Ah ha! Barf!”

Tabby: “Wow….this really is going to be a fun place to work!”

Tommy: “Told you so!...Not that I’d tell you…like command you…just tell you so you could accept the information, and process it as you choose to, always respecting you as a strong, independent woman….”

(Tabby looks at him adoringly….Nell and Dez look at each other…and simultaneously…)

“Barf”

(scene shifts to hillside, Gibbs looking at 3 C-4 charge packages on the ground….Daisy sits, panting, then smiles her goofy dog grin)

Gibbs; ‘Daisy, my girl…outstanding…outstanding work”

“Woof!”

Gibbs; “Yea…woof back at ya”

(Gibbs is interrupted by his phone signaling a call…He recognizes it and answers immediately…)

Gibbs: “Yea..Gibbs…”

(He listens, surprise on his face…)

Gibbs: “Whoa…Helen…settle down….”

(He listens more….)

Gibbs: “She what? Of course she’s coming! She doesn’t need an invitation! Jesus, Helen!”

(listens more….closes his eyes…shakes his head….He looks at the C-4 packages, then back to the phone…)

Gibbs: “Helen, I can’t call Leon…I’m sitting here holding 3 packages of explosives, all of them so a cliff could fall on the wedding…I think that’s a little more important than…”

(He holds the phone away from his ear….yelling can be heard through the phone….)

Gibbs “Okay! Okay! I’ll call him! Jesus, Helen! I’m the last person that should be…”

Phone: “CALL HIM! FIX THIS NOW!”

(The call ends…Gibbs looks at the phone curiously…He looks at Daisy…)

Gibbs: “I need to make a phone call…can you go pee or something? I need some privacy while I humiliate myself”

(Daisy gives a chuff, then a goofy dog smile…She remains in place, unmoving…Gibbs shakes his head)

Gibbs; “Fine, asshole! But not a word about this to anyone!”

(He takes a breath, dials Vance….Vance answers)

Gibbs: “Hey dumbass…You screwed up….”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in NCIS bullpen…McGee, Dawson, and Torres standing, looking at the big screen….Bishop, holding Little Nickie, walks into the area….Torres lights up, immediately goes to take the baby)

Mcgee: “Bishop! Good to see you!”

Dawson: “uh…is it time….Do I need to move….”

Bishop: “Nope, but thank you…I have my new area all picked out….”

(Bishop immediately goes to Gibbs’s desk….sits on the desktop, looks at McGee….)

Bishop: “What do we have?”

McGee: ‘It would take a while to bring you up to speed…”

Bishop: “Have you connected SIL, S&D to the VP yet?”

(McGee looks at her, then at Torrres…)

Torres; “Hey man, she has good ideas!”

McGee; “Okay…Torres has kept you up to speed….but no, we cannot make the connection…I’ve checked banks, stocks, everything…but no joy….”

Bishop: “Have you looked at the Administration Discretionary Funds Account?”

(McGee frowns….)

McGee: “No…it’s off limits….Presidential order….I could hack it, but that’s big time trouble for everyone if I get caught”

(Bishop does the scrunchy face thing….stares at the TV showing Hawkins stock purchases)

Bishop: “Tax fraud, huh?”

McGee: ‘Alleged Tax Fraud…unless we can connect the dots….”

Bishop: “And you have clearance if….”

McGee: “If I think tax fraud is connected..but I need about two weeks of paperwork to get that clearance”

(Bishop grins slyly)

Bishop: “Not if you’re NSA, you don’t”

McGee: “Huh? NSA doesn’t get involved in tax fraud”

Bishop: ‘No, but they do get involved in a possible breach of confidentiality between nation states…and if a nation state is being paid by another nation state, in a Quid Pro Quo manner, that, Timothy Farregut McGee, falls into NSA’s wheelhouse..”

(McGee stares at Bishop…she crosses her arms over her chest, and waits)

McGee: “We can’t involve them…this is too deep, and too dangerous if we’re wrong”

Bishop: “How right do you think you are?”

McGee: “Real right”

(Bishop takes her purse, pulls out her wallet….pulls out a stack of credit cards and ID cards…shuffles, looks…then she throws one on the desk, face up….)

Bishop: ‘Let’s do it!”

(The image on the screen shows…)

Emily Bishop-NSA-Analysts/Investigator

Bishop; “Remember…I’m the NSA NCIS Laison….so..”

(McGee stares at the ID card….his face starts to form a large smile)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens, dusk at the D Ranch…Bishop and Torres standing on back patio, Nickie inside with Nell, Dez, Cal, and Ahnjong…Bishop watches as she sees Torres looking out at the hills behind the house)

Bishop: “You really love this place, don’t you?”

(Torres shrugs)

Torres: “It’s okay…Bueno…”

Bishop: “Just okay Bueno?”

Torres: “You know..yea…Doesn’t matter….”

Bishop: “Of course it matters…talk to me, Nick”

(He looks at her, shakes his head…)

Torres: “No…it’s not important…It’s you and me, our baby…Everything’s about you guys…That’s how it should be”

(She stares at him as he looks about again at the hills)

Bishop: “You are such a fine man, Nick Torres”

(He turns to her in surprise)

Torres: “What made you say that?”

(She thinks….then..)

Bishop: “That surprised you, didn’t it?”

Torres; “Well yea…kinda…”

(She shakes her head….walks to him, puts an arm through his…)

Bishop: “Those hills…this land…Tell me what you see, Nick. I want to know….”

(Scene shifts to inside the kitchen, the attention on the baby, all except for Cal…He is watching through the French doors, seeing Bishop and Torres…He sees Torres shake his head, then watches as Bishop walks to him, slides an arm through his…He sees the back of their heads as she leans her head over,

close to his…then Cal smiles as he sees Torres pointing up at the hills, talking…describing something…he smiles…Then Dez walks up to him, slides her own arm through his…)

Dez: “Watching love happen?”

Cal: “Watching as love grows”

Dez: “Anything special happening?”

Cal: ‘Yes…Listening is happening”

Dez: “Is that special?”

(He gives a small smile)

Cal: “It is perhaps the most special part of love there is”

Dez: “You listen to me…even when I’m an idiot, you listen”

Cal: “Why would I not? I love you, I want to know everything there is about you”

Dez: “Do I listen to you?”

Cal: ‘Yes…when I talk”

(Dez leans her head on his shoulder…)

Dez: “Tell me what you love about you”

(His face grows confused)

Cal: “You do mean, what do I love about you? I could give you endless thoughts on…”

Dez: “No…what do you love about you, Cal? I want to know…”

(His face perplexed…)

Cal: “I do not know how to answer….My Destiny, why do you ask such a question?”

Dez; “Cal…What do you love about you? Do you even know?”

(He turns his face towards her…)

Cal: “I confess, beloved…I am befuddled!”

(She chuckles at the word…)

Dez: “You are never…befuddled, angel boy…”

Cal: “I am most certainly!”

Dez: “Should you be? I mean, should you be at a loss?”

(He thinks…He turns his body to her, face looking down directly at her…his voice low, private…)

Cal: “I was given a choice. That choice changed me forever. What do I love about me? My Destiny, I love that I chose you, and I love what I am learning about me now….My dearest….I am in the process of becoming something, someone different than I was. But it started by being given free will…And my first choice was to love you, regardless if you loved me in return or not…..(he thinks…his face brightens) “Yes…yes, that is true! I love the part of me that chose you…Does that count?”

(She stares up at him, then sees the gold flecks dancing in his eyes…She fights the tears, her face scrunching in the effort, then hides it by pressing it against his chest…she speaks, her voice muffled, barely audible…)

Dez: “I am so barfy right now!”

(scene shifts back to the patio….Bishop listens as Torres explains to her how much he loves the place, why, what it means to him….)

Bishop: “Nick…I had no idea…”

Torres: “It’s Bueno, Bish…I never said that much…you know…it’s just me..how I am”

Bishop: “What you told me is beautiful, Nick…for the first time, I was seeing this place through your eyes…and yes…it is beautiful”

Torres: “Oh yea…it’s..(pauses) “Amigo del Alma de mi familia”

(She looks at him curiously)

Bishop: “What does that mean?”

(Torres blushes, chuckles)

Torres: “Nothing…it’s stupid…”

Bishop: “No, Nick…please…”

(He looks down, embarrassed…then…)

Torres: “It means….Friend of my family’s soul”

(He looks away, embarrassed…Bishop’s jaw drops…she looks at him in amazement)

Bishop: “Nick…that’s the most beautiful thing I’ve ever heard! My god!”

Torres; “No Bish..it’s stupid…and it’s selfish…”

Bishop: ‘Something that is for us? Our baby? There’s nothing selfish about that at all! It’s beautiful!”

(She looks at Torres…thinks…then she nods her head…)

Bishop: “Yea…I’m sure”

Torres; “Sure about what?”

Bishop; “Stay here..I’ll be right back”

(She moves quickly towards the French doors, enters…through the glass she can be seen talking to Dil and Dez…both of them start smiling, nodding their head enthusiastically….Then Dil is seen reaching in his pocket, pulling out some keys, handing them to Bishop…She kisses both of them on the cheeks, takes the baby, then walks quickly back out on the patio…She gets to a confused Torres, puts the keys in his hand…)

Bishop: “Show me”

Torres: “Show you what? What are these?”

Bishop: “The keys to the Jeep…Now…show me and Nickie this land Dil and Dez want to sell to you…the area at the end of their land…Show me, Nick Torres…Make me see what you see….”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Hawkins office….Hawkins on phone, Matthew Morris aka Randolph Hawkins, stands against one wall, listening)

Hawkins: 'A sailor…"

(He listens)

Hawkins: "And you're sure"

(More listening…Hawkins rubs his face…)

Hawkins: "Yea…I know…I'll find a way to explain it…Just get back. Get off that ship before I have to answer any more questions about why I requested clearance to board it"

(The call ends….Hawkins looks over to the side…he taps a pen on the desk….)

Hawkins: "Something's wrong"

Morris: "Yea…looks that way"

Hawkins: "Those charges…."

Morris: "They're set"

Hawkins: "I'm thinking you should go back and get them"

Morris: 'WHAT? Why?"

Hawkins: "Look at what's happening….a fake phone call that started near the NCIS office…We follow it…it's on a damned destroyer in the Atlantic…the fake reporter asks about connections between me and my father in law…."

Morris: "Okay…but still..it's not solid…"

Hawkins: "No…it's not…but there's one thing that is giving me nightmares…."

Morris: "Besides those crappy microwave burritos you eat before dinner….what?"

(Hawkins taps the pen more…)

Hawkins: "MI6"

Morris: "British Intelligence? Why would they even be involved?"

Hawkins: "The phone number I use to reroute and hide calls between me and China…The server's in a small answering service…one of those virtual admin business companies…"

Morris: "I remember…No people, no morality, just point, click, and it does what you tell it…"

Hawkins: "The servers for the answering service….they're in a vaulted storage area…super private and secure…"

Morris; 'Good call…"

Hawkins: "Maybe not….I wanted security and I got it…So, I chose a place where other entities that want the same have theirs"

Morris: 'Okay…another good call..what's the problem?"

(Hawkins turns to Morris…face is blank)

Hawkins: “It’s in England…in the same digital storage facility where MI6 houses theirs. That reporter, or whatever he was, he mentioned his sources at MI6…I think it was a slipup…he tried to cover it up…They found my servers, brother…god…oh god….MI6 found them….”

(Morris’s eyes widen…his eyebrows go up…)

Morris: “Ooops”

(He pauses…then..)

Morris: “I’ll go back and get the charges…first thing in the morning”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on the hillside, the mountain lion sits, hears a loud noise….it looks down from the hillside and sees human, in this thing that travels fast…Curious, it sniffs the air…Then it stands straight up, begins dancing in circles)

“Friend! Family!”

(The cougar can see more clearly as the Jeep draws nearer….the dancing stops….)

“Cub…protect…love…I am home”

(The mountain lion bolts forward, racing along the hillside, parallel to the slowly moving Jeep, carrying cargo precious to both of them)

(scene fades to black and white)

Friday Morning

(Scene opens in NCIS Conference Room, Dez standing at large TV screen, room full...2 FBI Executives one FBI Attorney, one DOJ Attorney, Vance, SecState, Bishop present...Dez finished speaking, image of bank transfers on screen)

Dez; "There you have it. Can anyone poke holes in it?"

(The room was silent. Both the DOJ and FBI atty staring at the screen, both shaking their heads)

FBI Atty: "It's bulletproof....it's the best presentation example of proper evidence I've ever seen..."

DOJ Atty: "Video of the DNA collection? Proper DOJ Liason agent permission to access the Administrative Tax funds...(pauses) "..Even probable cause to even want to access the financial records in the form of cell phone files, properly documented and obtained....(shakes her head)"

FBI Atty: "Gentlemen?"

(She looks at the two FBI Executives)

FBI Atty; "This is how a case is made. Please take notes and pass it along to our agents? Maybe? Like they could learn a thing or two?"

(The two FBI Execs blush, turn to look out the window)

Dez: "Ladies, NCIS was aware of the implications. Director Vance personally oversaw the methodology of the investigation"

(Vance's eyes get big for a moment, surprised, then revert back...he nods at Dez, turns to McGee, eyebrows go up...McGee lowers his head, stifles a grin)

FBI Exec: "Well, Director Vance, a job well done...this will be quite a feather in your cap"

(Vance shakes his head)

Vance; "I'd prefer this be announced as a Joint Investigation, FBI taking the lead"

(The two execs stare at Vance in disbelief...Dez steps in)

Dez: "Director Vance does not want the enemies this will create. Neither does he want NCIS displayed as going outside its normal wheelhouse. This started as an investigation into the death of a Marine Captain. It obviously snowballed. The emphasis is on much bigger fish now. NCIS prefers to not be seen as an overreaching authority"

(SecState looks at Vance, then turns towards the window...Vance reaches out to her, places a hand on her shoulder. She discreetly takes a step, causing Vance's hand to drop)

Vance; "Loretta"

(She turns to the screen, addresses Dez)

Secstate: "Ms Bosworth, you've done an exemplary job of presenting this evidence. Now....there's only one question that remains...What do we do with the Vice President? He's on those calls, he's guilty as sin...We can't arrest him due to Executive Privilege, but it's a sure thing his impeachment will be a quick process"

Dez: "Thank you madame Secretary, but there's more...(looks at Vance) "With your permission, Director?"

(Vance nods, moves his toothpick over..The FBI and DOJ attys stare at Dez, anticipating...Dez takes a deep breath...)

Dez: We'd like one more day to gather some new evidence...we are in the process of doing so as we speak....if Special agent McGee is successful, we will be talking about a completely different scenario"

FBI Atty: "May we ask what that is?"

(Dez stares at the Atty....)

Dez: "We believe after this morning, we will have evidence connecting the Vice President to murder for hire"

(The room falls silent...no one breathes...)

Dez: "We have in the middle of all these calls, all the transfers, one transfer that stands out, for one million dollars"

FBI: "That's chicken feed..why bother?"

Dez: "Because it stands out. And it's sent to Hawkins, but the logins on the account belong to a man by the name of Morris. When checking Hawkins phone records, there have been daily calls between Hawkins and Morris for the last 10 years. We have no proof, but sources tell us off the record that Morris is a hired gun. We want to know why, or if, the Vice President paid a hit man, and if so, what role did the Vice President have in the sale of these tank parts"

FBI atty: "And we have confirmation from Land Management that those charges would have brought the side of the mountain down on the wedding party...Same man planted them is the same man that accessed the single million dollar account"

DOJ atty: "We're talking about more than murder for hire. (pauses) "This is the highest crime any administration official has been accused of....If...and I stress If..the dots connect"

FBI: "We're still sure the President isn't connected?"

Dez: "Nothing we have connects him. And the animosity between the two is well documented"

FBI: "Okay...makes sense...I'll see what we have on Morris..."

Dez: "Thank you. Get the information to Agent McGee. He's leading the investigation in our house"

FBI: "Yes..(pauses) "Timothy McGee....Agent McGee...you are aware, Director, my agency has extended quite a few offers to him..."

McGee: "I am aware, sir....and Agent McGee has turned them down, one by one"

(The FBI Exec turns and looks towards the conference room door...then, to himself, out loud...)

FBI: "Perhaps if we...."

Vance: "I'll burn your house to the ground, Calvin...."

(The FBI executive snaps his head towards Vance, sees Vance has no humor on his face...The FBI man shrugs..)

FBI: "...Or not"

Vance: 'Yes, or not.....However, sir, we'd consider it a favor of high magnitude if this could actually wait until Monday"

(a pause)

FBI: "However, yes yes...however....(harumph) "..in light of this information regarding the single transfer, the live events occurring now...., and the request from Director Vance, I am in favor of waiting per the request"

(The DOJ atty looks on in shock)

DOJ Atty: "What? After what she said? There is no way we'll wait!"

Vance: "You will, and you'll be glad you did"

DOJ Atty: "Pray tell why, Director.."

Vance: "Because Speaker Pentoni has now been transferred to ICU, and it's confirmed she'll have permanent lung damage from the virus...The next in line is implicated in this as well...a lesser degree to be sure, but he's implicated..."

(The two attys stare...then one drops her jaw....)

DOJ Atty; "My god...you're right...."

Vance; 'And ladies....(looks at SecState) "This Director has made a huge mistake...he needs your assistance in correcting it...."

(SecState looks at Vance curiously...she sees he's staring at her)

Vance; "When this is announced, the Vice President will be forced to immediately resign...that leaves a vacuum in our government that has to be filled immediately. Immediately means she would not be able to attend a wedding that is quite important to...(pauses, thinks) "National Security...yes..National Security."

SecState; "Leon...what the hell are you talking about? Immediately who?"

(Vance stares...smiles...SecState starts thinking....then her face goes into shock)

SecState: "OHMYGOD!"

(Vance nods)

Vance; "Yes, Loretta...you are next in line to fill the role of Vice President of the United States....but before that happens...."

(He pauses, takes a breath, looks over to Dez...She mouths, "Go on go on!")

Vance; 'Loretta...you have a wedding to attend..With me"

(She looks at him in shock...)

Vance: "Ladies, gentlemen, this Director made a huge error in judgement...I assumed my fiance here knew she was going with me....I, as a fool, also allowed my emotions to override my common sense...I need to correct that...."

(The DOJ atty and FBI atty look over to Dez...She is grinning, holding her two hands together in a heart symbol...then she mouths to the attys..)

Dez: "Barf"

(The attys grin, then nod)

SecState; "Leon....what I did....you were so mad...."

Vance; 'I was...and I was a fool...A very wise friend...how do you say it...."

Dez: 'Told you how big an ass you were?"

(Everyone looks at Dez in shock...Vance grins, nods)

Vance; 'yes...that's accurate....He asked me how many times I had sent people I consider family into harm's way...and he reminded me that I was holding an act against my fiance that I had done many, many, times..."

(He looks at SecState....)

Vance; "Loretta...there's only one way I know to fix this..."

(SecState is looking at Vance in shock....the shock grows stronger as Vance reaches in his pocket, pulls out a small box, then drops to one knee. Dez immediately speaks)

Dez: "Folks, let's give these two a moment...okay?"

FBI Exec: "Absolutely not! This is far too important..."

Vance; "Get out or NCIS takes the headlines"

(The FBI exec starts to object, then he thinks....)

Vance: "Headlines...FBI takes down Treasonous Military supplier AND the Vice President..."

(The FBI exec nods...)

FBI Exec: "Yes..yes..(harumph) "In the interest of our nation's pride in our agencies...yes...yes...."

FBI Atty: "Come on glory hounds...let's give them a few..."

(The crowd exits, Dez starts to close the door, catching Vance's eye...she winks at him..he grins and winks back....Then, alone...)

SecState; "LEON! What are you...."

Vance; 'Loretta...will you...."

SecState; "LEON!"

Vance; "Marry me again?"

(He opens the box, and an impressive solitaire diamond ring is seen...Her eyes grow wide...)

SecState: "OH MY GOD! What are you...."

Vance: "I don't have your answer yet....will you forgive me...will you forgive a foolish man that loves you?"

(DOJ atty voice comes through the door)

DOJ Att; "SAY YES!"

(scene shifts to outside the conference room door, the atty and Dez have their ears pressed to the door)

Dez: "Wait until he tells her who read him the riot act...this will be classic"

(scene shifts to inside the room)

SecState: "But Leon, I already have a ring!"

Vance; "Then wear two! Hell, Loretta, I don't care, I'm just trying to get some forgiveness out of you!"

(She looks at him, then at the ring....She snatches the ring out of the box....puts it on, directly against the existing ring)

SecState: "It does look impressive"

Vance; "So.....?"

SecState: "Jesus Leon...of course yes...I love you...but you need to know...(pause) "Dammit, Leon, you hurt me!"

(He looks down...)

Vance; "I know...and it kills me that I did...I can't make it go away, but if you say yes, I promise....I'll spend my life making it up to you..."

(SecState grins at him...)

SecState; "One condition....tell me who it was that read you the riot act...I'd like to thank her..."

Vance; "Him"

(scene shifts outside the door)

Dez: "It's coming...get ready"

(scene shifts back inside)

Vance; "Him...and you know him"

SecState: "Him? Really?..well, he must be a romantic man...."

(Vance shakes his head)

Vance: "He's been called lots of things, but romantic is not one of them..."

SecState; "What did he say to you?"

(Vance takes a breath...)

Vance; 'Leon...you stupid son of a bitch...you screwed up...now fix it, asshole!"

(SecState looks at him curiously...confused...then gradually, her face changes...then into disbelief)

SecState; "NO WAY!"

Vance: "Way"

(Dez, outside, starts to smile...)

SecState; "HIM?"

Vance; "Him"

SecState: "HIM?"

Vance; "Yes again...him"

(She stares for a moment...then her shoulders begin to shake...)

Vance; "Loretta....now...."

SecState: "Gibbs played...hahahaah...cupid....Hahahahahahahahahahah...Leroy Jethro Gibbs played cupid? BWAHAHAHA"

(scene shifts out the door)

Bishop: 'And now, ladies and gentlemen, we give you the next Vice President of the United States..."

(Scene fades out to SecStates laughter echoing through the door)

(scene shifts to the bullpen...McGee furiously clicky clacking)

McGee: (yelling) "No! No! You are not going to get away with this!"

(Bishop comes running into the bullpen, sees Dawson staring at Mcgee, wide eyed)

Dawson: "It's the Gunfight at NCIS Corral!"

McGee: "There! Take this!"

(He furiously punches the Enter key..He looks at his screen...)

McGee : "OH NO!"

(McGee clicky clacks...Bishop looks over to Dawson)

Dawson: "He's fighting some geek over a money transfer....Mr. Mystery Dude Geek is transferring 62 million out of the Designated Tax account...McGee is forcing it back into the bank"

Bishop: "Do we know who's doing it?"

(Dawson nods her head)

Dawson: "Oh yea...."

(Bishop stares at her)

Bishop:"Well?"

Dawson: "Mr Geek Veep's office....McGee thinks the VP's trying to run, and he wants money transferred to an account in Rio"

Bishop: "Rio?"

Dawson: "Yep...land of the free and clear due to no extradition Rio..."

McGee: "NOOOOOOOOOO"

(McGee slumps his head....)

McGee: "It's gone"

Bishop: "He beat you?"

McGee: "NO! The server bank at the White House beat me! I was David fighting Goliath!"

Bishop: "Uh Tim...didn't David win....."

(McGee stares at her....his eyebrows turn downward)

Bishop: "But yea...Goliath takes him two out of three"

(scene shifts to outside the White House...a black limousine is seen driving into the Secret Service tunnel garage entrance...the car enters the underground garage, stops...A lone figure steps out from behind a pillar, starts walking to the limo...the figure looks around, then enters the back seat...The driver turns to him...)

Driver: "Sir...are you sure about this?"

Vice President: "Yes Sam...it's all about misdirection..."

Driver: "We can protect you from whatever it is you're concerned about..."

Vice President: "I'm sure you can, Sam...but for now, just drive.."

(The driver shakes his head....puts the limo in gear. They leave the White House, drive towards the streets leaving DC...The VP's cell phone pings...he looks at and smiles...the screen shows:)

Transfer Complete

(The VP smiles as he looks out the window....he spots a van ahead in the road)

VP: "Sam..pull over...that's my relay ride"

(The limo pulls over...the VP exits the limo, walks briskly to a waiting van...he gets in, the van drives off...The limo driver picks up a two way radio)

Driver: "Subject away"

Radio: "Clear Sam...sorry you got that detail"

Sam: "Something's wrong, sir....this wasn't right"

Radio: "Copy that...but how many wrong things have we seen?"

(The Secret Service agent thinks, shakes his head)

Sam: "Too many Director...too many..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the hills near the Thomas House...Gibbs and Daisy sit in a thicket, waiting...Gibbs clicks his mic)

Gibbs; "Nell...anything?"

(scene shifts to the drone control room at the D Ranch...Tabby and Tommy sit at the consoles, scanning the hillside...Tabby hears the call...she turns to Nell...Nell motions her to answer..Tabby shakes her head, face fearful)

Tabby: 'No! It's him!"

Nell: "Oh yea...that's Gibbsy"

Tabby: "But it's him!"

Nell: "Yep...so talk to him!"

Tabby "But it's HIM! HIM HIM! He's famous! I can't talk to him!"

(speaker crackles....Nell flinches...)

Gibbs: "HEY! DO YOUR JOB!"

(Tabby squeals, but looks at the monitors....she sees a man approaching...She moves a drone closer, up high, then zooms on the man.. She studies him, then barks out rapid fire talk...)

Tabby: "Sir! One male age unknown approaching 15 degrees east 40 yards out empty backpack one weapon on belt one knife on other side moving quickly eta to your position 5"

(Tabby takes a deep breath...silence...then)

Gibbs: "Copy...Leader out"

(Tabby covers her face, begins to breathe)

Nell; "Nice, girl...."

Tabby: "It was him!"

Nell: "Yes...him"

Tabby: "NO...it was HIM! Oh my god, I Field supported...(pause) " HIM!"

Nell: "Uh, Tabs...want me to get an autograph?"

(Tabby screams)

Tabby: "WOULD YOU?"

(Nell chuckles, shakes her head, then sees Dil walk in. He leans against the wall, sips on a cup of coffee, looks towards the two working the console)

Dil: "How's Nerd love doing?"

(Nell motions to Tommy...he's staring at Tabby)

Nell: "Tommy! How's she doing?"

(Tommy shakes his head in a sign of awe..)

Tommy: 'She's perfect ma'am..."

(Nell grins...Dil rolls his eyes)

Nell: "Thank you Tommy....wonderful summary of her talents"

(Tommy continues to stare at Tabby)

Tommy: "Yes ma'am...she's wonderful too"

(Tabby blushes..Dil looks over at Nell)

Dil: 'Shame Dez couldn't see this"

Nell: "Dez has no romance in her....she's a stick in the mud!"

Dil: 'Unless Mr. Eye Talian Poof Perfect Man is around...."

Nell:"Oh yea...and then she's all barf mush"

(Dil grins, then looks at the monitors....he moves closer...)

Dil: "Tabs...move the heat sensor over that thicket..."

Tabby: "Saw that sir...must be some heat reflecting off a slab"

Dil: "Not if the slab is covered by trees, it's not....move it over..."

Tabby: 'Hold sir...the subject is approaching the area...(she clicks mic).."Leader, subject is 15 feet away"

(The speaker signals three clicks from Gibbs's mic...Dil taps Tommy on the shoulder...points to the infra red drone control...Tommy moves the drone over where Dil is pointing...the screen shows an oblong red glow)

Dil: "Tommy, switch over to daylight lense then do a dip and dive...see if you can get whatever that is to move..."

(Tommy immediately hits control to shift the camera from heat to clear view...the tree tops come alive on the screen...the image shows the drone dropping between trees, diving, then pulling up before it hits the ground....Something moves out of the thicket....Dil yells out)

Dil: "Jesus!"

(Everyone looks at the monitor in shock...A large cougar is seen quickly moving out of the thicket.)

Dil: 'We don't have cougars here!"

(They watch as Kitty scurries out from the trees then finds cover under a ledge)

Nell: "We do now! It was beautiful!"

(speaker crackles)

Gibbs: (whisper) "I have him in sight.. I can confirm it's Morris..he's moving to the first location....Taking him into custody now"

(Gibbs stands, points his pistol at Morris, starts to call out and identify himself....He takes a step, his foot lands on crumbling rock...the rock gives way, sending Gibbs to the ground...Gibbs hits his head on a large large rock....Morris hears and sees the commotion...he draws his own pistol...)

Gibb: (groaning) "N...CIS...Morris...."

(Gibbs's vision blurs...blood is seen running down his face...Daisy, seeing her master in distress, turns from Morris, and bolts for Gibbs....)

Gibbs: "Arrest.....arrest...."

(His eyes flutter...then he falls back to the ground...Morris smiles...)

Morris: "How bout that...a one million dollar bounty and I get to collect....Say good bye Agent Gibbs..."

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at NCIS conference room, meeting has resumed...Vance and Loretta standing side by side, Loretta glancing down at her two rings....The FBI crew and the DOJ atty are joined by McGee, Bishop, and Dawson, most sitting at the conference table, some standing due to not enough seats..Dez moves to the TV, motions to McGee)

Dez: "Tim, I got word that the subject has entered the area, and Gibbs will be arresting him...Can you patch us into a live drone feed?"

(McGee nods, clicky clacks his remote keyboard...he punches the Enter key forcefully...Bishop and Dawson look at each other, grimacing...)

Dez: "We're about to get the view....."

(The screen comes to life....Jaws drop on everyone in the room as they look at the image....)

(scene shifts to hillside....Gibbs trying to open his eyes, he feels Daisy sniffing his head, hears her whining...then he hears...)

Morris: "Say good bye Agent Gibbs..."

(Daisy raises her head, but not towards Morris....approaching from the side is the large cougar, head to the ground, crouching, hidden in tall weeds and thickets....their eyes meet....ancient memories and dialogues flow between them..)

"Prey. Move aside, Other"

"No...not this one"

"Why?"

"This one...this human is father to your father"

(The large cat blinks...stares....)

"Family"

"Yes"

"There is a trembling one"

"He is to live as well"

"Why?"

(Daisy replies with nothing.....then...)

"It is the will of my father"

"Is it yours, Other?"

"It is mine...as it is yours...Other"

"No..I am not as you...I am NOT as you! I am NOT called to Purpose!"

(Daisy stares at the cat...)

Daisy: 'Yet here you are...and yet, here we speak"

(scene shifts to Morris...he smiles, starts to pull the trigger....Gibbs tries to focus...his head swims, he knows he's delusional....He watches as a large mountain lion approaches Morris from behind....Gibbs closes his eyes and tries to clear his mind....he opens his eyes...then his eyes widen in shock)

(scene shifts to Morris....As he starts to pull the trigger, he hears a loud and vicious snarl, then he's hit with a force he's never felt before....He is slammed to the ground, the pistol flies out of his grip....He rolls over on his back, then begins screaming as he sees the head of a mountain lion directly over his face, then sees the enormous mouth open, the 3 inch long fangs on each side of his face, the gaping mouth able to swallow his head....)

Morris: "IIIIIIIIIIIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEeeeeeeeee!"

"No!"

"He will live, Other..but he will remember me"

"Thank you"

"Your human?"

"He will live"

"He is what to you?"

"Holy"

(A pause...then the cat tightens his jaws a miniscule amount. The human feels the pressure of the large incisors on his cheeks...the face trapped in the jaws screams again)

"As I said...he will remember me"

(scene shifts to Gibbs...he sits up...his eyes clear, and he finally sees the scene...A mountain lion has Morris's head in it's jaws....And he sees Daisy staring at the cat...comfortable with its presence...He draws his weapon, starts to point it at the cat....Daisy moves between Gibbs and the cat....)

Gibbs; "Daisy...move!"

(Daisy sits)

Gibbs; "DAISY!"

(Daisy turns her head to the cat....She motions with her head towards the thickets...)

"As a favor, friend"

"As you wish"

"I will return the favor"

"As your honor has always led you"

"I will bring the one you seek to you"

(The cat hears the thoughts...the large beast closes its eyes, then a slight bow of the head...Daisy lowers her head in return....The cat releases the human, then darts out of sight into the thicket)

Gibbs; 'What the hell was that?"

(Daisy looks at Gibbs, does not acknowledge the question...she turns, trots to Morris....she looks back at Gibbs....He is moving to them, gun in hand...He retrieves Morris's gun....)

Gibbs: "Time to talk pal...."

Morris: "THE CAT WAS GOING TO EAT ME!"

Gibbs: 'Yea, well, you must not be on the menu today...If you like, I'll whistle and call it back..."

Morris: "IIIIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE"

(Gibbs blinks, clearing his head. He sees the drone moving in close, recording....then....)

Gibbs; 'Does that mean you want to tell me who hired you?"

(scene shifts to conference room....Every person in the room is slack jawed)

DOJ Atty: "What did we just see? OH MY GOD!"

Dez: "You get used to it after a while....we're a fun group"

Bishop: "Oh yea...this happens all the time...one day it's a man poofing, the next it's a new waterfall, then today it's Cougar Headlock day....yea....we're a fun group"

(SecState stares at Bishop, then at Dez....she then looks up at Vance...)

SecState; "Do I get to see this stuff now?"

(Vance grins)

Vance; "Only if you marry me"

(She looks at the screen, then hears Morris start talking....)

DOJ Atty: "He's saying it! By god he's pulling out his phone to show Gibbs who put the bounty on NCIS!"

(They wait...and they listen...Gibbs is seen and heard on the image...)

Gibbs: "Bubba, you sure? Say that again"

Morris; 'The bumbling idiot Vice President offered me one million to kill you! He's the one that wanted the charges planted! He's behind the bogus parts! My brother is just a greedy son of a bitch going along for the ride! Look! Here's the transfer of the money! Look at the number it came from!...Now...I want a deal!"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at the D Ranch, Gibbs at the kitchen table, Nell cleaning the wound on his head, Dil sitting at the table)

Gibbs: "Daughter, you're getting too good at this"

(Nell continues to wipe dried blood from the wound)

Nell: "Part of the deal, Gibbsy"

Gibbs: "Yea...I know"

Nell: "You're not going to think that when I pop your head with the stapler"

(Gibbs yanks his head away...)

Gibbs: "Oh hell no! Caprice can do it!"

Nell: "It'll just bleed again, silly man...I have to close it. I'll shave some then presto hurto...."

Gibbs: "Shave my hair? What?"

Nell: "Come on, Gibbsy...with your haircut, no one will notice"

(Gibbs frowns)

Gibbs; "I like my hair. I only keep what I need"

(Dil grins, gets up, walks to a cabinet, pulls an item down, then sets a bottle of bourbon on the table, two shot glasses)

Gibbs: "Two?"

Dil: "Yea, thought I'd join you in your pain...you know...comrade in arms, all that ballyhoo"

Nell: "Oh good! Thank you baby!"

(Gibbs and Dil look at Nell in surprise...then she picks up the bottle, pours some bourbon on the gash...Gibbs screams...)

Gibbs: "It's for drinking, Nell! Damm!"

Dil: 'That was 12 year old bourbon!"

(Nell grins...wipes his head)

Nell: "Oops...sorry..."

(Gibbs looks over at Daisy, curled up on the floor, chewing happily on some ham jerky)

Gibbs: "Hey..mutt...you have some explaining to do!"

(Daisy looks up at him, gives big goofy dog grin)

Gibbs: "You're not getting out of this one!"

(Daisy stops the grin, lowers her head, then lets out a moan)

Nell: "Come on Gibbsy....We saw what happened...she was just...I don't know...she was doing something"

Gibbs: "Yea! And I want to know what it was!"

Dil: 'So...she's going to tell you...(pause) "...how?"

(Gibbs stares at Daisy...the dog meets his eyes...Gibbs speaks softly)

Gibbs: "She'll tell me..."

(Nell looks over at Daisy...she winks....Daisy discreetly tries to wink back, the dog's face contorting in the effort.....Nell moves closer to Gibbs, presses up against his back...Gibbs turns abruptly)

Gibbs; "Hey! What's that?"

(Nell smiles big, looks down at her stomach...)

Nell: "I guess it's a baby bump"

(She pauses...puts her hand on her stomach...looks at Dil in surprise...then yells out)

Nell: "I HAVE A BABY BUMP! OH MY GOD!"

(Dil smiles, nods his head....)

Dil: "You've had it for a few days...It's our baby..."

(Gibbs rolls his eyes...)

Gibbs: 'Great..I'm giving away the bride at a shotgun wedding"

(The conversation is interrupted as they see Daisy stand, ears perked)

Dil: "Prisoner pickup is here"

Gibbs: "I left him outside...they'll get him"

(Dil looks at Gibbs in surprise)

Dil: 'You what?"

(scene shifts to front of the house...an NCIS sedan pulls up, agents exit the car, then walk quickly to Morris...one agent looks on in shock)

Agent 1: "What the hell?"

(The second agent replies...)

Agent 2: "Your first Agent Gibbs pickup....you get used to it"

(Scene shifts to show Morris bound and gagged with duct tape, laying in the grass, cell phone in medical blood transfer bag taped on his rear end... The label perfectly marked to show evidence collection data)

Agent 1: "Wow....they didn't teach this to us at FLETCE..."

Agent 2: "Hang around long enough and you'll learn all sorts of new stuff....and you'll learn to keep your mouth shut"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the D Ranch pasture, Nell and Dil walking in the grass...)

Nell: "I so love it here, Dil...look at this land!"

(She sweeps her arms around, taking in the pasture, the hills, the trees....)

Dil: "Yea...it's special...always has been"

(She looks at Dil, moves her hands to her new bump...then back up at him, smiling..then she begins speaking in a sing song voice, pointing at him, dancing backwards)

Nell: "Guess what tomorrow is..."

Dil: "I know!"

(She continues singing, skipping backwards)

Nell: "We're getting married....we're getting married..."

(Dil looks on, emotions growing as he sees the happiness on her face....Then Nell turns, sprints into the pasture, flips her body into a handspring, and as her legs go over, her body fails to complete the cartwheel, and she falls flat on her back....Before Dil can respond, Nell pops up, hands reaching to the sky, the biggest smile he's ever seen on her face, and she yells out...)

Nell: "TA-DAAAAAAAAA"

(She stands there in celebration....Dil sees the pure joy on her face, the image of her, grass falling off her head, her body in celebration, her smile, her joy....all meant for him....The emotions overwhelm him..he tries to control them, his face turning, his eyes clinched shut, a look of pain on his face.....Nell sees it....)

Nell: "Baby?...Are you....."

(He can't answer....he continues to struggle to control himself...Nell runs to him...)

Nell: "Dil..baby...are you okay..."

(He reaches out, pulls her to him, holds her tight....)

Dil: "I wasn't prepared....."

Nell: "For what? Dil..talk to me!"

Dil: "I didn't know it would be like this...."

Nell: "Dil..you're scaring me....talk to me...."

(He feels her body tense...he knows he's scaring her)

Nell: "Is it too much? Dil...we're about to be...."

Dil: "I love you"

(Nell places her head against his chest)

Dil: "I've waited for you all my life....and I knew, once I found you...that I'd be happy...."

Nell: "Me too....but what's wrong...."

Dil: "Nothing's wrong...I just...(pause) "I just saw you jump up...and I saw the joy on your face....and it was too much....I just wasn't prepared to be this happy...."

Nell: "Is that bad? I'm happy too, baby...."

Dil: 'But you let it out...you run, you jump, you smile....I don't know how to do that...It just overwhelmed me, that's all...."

(She pulls away from him, smiles...then he surprises her by drawing her back closer)

Dil: "No...don't go...don't go..."

Nell: "Never..."

Dil: "Don't ever go...just let me feel you...Let me feel that this is real...."

(She relaxes, presses against him, embraces him....She hears his whispers, to himself as much as to her...)

Dil: "I'm happy...my life..it's here...everything I hoped for, and more...it's here...and god, I love her...."

(A pause)

Dil: "And she loves me back...."

(She smiles, pulls him closer)

Dil: "Don't let go....don't ever let go....both of you...don't let go...."

Nell: "Never...we're here forever baby....We love you...we love you so much..."

Dil: "And we have a wedding to go to tomorrow..."

Nell: "I KNOW!"

(Dil looks out at the pasture, then down at Nell...he grins...)

Dil: "I think I'll try it...."

Nell: "Try what, baby?"

Dil: "This!"

(Dil breaks off from her, and runs....then he executes a perfect series of hand springs, raises up in the air on the final one, flips in the air, lands almost perfectly in a two point stance, raising his arms as Nell laughs loudly in joy, then as he starts to yell out, his momentum carries him backwards, and he falls flat on his back, laughing....He lays on the tall, soft grass, arms still outstretched, laughing at the sky, finally letting out a joy he'd never known, and in a way taught to him by the woman he loves.....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at Ft Benning, enlisted men's barracks...A young corporal, sitting on his bunk, dressed in dress uniform....He holds his weapon, pointing it at his face...)

Corporal: "It should have been us, Cap...."

(Another corporal enters the barracks...goes to his bunk, yells out at the soldier holding the gun..)

Corporal 2: "Hey Briggs! Captain's meorial service in 30! Come on!"

(The first man looks over at his fellow soldier....)

Corporal 1: "It should have been us, Taylor...he was a good man...a great soldier...he had a family...it should have been us....not him"

(scene shifts to outside the barracks...A shot is heard....then a few seconds later, another shot is heard....)

(scene fades out to soldiers running to the barracks)

(scene shifts to view from an airplane window....The figure of Jesus on the top of a mountain fills the window.....a man looks out, smiles at the statue....An announcement comes over the speakers that they are approaching Rio De Janero Airport....)

VP: "Safe...and I'll live like a king...."

(The VP starts gathering his things, preparing to land)

VP: "No one can touch me here"

(scene fades to black and white)

Friday, Early Evening

(scene opens at The Thomas House, Caprice, Dez, Bishop, and Nell gathered on the back patio. Ahnjong stands beside Dez, holding her hand. All of them, including Ahnjong, stand on the back deck, looking outward, eyes wide, several gaping mouths)

Bishop: "Oh my god, Caprice...."

Dez: "Caprice...it's...it's..it's beautiful..."

(Nell is staring at the scene, blank face, speechless, until...)

Nell: "Caprice...I wasn't serious...I mean, I was, but I never expected....God...How...?"

(Caprice smiles big, pleased with their reactions...She turns to look at the wedding area, rows of split logs, bark still on the backside, set up as benches, a 12 foot wide path between the two sets of seats that will seat up to 50 people, the path paved with natural flagstone from the hillside...the pathway leads up to a hewn oak stage, large...and behind it, the natural trees, the waterfall happily spilling down on rocks, all framed by the trees filled with thousands of thin, bright white lace ropes, from the tops to all branches, the streamers stopping before they touched the ground...Each streamer was inlaid with silver glitter, all of them catching the last rays of sunshine, sparkling in the light. As the breeze caught them, it gave the impression of oceans of feathers dancing in the air)

Nell: "It's..It's more beautiful than the movie!"

Caprice; "I'll have you know I watched that movie, just to see the scene, and danged if I didn't end up watching all of them"

Bishop: "It's the wedding set from that Vampire movie!"

Dez: "Yea...but without the whiny girl and the wimpy Vampire (imitates squeaky voice) "Oh Edward, I'm insecure! I want you to die for me!" (deepens her voice) "Yes Bella dear, gladly"..."..Double Barf..."

(The girls chuckle, but are still overwhelmed by the scene)

Nell: "Oh god Caprice....."

(Nell runs to Caprice, embraces her)

Nell: "Thank you thank you thank you!"

(Caprice looks at it again, then nods)

Caprice: "I think it turned out okay..yea..."

Bishop: "How did you get all this done?"

Caprice: "Well....there were workers, and they were driven by a slave master that wouldn't take average..He came by each day to make sure what he had in mind was perfect. Then he picked up tools and showed them just how he wanted it...and...(grin) "Ended up making half of it himself"

Dez: "Slave master? Who the hell....."

(She stops...She stares at Caprice...then she runs her hands over one of the benches....)

Dez: 'It's perfect...no splinters, no rough spots...."

Caprice: "Go with the grain? Not against it?"

Dez: "Gibbs did this...didn't he?"

(Caprice nods, gives a shrug)

Caprice: 'He'd rather you didn't know..."

(The three women look at Caprice in disbelief....Caprice gives them a small smile)

Caprice: "I don't think you girls know how much he cares for you...each one of you. He sees each one of you as a daughter. Just...just don't tell him I said that"

Bishop: "Dez and Nell? Yea...I've always seen that....but me? Come on, Caprice...he's constantly on me..."

Caprice: "Seriously? Is that what you think? Ellie...I listen to that man brag about how smart you are...how proud he is of you...He constantly tells me..(imitates gruff voice) "I found her on the floor eating Cheetos...Now look at her"...He's watched you grow from a timid, scared, broken hearted woman, to what you are now...Someone he trusts with his life. (pause) "Girl...You're as much his daughter as Nell, or Dez, or anyone...His one fear with you is that you don't know just how good you can be...and that will stop you. He can't let that happen...(shrugs) "But that's just him, caring about you"

(Bishop looks at her, eyes moisten....she turns away...Caprice moves to her, wipes a tear away)

Bishop: "You have no idea how much that means to me, Caprice...I didn't know...."

Bishop: "Baby girl, I know...He's a hard man. He's just now learning how to show it, so late in life...Just be everything you want to be, girl...That's what he wants for you. For all of you. And maybe give him some grace. He's trying....He really is"

(Bishop sheds another tear, nods her head, hugs Caprice....She breaks away, looks at the scene....nods her head, does the scrunchy mouth thing...)

Bishop: "It's our wedding...but by god, we'll know people that loved us did this...We won't forget that..."

Nell: "And we won't forget what you've done, Caprice...yea, Gibbsy did the wood, but you...this whole thing! The trees! It's so beautiful!"

(The wind shifts...an aroma comes into the back yard...)

Nell: "Wow...that smells good!"

Caprice; "Come with me, ladies...."

(Caprice leads them to the side of the house, and a new view greets them...)

Dez: "So this is why I've been banished for the last 2 days?"

Caprice: "Yep"

(Rows of smokers and grills are seen, all emitting smoke...Caprice goes to one,, puts on a heat glove, lifts the lid, and billows of smoke come pouring out....on the racks, sides of brisket, sausage, chicken, and pork loins can be seen, slowly cooking)

Nell: "OH MY GOD!..."

Caprice: "All 5 smokers are full, just like this one, and they'll cook today, all night, and be ready tomorrow"

Dez: "Getting weird hungers yet, Sis?"

Nell: "I want all of it! It smells so good!"

Caprice; "See those big cauldrons over there? Corn from your fields will be boiling in there...Then before served, they'll be dipped in huge pots of melted butter...."

Nell: "Oh my god oh my god oh my god...Now....I want some now...."

Dez: "Come on in girl..I'll make you a sandwich...Cal discovered peanut butter...he's got 10 jars of it..."

(Nell looks at Dez, thinks...then her face brightens)

Nell: "With jalapenos on it?"

(scene shifts to the D Ranch, Gibbs, Dil, Torres, McGee, Cal, sitting at the kitchen table. Daisy laying down in a corner, her eyes on Gibbs)

Gibbs: "You've still got explaining to do, mutt..."

(Daisy moans)

Gibbs: "Well? Is there something you want to tell me? You...that big cat out there?"

(Torres looks over at Gibbs....face curious)

Torres: "Cat? Like alley cat cat?"

Gibbs; "No! Hell no! Like that cat you and Palmer and Breena kidnapped....Jesus! It scared the hell outa me!"

Torres; "Mountain lion..."

(Daisy sits up, stares at Torres....Gibbs sees it...)

Gibbs: "Daisy....what's going on...."

(Gibbs looks over at Cal, notices him looking at his glass of tea, a small grin on his face....)

Gibbs: "Hey..Doc!"

Cal: "It is not for me to say, Agent..."

Gibbs: "Say it anyway!"

(Cal looks up, directly at Gibbs...the smile is gone)

Cal: “No”

(The two stare at each other for a moment, neither one breaks the look...)

Gibbs: “Fair enough”

Cal: “Thank you...I mean no disrespect”

Gibbs: “None taken, amigo”

(Cal thinks...looks at Daisy, then at Torres...then finally at Gibbs, who is still watching him)

Cal: “Tell me Agent...do you believe in Purpose?”

Gibbs: “I believe in what I know....is that good enough?”

(Cal smiles)

Cal: “No, it is not....”

(Now, the rest of the men are watching this...transfixed)

Cal: “Purpose, Agent...Fate...do you believe all things happen for a reason...”

Gibbs: “I don’t worry too much about it, doc...i deal with what is, reason or no reason...I’ll leave the deep thinking to you...Okay by you?”

Cal: “No, it is not”

(Everyone reacts to that word....except Gibbs and Cal)

Cal: “Do you think that cat appeared for no reason? Do you feel you met a nurse for no reason? Do you not feel your pain was ignored by something else and that something else saw a purpose in your life, that your pain, as intense as it was, did not alter your sense of right or wrong? Do you believe your life has been chance?...(Cal shakes his head) “Purpose...purpose, Agent....you are part of a purpose even you cannot deny”

(All heads turn to Gibbs....he is staring at Cal....then....)

Gibbs; “Okay...works for me”

(Cal smiles...Gibbs looks at him, then winks....Cal returns it....)

Torres: “DUDES! That was intense!”

Dil: ‘Yea...i’m out of breath! Christ! I thought you two were going to go after it!”

Gibbs: “What...doc? Naw...Doc knows....”

(They turn to Cal...He raises his ice tea glass, Gibbs raises his beer bottle, they clink glasses...)

Gibbs: “Cheers amigo”

Cal: “Cheers indeed, my dear friend”

(Torres looks at Gibbs...then..)

Torres; “Cat....”

Cal: “Perhaps I can help you, Nickolaus....”

Torres: “Huh?”

(Cal looks at Daisy...then he looks out the back window....)

Cal; “We wait until your betrothed enters”

Torres: “My what? Oh....Bish...She’s part of your show?”

Cal: “She is the purpose for this.....’show’...patience young groom....”

(Bishop walks in, carrying Little Nickie.....everyone turns to stare at her....She stops....)

Bishop: “Why are you all looking at me?”

Dil: “You’re the purpose of the show”

Bishop: “What show?”

Dil: “We don’t know...ask Poof guy over there”

Cal: “I no longer poof, but thank you for remembering”

Bishop: “Poof...what’s poof? Hold on...Let me put Nickie down in her crib...I’ll be right back! And don’t talk! I don’t want to miss anything!”

(As Bishop leaves, Cal ignores the request, looks over at Daisy...)

Cal: “Beautiful one....it is time”

(Daisy immediately jumps up, darts to the french doors of the kitchen, whines.. Bishop runs back into the kitchen..Cal sees her, then speaks to them.)

Cal: “Nick? Eleanor? She wants to take you somewhere”

(scene shifts to the hillside....The cougar lays in a patch of cool grass, relaxing...then her ears perk....She jumps up, looks in different directions...then sees the domicile of the humans....and exiting a rear entrance, she sees....)

(scene shifts to the house...)

Torres: “Somewhere? Doc?”

(Cal looks over at Gibbs...he gives Gibbs a small grin)

Cal: “Witness Purpose Agent...”

(Bishop rushes to the door, opens it...Daisy darts outside, barking...)

Bishop: “Nick! Come on!”

Torres: “Coming baby! I don’t know where I’m going, but I’m coming!”

(Bishop and Torres run out the back door, following a running and barking Daisy..)

(scene shifts to the hillside...In the air, the cat senses....)

"Now"

(The cat is seen jumping off the rock, loping downhill towards the house)

(scene shifts to Torres and Bishop, finally catching up to Daisy...She sits near the hillside fence line, her ears perked to the hills, her face watching...They both look in that direction)

Torres; "Daisy...what...."

Bishop: 'Girl? Is there something up there?"

(Daisy whines....then barks loudly ....she continues barking, her snout pointed at the hillside...Torres looks up....and his face turns to shock)

Torres; "No...it's not real..."

Bishop: "What? I don't see.....Oh...oh...my....god....."

(On a rock ledge, a hundred feet up the hillside, a majestic sight greets them....A huge mountain lion, muscular, proud, powerful, sits on the ledge, and it is staring at Torres....)

Torres: "It can't be...."

(Tentatively, Torres whispers a name...)

Torres; "Kitty?"

(The cat raises its head, and its roar echoes through the forest)

Bishop: "Nick! Is that the same cat? My god!"

(The large cat raises its head once more and roars again....)

Torres; "KITTY!"

(Torres runs to the fence, looks up at the cat, spreads his arms out, and roars at the top of his lungs..The cat returns the roar, the sound powerful and majestic...Torres takes a breath, and roars again. Bishop looks on, mouth open, face awed)

Torres: "IT'S HER!"

(He roars again, smiling, tears falling, he roars over and over again, as the cat returns each one....Cal walks up, smiling)

Cal; "Eleanor....the rest is up to you"

(Bishop looks at Cal in surprise...)

Bishop: "Me?"

Cal: "Yes...you...This animal, who owes its life to your husband to be, has come because it sensed your child...It was called...For Purpose...It now waits for your approval"

Bishop: "Approval?? For what? What the hell is going on here! Why is my man screaming at a mountain lion?"

Cal: “Because they owe each other their lives....and the animal sees you as family. You are the mother, Eleanor...and in its world, you are the holiest....so...it waits...”

Torres; “Bish! Call it! Hurry!”

Bishop: “Call it? Are you crazy!"

(She sees Torres look at her...his eyes pleading.....She looks up at the lion...)

Bishop: “I don’t believe I’m about to do this....”

(She looks around, sees Gibbs, Dil and the others standing on the deck, watching in disbelief...she turns back to the cat....)

Bishop: “Uh..how do you call a mountain lion? And what if it comes down? It will eat us!”

Torres: “No! It won’t! I mean, I don’t think so....Just call it!”

Bishop: “Well hell...why not....”

(She looks at the cat, sees it’s staring at her...she gives a small voice invitation)

Bishop: “Here kitty kitty...come here kitty....”

(She screams as the cat suddenly leaps off the rock, and comes running down the hillside....She also sees Torres rushing to the fence....)

Torres; “Kitty! Come here! Come here!”

(The trees rustle and the thicket parts, then Torres and Bishop give a small scream as the majestic cat leaps over the fence towards them, runs to Torres.....then stops as it reaches him, Torres kneels to the ground, and the cat places its head in his arms....Torres is weeping, hugging the cat, and the sounds of purrs and murmurs can be heard by Bishop and Cal....)

Torres: “I thought I’d never see you again...I’ve missed you so much.....”

(Bishop is looking on, slack jawed...Cal smiles….)

Cal: “Eleanor....it still waits....”

(Kitty moves its head towards Bishop....Bishop stands still, terrified....)

Torres; “Bish...it’s okay....”

Bishop: “Nick...if this cat eats me I’ll haunt you every day of your life....”

(The large cat approaches Bishop, slowly...then as she reaches the woman, the cat’s eyes close, lowers its head...Bishop looks over at Cal...He nods to her..)

Cal: “She is submitting to you....she is honoring you...”

(Bishop tentatively reaches out a hand, then lays it on the cat’s huge head....The cat begins to purr....)

Bishop: “Oh my god...I’m petting a mountain lion!...It’s not eating me!”

(She gets braver, then strokes the cat's ears....the cat turns its head, wanting more...Torres is looking on, still weeping...smiling...joyful.....)

Bishop: "She is beautiful"

Cal: "She is...and her purpose is even more beautiful"

Bishop: "What is it?"

Cal; 'She has deemed herself the protector of your cub....She is here to protect you...your child...She is here to serve her family"

Bishop: "You're serious...."

Cal: 'She certainly is"

Bishop: "Does she want to...I mean...like...be a pet?"

Cal; 'No..it is not in her to be domesticated...She is and forever has been, what she is. But, you, your child, they will always be holy to her...."

(He turns to Torres....)

Cal: "And you, Nickolas....it is you she owes her life to...If you were to ask her to die for your life, she would do so, considering it an honor..."

Torre: "i mean...this is so cool! We have a Kitty!...but...where....Is she leaving now...?"

Cal: "As long as you wish, she will inhabit these hills...she wishes to stand guard...it is her purpose..."

Bishop: "Our baby....is Nickie in .."

Cal; "The child has nothing to fear...nor do you..."

(Bishop looks over at Torres, his face pleading...She looks at the cat, still at her feet....)

Bishop: "Nick....."

Torres: "El.....please...."

(She looks at him in awe.....then...)

Bishop: "We're buying this land! Oh my god, we are so buying this land now! Right here right now!"

(scene shifts to Rio de Janeiro, the back porch of a villa...Lush trees, fountains, a pool in the middle of a rock garden....A man is seen from behind, talking on the phone, sitting in a poolside chair..The scene shifts to show the Vice President, dressed in tropical clothes, speaking on the phone)

VP: "Yea...I want that in gold pieces, then I want the other amount in American Dollars...."

(He listens..)

VP: "Then I want Carlos Alverez Palo...(listens)…"Yea...the same one that designs and installs security systems for the Hernandez Cartel...I read somewhere in that sons a bitch's file that he has

some link to them...Something that makes him hate them...I want the people that protect them from him, protecting me from him"

(He ends the call....he dials another number)

VP: "So..what's the latest?"

(he listens)

VP: "No one raising the alarms yet?"

(He nods)

VP: "Good...No one paid attention to what I did anyway, so they won't miss me....Let's.keep it that way...and yea,,,you can reach me at this number. Don't give it out, and it will be a while before you can come, but you will...."

(he listens)

VP: "Okay, good...now, write this number down....It's to Chin Ling, brother to the Chinese Secretary of Industry. He knows the order....And brother..tell the idiot that this time, when the return address on the label says Chicago, make sure it's spelled with a CH, not an SH like last time! Jesus! What a dumbass!..Now...there's a young lady waiting for me down at a place called Juan Juan...Yea...they owner loves that stupid guy from that old Little House show"

(He ends the call, places the phone on the table beside his chair, smiles as he lifts up a large glass of fruit colored drink, umbrellas sticking out of the top, and sips through the straws...He smiles to himself)

(scene shifts to NCIS Interrogation room....FBI Execs, SecStae, and attys stand in the viewing room....through the glass, they can see and hear the two men in the room. They watch as Vance hits End Call on a cell phone.....)

Vance; 'Good job...you're holding up your end of the bargain"

Morris: 'I'm not going to swing at the end of a noose for anyone!"

Vance: "And you are well on your way to earning the privilege to live....Now....call the Chinese for me....Let's place that order your brother put into play"

(A pause...Vance smiles at the captured hit man)

Vance: "And make sure they spell Chicago right...huh?"

(scene shifts to Viewing Room...The FBI Atty shakes her head)

FBI Atty: "I just thought we'd stirred the pot..."

SecState: "That's Leon...He hates men that betray their country...The man's a patriot through and through. He won't stop until he's turned every rock over that's hiding someone guilty"

FBI Atty: "You do know you're going to have to bring Congress into this"

SecState: "No...I won't"

FBI Atty: “Ma’am...it’s the law!”

SecState: “For the Secretary of State it is.....but...”

(the two ladies smile at each other..)

FBI Atty: “Not for the Vice President....The War Powers Act allows you private leeway....If the President signs off, and he will, he’d crap his britches if this got out..So, Madame Vice President...It’s sneaky...It’s evil....”

(They both look at the two men in the Interrogation room)

FBI Atty: ‘I love it”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at night, dark, Cal and Bishop walk near the house, just outside the olive trees...)

Cal: “There is something you wish to speak about, Eleanor?”

Bishop: “Yea...it’s not the kind of thing I can ask the others...”

(Cal nods, waits....Bishop finally talks)

Bishop: “This getting married...each one of us...To someone outside looking in, it seems too quick, too sudden...But to me, and I guess to the others, it feels so right...”

Cal: “And you wish to know why?”

Bishop: “I guess...Maybe I just want to say it out loud...I don’t know”

(Cal thinks....then speaks)

Cal: “How is it anyone obtains enough knowledge to love?”

(Bishop hears the question....looks confused)

Bishop: “You mean how do people get to know each other?”

Cal: ‘Yes..how?”

Bishop: “They do life, I guess....they spend time getting to know someone...the more time you spend, the better you know them”

Cal: “Is that true? Or is it that one needs the time so that events, tragedies, challenges, these occurrences in life that reveal one's true character?”

(Bishop does scrunchy mouth thing, thinking...then nods)

Bishop: “Yea...I guess so...that’s when you really learn about someone”

Cal: “And in your group..this family of yours...”

Bishop: “Ours...you’re part of it too, you know”

Cal: “It would be an honor, and we shall yet see, but...in regard to your question....In this family of....ours....How often do you find yourself being sacrificed for? Or one of them faces a death almost certain, but they come for you, anyway? How often does one offer to die for the other, or protect the other...These occurrences, these points in life....how often have you seen them?”

(Bishop thinks....then her face brightens)

Bishop: “Constantly! All the time!”

Cal: “Then, it would be safe to say that these couples, you, your Nickolas....you know the trueness of each other so well...You know the safety and love each of you have for each other....So.....”

(He looks at her, his eyebrows raised, waiting for her answer)

Bishop: ‘Why wait?”

Cal: “Why indeed?...Whereas it is not a guarantee of a life together, I would say these new couples, you, your Nickolaus....you know each other as well as any couple would ever know each other...And love, dear Eleanor....Love exists in all of us. And when we find the one that shares that love, that wants for the other more than self....well...(he smiles)..”It is magnificent...utterly magnificent!”

(She looks over at Cal, sees him looking back at the house)

Bishop: ‘Like you and Dez?”

(He smiles...)

Cal: ‘My Destiny”

Bishop: ‘You really love her, don’t you?”

Cal: “Without bounds”

Bishop; ‘It shows....and for the record, we love the both of you....Especially you, poof boy”

(He smiles)

Cal: “Thank you, Eleanor...that, my dear friend...is an honor...I will strive to earn it each day”

(she laughs)

Bishop: “You already have, but if you want to keep trying, go for it”

Cal: “Thank you, but how.....”

Bishop: “Because we love you....and love, Doctor Nuncio, is the best measure of our family”

(They continue walking, silently....Cal speaks softly)

Cal: “You have another question, Eleanor”

(She thinks,,,nods her head)

Bishop: “Why...Cal, why are we so emotional? Even the guys...and these are men’s men, afraid of nothing, and we women, we’ve been through so much, learned to face whatever we need to....But...”

(She trails off...Cal stops, Bishop does as well, then they face each other)

Cal: 'Eleanor, this...what you have seen, what you ask....It is both the most beautiful and saddest part of this family"

Bishop: "Sad...how..."

(Cal takes a breath, looks back at the house...They can both hear laughter coming from the back deck)

Cal: 'None of you are promised tomorrow"

Bishop: 'No one is"

Cal: 'Correct...but Eleanor, this family, each one, you included....you face Death too often, you risk everything every time you face evil...Each of you...Each of you know the woman they love, the man they love, the friend beside them...could be gone tomorrow. And each of you holds that fear in your hearts. Because of that, the love you have for each other is so intense, so beautiful, so sad, here in the moment, possibly gone in the next....(He lowers his head, thinks...) "Each of you are unable to restrain this love...Each of you live with a fear that your last words to each other, will not be...I love you"

(he pauses...then finishes)

Cal: "Your tears their tears, they are not emotions, Eleanor...they are love songs.....They are the music of those courageous enough to feel, "I love you"

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens later that night.....Dez is walking alone, going from the house to the stable....She enters the stable, switches on the light, enters....She walks to Bessie's stall, opens the gate, pulls up a stool, and sits in front of the cow's face..)

Dez: "Hey gal...I just wanted to come talk to you..."

(Bessie stares at Dez, no expression)

Dez: "I'm getting married tomorrow...and I love him...god, I love him so much...But I needed to come talk to you first..."

(She reaches out, touches Bessie's nose, the one place void of tumors....)

Dez: "I don't know how it worked, but you...or through you...I don't know...but you allowed me to live. Your milk, or your soul, I don't know which, but I was dying, Bessie...I was dying and I was so scared..."

(She wipes her eyes)

Dez: "I wouldn't let anyone know how afraid I was..I couldn't...My brother suffered every day he saw me....and I loved him so much I couldn't show it...Until I had to show it...and he took care of me each time, holding me, cleaning me up, cleaning my room after I was so sick...and I'd cry...He'd hold me and rock me until the pain medication took affect..."

(She lets out a sob)

Dez: “Then Nell shows up and changes everything...God, her smile, her outlook on life....I couldn’t help but love her....I felt somehow I had a best friend, a sister, before dying, and that was enough....”

(She stops talking....composes herself)

Dez: “Then Cal...oh my god....Cal....I was toast the minute I saw those gold flecks in his eyes when he looked at me....And he loved me...God, Bessie, he loved me, scars and all, hurts and all, everything bad about me you could imagine....He loved me...and I loved him....so much....And I’m marrying him. I would have said no before” (pauses) “...I mean, I was going to die...but you...You, dear Bessie...Somewhere in all of this, you came along...your pitiful moo...”

Bessie: “Moooo”

(She laughs...)

Dez: “Yea...that one....”

(She strokes Bessie’s nose again...)

Dez: “Now...I’m getting married...and I’m going to live, Bessie...but I want you to know that as long as you live, you’ve got a home here...I’m never going to forget what you did....And most of all, somehow, girl...I’m going to let you know I love you....So..gotta go,girl...but I wanted you to know that before I went to sleep”

(She wipes her eyes, gets up, turns towards the stable doors, and sees Cal...Standing in front of her....She says nothing for a moment....He looks at her, then at Bessie...his voice even, calm...)

Cal: ‘Many eons ago, a call went out to the kingdom, and it asked, “Who will suffer for a good woman? Who will suffer so she may live?”..The one that answered was a cow....And then the cow was blessed...its lineage blessed...then centuries later, a calf was born from this blessed lineage, and it was ill...Cancer covered its body....and the creator said, “It is time to answer the call for this woman....”

(Dez looks at him as he talks, in awe...)

Cal: “And the calf bowed its head, and replied, “Yes...I know...I know my purpose....”

(Cal walks to Bessie, strokes her nose....He takes Dez’s hand, places it on the cow’s nose....)

Cal: “The purpose has been fulfilled...The lineage has been faithful....Now...”

(Cal closes his eyes...Dez looks at him fearfully...She tries to take her hand away from Bessie’s nose...)

Dez: ‘Cal! My hand! It’s getting warm! What is happening?”

(He clamps his hand over hers, then opens his eyes....Bessie begins to tremble....then Dez looks on in amazement, as one by one, tumors start sliding off her skin....They fall to the hay, melting, disappearing, and under the tumors is fresh and clean, and healthy cowskin....)

Dez: “BESSIE!”

(Dez can't move....then Bessie moos, shakes her body, and the remaining tumors fall...Bessie looks back at her body, clean, pure, her eyes wide....)

Cal: "Thank you Bessie...your sacrifice is honored...Now...live in joy"

(Dez is seen jumping up and down, crying, clapping her hands, hugging the cow, hugging Cal, crying more, clapping more, shouting Dil's name, Nell's name, then Bessie's name., hugging Cal again....Bessie responds by chewing some grass, looking at Dez like she's crazy....then...)

Bessie: "Moooo"

(scene fades to black and white, the image of Dez jumping up and down fades out)

(scene opens to Nell and Dil, in bed, Nell laying her head on Dil's chest)

Dil: "You okay?"

(She nods)

Dil: "Scared?"

(she shakes her head...then nods)

Dil: "Want to postpone it?"

(She punches his arm)

Dil: "Are you happy?"

(She nods her head)

Dil: 'Still want to get married?"

(Nell nods her head aggressively)

Dil: 'What are you afraid of then?"

(She hesitates, then takes a finger and points it at him)

Dil: 'You're afraid of me?"

(She takes the pointed finger, then imitates two legs walking off)

Dil: "Oh...you're afraid I'm going to leave"

(She nods her head)

Dil: "Want to know a secret?"

(She nods her head)

Dil: "I'm afraid you'll leave"

(She raises up, looks at him with a "Are you serious" look, then presses her finger to his lips)

(He smiles, then holds her closer)

Dil: “I’ll never leave”

(She snuggles closer)

Dil: “I’ll never leave”

(She grabs onto his arm, tightly)

Dil: “I’ll never leave”

(She buries her face in his chest)

Dil: “I’ll love you forever”

(She begins to cry into his chest)

Dil: ‘Do you love me?”

(She nods her head)

Dil: “Do you know I love you?”

(She nods her head)

Dil: “Will you marry me?”

(She nods her head up and down quickly

Dil: “Then everything’s going to be okay....”

(She doesn’t respond...Then he feels her breathing evenly, the sign she’s sleeping....He ventures a look at her face, and sees a small smile on her lips...He smiles himself, closes his eyes, then whispers..)

Dil: ‘We’re getting married tomorrow”

(He begins breathing easily, in perfect timing with Nell’s...then he falls into a peaceful sleep, a small smile can be seen on his face)

(scene fades to black and white)

WEDDING DAY

(scene opens at the wedding site, bright, sunny, 70 degrees with a gentle breeze, the image created by Caprice and Gibbs is the focus of everyone attending. Hundreds of thin, white lace ropes hanging from every tree branch, some that overhang the rows of split log benches reach down and stop, creating a magical canopy affect over the benches. The breeze causes the thin ropes to sway, creating an affect that people later said was like

ocean waves. A hand hewn stage is at the front, and behind it, framed by the opening in the trees, the waterfall can be seen, splashing onto the rocks below

Every split log bench is full of people, some are standing to the side unable to find room, children are running on the large property. On the front row of the left side, Delilah's chair is next to the end of the row, McGee next to her, then Dawson, Pam, Kacie, Palmer sit...Across the stone floor aisle between the rows, SecState and Helen sit. Next to Helen sits a middle aged man, his wife, and a young man, approximately 20yrs old, dressed in Marine Uniform, formal style.

Standing in the center of the stage, towards the rear, Leon Vance stands, black suit, Bible in hand, perfect posture, a brand new toothpick in his mouth. In front of him stand left to right, Dil, Torres, then Cal. Torres and Cal dressed in black suits, Dil dressed in his Marine Parade uniform, and not lost on the attendees, are the multitudes of ribbons, medals, and other hardware signifying his service to the Marines, and the recognition given him....Vance looks towards the Thomas House, specifically the double doors leading to the kitchen inside, where he knows the brides, Caprice, and Gibbs are. He sees movement behind the glass....)

Vance: "Gentlemen, I believe we're getting close...But before we begin, may I offer you a word of warning?"

Torres: "Don't puke?"

(small chuckles, Cal grins)

Cal: "Why Nickolaus, do I detect an anxiety in you?"

Torres: "Me? Anxiety? What?...(pause, then his eyes widen) "This isn't anxiety, this is terror!"

Dil: "Hey buddy, just pretend Bishop is a hardened criminal, intent on destroying everything you hold dear...yea...that works..."

(All three men look at Dil, quizzically...He looks back at them...)

Dil: "Too much...huh?"

(All three men nod their heads)

Torres: "Amigo...I think you and me, after this...we need to talk..."

Cal: "Pastor, I believe you were offering us a warning of some kind?"

(Vance looks over at Dil, stares for a moment...then back to the men...)

Vance: “Gentlemen, in a few minutes, the woman you love will be walking towards you, looking straight at you...”

Dil: “Oh jesus....”

Torres: “Dude...you okay?”

Dil: “Yea...yea...just kind of overwhelmed...”

Vance; “It happens, and trust me, it will be okay...but anyway, this woman, walking towards you, ready to give her life to you, and expecting you to give yours to her....”

(Cal’s eyes widen...)

Vance: “...and when you see her, gentlemen, as beautiful as you think she is now, there will never be a time that she is more beautiful as you will see her today”

Torres: “Director...that was nice....muy nice...thanks...”

(Dil stares at the double doors to the house)

Dil: “If she smiles at me, I’m toast...I mean it...”

(Cal’s eyes widen more)

Cal: “If Destiny weeps...I..I will not be able to stand it....”

(Torres looks at Cal, then at Dil...Then to Vance..)

Torres: “Hey, Pastor...I just thought I was scared...these two? (shakes his head)..”..This could be an interesting wedding...”

(Vance looks down at SecState, holding Little Nickie...the baby smiles at her, she smiles back at the child...Vance smiles as well)

Vance: “Gentlemen, it’s going to be a wonderful day....”

(Scene shifts to the waterfall...at the top, on a ledge, partially hidden by the mist, a large mountain lion sits, watching, looking at the humans below...She scans the crowd, ears forward, then she sees it...)

(Scene shifts back to SecState...Nickie smiles, then coos at her....SecState feels tiny fingers wrap around one of hers....)

(scene shifts back to the mountain lion....she closes her eyes, smells the air...)

“The cub is safe”

(The lion moves its gaze towards the stage, sees the human it owes its life to...the cat sees the father is watching its cub..)

"Protector…good…."

(The mountain lion continues to scan the area....it is looking for Mother)

(Scene shifts to inside the Thomas House, the kitchen and dining area off the back patio...Nell, Dez, Bishop, all standing, as Caprice tends to each one....)

Caprice: "Hold still, Nell...this seam is too tight..."

(Nell's eyes widen)

Nell: "Is my bump bursting the dress?"

(Caprice shakes her head...)

Caprice: 'No dear...not quite yet...."

(Nell smiles...)

Nell: "I can't wait until it does!"

(Dez looks at Nell, blank stare...Nell sees it...)

Nell: "Sis..Isn't this exciting?"

(Dez nods, turns, looks out the glass doors, sees Cal standing at the altar...Caprice watches Dez, sees that she's started trembling...)

Caprice; "Dez? Are you okay, honey?"

(Dez, still looking out the windows, slowly nods....then speaks...)

Dez: "I got this...I love him...god, I love him...and...it's going to be okay...and..and..."

(She buries her face in her hands...cries out)

Dez: "I'M SO SCARED!..I CAN'T DO THIS!..."

(Nell rushes to Dez, hugs her....)

Nell: "Sis..it's going to be okay....He loves you so much..."

Dez: "I KNOW! THAT'S THE PROBLEM!"

Nell: "And you love him...so..(pause) "Wait...what?"

Dez: "He loves me! But after we're married he'll see the scars every day and my BS attitude, and he'll change his mind and he's so honorable he won't leave and he'll resent me and he'll feel trapped and then he'll have side chicks and he'll hide it and I'll find out and....and...."

(She stops...tries to breathe....Caprice comes over...)

Caprice: “Dez, honey....breathe...come on...breathe...nothing you said is going to happen...”

(Dez bursts into tears)

Dez: “I’m not good enough for him! I’ll never be good enough! God, what have I done?”

Bishop: “DEZ! STOP! That man out there loves you more than any man I’ve ever seen...(pause) “Except maybe Nick...”

Nell: “Oh yea, Torres is like head and heels over you”

Bishop: (smiles) “He is, isn’t he? It’s a cool feeling....”

(Bishop looks back at Dez)

Bishop: “Dez...here’s a secret...we talk behind Cal’s back....”

(Dez stops crying...looks at Bishop suspiciously)

Bishop: “Sorry...but it’s true...That man out there, I mean, dang! He...loves....you. When you walk in a room, he brightens up...when you walk out, I want to go give him an anti-depressant...You go somewhere with out him, he almost wears a black armband..you come back, he wants to put up balloons and streamers....”

(Dez stares at her...)

Dez: “Really?”

Nell: “Yes! Really!...(grins) “Want to know what we say when he does that?”

(Dez waits...)

Dez: “What...or do I want to know?”

(Nell smiles at Dez...)

Nell; ‘Barf”

(Bishop nods)

Bishop: “Yep...Barf”

Dez: “Seriously? He’s a barfer?”

Bishop; “Big time barfer”

Caprice: “I think it’s sweet, but yea, he’s what we used to call ‘smitten’”

(Dez looks at Caprice)

Dez: “He said that once...he said ‘smitten’...”

Caprice; “See? Baby girl, that man is eternities away from changing his mind about you”

Dez: “He does love me....I mean...really love me...”

(Dez looks at all of them....her face scrunches...)

Dez: “I love you guys...I don’t know what I’d do without....without....”

Caprice: “Whoa girl...you’re heading for another leaky eye moment...Here...let’s look at you....Makeup, check...Hair...check...”

Dez: “Hair’s okay? Is it? Maybe I should get a wig...”

Nell: “No! It’s the cutest thing ever!”

(Dez touches her hair....cut in short pixie style...)

Dez: “I have hair”

Nell: “Yes you do!”

Caprice: “And you’re beautiful...all of you...My girls....”

(Caprice looks at them, shaking her head..)

Caprice: “The gowns look wonderful...”

(The all look down, all 3 wearing almost identical wedding gowns, white satin, off the shoulder, slim fitting top, a white satin belt, then a pleated bottom dress part that reaches the floor...Nell’s combat boots can be seen under hers as she kicks one leg up..Her blue and red Mickey Mouse knee socks reach up her calves)

Caprice: “Speaking of wonderful...ladies, when Gibbs takes each of you down that aisle, give him some love...he’s having a hard time with this...”

(They all look at her, surprised..)

Dez: “Gibbs? Why?”

(Caprice adjusts the sleeves on Bishop’s gown, looks out the kitchen into the living room where Gibbs is sitting..she speaks in a lower tone of voice, still working on the sleeves)

Caprice: “He’s asked me 3 times why all of you have to do this all at once....”

Dez: “Okay....?”

(Caprice stops her work, looks at Dez..)

Caprice: “He’s losing all his daughters at once...you’ve found good men, men he respects..But now it’s time for him to bow out of your lives in some ways...He feels like he’snot going to be needed by you any more”

(All three women drop jaws....)

Nell: “That is so not true! He’ll always by my Gibbsy!”

Bishop: ‘Yes! And anyway, daughters don’t leave their daddy!”

(Caprice stares at Bishop....)

Caprice; ‘Yes, honey...they do. And it’s how it should be...so, anyway, just maybe let him know....(sniffs)..”Let him know you love him....”

(Caprice turns and walks to the kitchen sink, wipes her eyes with her sleeves....She pulls down a paper towel, and hears...)

Nell: “Can we tell you we love you, too?”

(Caprice turns, sees the three girls standing in front of her...Nell has box in her hand, Dez reaches in, pulls out a large Waterford Crystal heart...in the middle of the heart, on the flat surface, is etched...)

Caprice

You kept us in line

You held us together

Without your love

We’d have no forever

- *Nell, Dez, Ellie, On Our Wedding Day*

(Bishop takes the heart from Dez, hands it to Caprice...Caprice stares at it, then stares at them, her face in shock....She clutches the large heart close to her chest, and.....starts blubbering)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the wedding venue, on stage, Vance looks towards the double doors and sees more movement behind the windows...)

Vance; “Gentlemen...I’d get ready”

(The three grooms look towards the doors, and see them open....They each take a deep breath, and wait, anxiously....A smile comes over each face as Daisy, proudly wearing her NCIS/SecretService vest, and a garland of flowers around her neck, comes walking proudly out, off the deck, then onto the stone aisle...She stops, turns her head to the doors...when music begins to play over the speakers set up for the event...Dez, her arm through Gibbs's, nervously walks out onto the deck, her satin dress shimmering in the sunlight...She looks straight at Cal, and even from that far away, she can tell his eyes are dancing with gold flakes....She takes a step forward....the song she picked, perfectly matching the moment, as Roberta Flack's 'First Time' begins to softly play...)

The first time ever I saw your face
I thought the sun rose in your *eyes*
And the moon and the stars were the gifts you *gave*
To the dark and the endless skies, my love
To the dark and the endless skies

(Tears start forming in her eyes, seeing nothing but Cal, knowing he's seeing nothing but her...Gibbs starts walking her down the stone aisle, hearing the compliments about her beauty as they progress....Gibbs whispers)

Gibbs: "You're doing fine, daughter"

(Halfway to the altar, Dez stops....Gibbs looks at her curiously, Caprice, standing in the doorway, watches, ready to act...Dez turns to Gibbs...hugs him fiercely)

Dez: "I love you so much, Gibbs...Thank you for loving me back"

(She releases him, puts her arm back through his...Caprice can see that Gibbs is struggling...They make it to the altar, Vance nods at Gibbs...)

Vance: "Who is it that gives this woman in marriage?"

(Gibbs looks at Dez.....She smiles…and answers for him)

Dez: "My daddy does!"

(Gibbs's looks at her, his face frozen...then...)

Gibbs: "Yea...works for me!"

(chuckles from the audience, Caprice breathes a sigh of relief..Dez walks by herself, up the steps, to a waiting Cal, wide-eyed, and he sees her tears, running down her cheeks, and her smile when they lock eyes...She moves next to him, then he leans his head to her ear, and whispers..)

Cal: “I have stood on stars...I witnessed creation...Never have I seen anything, anyone, as beautiful as you..”

(Dez looks up at his face, and what she sees makes her tears flow freely...For the first time since they met, she’s witnessing something she’s never seen....She watches as Cal’s eyes fill with tears, then travel down his cheeks)

Cal: “I am undone...and I love you”

(Vance discreetly pulls a white handkerchief out of his jacket, hands it to Dez...she takes it gratefully. Then dabs Cal’s tears, her face still awe-struck at the sight...then, as the first song ends, another begins, as Daisy proudly repeats her escort duties, high-stepping, her head moving from side to side, allowing the audience to admire her...Gibbs and Bishop, her arm through his, step through the doors, Caprice standing close, watching...)

Gibbs: “Time to do this, Bishop”

Bishop: “I know..and I know I’m not..I’m not anywhere near the woman I am without you, Gibbs...and if you stop teaching me, I’ll pop your nose!”

(She kisses him on the cheek, then looks at the stage, and sees Torres, grinning from ear to ear, waiting for her...Her own smile grows big...As they walk forward, the crowd can be heard murmuring...Their experience with Bishop has been ballcaps, pony tails, and unflattering clothes...Now they see an elegant lady, her blonde hair piled on her head, tasteful whisps hanging down, framing her face...The words to her song, Celine Dion’s “I’m Your Lady” start to enter her mind..)

The whispers in the morning
Of lovers sleeping tight
Are rolling by like thunder *now*

As I look in your eyes

I hold on to your whole body
And feel each move you *make*
Your voice is warm and *tender*
A love that I could not *forsake*

(They begin to walk again, towards the stage..Her choice of songs playing..Halfway there, Bishop looks up over the stage, admiring the waterfall....then she sees it...perched on the ledge, a majestic sight, a huge mountain lion, standing above the falls, staring at her....She and the cat match stares as she walks, then she surprises herself..she winks at the cat...The cat, seeing it, closes its eyes, bows its head, recognizing her...)

(Bishop watches the act of the huge cat honoring her...she does a scrunchy mouth thing, then looks at Torres, who is discreetly pointing up towards the cat, smiling...She smiles herself, shaking her head)

Bishop: “That man...he’s one of a kind”

Gibbs: “Oh yea...”

(She stares at the man she’s going to marry....and the song lyrics, again, fit her feelings)

'Cause I'm your lady
And you are my *man*
Whenever you reach for me
I'll do all that I *can*

(They reach the stage)

Vance: ‘Who gives this woman in marriage?”

(Gibbs turns back, sees Caprice in the doorway, she nods....Gibbs turns back to Vance...)

Gibbs: “Her mom and I?”

(Caprice darts back in the kitchen, hiding....Bishop surprises everyone....)

Bishop: “Works for me!”

(chuckles from the crowd as Bishop kisses Gibbs once more on the cheek, gives him a hug, and walks up to a smiling Torres....Unable to contain her excitement, Bishop gives a loud squeal, hugs Torres, then turns, straight faced, towards the crowd...Daisy is seen loping back to the doors to the house, ready to escort the final bride...)

(scene shifts to inside the house, Caprice fussing with Nell’s bangs, Gibbs walks in, then stares at Nell...Nell looks back....Then the greatest surprise so far, Gibbs reaches out and hugs her...Nell hugs him back, begins crying...)

Nell: “Don’t you dare stop being my Daddy Gibbs! Don’t you dare!”

(Gibbs is quiet for a moment....then...)

Gibbs: “No honey...I’m here...”

(Nell steps back, smile beaming)

Nell: “I’m ready to get married!”

(Gibbs grins, shakes his head....nods to Caprice..)

Gibbs: “Not without your hat, you’re not”

(Nell turns to Caprice, and sees her standing there, holding a big flat-brimmed floppy hat, made of the same material as her dress...Nell shrieks in excitement, takes it from Caprice, pops it on her head, looks in the mirror, then turns back to Caprice, smiling)

Nell: “It’s perfect! Thank you, Caprice!”

(She turns back to Gibbs...puts her arm through his...)

Nell: “NOW I'm ready to get married!”

(Scene shifts to Gibbs walking her down the aisle, no speaking heard as her choice of music plays softly over the scene...Paul Stokey’s ‘The Wedding Song”...)

“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.*
For if loving is the *answer then who's the giving for.*
Do you believe in something that you've never *seen before*
There is *love*
(Oh) There's *love”*

(Nell and Gibbs reach the stage, Gibbs is seen speaking, Nell kisses him again on the cheek...She stands still, staring at Dil...Gibbs takes his seat on the front row, by Caprice, already seated...Nell is silent, still looking at Dil, mesmerized and frozen in place....then she begins to smile at him....and he begins to smile back...)

Dil: “Oh hell...”

(Nell breaks out in a huge smile, and Dil, oblivious to everything and everyone around her, runs to the edge of the stage as she is running to him, her leaping up, him catching her, and they twirl on the stage, holding each other....)

Vance: “Well...I suppose we should go ahead and marry these couples....so....Dearly beloved...”

(No audio as Vance is seen nodding to each couple, brides and grooms smiling, repeating vows, then the scene shows Dez’s hand, and Cal sliding the ring on..then Bishop’s hand...then Nell’s hand...)

“With this ring, I thee wed”

“With this ring, I thee wed”

“With this ring, I thee wed”

(Vance smiles as he watches these young people in love, moves his toothpick to the other side, and announces....)

“Grooms..you may kiss your brides”

(Cheers go up as they kiss, Vance asks them to face the audience...)

Vance; ‘Friends...Family....It is my sincere honor and privilege to present to you for the very first time...Dilbert and Penelope Bosworth, Nickolaus and Eleanor Torres, and Dr. Calaverti and Destiny Nuncio...What God has brought together....”

(He pauses....looks at the influential people in the audience...then in a firm voice...)

“Let No Man Rent Asunder”

THE RECEPTION

(scene opens at the Thomas House, back yard and property, the wedding guests mingling, all of them crowded around the brides and grooms, offering congratulations. Behind the meat smokers, Marine recruits, fresh out of Boot Camp, are in field uniforms, plus aprons...The Marine Commandant, an invited guest, moves back and forth behind the soldiers, barking orders)

Commandant: “You! They asked for wings! You gave them drumsticks! YOU STUPID &$$ $#&&! Drop and give me 20!”

(The soldier immediately lays his tongs down, drops to the ground, starts doing pushups..The Commandant picks up the tongs, smiles broadly at the shocked person waiting on chicken, and picks up some wings off the grill..)

Commandant: “There you are ma’am...compliments of the United States Marine Corps”

(Off to the side, Dil, Nell, Torres, and Bishop watch....shocked)

Torres: “Wow..that’s intense...”

Dil: “I’m kinda scared to go up and get something to eat”

(Dil turns to Nell, standing beside him...she is big smiling at him...)

Nell: “We’re married!”

Dil: “Yes, baby, we are!”

(She continues to smile, saying nothing..Dil waits...)

Dil: “Everything okay?”

(Nell nods her head up and down energetically...)

Nell: “We’re really married!

Dil: “Yes....(pause..) “...We are”

(Nell looks down at her ring, then lifts his hand, looks at his ring...She looks up, huge smile)

Nell: “We’re married!”

(Dez looks over at her, gives a small smile...she moves towards Nell....When close...)

Dez: ‘It’s real, honey...You can relax”

(Nell looks at Dez, her face blank...)

Nell: “I’m not going to wake up and it’s all going to be a dream?”

(Dez shakes her head)

Dez:: ‘No, Sis..it’s real...You’re married...This man here (pokes Dil in the arm) “ Loves you..He’s in as much shock as you”

(Nell looks at Dil, he shrugs...)

Dil: ‘True story”

(Nell looks blankly at Dil....)

Nell: “What’s my name?”

(Dil grins...)

Dil: ‘Nell Bosworth”

(Nell hears the name...her blank face starts to light up..)

Nell: “Nell Bosworth....Like legally for real no joshin’ real....”

Dil: “Unless you want to keep your name...I mean, some...”

(Nell looks at him in panic)

Nell: “NO!”

(Dil grins...)

Dil: ‘Well, Mrs Bosworth...would you accompany me as we go greet some of our guests?”

(She stares at him...)

Nell: “Like...with you....”

Dil: “Yes...like with me...as my wife...”

Nell: “Wife”

(Dil stares at her for a moment....then turns her to face him...She looks up at his face...)

Dil: “Thank you for being my wife”

(She stares at him....still a blank look)

Dil: “I promise you, honey, I’m as excited as you”

(She stares for a moment)

Nell: “Are you...really?..I mean, now that we’re...(pause) “..married...”

Dil: “And going to be parents?”

(She touches her small bump....smiles...)

Nell: “Yea...we are...”

(Dil smiles at her...then in a low tone...)

Dil: “Want to know a secret?”

Nell: “A secret? You’ve kept a secret from me..?”

Dil: ‘I confess, dear, I have”

(Tentative...)

Nell: “Okay...but it’s not like a secret where you have another wife, or kids...”

(He scowls....)

Dil: “Nell....”

Nell: “Okay...so long as it’s not those...”

Dil: “Two secrets, actually....One...”

(She waits...)

Dil: “I’ve waited for you all my life....you know that..”

(She nods)

Dil: “What I’ve also waited for...and I haven’t told you....”

(She tenses...then he places a hand on her bump...)

Dil: “I’ve waited for this too...her...our baby...our child...This is life...This baby is our life..And part of waiting for you was so this...(He presses his hand against the bump) “..this baby...could happen...With the one woman I knew I’d love forever...and would also be the mother of my child...”

(Nell looks up at him, eyes moistening...)

Dil: (whispers) “Now...the other secret....”

(She’s still staring at him...)

Dil: “Director Vance was right...you have never been more beautiful than today...and I’ve noticed, quite a few men here have been staring at you....and honestly....I’m feeling a little jealous...and kinda insecure...so..you think you can help me out on that?”

(She continues staring...then..)

Nell: “I’ve never been so happy in all my life....I love you so much, Dil...”

Dil: “I love you too, baby....so now..how about you go with me to greet these folks....but you know...staying real close to me...so the other men don’t get any ideas?”

(Dez gives Dil a discreet thumbs up...then they are interrupted by the Marine Commandant, walking up....)

Commandant: “Captain Bosworth?”

(Dil immediately turns, salutes the General...)

Commandant: “Thank you, Captain...but not today...It’s me saluting you...”

(He looks at Nell, smiles)

Commandant: “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a more beautiful bride than you, ma’am....”

(Nell smiles at Dil....then back to the General...)

Nell: “I’M MARRIED!”

(The general laughs...Dil mouths to her “told you so”)

Commandant: “Yes, Mrs Bosworth, you....”

(Nell yelps)

Nell: “He said it!”

Commandant: “Ma’am?”

Nell: “You’re the first one to call me that! I mean, Director Vance said it, but he had to...you didn’t have to, so it’s better..well, not better, because the first one meant I was married, but you did it because you could, and that’s like so cool!”

Commandant: “Mrs Bosworth, it’s a great day for you...it’s also a great day for the Marine Corps...One of our very best..(he nods to Dil) “...gained the best of wives...and our Corps gained a brilliant woman, forever related to us...and has proven to be an asset beyond expectations to our men and women in the field....I’m grateful ma’am...The Corp is grateful...”

(Nell surprises the General with a big hug...)

Nell: “Thank you! I promise I’ll do my best to be the best Marine wife ever!”

(she adds)

Nell: “For as long as he’s a Marine....which, I believe, General, is not much longer”

(The General looks over at Dil, he shrugs at the officer)

Commandant: “Well, I guess we’ll see how that works out....”

(Nell’s eyes flash at the General...he looks back, gives a small smile)

Commandant: “I see, Captain, that your wife’s reputation for having hidden strengths is well deserved”

Dil: “Yes sir...and it’s best to keep them hidden...(pause) “Respectfully spoken, of course, sir”

(The General gives Dil a half hearted salute, then nods to Nell)

General: “Congratulations to both of you. Beautiful wedding...just beautiful”

(The General sharply turns, then walks back to the food line....he can be heard yelling at another soldier)

Nell: “I don’t like him”

Dil: “Just doing his job, honey..and if you didn’t catch that, he was schmoozing you...he likes what you do, and how you do it...”

Nell: “His job is to take you away from me...and our baby....(looks towards the general) “Yes...I’ve decided...I don’t like him”

(Dil looks over the crowd as Nell glares at the Commandant...He sees Torres, Bishop, and McGee looking across the area, towards the end of the smokers....Dil and the others can see Gibbs..standing in front of Helen..and at Helen’s side stands the same middle aged man that

was sitting with her...by the man, a woman, his wife, stands, and to the side, a young man, early twenties, Marine Corp dress uniform on, talking with Gibbs)

McGee: “Anyone figured out who they are yet?”

Bishop: “Nope...We know that’s Helen, SecStates assistant...but no clue to the others...”

(The see the young Marine extend a hand....Gibbs takes it, formally shakes it...then the young man salutes Gibbs)

Torres; ‘Oh man...Gibbs doesn’t do that....”

(They see Gibbs snap to attention...then salute back...)

McGee: “Whoa...”

(Gibbs then turns to the mystery man, and hugs him....)

Torres: “No way!”

(Then they see Gibbs hug Helen....he backs up after the hug, looks at the older man, shakes his head...then the wife ferociously hugs Gibbs, obviously emotional....)

Bishop: “Okay...now I GOTTA know!”

(Bishop turns to Torres....grins...)

Bishop: “After I spend some time with this new husband here....The women have been scoping him out, and I better hold him close...”

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

Torres: “Right now, is when I make a joke...you know..my body, my looks....”

(He pauses)

Torres: “But that’s no bueno....What’s bueno is you married me...and I’m not wasting any time on jokes...Dang, Bish...”

Bishop: “Am I still Bish? Bishop?”

Torres: “No..you’re Ellie Torres...my wife...but you know...Bish still works...”

Bishop: “Yea...it does, but we know...right?”

(Torres stares at her...his face shows wonder...)

Bishop: “Nick?...”

(He throws his hands up in the air)

Torres: “I’m sorry! You’re so beautiful...(continues to stare..)..I mean, El..You’re....”

(She blushes...)

Bishop: “Stop...you’re embarrassing me....”

(A voice joins in)

Caprice: “It’s true, Ellie...you were..and still are...a beautiful bride....”

Bishop: “Thanks to you...you did all this...”

Caprice; “I had good stuff to work with, honey...”

(Bishop looks off, blushing, then at Gibbs)

Bishop: “Hey...do you know who those people are with Gibbs?”

Caprice: “No..I know it’s Helen, and that’s Helen’s son..So, I’m assuming the woman is his wife and the boy is her grandson”

Bishop: “Yea....but why? We’ve never heard Gibbs mention Helen...”

Caprice: “Curious, aren’t we?”

Bishop: “I just wanna know!”

(Caprice stares at Bishop, then at McGee...she winks at McGee)

Caprice: “El...you know..I’d really like to tell you, okay? But....it’s kind of a big deal....and Jethro....I just can’t”

(Bishop stares at Caprice....McGee turns his head, hiding a grin)

Bishop: “You tell me right now! I have a higher security clearance than you do!”

(Caprice looks at Gibbs, then at McGee, then at Bishop...)

Caprice “But not in the right places.....Gotta go! More juicy secrets to keep!”

(Caprice turns before Bishop can respond....Bishop watches Caprice walk away, scrunches her mouth, then looks at McGee)

Bishop: “That was wrong...that was just wrong....”

McGee: “But it is interesting....what are they to Gibbs?”

(scene shifts to Gibbs talking with Helen..Gibbs is noticeably moved)

Gibbs; “Helen...I...I never knew...”

Helen: “I know you didn’t...but it was time..My son...my grandson...they wanted this. They’ve wanted it for a long time, Jethro...”

(Gibbs turns to the son, his wife.. holding her husband’s arm....)

Gibbs: “John....I don’t...I don’t know what to say...”

(The wife surprises Gibbs by hugging him, fiercely)

Wife: “Everything..this...us...We love you so much and needed to tell you....and our son...”

Son: “John Jr. Sir...”

Gibbs: “Yea...John...”

(stares at the son, then at the father....shakes his head)

Gibbs: “Okay..yea...”

(Looks at Helen)

Gibbs: “So this is why....Does Loretta know...?”

Helen: “No..definitely no...and I’d like to keep it that way”

Gibbs; “Yea...works for me, too....”

Helen: “Jethro, go...you have some girls you just gave away in marriage...go spend time with your family...We’re going to get some of that wonderful food we smell...Then we’re leaving...Plus I have to go into the office and send out some stupid no one will read or care memos”

(Gibbs nods, a small grin that says he understands...then he looks at John Sr, thinks.....then softly speaks)

Gibbs: “Semper Fi, soldier”

(John Sr nods...whispers back)

John: “Oorah Gunnery Sargent. (the man lets out a long breath) “...Finally”

(The family walks away, Gibbs staring at the father as he walks, one leg stiff...As the breeze blows his pants leg, the bottom of a titanium prosthesis is revealed...Gibbs’s eyebrows go up)

Gibbs: “It’s him”

(Gibbs is distracted by the squeals of children, and the happy screams of Dez and Nell...He can pick out two names....Bessie and Prissy)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in the pasture next to the Thomas House....Bessie, her cowskin shining in the sun, walks slowly up, her eyes turning up towards the flowered hat strapped to her head...Prissy comes up prancing, showing off her own flowered wide brimmed floppy hat...Dez yells back at Cal while she's running to the two animals)

Dez; "Cal! It's Bessie and Prissy!"

(She continues running)

Dez: "Hey girl! You finally decided to come see us!"

Bessie: "Mooo"

Dez: "I know! I know! You look beautiful! Do you like the hat I made you?"

Bessie: "Mooo"

(Cal walks up, small smile, reaches out and touches Bessie's nose...The cow moves closer, wanting more...Dez looks at him curiously)

Dez: "What's this all about?"

(Cal smiles, rubs the cow's ears)

Cal: 'It is about nothing...it is about everything"

Dez: "I know all about nothing...I don't know everything"

Cal: "Who does?"

Dez: "Cal! It's our wedding day! You're supposed to be nice to me!"

Cal: "My betrothed...I am!"

Dez: "Sorry..you are...let me rephrase that...It's our wedding day! You're supposed to grant my every whim!"

(Cal cocks his head, smiles....He takes Dez's hand, places it on Bessie's nose...)

Cal: "So I shall, My Destiny...prepare yourself for....everything"

(Dez looks at him curiously, then watches Cal close his eyes...then a warmth unlike any other she's ever known spills over her, goosebumps cover her entire body, her eyes tear up,

her mouth opens in shock.....Then it's over....She yanks her hand back....looks at Cal in shock)

Dez: "Cal...what...what was that?"

Cal: "Everything"

Dez: "No! What was that?"

(He looks at Bessie, sees she's looking at Dez...)

Cal: "Love, my wife....you felt the love a simple cow has for you. Love, My Destiny....it is everything"

(She stares at him in awe....)

Dez: "There's so much I want you to show me"

Cal: "Yes? And why, may I ask?"

Dez: "I got left out of the love thing. Except for Bubba....he's the only one....I'd...I'd like to know as much about it as I can now...."

(Cal looks at her curiously)

Dez: "With you"

(Cal takes a breath in....then lets it out....his face in awe...)

Cal: "Destiny..."

Dez: "Can you do that thing with you? (She reaches out, touches his chest) "I want to feel how you feel...Show me, Cal..."

(He shakes his head)

Cal: "You could not withstand it...it would be too much....but I will show you, piece by piece, every day of our lives"

(She stares more at him)

Dez: "You really love me"

Cal: "I do"

Dez: "You're not going to leave me"

Cal: "Never"

Dez: "Cheat"

Cal: “Beyond never”

Dez: “Lie”

Cal: “I am incapable...but if I was, the answer is the same...Never”

Dez: “Stop making love to me”

Cal: “Ridiculously never”

Dez: “But...my...some day my scars...they’re so ugly...”

(He interrupts her, placing his hand flat on her chest...She draws a breath in, terrified)

Cal: “When I touch you like this”

(He pulls her close him)

Cal: “When we embrace...when we make our love....”

(Her eyes widen....staring at him)

Cal: “Am I not closer to your heart?....I would have it...(pause, a smile) “...no other way”

(She beings crying....)

Dez: “I’m running out of questions”

Cal: “Then let me give you answers”

(He pulls her close, kisses her, firm but soft..she can feel his body against hers, feel his heart quicken as they kiss...then her hands reach around his head, grab his hair, and pull his mouth closer to hers, and the kiss becomes more.....Both of them emit a small whine, evidence of their feelings..The kiss ends....Cal looks at her, his eyes filled with gold flecks...hers wide open...)

Dez: “My legs are weak”

(Cal says nothing....)

Dez: “This is where you’re supposed to say something sweet...”

(He surprises her, pulling her close again, the kiss starting from the strong end, and staying there....It ends....)

Cal: “Do you have any more questions?”

(All Dez can manage is a shaking of her head)

(They are both interrupted by familiar voices yelling across the pasture….)

Nell: “BARFERS!”

Bishop: BARFERS!”

(Dez blushes, hides her face in Cal’s chest, then just like a little girl...she giggles)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens with Gibbs and Caprice walking in the front yard of the Thomas House, her arm through his...)

Caprice: “Hey soldier”

Gibbs “Hey back”

Caprice: “Can I ask you something?”

Gibbs: “I’ve never seen them before today...”

Caprice; “Except Helen”

Gibbs: “Except Helen...yea...”

(Gibbs looks off, thinking)

Gibbs: “They told me who they were...”

Caprice: “Was it a good thing?”

(Gibbs stops walking, he looks back over the Reception crowd, sees Helen and her family sitting at a picnic table, eating with the Marines that were serving food)

Gibbs: “Yea...it was”

Caprice; “Are you going to tell me?”

(He pulls her arm closer....)

Gibbs; ‘Yea...walk with me”

(scene shifts to Bishop, Torres, and McGee, watching Caprice walk with Gibbs)

Bishop: “She didn’t know”

McGee: “But she wants to know”

Torres: “She’s going to know”

Bishop; “But I don’t know”

McGee: “Probably never will”

Torres: “McGee! You trying to spoil my honeymoon! Don’t tell her that!”

Bishop: “Wait! He’s telling her!”

(Gibbs can be seen stopping, speaking to his wife....Caprice can be seen nodding her head...Gibbs talking more...Caprice’s mouth drops open...Her lips can be seen forming the words “NO WAY!”..Bishop yells out)

Bishop: “WHAT WAY?”

(Gibbs can be seen finishing...shaking his head...then he shrugs...Caprice hugs him, holds him....)

Bishop: “This is so wrong....”

McGee: “Sorry Bishop...you’ll never know”

Torres: “Thanks, Tim....my honeymoon....vanished into nothing....”

Bishop: “I will not rest until I know what they are talking about!”

(Torres looks up at the sky...shakes his head)

Torres; “You’re testing me...si?”

(They see SecState walking up, holding a squalling little Nickie....)

SecState: “I believe this little girl is hungry, momma”

(Bishop smiles, takes the baby, holds her to her chest....SecState takes the shoulder blanket from her arm, drapes it over Bishop’s shoulder, covering her chest...Bishop pulls down part of her gown, Little Nickie grows quiet, begins feeding...Torres watches, his eyes fascinated)

Torres: “Man...Bish...that is so cool...”

(Bishop grins at Torres....)

Bishop: “It is...isn’t it?”

Torres: “Yea...so so bueno...”

(Bishop sees her new husband staring at the baby feeding....she then sees his eyes move up to hers....McGee and SecState see, and slowly, quietly, walk away, leaving them alone...)

Bishop: “Nick...”

(He continues to stare at her...he speaks weakly)

Torres: “I can’t stop it....”

Bishop: “Nick...come here...”

(She pulls his face to her neck, holds his head close...)

Bishop: “Nick...show me...show me what you can’t stop...show me how I need to love you....Please....”

(He says nothing....but she can feel the tears falling on her arm....She closes her own eyes, and allows hidden things to fall away....And he feels tears falling on his arm....The baby feeds, content...it’s mother and father, content)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens with Nell and Dil walking towards the wedding venue, arm in arm...Nell still wearing her wedding gown, Dil still in his dress Marines....)

Nell: “Wow! I just met a lot of people!”

Dil: “They were curious”

Nell: “About what?”

Dil: “About you”

Nell: “Me?”

Dil: “Yea..you...in case you don’t know it, you’re gathering quite a reputation among the Marines, Navy, and other enforcement agencies”

Nell: “Oh yea..the nerd girl boy body funny dressed drone geek”

(Dil chuckles....)

Dil: “The woman I married is a bonafide badass....intel reports show that our enemies are changing their defense systems to prepare for you”

(Nell laughs)

Nell: “That’s stupid...Even I don’t know what I’m going to do!”

Dil: ‘That’s what’s driving them crazy...they don’t know how to fight you”

Nell“I don’t want to talk about this....”

Dil: “Good...neither do I”

Nell: “I want to talk about our honeymoon”

Dil: “What honeymoon? We’re staying home...same as the others...”

(Nell stops walking, looks around her....smiles...)

Nell: “This...all this....it’s paradise...I don’t want to go anywhere else....”

Dil: “It is to me too...I’m good”

Nell: “Are you sure? I know you said it was okay, but surely you want to go somewhere....”

Dil “It’s paradise...remember?”

Nell: “Stop it, don’t be silly...you’ve lived here for years...”

(He looks around, looks at her...then up at the hills....)

Dil: “It became my paradise when I learned to look at it through your eyes”

(Nell looks at Dil, surprised by the words....He looks over the pasture, then down at her)

Dil: “You are my paradise”

(she continues to stare at him)

Dil: “I need you to be happy...It’s what I live for now”

(She slowly nods, still awed..Dil drops his head...closes his eyes)

Dil; “It’s all I want...you..our baby...to be safe, happy...If somehow I can manage something even close to that...I’ll have lived the life I want”

(Nell can’t hold it...she breaks.....Her hands fly up to her mouth....)

Nell: “DIL!..What are you doing to me?...I’m so happy..!”

(He looks straight at her, his face is strong...resolute...His eyes flash with what looks like anger...She sees something else for the first time....and it stuns her...)

Dil: “I will protect you”

(Her thoughts process what she’s seeing)

Nell: (thoughts) “This is the warrior”

Dil: “I will love you..every moment of your life...”

Nell: (thoughts) “This is what an enemy sees when he faces them”

Dil: “Nothing will ever hurt you, or harm you, nothing....”

(she begins to nod her head...)

Dil: “And if anything tries...anyone tries...to hurt you or our baby....I swear to God above....”

(She recognizes now that what she's feeling isn't fear...It's awe...his enemies fear him...but they also believe him....and she believes him now...There is no kindness or sweetness in his eyes...)

Nell: (thoughts) "God..He's preparing to go to war"

(Dil's voice is calm, even, cold)

Dil: "I swear to God I'll rip their hearts out"

Nell: (thoughts) "He's going to war. For me...for our child"

(She stares at this man she loves...She places a hand on his cheek)

Nell: (whispers) "We believe you..You soft, strong, wonderful, dangerous man....."

(Her eyes close...then open)

Nell: (thoughts) "This is my husband. I am his wife. We go to war together"

(She replies, calm, resolute, firm....)

Nell: "We're married"

Dil: 'Yes...we certainly are"

Nell: "Then let's do this"

(Dill sees something in her eyes he's never seen before...an awe builds in him)

Dil: (thoughts) "This is a warrior...this is what her enemies never see..)

(She pulls him to her....There is nothing calm about the kiss she gives him)

(scene fades out to her pulling him to her, surprising him)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens later at dusk....the guests have cleared....Gibbs and Torres walk over by the smokers....both of them lift the lids....nothing on the grill)

Torres: "Gibbs! Where did the food go?"

Gibbs: "I guess the Marines invaded and took it....damn...."

(Both of them stop...they hear a rumbling coming from in the bushes behind the smokers....They both walk carefully to them, looking....Torres reaches it first....he looks behind the bushes, shakes his head...He looks back at Gibbs....)

Torres ‘Man...only in our family....”

(Gibbs comes over, curious....He arrives...looks where Torres points...his eyebrows go up....)

Gibbs: “Yea...”

(The scene moves to behind the bushes....Daisy and Kitty are both laid out on the ground, sleeping, snoring...dozens of chicken bones, rib bones, steak bones, and more, litter the ground around them...)

Gibbs: ‘Comatose”

Torres: “Yea...You know, I kinda wondered where she was”

Gibbs; “On top of the waterfall...watching the wedding....you know that”

Torres; ‘You saw?”

Gibbs: “Oh yea...hard to miss a mountain lion crashing a wedding”

Torres: “We’re buying the land”

Gibbs; “I know”

Torres: “We’re keeping Kitty”

Gibbs: “Uh huh”

Torres: “No lecture?”

Gibbs: “Nope”

Torres: “Why?”

(Gibbs shrugs...)

Gibbs; ‘She saved your life...you save hers...I talk to a mutt...what the hell am I going to say?”

(Torres stares at Gibbs for a moment...Gibbs turns to walk off...before he does...)

Gibbs: “Family, Nick....she’s family...as strange as it is, I get it”

(Torres smiles)

Gibbs; “But yea, Torres...it is weird....Even for you”

Torres; “For me? What?”

Gibbs: “It’s a mountain lion!”

Torres: “She’s nice!”

Gibbs; “She might eat you!”

Torres: “No man, she wouldn’t...I mean, she might tear an arm off playing, but you know, that happens...”

Gibbs: “NO TORRES! That does not JUST HAPPEN!”

Torres: “I don’t mean like a pet, I mean, you know, I’ll throw her a chicken here and there, maybe a big cat toy...make sure she has something to do”

Gibbs: “Take her to the vet?”

Torres: “What? For shots? No no no no..Bish can do that...I hate needles...anyway, Cal can do that...he’s a vet....”

(Gibbs thinks...shrugs)

Gibbs: “Yea...okay...that works for me. But it’s weird Torres...”

(scene fades out to Torres and Gibbs bantering about how weird having a mountain lion is)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Helen’s office, deserted except for her and a few others in the building..The nameplate on the desk says, “Helen Butler – Family"...She smiles at the nameplate, a gift from a mystery friend.. She sits down, starts to pull up the memos she’ll be sending on her computer...To the right of the screen, on her desk, sits a picture frame. In the frame the picture she remembers well, her family after church one Sunday. She is in the picture, next to her is John, her son...next to John, Marion, his wife, and on the other side of John, John Jr stands...She stares at the picture, and remembers....)

20 Years Ago

(scene opens in Balboa Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Ca....A young soldier lies in the bed, tubes running out of his arm....Helen sits by the bed, waiting for her son to wake up....She looks at the sheets, and can see one leg stretching down under them, and the other leg....gone, from the thigh down....She holds back the tears....he is stirring....)

Helen: “John....John honey, it’s me...”

(The soldier blinks his eyes....then focuses on her....)

John: “Mom....How....?”

Helen: “Your commanding officer called me honey...He told me you were being transferred here from your station post in Iraq...”

(John stares at the ceiling, his face shows pain)

Helen: ‘Honey....does it hurt..?”

John: “They cut my leg off mom...”

Helen: “I know...but you’re here...my son is alive....”

(John blinks...then he looks at his mother....)

John: “I shouldn’t be...”

Helen: “John, don’t say that!...Don’t go there!”

(He shakes his head...)

John: “No mom...that’s not what I mean...I mean..I shouldn’t be alive...”

Helen: “Son...?”

John: “Mom...it was a nightmare...my unit, we were holed up in one of those mud huts shepherds use...nothing but stone walls, open holes for windows, and a roof...We were at the base of a mountain..it was the worse place we could be...It was tailor made for an ambush...But no one would listen...”

Helen: ‘You don’t have to talk about it John....”

John: “I have to! I have to find him!”

Helen: “Find who? Who, son?”

(He lays back, thinks....and remembers)

John: “We were under fire...Taliban, dozens of them..They were in the hills next to us, hiding...then they came like locusts....We fought...Mom, we fought hard...There were 4 of us in there...We’re radioing for help, for backup....”

Helen: “Oh god honey....”

John: “Problem was, we weren’t supposed to be there...Some politicians made some deal with some idiot who promised a truce....but they didn’t honor the truce..My unit was called in to just take a look at their forces, determine if they were getting ready for a battle...So mom...no help came...”

Helen: “John...your friends..what happened..?”

John: “One man came mom....We were in the middle of a firefight, they were starting to swarm the hut....We couldn’t stop them....Then one of their men got shot..then another....No one, not even us could tell where the shots were coming from....”

Helen: “Who....who did this?”

(He shakes his head...)

John: “I don’t know...but I know that night, I knew, I was going to die...My soldiers were dead...all of them...My leg was shot to shit, mom...(pause) “Sorry...But I was alone, waiting, bleeding out..and the only friend I had was a mystery soldier...It was dark, and I knew they’d come to kill me.....”

(Helen throws her hand to her mouth, tears flowing...her son keeps talking)

John: “I was ready to die mom...and funny thing...all I could think about was you....How would you take it?”

(He pauses....his mother cannot speak)

John: ‘Then a monster comes into the hut...I didn’t hear him, he was just there....”

Helen: “A...monster...?”

John: “Yea...I thought it was some demon coming to pull me into hell....But it wasn’t...it was the a sniper..Blacked out face, Gilly suit...shreds of cloth made to blend in with the sand...It was a sniper suit...He didn’t talk...But he pulled out a first aid kit, put a tourniquet on my leg, patched the wounds...He didn’t say one thing the whole time...Then he pulled out a morphine syringe, hit my leg with it, and finally said something”

Helen: “John...what...”

John: “This is gonna hurt soldier..”

(John closes his eyes, keeps talking)

John: “Then he picked me up, slings me over his shoulder, then took me out of the hut, along side the wall to hide us, then he began to trot...”

Helen: “With you on his shoulder?”

John: “Yea...I’m out of it, but my head’s hanging down his back...I saw the sand go by my eyes, and I knew we were going up dunes, then around rocks...He kept trotting...He never stopped, not once....I found out later he carried me for 2 miles...He spotted a convoy...He fired a shot into the air, put me down on the ground, and waved his arms....Then he popped me on the back of the head, and just said...”Live”...Then he was gone...”

Helen: “Oh my god, son! Who was he? How do I thank him?”

John: “The convoy that picked me up denied anyone was there....They told me I was hallucinating....but mom, I didn’t hallucinate my leg!”

Helen: “I don’t know what to...to say...”

(He looks at his mother, his face pleading...)

John: “You’re going to work for Aunt Loretta...in the government...You can find him mom....you have to find him!”

Present Day

(scene shows Helen at her desk, staring at the family she has....Her pride, her joy, all there because of one man..)

Helen: “I found him, son”

(She picks up the frame, pulls the back cover off....Behind the black felt backing, there is another picture...It shows her young John, his pretty young wife, Marion, and a baby....She flips the picture over, and reads her own handwriting..)

Christening Day...John Jethro Butler Jr, 4 weeks old

(She smiles at the memory....puts the picture back, places the frame on the desk)

Helen: “Jethro Gibbs....your family is bigger than you think....Today I got to tell you...Thank you for all the joy I have in my life...Bless you, Jethro Gibbs”

(scene fades to black and white, the picture of her and her family, fading out)

THE END