Season 35, Episode 6, Part 1

“The Lost Children”

(scene opens daytime in the D Ranch pasture, Dil holding the eagle, perched on his gloved hand. Nell waits, drone control box in hand, smiling, bouncing on her toes...)

Nell: “Dil! Hurry!...”

(scene shifts to side, Torres and Bishop standing, watching, both shaking their heads..)

Bishop: “That bird’s going to attack that drone...”

Torres: “I don’t know, Bish...maybe we need to make sure no kids come out...”

(Bishop turns, looks at Torres, curiously...)

Torres: “You know...like I think that bird’s been alone for a long time...and that drone probably is gonna look like an eagle hottie....”

(Bishop rolls her eyes...)

Torres: “And she might be, like...you know...”

Bishop: “Nick...”

Torres: “Yea?”

Bishop: “You are such a pig”

(Torres shrugs...)

Torres: “Just keepin’ it real, Bish....”

Bishop: “There is no way we’re about to see some eagle drone mating dance...”

(Both turn...Tali walks out of front door of main house..Bishop yells out..)

Bishop: “TALI!...GO BACK INSIDE!...”

(Tali, shocked, runs back inside..slams the door...Torres looks at Bishop...waits...)

Bishop: “Just in case”

(scene shifts to Nell, waiting...Dil comes up with Amare...)

Dil: “Nell...this bird is going to destroy that drone....you know that...”

Nell: “No she’s not!...She’s a sweet bird!...”

(Dil looks at the sharp beak..then at the talons on his hand...)

Dil: “Uh huh...oh yea...she’s a softie....”

(Nell pushes toggle...small drone propellors start spinning....drone lifts off ground...)

Dil: “Here you go girl....Show us what you got...”

(Dil raises his arm....Amare turns her head...looks at Dil...)

Dil: “I’m not trying to run you off...Don’t look at me like that...”

Nell: “Amare honey....you need to fly....your wing is fine...”

Dil: “Nell baby...this bird doesn’t know what the heck you’re....”

(Amare turns to Nell...squawks...)

Nell “That’s right...don’t be afraid....”

(Amare turns back to Dil...squawks again...Dil pulls head back...frowns...)

Nell: “Amare...watch your language...”

(The large bird looks down at the hovering drone....)

Torres: “Here it comes....she’s thinking like, “hey baby....how about we go back to my nest...”

(Bishop rolls her eyes again....shakes her head...)

(Nell pushes toggle more...drone rises....then climbs above them...Amare’s head jerks to follow the drone...then spreads her wings....)

Nell : “YES!...”

(The huge bird flaps, then rises up on the air....Nell pushes toggle, climbing the drone higher....Amare climbs....)

Nell: “Now...”

Dil: “What now?”

Nell: “Now this....”

(Nell pushes toggle...drone dives towards the ground...Amare gracefully swings over, wings wide, then tucks her wings, dives after the drone.....Nell smiling and laughing...Dil in disbelief)

Dil: “I don’t believe this...”

(Nell bounces....moves toggle...drone swoops low to ground, then climbs...Amare follows the drone, 10 feet behind....)

Dil: “Nell!...Climb and spiral down!...”

Nell: “You got it!....”

(Dil watches as the drone climbs....hovers....Amare reaches the drone...then drone starts spinning in spiral circles downward....Amare, wings wide, begins spiraling down, opposite direction...)

Nell: “THEY’RE DANCING!.....LOOK!.....”

(both drone and eagle continue downward, the eagle gracefully spiraling with the drone....)

Dil: “I DON’T BELIEVE THIS!....”

Torres: “Hey...they’re compatible....they both like to dance....”

Bishop: “Pig”

(Front door of house opens...Tali pokes her head out....Bishop sees her...)

Bishop: “Come on out Tali...I think it’s safe...”

(Tali walks out....looks at the eagle...face in awe....)

Tali: “She is so beautiful!...”

(Amare’s head suddenly turns towards Tali....the bird breaks off, swoops down....lands on roof over Tali’s head....Tali looks up....Amare looking down at her...)

Tali: “She came to see me!...”

(Dil watches....thinks....then..)

Dil: “Tali...go inside and ask Danny to leave through the back door...then have him come around the side of the house...I want you to come out the front”

(Tali looks up again...)

Tali: “Do not go away!...I will be right back”

(The eagle looks at her...squawks...Tali runs inside...)

Nell; “Dil? What are you doing?”

“He has a sense for something...”

(They turn...Cal standing beside them...Dil looks at Cal, surprised...)

Dil: “Cal..how long have you been standing there?”

(Nell grins at Cal)

Nell: “He poofed”

(Cals smiles...shrugs....then looks at the side of the house...Danny walking around corner...)

Cal: “We shall see now...”

(Dil looks at Danny...)

Dil: “Danny...walk away from the house...go into the pasture....”

(Danny, confused...starts walking....Tali exits out the front door....)

Tali: “He is out!...”

Dil: “Stay right there, honey....i want to see something...”

(Everyone waits....watches Amare...The bird turns her head towards Danny...spreads wings, lifts off....climbs....then lands on the white rail fence, watching both Danny and Tali....)

Dil: “I knew it...”

(Nell looks at Dil...sees big grin on his face...)

Nell: “Dil? You knew what?”

(Dil looks at Torres...Torres shrugs...)

Torres: “I think you’re right, amigo....”

Nell: “You’re right about what?”

(Dil looks at Cal...Cal nods...)

Cal: “It appears you are correct, my brother...”

(Nell’s eyes widen...looks at Dil in awe....)

Nell: “She isn’t”

Dil: “I think she is”

(Nell calls out to Danny)

Nell; “Danny honey!...Go back behind the house!...”

(Danny looks at her...shrugs....walks behind house....)

Dil: “Now we’ll see...they’re both out of sight...”

(Amare looks at Danny walking away....then looks at Tali...spreads wings, flies off fence, climbs, begins circling the house, back to front, back to front, her head pointed down...)

Nell: ‘SHE IS!....”

(Torres grinning...)

Torres; “She’s Kitty with feathers....”

Bishop: “Nick?...Is that bird watching out for Danny and Tali?”

Torres: “I don’t know...but it looks like it...”

(Nell bounces again, laughing...)

Nell; “She’s guarding the children!....Look at her!....”

Dil: “Only one way to tell if she’s a protector...”

(pause)

Dil: “Torres....”

(pause)

Dil: “Go slap the fire outa Tali.....let’s see if Amare attacks you...”

Tali: “UNCLE DILBERT!....”

(Dil smiles....Tali frowns...)

Tali: “That was terrible!...”

Bishop: “Dil...you go....just pretend....”

Tali: “NOW YOU ARE TERRIBLE AS WELL!...AUNT ELLIE!...”

Torres; “Hey Tali....fall down...you know...like you fainted....”

(Tali looks at Torres...eyes narrow...)

Tali: “Is someone going to slap me?”

Torres: “No...not with your mom and dad looking out the window...like, if someone did, they’d have a lamp busted over their head or a Ninja star stuck in their chest....”

Bishop: “NICK!...”

(Tali smiles...)

Tali: “It would be both...they are very protective of me...”

(Ziva opens door...pokes head out...)

Ziva: “Tali...pretend as if you were fainting....”

Tali: “Yes mommy...”

Ziva: “But how do you do it?”

(Tali nods...)

Tali: “Elegantly....”

Ziva: “Thank you, sweetheart...it is never too young to learn...”

(Tony pokes his head out...)

Tony: “Remember Bette Davis?”

(Tali smiles...nods....Tali turns to everyone....)

Tali: “Elegant fainting....”

(Tali throws back her head...back of hand to forehead...in weak fake British voice...)

Tali: “Oh...I think I am fainting....”

(Tali dramatically crumples the ground....lays still....Everyone’s eyes wide...)

(loud squawk....)

(Amare takes off...flies to Tali...lands by her head....The bird moves her beak down...nudges Tali’s hand....Eyes wide everywhere....Amare turns to Dil....emits 3 loud squawks....)

Dil: “Coming girl....It’s okay....”

(The bird backs up several steps....Dil approaches...)

Dil: “Tali...you can get up now...”

(Tali responds, fake British accent...)

Tali: “I do believe I am still alive....”

Dil: “Get up, drama queen....”

(Tali looks at Dil...surprise on his face...)

Tali: “OH!..Sebastian..You came back....that must mean you still love me....”

(Tony and Ziva heard laughing through cracked door....Bishop yells out)

Bishop: “If he left once, he’ll do it again!...Kick him to the curb, Tali!...”

(Dil looks at Bishop, disbelief...then...)

Tali: “But we are over...it was a beautiful thing we had....but it is over....”

(Tali slowly gets up...Dil still looking at her with disbelief...)

Bishop: “That’s my girl!....You’re a strong independent woman!...You don’t need a man!...”

Dil “What the heck?”

Torres: “Tali!...He’s rich!...”

(Tali looks at Dil...)

Tali: “But I may forgive you....buy me something....”

Bishop: “YOU GO GIRL!...”

Dil: “WHAT?”

Tali: “Sour sticks....I must have those from you to prove your love....”

(Amare starts squawking....looks at Tali....)

Dil: “Tali...bend down...let her know you’re okay....”

(Tali drops to her knees....)

Tali: “Thank you dear one...I am fine...”

Nell: “This is too cool!....We have another protector!...”

(Dil takes off the leather glove...hands it to Tali...)

Dil: ‘Put it on, honey....then lift your arm up...”

(Tali pulls large glove over hand and forearm....she lifts her arm...Amare flaps...then lands on Tali’s arm, folds wings...)

Tali: “LOOK!....”

(The bird looks at Tali...soft chirp....)

Nell; “Tali...she’s telling you she loves you....”

(Tali looks at the eagle in awe...)

Tali: “I love her too!...And she is light!...”

Dil: “Mostly air and feathers, honey...she might weigh 15 pounds at the most”

(Tali stands...holds arm out further...)

Tali: “Fly, beautiful bird!....”

(Amare flaps...then flies to Nell....lands at her feet...looks up at her...)

Nell: “Hi, you wonderful bird, you...”

(Tali runs over...gives Nell glove....Nell puts glove on...holds arm out...Amare flies upwards, higher....begins flying in circles over Nell...then comes down, flaps wings, Nell drawing her head back...the bird lands on her glove..Nell overwhelmed....)

Nell: “I’m about to have a crying fit...”

Dil: “No...you have a pet eagle....”

(Dil shakes his head...)

Dil: “Pet eagle...pet mountain lion...pet wolf dog...”

(pause)

Dil: “No wonder people ask who the hell we are...”

(Nell smiles...looks at Dil...)

Nell: “We are a magical family on a magical land with magical animals....”

Tali: “YES!...This is both Happy World and Magic World!...”

(sound of car heard....they turn....Sheriff’s car seen coming down entry road...)

Tony: “Sheriff Simms...”

Ziva: “Do you think it has to do with what happened at the store?”

(Car comes to a stop..Simms gets out, Deputy Brad Ellis with him....they both walk towards Dil...)

Tony: “I don’t think so....”

(scene shifts to Simms....looks at Dil...)

Simms: “We need your help, Captain Bosworth....We need it bad....”

(Simms looks over at Tali....)

Simms: “We need her help too”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Oval Office...Loretta puts the phone into the cradle...looks at Simon, shakes her head, disbelief...)

Simon: “It’s official?”

(She nods...)

Loretta: “Senator Mark Thymes, Speaker of the House, has officially filed papers with the Federal Court...”

Simon: “He wasn’t Speaker when you took the job...”

Loretta: “Well he is now, and he’s claiming I'm here as President temporarily, and the Speaker, next in succession after my last VP....”

(silence...then)

Simon: “Bob got caught up in the Russian radiation scare....”

Loretta: “And was deemed unfit to serve as Vice President...hell..he was unfit to serve dinner....”

Simon: “Which puts Thymes as the next President....”

(Loretta says nothing...looks off...then..)

Loretta: “The hell with it....They can have it....This position has cost me nothing but grief in my life.....and dammit!...Every @#$#@% politician in this town either hates me, resents me, or wants to use me!...I’m fed up!...”

(looks at Simon...frustrated...)

Loretta; “I can’t eve get married without some @#$@$@%@$ Congressional approval!...”

Simon: “Ma’am....”

Loretta: “I’ve done the best I could!...I didn’t want this position!...I wanted a life!...”

Simon: “Ma’am...please....”

(Loretta gets up...walks to a picture on the wall of Kennedy...)

Loretta: “At least he had sex while he was President...”

(thinks...then..)

Loretta: “He had a lot of sex....”

(walks back to desk....pulls pen out of holder...)

Loretta: “Where’s paper....?...I can’t even get paper....I don’t even know if this damn pen writes!...”

(Simon leans forward...places his hand over the pen...)

Simon: “LORETTA!.....STOP IT!”

(Loretta freezes...looks at Simon in shock....)

(Simon, hand still on Loretta’s, scowls..voice angry.)

Simon: “50% of Washington D.C. is waiting for you to screw up!...40% pat your back and you have to look for the knife!..The other 10% know what a good job you’re doing and will fight for you to the end!....But...”

(Loretta stares at Simon...still in awe...)

Simon: “Out of 329 flipping people in the United States of America, 260 million of them think you’re doing a hell of a job!....”

(pause...Simon takes a breath...jabs a finger at Loretta)

Simon: “That’s who you work for!....Those are the people that count!...Not the #@@#@$%$ Congress, not the #%@^%@#^& Senate....THE PEOPLE!...”

(Simon slumps back in his chair..calms.)

Simon: “Respectfully, ma’am...”

(Loretta looks towards the far wall...Agents Evans and Garcia stand, faces blank...)

Loretta: “Gentlemen?”

(Garcia looks straight ahead...then calmly)

Garcia: “Bravo”

(Evans, straight face...impassive voice)

Evans: “You go boy..”

(Loretta looks at Simon....leans back, crosses her arms...)

Loretta: “I threw a tantrum....Didn’t I.....”

Simon: “Yes ma’am”

(Loretta stares at Simon....silence....then calmly...)

Loretta: “Well... shit”

(Garcia and Evans burst out laughing....compose themselves...go back to looking straight ahead...)

Loretta: “You’re the lawyer, Donald....what do I...”

Simon: “Loretta...call Leon back from Russia...He’s spread enough good will to the ones that matter and pissed off the ones that don’t by now...”

(Loretta nods...scrunches face)

Loretta: “I miss Leon”

Simon: “I know you do....but for right now...”

(pause)

Simon: “You know what to do...”

Loretta: “She just had a baby, Donald.....she’s on leave...”

(Simon says nothing....looks at Loretta...)

Simon: “10%”

(Loretta thinks..then nods...)

Loretta: “She’s part of that 10%...is that what you’re saying?”

Simon: “Why don’t you find out”

(Loretta hesitates...hits speaker button on desk phone....)

Loretta: “Helen...get me Destiny Nuncio please....”

Helen: “She’s holding for you, madame President...line 2”

(Loretta looks up at Simon...Simon shrugs...Loretta hits blinking line button....)

Loretta: “Dez...I need some help...”

(Dez talks, rapid fire)

Dez: “I’m almost done preparing the denial of constitutional jurisdiction, and Judge Coronado is next up for Executive hearings. The court will hear the presentation tomorrow, Judge Coronado will accept them, because he has to, but one thing’s for sure, Madame President....”

(Loretta waits...looks at Simon, wide eyed...)

Dez: “When I get through with Senator Big Dog Squatting Thymes, there won’t be enough left of him to run for city council”

(silence....then...)

Dez: “I assumed that’s what you want me to do....right?”

(Loretta, blank face, nods)

Loretta: “Uh.....yes....”

Dez: “I’ll handle it then”

(pause)

Dez: “You handle the presidential stuff....I’ll handle the assholes...Bye..got work to do. See you tomorrow”

(phone dial tone heard over speaker....Loretta looks at Simon, shock on face...)

Simon: “Well?”

(Loretta says nothing...then...)

Loretta: “Well shit!..”

(Garcia and Evans burst out laughing again.....Loretta starts laughing....Simon smiles....)

Loretta: “Yay for the 10%!”

(Simon shakes his head, still smiling...Loretta thinks...then, curiously)

Loretta: “Big Dog Squatting?”

(Garcia and Evans burst out again)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at The D Ranch, back patio, Dil, Nell, Tony, Ziva sit on one side, Sheriff Simms and Deputy Ellis sit across...Tali seen in olive tree orchard, walking, looking back at them...)

Simms: “The two parents...Wyatt and Ann Dunn...good people, raising their children right....then..)

(Simms stops...)

Brad: “They were the victim of a home invasion....The parents were beat up pretty bad, but the husband has some grit....”

Simms: “Problem is the two kids saw it all happen....One of the men beat the hell outa that woman....”

Brad: “That was a month ago...the family’s pretty tight....Mr. Dunn is with the Park Service, so is Mrs. Dunn...”

Nell: “How old are the twins?”

Brad: “8...Sandra and Reginald...They go by Sandi and Reggie....”

Simms: “The therapist for the kids decided they needed some time away...That family likes to camp...Mom and dad have taught those kids a lot of things...”

Brad: “Which gives us hope...The kids’ backpacks weren’t in the tent, and according to the parents, those back packs were full of jerky, some sealed food, pretty much survival gear...We’re hoping those children took those packs with them”

(silence...)

Dil: “Why’d the children run?”

Simms: “Two men attacked the parents while sleeping....those kids were in the tent...)

Nell: “Oh no...they saw it happen again...”

(Simms nods)

Simms: “Yes ma’am...Those two men did a job on those two people...they’re still in the hospital....”

Dil: “The children ran....”

Simms: “Yes...from what we could get out of the father, his last words to his kids were to run and not stop running...”

Brad: “We picked up their trail....it wasn’t hard...but they headed over the ridge onto your side of the mountain...”

(Dil looks up...concerned...)

Dil; “Where on our side?”

Brad: “North Foggy Point...”

(Dil lets out a long breath...)

Dil: “They call it that for a reason....it’s got an elevation of 6500 feet...that’s almost a mile up...”

(pause)

Dil: “Fog covers the peak about 90% of the time....”

Brad: “Thicket covers the rest...We tried to get our men in there....”

Dil: “If you don’t know that part of the mountain, you get 20 feet into those woods and you’ll lose your sense of direction...”

Simms: ‘Doesn’t help that the ridge blocks cell signals....when you go up there, it’s like...”

Dil: “Travelling back in time....yea...I know...”

Simms: “Captain...you know those mountains...”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “Every inch”

(silence...Nell looks at Dil...)

Nell; “Honey...what if they were one of ours..”

Dil: “I’m going, Nell...”

(He puts a hand on Nell’s...nods...)

Dil: “I’m going...”

(Nell picks up hand..kisses it)

Nell: “Thank you”

(Dil thinks...)

Dil: “Their parents are park rangers..?.”

Simms: “Yes”

Dil: “Then they’ll head for water....that’s the first thing they teach when you’re lost...”

Brad: “Is there water up there? There’s nothing on the maps”

(Dil nods)

Dil “There are 4 spring fed waterfalls...they feed into each other....then they disappear into crevices right below...that’s why those falls aren’t on any maps”

Brad: ‘Could those kids make it to those falls?”

Dil: “Yes. All four are in a canyon...the noise echoes pretty loud and might draw them...plus once you get 50 feet into that forest area, it’s still thick...but it’s top cover...there’s about a 15 foot ceiling from ground to low limbs...It’s called a canopy forest for a reason”

Nell: “Helicopters?”

Dil: “Can’t see down in the trees...Dez and I have flown it....plus the winds....”

Simms: “Storm on the other side, Captain....those winds are coming over the top at 60...70 miles an hour”

Dil: ”Fast enough to push a small chopper around like a leaf in the wind”

Simms: “So...you’ll go?”

(Dil nods....Brad looks at Simms...)

Dil: “What?....”

Brad: “Seems those two kids won’t come to adults....They’ve been traumatized twice in 30 days...Two of my boys think they got close to ‘em....they heard the kids start screaming and running deeper into the forest...”

(Dil nods...)

Nell: “Well..do you blame them?”

Simms: “No ma’am..I don’t...but that doesn’t help us out any....that’s why....”

Ziva: “No”

(pause)

Ziva: “You want my Tali to go....do you not?”

Simms: “Yes ma’am...that girl of yours is mature beyond her age...and she’s as fine a horsewoman as any adult...”

Dil; “She’s a pasture rider...”

Ziva: “And what of the two men that did this? They are still out there!....I will not put my daughter at risk!..Only 5 days ago!...She was hurt by.....”

Simms; “Ma’am...those two men you’re talking about are taking long naps in a refrigerator...”

(pause)

Simms: “One of ‘em...your husband killed with a tire plug....”

Brad: “You killed the other one ma’am...three shots to the chest...”

Tony: “Big Mike Sanders and Rocky Bedford?”

(Simms nods...)

Simms: “They escaped from the detention unit...they were trying to get over to this side of the mountain to meet Rocky’s brother. They ran across the family camping, thought they’d find some money...They’re the ones that messed up that couple”

(Ziva stands....)

Ziva: “Excuse me please...Anthony? Please...with me...”

(Tony stands...Ziva and Tony walk to Tali....the group watches, Ziva standing, talking to Tali....Tony talks....Tali nods at them both....then speaks..Ziva shakes her head...Tali pleads..Ziva looks up at Tony....)

(Ziva looks back at the group...hangs her head, hugs herself tightly...then nods...The three of them walk back up....Ziva stops...stares at Dil...)

Ziva: “Do you promise to take care of my Tali as if she were your own...?”

Dil: “You know the answer to that, Ziva...”

Ziva; “I would like to hear it”

(Dil cocks his head...looks at Ziva curiously...)

Dil: “She is my own”

(Ziva nods...then turns to Tali...)

Ziva: “Do you promise to do just as your Uncle Dilbert tells you...No back talk, no arguing...if he says do something, you will do it...If he says do not do something you will not do it....”

Tali: “Yes, mommy...”

(Tony looks at Simms)

Tony: “No bad guys out there...?”

Simms: “No”

Tony: “Just trail riding on rough ground, find the children, bring them out”

Simms: “That’s it”

Tony: “And you need our daughter to go in there, talk to them, and convince those two kids that it’s okay to come out of hiding...”

Simms: “Yes. If there was another way, I promise you Mr. Dinozzo...we wouldn’t be here right now”

Dil: “Ziva...there’s one thing...”

(Ziva looks at Dil...suspicious...)

Dil: “She’s going to have to carry a gun”

(Ziva’s face turns to disbelief)

Dil: “There are rattlesnakes, coyotes, and the wild hog breeding season was about 2 months ago...those things are pretty mean...even meaner when they’re protecting their young”

(Ziva calms....)

Ziva; ‘To protect against animals...that is it..?.”

Dil: ‘Maybe not at all...I’m just being careful”

Ziva: ‘A rifle...not a handgun...”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “I was going to put that 30-30 lever action Winchester in her scabbard...it’s light...shoots straight...can’t fire accidently unless you have the hammer cocked...It’s the safest gun there is”

Ziva; “She knows how so shoot”

Dil; ‘I know...you’ve taught her...I’ve taught her...Bishop and Gibbs have taught her...She’s good, but more importantly, she knows how to handle a rifle safely”

(Ziva turns...looks up at Tony...)

Tony: “She’ll be with Dil, Ziva...and it’s a trail ride...”

Dil: “It’ll take two days to get up to the falls...We can trailer the horses to the point lookout, then go up from there....two days up...two days down....”

(Tali looks up at Ziva)

Tali: “Mother?”

(Ziva turns to Tali)

Tali: “I want to help”

Ziva: “Tali....you are so young...”

Tali: “I am not too young to be in a burning car that horribly hurt my daddy...And I am not too young to be held by those terrible men... and my daddy...and you...had to rescue me....I am not too young to need help....and I need to do this....I need to help someone, Mommy...”

(Ziva looks at her..curiously)

Tali: “I am Tali...David...Dinozzo...My mother is a legend...my father is the bravest man I know. How can I be any less?”

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

Ziva: “Anthony....I am out of things to say”

(Tony kisses Ziva on the cheek...then kneels...)

Tony: “Come here, honey...”

(Tali walks to Tony...face pleading...)

Tony: “Your mother and me...we are so proud of you....but....”

(Tali’s face falls..)

Tony: “Do you understand the pain it would cause us if something happened to you?...Now....”

(He kisses Tali’s cheek...hugs her...)

Tony: “Listen to your Uncle Dil...do what he says....go help those children and help their mom and dad at the same time...”

Ziva: “That mother and father, my beautiful girl...they are grieving....they are so worried....”

Tali: “Then you can tell them we will have their children back in....”

(Tali looks at Dil...he holds up 4 fingers)

Tali: “4 days...We will be back...tell them we will have their children”

(Ziva lets out a sob...hugs Tali....)

Ziva: “Please stop growing up....”

Tali: “I promise mommy...the moment we get back, I will stop growing up...”

(Ziva laughs through the tears...wipes her eyes....)

Ziva; ‘You are so much my Mini-I...”

(Ziva stands...leans against Tony...he puts an arm around her...Ziva looks at Dil...)

Ziva: “It would appear you have yourself a cowlady, Dilbert....”

(Tali squeals.....)

Dil: “Would it make you feel any better, Ziva if you knew she was coming along?”

(They turn to the French doors...Gibbs and Caprice standing, Song leaning against Gibbs, then a bark.....Daisy runs to Tali...Ziva’s face lights up.)

Ziva: ‘Yes!...A thousand yes’s!...”

Dil: “I called Gibbs....seemed like a good idea...”

Simms: “I’ve got some clothes from the kids...”

Dil; ‘We will need them for Daisy to get the scent”

(Tony looks out over the pasture....)

Tony: “Hey Dil...I think there’s one more coming along....”

(They look out into the pasture...Kitty sits, staring at them....then she roars...)

Ziva; “I am both pleased and nervous....”

Dil: ”She’s a protector, Ziva....has been since the first day she came here...”

Ziva: “Yes...she has...and she has been a wonderful part of our family...I am okay...it is still a shock seeing a mountain lion accompanying my daughter...”

Simms: “You oughta see it from our side...”

(Ziva turns to Simms...the man is staring at Kitty...Kitty roars again...)

Ziva: “She is saying to hurry up...you are burning daytime....”

(Tony looks at her...then...)

Tali: “Daylight...we are burning daylight mommy....”

(Ziva looks at Talin in surprise)

Ziva: “You are correcting me as well?”

(Tali smiles...Tony shrugs...)

Ziva: “You are too much like your father...”

Tali: “I am just like my father...and my mother....”

(pause)

Tali: “I will make our family proud, mommy....I promise....”

(Ziva says nothing....then

Ziva; “Go, you little cowlady...go before your mother begins crying....”

(Ziva looks at Tony....he wipes his eyes...)

Ziva; ‘Stop it Anthony...you will make me cry...Now...go...you have much to pack and prepare....”

(Ziva looks at Dil...)

Ziva: “She is my heart...I give her to you....please...”

Dil: “My heart too, Ziva...I’ll make sure she’s okay...”

3 HOURS LATER

(scene opens on two lane road, Dil’s truck, pulling horse trailer, pulls to a stop on the side...Sheriff Simm’s car pulls in front...)

(scene shifts to back of trailer...Dil leads Cheyenne out, Tali leads Prissy out...Dil dressed in jeans, blue button up denim shirt, cowboy boots, black felt cowboy hat ...Tali in jeans, cowgirl boots, plaid long sleeve flannel shirt, rope coils seen hanging on side of both saddles...Daisy trots around Prissy...)

Dil: “You’re going to ride Prissy...”

Tali; “Uncle Dil!..But....”

(She stops..Dil looks at her...one eyebrow raised...)

Tali: “Yes, Uncle Dil...”

Dil: ‘Want to know why?”

Tali: “You do not have to tell me...”

Dil: “Look at Prissy’s hooves...and then look at Cheyenne’s hooves...”

(Tali looks..then at Dil)

Tali:L “Cheyenne is a much bigger horse...but Prissy’s hooves are wider...”

(Dil pats Prissy on the neck)

Dil: “Cheyenne is a war horse...he was bred for fast races, speed....See his legs? Long and thin, perfect for running, but bad for trail riding...She might spook and I can control her...I’ll teach you about that on the way...Now look at Prissy...shorter legs, wide hooves...Prissy is half Arabian and half Steppes...”

Tali: “What is Steppes?”

Dil: “The were bred in Mongolia, north of China...they were bred to be mountain horses, carrying packs, maneuvering on rough and loose ground....”

(pause)

Dil: “And she’s a soft ride horse”

Tali; “More comfortable?”

(Dil nods)

Dil: ‘A lot more comfortable...but she’s also carrying more gear than Cheyenne...Prissy has water, food for us and the kids, first aid kit, and our bedrolls...”

(He looks at Tali)

Dil: ‘That’s your job...when we find them, you’re in charge of talking to them, bring them food, water, any first aid they need....”

(Tali looks at Dil in surprise...)

Dil: “I’ll lead us in...and out..but while we’re there..those kids? You’re the trail boss, Tali..it’s up to you to make that happen....and I need you to accept and carry out that responsibility”

(Tali says nothing....then)

Tali: “I will do as you say”

Dil: “Good...I’m counting on you, Tali....so are those children”

(He walks to Cheyenne...turns to Tali...)

Dil: “There’s no room for a man and a child on this trip...We have things to do...it will be tough, and it will be hard...You...Tali...You’re not my niece on this trip...you’re my partner....”

(Tali’s eyes widen....)

Dil: ‘That too much for you?”

(Tali shakes her head back and forth....Dil walks to Prissy...slides the Winchester into rifle scabbard on side of saddle)

Dil: “Doesn’t matter how old you are, Tali...this gun doesn’t count birthdays...Remember that”

Tali: “Uncle Dil...you and everyone else has taught how to respect a weapon...I am not going to be some Annie Oaktree...”

(Dil looks away...grins...)

Dil: “Good..now go to the truck and say goodbye to your mother...i’m going to give my wife a kiss”

(scene shows Ziva hugging Tali....Nell hugging Dil...Nell kisses Dil, hard....Dil smiles...)

(scene shifts to Nell walking to Tali...)

Nell: “Take good care of my husband, Tali...”

(Tali nods...then smiles...)

Tali: “He says I am not a child on this trip...He says I am his partner...”

(Tali pause)

Tali: “But I know he was trying to make me feel good...”

Nell: “No Tali...”

(Tali stops...)

Nell: “When he said that...he meant it....Don’t even think any differently. Do your share...carry your load...You’ll do fine...Now, come give me a hug...)

(Tali hugs Nell...)

Tali: “Then I will take wonderful care of him....I promise Aunt Penelope...”

Nell: “WAIT!...You forgot something!”

Tali: “Aunt Penelope!...Uncle Dilbert is waiting!...”

(Nell leans over the truck seat....pulls out beige felt cowgirl hat...)

Nell: “You can’t be a cowgirl without one of these..”

(Tali’s eyes light up...)

Tali: “Thank you!...It is wonderful!...”

Nell: “Thank your mother, Tali...she ran to town while you were packing...”

(Tali runs to Ziva..hugs her...)

Tali: “Thank you, mommy!....I love it!...”

(Ziva places the hat on Tali’s head...looks at her, shakes her head...then softly, in awe....)

“How beautiful and brave you are...”

(She pats Tali’s shoulder..)

Ziva; “Now you are a cowgirl...”

Tali: “I am!....I love it!...”

(Dil’s voice heard)

Dil: “TALI!...WE NEED TO GO!...”

(Tali runs to Prissy....jumps...one foot slides through stirrup....Tali mounts the white horse...She turns..looks at Ziva...)

Tali: “I will make you proud...I promise”

(Tali expertly whips the reins on Prissy, Prissy dances in place, rears up slightly, Tali calmly in the saddle, then both horses and riders dig in...both seen loping up a slight grade.....they disappear into the forest...)

(Nell looks in the sky...Amare seen circling..Ziva sees....slight nod.)

Ziva: “And look to the ridge on the left...”

(They look...Kitty seen leaping from rock to rock, following the horses...)

Ziva; “Penelope?”

Nell: “Yes?”

(Ziva looks at Nell, smiles...)

Ziva: “Who are these people?”

(scene fades out to Nell and Ziva laughing...)

(scene opens opening of large cave, waterfall rushing over entrance, dirt floor.....scene shifts to inside cave, small girl sits on floor looking towards the entrance, fearful....young boy, pressing body against rocks, between falling water and side, slips into cave...girl says nothing, waits for the boy to speak...)

Girl: “They’re still out there...aren’t they...?”

(The boy says nothing...nods...)

Girl: “Reggie...what are we gonna do...?”

(Reggie walks to the girl...sits...two backpacks seen laying on dirt floor...the boy pulls one backpack to him, takes out small piece of jerky...)

Reggie: “I don’t know, Sandi...”

(The young boy and girl, sitting, lean against each other...)

Sandi: “I don’t either...”

(silence...then)

Sandi: “I’m scared....”

(silence....then)

Reggie: ‘I am too”

Sandi: “Will they ever go away?”

Reggie: “I don’t know...I hope so....”

Sandi: “They’re so mean...”

Reggie: “They’re just protecting their young, Sandi...dad said it’s normal...”

(silence..then)

Sandi: “Is it normal for them to chase us up the rocks into here?” i

(silence...then)

Reggie: “I don’t know”

(view shifts through water, rock ledge outside, sharp drop off,...clearing at bottom of falls...snarling and loud grunting heard....)

(view expands...pack of wild hogs seen, small baby hogs behind large tusked adults, coyotes standing on rocks, looking down at hogs, snarling, one male hog, larger than the others, paws ground with front hooves.... charges at a large coyote, squealing, long tusks lowering.....)

(scene shifts to inside cave, Sandi and Reggie sitting, holding each other, eyes closed tight...loud sounds of snarling and squealing echoing inside the cave)

(scene fades to black and white)

Part 2

(scene opens, daytime, inside cave, water rushing over opening.. 8 year old twins, Reggie and Sandi, stand just inside the cave entrance, listening....sound of water rushing heard...)

Sandi: “I don’t hear them....”

Reggie: “I don’t either”

(Reggie takes Sandi’s hand...)

Reggie: “Maybe they got tired and left...”

(The young boy takes a deep breath...)

Reggie: “I’m gonna go look...”

Sandi: “NO!...”

Reggie: “We can’t stay in here forever...”

Sandi: “We have food...it can last until someone comes for us...”

(Reggie turns around, looks inside the large, deep cave...)

Reggie: ‘No one knows where here, Sandi...Even if people came looking for us, they couldn’t see us...”

(The small girl squeezes her brother’s hand....)

Sandi: “Then just look...then come back in....be careful...”

(The boy slowly nods...)

Reggie: “Sandi...?”

Sandi: “Yes?”

Reggie: “I think I’m gonna be real careful....”

(The boy releases his sister’s hand...walks to the opening, presses his body against the wall of the cave entrance, then starts to slowly make his way outside onto the rock ledge.....)

(scene shifts to inside cave...Sandi watches...face scrunching....waiting...staring at the edge of the cave opening her brother disappeared out of....)

(scene shifts to cave opening...Reggie slowly makes his way inside, wet from waterfall....Sandi looks at him, expectant....Reggie’s face scrunches....)

Reggie: “It’s worse...There are coyotes....”

(scene shifts rocks leading up to ledge of rock wall leading to cave....several snarling coyotes stand, growling.....scene expands, herd of wild boars and young boars seen at bottom, tightly grouped, threatening grunts towards coyotes standing on rocks above them...)

(scene shifts to inside cave...Reggie and Sandi, sit on floor of cave, holding each other...both trying to hold back tears....Sandi leans back...)

Sandi: “We need to count our food...”

(pause)

Sandi: “Mom and Dad taught us...if we get lost...”

Reggie: “We’re sure lost...”

Sandi: “We survive...they told us, no matter what....stay alive....”

(Reggie remembers...)

Reggie: “And people will come for us...”

(Sandi nods...)

Sandi: “They always said to believe in people...that no matter what, even if there were bad people, there were good people that cared...”

(Reggie nods...wipes his eyes...reaches for his backpack...)

Reggie: “Okay....it’s better than crying, anyway...”

(scene fades out to the twins pulling plastic packages our of back pack, stacking them on the floor of the cave...)

(scene shifts to base of mountain, Dil and Tali riding on clear trail, slow lope, Dil slows, Tali moves Prissy beside him, both horses still loping...)

Dil: “We’re going to come up on a steep incline in about 3 miles...I want you to stop at the bottom before going up...Okay?”

Tali: “Of course....”

Dil: “You’re going to learn something...”

Tali: “Yes...please...”

Dil: “Do you remember when the Sheriff said you were a good horsewoman and I said you were a Pasture rider?”

Tali: “Yes...but I do not know what that means...”

Dil: “Flat land riding is different than trail riding...Up here, we’re going to run into loose dirt, steep hills, trees....you have to ride differently and there’s something else you’ll learn”

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

Dil: “You and your horse...if you don’t turn into one entity...one thing....then you and your horse are in danger”

Tali: “I do not understand!...What do you.....”

(Dil spurs Cheyenne...pulls ahead of Tali....Dil calls out)

Dil; “You’ll see”

(scene shows both horses, single file, loping up gradual incline....)

(scene shifts to trail, Dil brings Cheyenne to a fast stop, Cheyenne pawing the ground....Dil speaks softly..)

Dil: “Whoa, big fella....calm down...I know what you want to do, but not now...”

(Tali and Prissy come up...Prissy stops, calm....Dil looks at Tali)

Dil: “See the difference in our horses?”

Tali: “Yes...Cheyenne is quite eager...”

Dil; “And Prissy is calm....Why?”

(Tali thinks...then)

Tali: “She has the Step horse in her....”

(Dil grins...)

Dil; ‘Steppes...but you’re right...She comes from a breed of mountain horses...her DNA has memories of her ancestors climbing trail, navigating around obstacles, a hill like this one is old hat to her”

(Dil nods ahead...extremely steep hill, 100 feet up, rocks, loose ground, seen in front of them..Tali looks at the hill...)

Tali: “Cheyenne is eager to go up....”

Dil: “That’s because Cheyenne is a knucklehead...”

(Tali’s face shows surprise)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert!...”

(Dil reaches down, pats Cheyenne’s neck...)

Dil: “She’s a war horse, Tali...she’s fearless, brave, and sometimes that’s just plain stupid....”

Tali; “Because she may hurt herself....”

Dil: “Yes...She could...”

(Dil looks off in distance...staring deeper into the woods...then looks back at Tali)

Dil: “But if you and the horse become that one thing....Where it’s not about a girl on a horse, but a girl and horse together....That’s when it happens....”

(Tali looks at Dil, curiously....)

Dil: “You become a real horsewoman...”

(pause)

Dil: “And your horse lives”

(Tali’s face shows shock....Dil stares at Tali, saying nothing..then..)

Dil: “Do everything I tell you....It’s going to be hard, but Prissy is counting on you”

(Tali looks down at Prissy...rubs her neck...Prissy whinnies...Tali looks back up)

Tali: “We are ready”

(Dil grins....)

Dil: “We is the right word, honey....”

(pause)

Dil: “When you go up, you’re going to naturally want to lean back in the saddle, trying to look down at the ground beside you...”

Tali: “Yes!..”

Dil: “Prissy will do that honey....Trust her...Your job is to look up further....and you’ll do that by leaning forward, almost laying on the saddle horn...and...”

(pause)

Dil: “Keep a light tension on the reins...do not...listen to me...do not ever let the reins loose....It’s a signal to your horse that they can have their head....and that’s the most dangerous thing you can do...”

(Tali nods)

Tali: “Lean forward, keep reins firm, do not lean back...”

Dil: “Now watch me....”

(Dil yanks Cheyenne around, nudges her with his knees...The huge horse starts quickly up the hill....)

Dil: “WHOA!...SLOW DOWN....!”

(Dil, leaning forward, pulls slightly on the reins...Cheyenne raises and lowers his head, but slows...Tali watches horse and rider climb upwards...both weaving around rocks..Dil yells down to Tali...)

Dil: “LOOK FOR THE ROCKS!...THEY’RE LOOSE!...”

(Cheyenne moves around group of rocks...dirt gives way, several rocks tumble down the hill....)

Dil: “SEE?”

(Tali watches...focused...Dil reaches top of the hill, stops...swings Cheyenne towards her...places hands around mouth, yells down...)

Dil: “BRING HER UP!...”

(Tali nudges Prissy, holding the reins tight...)

Dil: “NOT TOO TIGHT!...JUST LET HER KNOW YOU’RE THERE!...”

(Tali loosens the reins slightly....the hill suddenly becomes steep....Prissy heads upwards, Tali’s eyes widen, she leans back....Dil cups his hands again...begins to yell...)

(scene shifts to Tali...immediately leans forward, both hands gently tugging the reins...Dil seen nodding, lowering his hands from his face...)

Tali: “I am here Prissy....do not worry...”

(Prissy bobs her head....climbs...Tali sees same rocks that tumbled...firmly pulls Prissy to the left, Prissy veers left....Tali bent over, focused on trail in front....)

(scene shifts to top of hill...Dil waits...Tali and Prissy reach the top....Dil grinning....Tali looks at him...)

Tali: “WE DID IT!....”

(Dil nods...smiling...)

Dil: “We is the right word, honey...You and Prissy worked beautifully together....and...”

(Tali waits...Dil grins...)

Dil: “Elegantly....”

(Tali smiles big...she pats Prissy’s neck....)

Tali: “Do you hear that, beautiful Prissy? We were elegant!...”

Dil: “But no fake drama fainting....okay?”

(Tali grins...nods...)

Tali: “I promise, Uncle Dilbert...if I faint, it will be real...”

(Dil looks at her curiously....Tali laughs...)

Tali: “No fainting, Uncle Dilbert...I promise...”

(Dil raises one eyebrow)

Dil: “I promise?”

Tali: “Prissy thinks if she drama faints, you will feel sorry for her and give her some of the sugar cubes you have hidden in your saddle bag...”

(Dil’s face shows surprise...Tali nods, serious face..)

Tali; “Of course I checked what you have in your bags....We are on a trail ride together, and we should both know what supplies the other has....”

(Dil says nothing....then..)

Dil: “When are you going to share your sour sticks?”

(Tali’s face shows surprise...mouth opens in shock...)

Dil: “We’re on a trail ride together...we should both know what you’ve got hidden inside your jacket pocket...”

(Tali frowns...)

Tali: “You are sneaky, Uncle Dilbert....”

Dil: ‘No...I’m your Uncle...and Uncles are special...”

(Tali nods...smiles...)

Tali: “Now...teach me to go down the hill....”

(Tali looks down...long, steep hill...loose ground, rocks, dead branches lay on the downward slope...Tali looks up at Dil...studies him...)

(scene shifts to Dil’s face...blank...he looks down the hill, then looks off towards the right into the forest...he holds the stare...then)

Tali: “What are you looking at?”

(Dil says nothing...then turns to Tali...)

Dil: “Up was easy...down is not....This is where it gets dangerous, Tali....listen to everything I’m telling you...then you’ll watch us do it....”

(Tali nods...)

Dil: “Going down, you lean back against the back of your saddle...keep both hands on the reins, like you’re holding bicycle handlebars, spread....and whatever you do...do not...repeat...do not let go of the tension on those reins.....”

(pause)

Dil: “If you do, it’s a sign to your horse for them to do what they want...”

Tali: “And they will want to run fast?”

Dil: “No...going down a steep hill like this is different...they don’t like it...and they get scared....and they bolt, honey....that’s different than running....it’s a panic run...”

(pause)

Dil: “It’s your job to remind your horse that you’re there...you’re watching out for her, that you will help them down the hill....”

(Tali thinks...then)

Tali: “To show I care about them...”

(Dil looks at Tali...then..)

Dil: “Yes”

(pause)

Dil: “Remember..Cheyenne has the longer legs...smaller hooves...I have to be extra careful with her going down a hill...Now watch...and if you don’t think you can make it after me, don’t be afraid to tell me...I’ll come back up and help you down...”

Tali: “Do not worry....”

Dil: “Tali....”

(Tali stops...)

Dil: “Don’t let your pride get Prissy hurt...if you want help, you tell me...okay?”

(Tali nods)

Tali: “I promise....”

(Tali pats Prissy's neck...)

Tali: "I would not put you in any danger, ever, ever, ever....Do you hear me?"

(Prissy bobs her head up and down...Dil nods...)

Dil: "Here we go...now watch..."

(Dil nudges Cheyenne....Cheyenne's eyes widen....)

Dil: "She's afraid....watch..."

(Dil leans forward...reaches up, rubs Cheyenne's ears....softly speaks..)

Dil: "I've got you boy....I'll lead you down...don't worry...."

(Cheyenne paws the dirt...Dil leans back in the saddle, tightens the reins...gives slight kick with his heels into Cheyenne's belly....)

(scene shifts to hill...Dil and Cheyenne slowly descending, Dil leaning back...tightens reins more...Cheyenne starts speeding up...)

Dil: "Whoa boy....slow down...that's it..."

10 MINUTES LATER

(Horse and rider slide, rocks tumble, dirt flows down hill.....hill begins to flatten..)

(scene shifts to bottom of hill...Cheyenne starts rearing up, prancing in place....Dil stays in saddle, loose reins....Tali calls down...)

"WHAT IS HE DOING?"

(Dil yells back)

"SHOWING OFF!...HE'S DRAMA POSING!...."

(scene shifts to Tali...whispers to self...)

"Lean back..tight reins...do not be afraid...."

(She nudges with her knees...Prissy starts down hill...)

(scene shifts to Dil...talking to self as he watches...)

"That's right...yes....look for those rocks....good...now..loose dirt..."

(scene shifts to Tali, dirt gives under Prissy...Tali tightens the reins....)

Tali: “It is okay!...”

(she softens her voice as they slide...)

Tali: “It is okay, Prissy...I am here....”

(Prissy passes loose dirt, finds solid ground...starts to bolt...)

Tali: “PRISSY!...NO!...”

(Tali leans back more, pulling reins tight....Prissy reins up...Tali leans forward, yanks reins back...)

Tali: “NO!...WE WILL BE CALM!....”

(Prissy stops on the steep grade...front hooves pawing ground...Tali leans forward...strokes the horse’s trembling neck muscles...)

Tali: “We are okay, pretty girl...you and me....we are doing it....Now, I need you to trust me...I will not let anything happen to you...”

(Tali leans back again...kicks with her heels...)

Tali: “Down!...”

(Prissy steps...then steps again...Tali seen leaning back, tight reins...pulling Prissy to the right, around rocks....brings her back to the center of trail...)

Tali: “Oh, Prissy....that was wonderful!...You are such a good horse!...”

(scene shifts to Dil..face awed...whispers...)

“I do not believe what I am seeing....”

(Tali comes to bottom of hill....Prissy stops...)

Tali: “Prissy? Do you not want to show off?”

(Prissy turns her head back...whinnies....)

Dil: “She’s telling you Thank you”

Tali: “You are most welcome, Prissy...”

Dil: “Well...it’s about time!...What have you two been doing?”

(Tali looks at Dil in surprise...)

Dil: “Not you...them....”

(Daisy seen running up...soaking wet...she stops...shakes...)

(mild roar heard...Dil and Tali look to the sound...Kitty sits on rock, wet, licking one paw...)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert!...Why are they wet?”

Dil: “Because they’re both bums....”

(Daisy barks...dances on front paws...Dil looks at Daisy...)

Dil: “Enjoy your swim?”

(Kitty roars...)

Dil: “Hey cat!...You’re not supposed to like water!...”

(Kitty goes back to licking paw...)

Dil; “I guess she didn’t get the memo....”

(pause)

Dil; “There’s a natural swimming hole almost a mile away....I guess they found it and had some fun”

(Daisy looks into the forest to right...sniffs...starts to walk towards the forest...)

Dil: “DAISY!...NO!...”

(Dil calms...dismounts...goes to Daisy...)

Dil: “Sorry girl...you don’t know...”

Tali: “Know what, Uncle Dil?”

(Dil thinks...then)

Dil: “That you just came down that big hill like someone that’s been doing it all their life....”

(Tali thinks...)

Tali: “Thank you Uncle Dilbert...it was scary....”

(pause)

Tali: “If you want to tell me...it is up to you...If you do not...that is for you to decide too”

(Dil looks at Tali...nods...)

Dil: “Later...We have some ground to cover before we camp...”

(Dil mounts...Dil and Tali seen loping on trail, Daisy following, Kitty in woods beside them...)

(scene shifts to sky....Amare gliding over the riders below....following...)

(scene shifts to black and white)

(scene opens in Federal Courthouse, small hearing room, judge’s bench, 5 rows of benches on each side of aisle...group of young men and women seen sitting, waiting...)

(scene shifts to rows...one young woman whispers...)

“There is no way you know Destiny Nuncio...That woman is off limits to people like us!...”

(scenes shows wheelchair on edge of aisle, Angela Hernandez sits...whispers back)

Angela: “I didn’t say we were good friends, woman...I just said I’d met her”

(The other girl rolls her eyes...)

Woman: “Oh yea..I forgot...top secret case, you can’t tell us or they’d kill us...yea...Right...”

Woman 2: “Maybe you met her when they handed you that free ride to school...”

(Angela glares....)

Angela: “I worked hard for that scholarship....That’s not fair...”

(Eyes turn to front of courtroom...Dez and Allison Simon walk in through side door...)

Woman: “That’s Allison Simon...Nuncio is grooming her...That woman is the luckiest girl in the world!...”

Woman: “How about it, Angela? You going to tell us you know her too?”

(silence...then)

Angela: “Just be quiet....we’re here to learn...”

Woman: “Oh yea..Georgetown pre law class...That’s why we’re here....”

(pause, sarcastic tone...)

Woman: “You think?”

(Angela looks forward...frown on face...)

(scene shifts to front attorney desk...Dez places papers on table...)

Allison: “Ma’am? Look...isn’t that...”

(Dez turns...sees Angela...smiles...)

Dez: “Sure is...that’s one sharp girl....”

Allison: “Looks like her fellow classmates are giving her a hard time...”

(Dez looks at Allison...then towards the young women....sees sarcastic looks on faces as they talk to Angela....Dez frowns...)

Dez: “Elitist bitches....I remember how they treated me..little orphan girl... when I was in school....”

Allison: “So.....?”

(Dez nods...)

Dez; “So damn right....”

(scene shifts to young women....eyes widen)

Woman: “Nuncio is walking this way!...”

Woman 2: “Yea, Angela!...Show us your stuff!...”

(Dez seen walking up aisle...looks at Angela...big smile...)

Dez: “Angie!...My god, it’s good to see you!...”

(Angela’s face, shock)

Dez: ‘Hey..Allie’s coming...hold on...”

(Allison walks up...leans down, hugs Angela...)

Allison: “Hey baby....When are you going to share what you’re doing with the FBI?”

Dez: “Absolutely!...And when are you coming back out to our house? My husband loves talking with you!..”

Allison: “Mrs Nuncio...Don’t we need....?”

(Dez thinks..nods...)

Dez: “I believe we do...”

(Angela looks up...shock...)

Angela: “What? You need...?”

Dez: “Someone that pays attention to detail...You’ve read this case?”

Angela: “Yes...I have the filings with me....”

(Dez looks at the other women, all wide-eyed...)

Dez; “Anybody else pull the filings?”

(All the women slowly shake their heads back and forth)

Dez; “Pity....but that’s what separates the good ones from the great ones....Research...”

(pause)

Dez; “Angie....come on...”

(Angela looks at Dez in shock...)

Dez: “You’re part of our team now....We need someone that can pull what we need right away...and it looks like...”

(Dez looks at the other women...)

Dez: “You’re the only one that came prepared...”

(Dez smiles)

Dez: “Plus you’re our friend....”

Allison: “Come on girl...nothing like jumping in the deep end the first time you come to court...”

Dez; “And this is the deep end....”

(scene shows shocked Angela wheeling chair towards the front, Dez and Allison following...)

(scene shifts to group of women on bench...all faces in disbelief...)

Woman: “Angela’s my best friend!...”

Woman 2: “Liar...you’re a bitch to her!...”

Woman: “And you weren’t?...Bitch!...”

(scene shows women scowling, arms crossed.. Young black man leans forward...)

Man: “I cannot tell you how much pleasure that just gave me”

(They look at the young man...scowl...)

Woman 2: “You would...”

(Young man leans back...small smile....Angela reaches front, looks back at the man...mouths...)

“OH MY GOD!...”

(The young man gives her a grin and a thumbs up...Allison watches...)

Allison: “Any of them nice to you?”

Angela: “Tobias Waters...his parents own a small chain of restaurants, really nice people...they can barely afford his tuition, but he insists on working at the restaurants to pay for the rest....He’s always been so nice to me...”

Dez: “He any good at this?”

Angela: “Oh my gosh, yes!...He’s a book nerd!...He reads legal dictionaries for fun!...”

Dez: “What’s his name again?”

Angela: “Tobias Waters....why?”

(Dez turns to the group...)

Dez; ‘Hey!...Which one of you is Tobias?”

(scene shifts to row of students...Tobias shows shock....slowly raises his hand...)

Dez: “Get your butt up here!...You and Angie can work together...!..”

(Tobias looks at Angela in shock....she smiles, waves him up.....Dez looks at the court reporter...)

Dez: “Sammi Jo...will you please enter Miss Angela Hernandez and Mister Tobias Waters as Document Review Assistance for the government?”

(Older woman gives small smile...nods...)

Sammi Jo: “I’d be glad to, Mrs Nuncio...”

(The older woman whispers to self...)

“Take that, bitches...”

(Side door opens...Judge Alfred Coronado, black robe on, enters....bailiff calls out...”

“HERE YE HERE YE HERE YE...ALL STAND!...”

(scene shifts to Judge Coronado sitting behind elevated area...he looks at the Plaintiff's table...sees Senator Mark Thymes, immaculately dressed, purple hankie in coat pocket...the judge turns to Dez...)

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio....Miss Simon...how wonderful it is to see you today...”

(Dez smiles...)

Dez; ‘Thank you, your honor...”

Judge: “You brought your checkbook?”

Dez: “No your honor...I plan on behaving myself today...It wont’ take long...the Plaintiff is acting as his own attorney, and we all know a man that represents himself has a fool for a client....”

(Dez stops...eyes widen...)

Dez; ‘Uh oh...”

(The judge smiles....)

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio....you may want to go get your checkbook....that one will cost you $500....”

(Dez hangs head...scrunches face...Allison leans to Angela and Tobias..)

Allison: “Coronado is good, fair, and lets you get away with a lot...but if you disrespect his courtroom, that man will come down on you like a ton of bricks...”

Dez “And I just let my smart ass mouth cost me $500....”

(pause)

Dez: “Take notes, guys...I may teach you as much about what not to do as much as what to do...”

Allison: “Lots of lawyers think it’s only about the case....but you have to work the judge just as hard...If you don’t, they can make life difficult for you...”

Dez: “And you will lose your case...no matter how good you are”

(Dez looks up...sees the judge staring at her…Dez nods to him...the judge nods back...Judge looks at Angela and Tobias...)

Judge: “And who are these fine looking young assistants of yours?”

Dez; “Pre-law at Georgetown, your honor...”

Judge; ‘You playing nurse maid now, Mizz Nuncio?”

(Dez firmly looks back at the judge...)

Dez; “They are capable and qualified to assist the United States government in this case, your honor....Both myself and Miss Simon vouch for them...”

(The judge smiles...looks at Angela and Tobias, both wide eyed...)

Judge: “Youngsters...your sponsor just stood up to me....Good for her...”

(pause)

Judge: “The good ones always do...”

(The judge looks at Dez...winks...Dez allows small smile..winks back...Judge looks at Angela and Tobias...)

Judge: “In case you were unaware, all penalty fines levied against the attorneys go to the Annual Federal Judges Appreciation Ball...”

(Dez shakes her head...blushes...)

Judge; ‘And Mizz Nuncio has personally allowed us to upgrade our menu and hire an actual band to play at the Ball....5 years in a row”

Dez; ‘Happy to help, your honor...”

Judge: “This year we’d like a nice ice sculpture, Mizz Nuncio....myself and my fellow judges are counting on that legendary mouth of yours to insure we have one this year”

(The judge grins...)

Dez: “Gosh, your Honor...I don’t know what to say...”

Judge: “I’m sure you’ll think of something, Mizz Nuncio...you are rarely at a loss for words”

(Judge turns to Senator Thymes...)

Judge: “Feel free for either you our your client to chip in, Senator...Which in this case is both...”

(Judge bangs his gavel...)

Judge: “Let’s get started....Senator Thymes...please state your case...”

(scene fades out to Thymes standing....begins describing the case...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens to Dil and Dez loping...Dil slows them to a trot....then holds his fist up in air...Cheyenne and Prissy come to a stop...)

Dil: “Tali...bring Prissy up alongside me...do not go any further...”

(Tali nudges Prissy forward....stops next to Dil...Dil points down the trail, 50 feet away...)

Dil: ‘Look”

(scene shows rattlesnake, coiled...Tali’s eyes widen...)

Dil: “Horses and rattlesnakes....it’s not a good combination...”

(Cheyenne starts to scrape front hooves into ground...)

Dil: “Cheyenne sees it...”

Tali: ‘Will it go away?”

Dil: “It’s coiled...that’s a defensive posture...no...it’s not going away”

(pause)

Dil: “We’re going to move closer..Maybe that will scare it away.....but no closer than 15 feet...”

Tali: ‘Why 15?”

Dil: “That snake is about 4 feet long...A rattlesnake can strike almost twice its length...and I want a pad”

Tali: “Can we not shoot it?”

Dil: “This is his land....we’re trespassing....you have to respect that”

Tali: “Then what do we do?”

Dil: “We go around...that’s what we do...”

(scene shifts to sky....Amare circling....then dives....)

(scene shifts to rattlesnake....head raises, tongue flicks....head rears back...)

(scene shifts to Amare swooping over their heads, snatching the snake in her talons, lifts the snake upwards, snake snapping its body, whipping in the talons....Amare seen releasing the snake, dropping it far into the woods....)

(scene shifts to Dil...disbelief....watches Amare soar into the air, circling...)

Dil: “Or we keep going straight ahead...”

(Dil looks at Tali..face in disbelief...)

Dil: “I know...I don’t believe that happened either...”

(Dil points forward on the trail....)

Dil: “Look in the bushes on each side of where the snake was...”

(Tali looks...Daisy comes out from the left side....Kitty comes out from the right....both dog and cat trot side by side, moving down the trail...)

Dil: “I don’t believe I’m seeing that either...”

Tali: “They are wonderful!...”

Dil: ‘Yea..maybe....”

Tali: “Why maybe, Uncle Dil?”

(Dil spurs Cheyenne...they move forward...)

Dil: “Those animals can sense things.....The fact that Kitty has come out of hiding, on the trail, in plain sight.... says something...”

(Tali nudges Prissy forward...)

Tali: “What is it they sense?”

Dil: “I don’t know”

(pause)

Dil: “But it’s not good...”

(Dil kicks Cheyenne again....they move faster...Dil looks over to his right, looking into the forest....Tali sees him..she looks outward towards the right....)

(scene shifts to forest....large pile of stones seen, moss growing on stones, shrubs growing from spaces in rocks...small parts of bleached bone seen through space in rocks)

(scene shifts to courtroom...Dez standing, looks at Thymes...)

Dez: “So, if I get this right...you are claiming that Miss Loretta Davis, duly sworn in as President of the United States, is in fact, not President of the United States?”

(Thymes sits in witness chair..nods)

Thymes; “That is correct...according to...”

Dez: “If that is true, then the treaties, trade agreements, appointments, all of that...that she has accomplished...are null and void?”

Thymes: “No...that would be senseless..”

Dez: “Well hell, Thymes..if you’re saying she’s not really the President, then she wasn’t the President at all, which means her signature as President is not the President!....”

(Dez shakes her head)

Dez: “Your honor...I’d like to submit that the Plaintiff is recommending, in the event of a ruling for his complaint, that the world should be thrown into chaos....”

(Thymes jumps up...)

Thymes: “I said no such thing!...”

Dez: “And I remind the court, the case of Adams vs Appeals Court of California, that once a public official has fraudulently attained any position, intentionally or otherwise, that the decisions of said individual are retroactively ruled null and void, at which time the court will have jurisdiction over the present, pending, and previous decisions....”

(Judge Coronado looks at Dez...shock...Dez smiles...)

Dez; ‘But don’t' worry, your honor, you won’t be king of the world...We’re going to win this shit show....”

(gavel bangs....Dez's eyes widen...)

Judge: "$1000 Mizz Nuncio!..."

Dez; "Oops"

Judge; 'But the court does recognize the severity of this complaint, and will take it into consideration"

Thymes: "BUT YOUR HONOR!...I NEVER SAID...."

Court: "Precedence and judicial decision say so, Senator...regardless of your intentions"

Thymes: "NO!...THEY DO NOT!...#$% DAMMIT!..."

(gavel bangs...)

Judge: '$1000 SENATOR THYMES!....DO NOT DISRESPECT MY COURTROOM!..."

(Allison leans...whispers...)

Allison: "She's just told the court that if Thymes wins, there will be hell to pay...all over the world...and the fact that Loretta has a 75% approval rating means most of her decisions are popular..."

Angela: "And that is a legal matter?"

Allison: "No...but once you put the fear of God into the judge, it does influence the court's take on future borderline decisions"

(pause)

Allison: "And Destiny just painted Thymes as the all time potential bad guy"

(pause)

Allison: "His approval rating is dropping as we speak...and he knows that"

(Angela and Tobias look at the copy of the case given to them by the court...they point to something on the paper...then look at their laptop, same document on screen...)

Allison: "Something wrong?"

Angela: “Just a question ma’am...This...”

(Angela points to a line on the screen...then..)

Angela: “On the screen is the official document filed...Now compare it to the court copy that we were given by the bailiff...”

(Allison looks...then looks at the screen...then back down to the document...She lifts her copy, rifles through pages...stops...reads...She reaches for Dez’s copy...goes to same page....eyes widen...she looks at Angela and Tobias..)

Allison: “Are you shitting me?”

(gavel bangs...)

“$500 MISS SIMON!....”

Allison: “Yes your honor!..I’m sorry your honor!...Uh...Your honor...a moment to speak with counsel?”

Judge: “3 minutes, Miss Simon....make it quick...”

(Dez, curious, comes to desk...Allison seen whispering...points to document...then to screen..Dez’s eyes widen....)

Dez: “NO @#$#% WAY!...”

(gavel bangs)

“$500, MIZZ NUNCIO!...”

(Dez reads again...looks at Allison...Allison points to Angela and Tobias...)

Allison: “Both of them, ma’am...they caught it, asked me, and here we are...”

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio? Time’s up...”

(Dez, back to the judge, holds up one finger...Judge turns red...Dez scrunches face again)

Dez: “I know your honor...$500....”

(gavel bangs)

Judge: “$1000!....”

(Dez turns...calmly...)

Dez: “How are we doing on the ice sculpture?”

(The judge grins...holds a fist over the edge of the bench...Dez rushes to the bench, fist bumps the judge...)

Thymes: “I OBJECT!”

Judge: “OVERRULED!”

(pause)

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio...are you ready to proceed..?

(Dez smiles...)

Dez; “Dang Skippy!...”

(judge raises the gavel..)

Dez: “I didn’t curse!...”

(Judge lowers the gavel....)

Judge: “It was close”

(Dez turns to Thymes, still in witness chair, fuming....)

Dez: “Senator Thymes....are you familiar with your own document?”

Thymes: “Of course I am....I drafted it myself...”

Dez: “And you have established yourself as having authority to declare, as per the Constitution, on behalf of the House of the Senate Judiciary Committee, that you have he right to file this complaint?”

Thymes: ‘I not only have the right, I have the obligation!...Why...The Constitution is a holy document! It is Holy holy holy!...It is our law!...And if Miss Davis wishes to spit on that holy holy holy document, I will stand in the way and fight to the death for that document!...”

(Thymes looks around...pleased with himself...Dez looks at him..shakes her head...)

“Barf”

(courtroom laughs...Judge turns, covers mouth...eyes grin..)

Dez; “Barf barf barf barf...”

(Dez looks at the judge...)

Dez: “And the court has recognized, that due to his position as Speaker of the House, he indeed does have the authority to both challenge or validate Miss Loretta’s Presidency?”

Judge: ‘Yes”

Dez; “Let me be clear...challenge....and validate?”

Judge: “Yes”

(Dez turns to the courtroom....holds up two fingers...)

Dez: “Number one...”

(She goes to table, picks up copy of the legal complaint...)

Dez: “This is copy of the legal complaint, given to us by Senator Thymes office, and has been accepted by the court as true and accurate....”

Judge: “Your point, Mizz Nuncio?”

(Dez turns to the judge)

Dez: “How can two different documents representing one, be accepted as true and accurate?”

(The judge looks at Dez, curious...)

Dez: “I draw your attention to paragraph 5, line item 7....”

(Judge leafs through pages of his copy...reads...)

Judge: “There is no line item 7...it stops at 6…”

Dez: “Yes your Honor...now look at the original brief submitted to the court, and filed as the complaint...”

(The judge motions to the bailiff...bailiff picks up document from court reporter...hands to judge...Judge reads....looks at Thymes...)

Judge: “Senator Thymes? Would you care to comment?”

(Thymes looks at the judge, confused...)

Judge: “Senator Thymes...it appears that the formal document you submitted to the court, and the document you gave the representatives for President Davis, are different...in fact...they are very different...”

(Thymes stutters....)

Thymes; “Your...your....honor...I’m sure it was just a c-c-clerical error...”

(Judge looks at Dez...)

Judge; “I assume, Mizz Nuncio, you will be presenting a motion to dismiss this case on grounds of deception and erroneous evidence?”

(Dez smiles...then...)

Dez; “No your Honor...”

(Judge shows shocked face)

Judge; ‘What? No?”

Dez: “We’re not looking for a dismissal, your Honor...we’re going for the win...”

(Judge’s face shows disbelief...)

Dez: “Always go for the win, your Honor”

(scene shifts to mountain....Dil and Tali gathering wood for fire...)

Dil: “We’ll take a break...the horses have worked hard”

Tali: “Thank you...my...my backside is very sore...”

Dil: “A little different isn’t it?”

Tali: “Yes..very...but I am fine...”

Dil; ‘I know, honey....Now...put that firewood down and sit...”

(Tali lays the firewood down...sits on fallen log...)

Dil: “I need to tell you a story, Tali...”

(pause)

Dil: “A story about your Aunt Destiny...”

(pause)

Dil: ‘....and Hercules...”

Tali: “A Greek story?”

(Dil says nothing...then)

Dil: “No...a Greek tragedy....”

(Dil thinks...shakes his head....)

Dil: “That hill we came down...the one you nailed...”

(pause)

Dil: “That pile of rocks you saw out in the forest....”

Tali: “If you do not want to tell me, it is okay, Uncle Dilbert...”

(Dil ignores her, continues)

Dil: “30 years ago, your Aunt Destiny was there...Hercules was her horse...”

(silence...then)

Dil: “We had just been told about our parents being killed....”

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert!...No..you do not...”

Dil: “Yes...I do have to tell you...”

(pause)

Dil; “That pile of stones was...is...a burial site....”

(silence...then..)

Dil: “We were 13 years old...not much older than you....and the sheriff came to our house....”

(Dil remembers...)

Dil: “I remember the scream...”

Tali: “No!...Aunt Destiny!....”

(silence....then softly...)

“It was my scream”

(scene shifts to courtroom...)

Judge: “You’re going for the win? You’ve already won, Mizz Nuncio!...”

Dez: “No, your honor..A dismissal doesn’t mean we’ve won.....but shortly.... we will...”

(Dez turns to Thymes, still in witness seat, bewildered...)

Dez: “Senator Thymes...by your position as Speaker of the House, and the authority granted by this court, and the holy holy holy Constitution, you can challenge...or validate, Miss Loretta Davis’s presidency....”

(silence...then)

Dez: “This document...both the original filing and the screwed up evidence copies, refer to Loretta Davis, as President Davis, Loretta Davis, President of the United States, and President Loretta Davis....Your document, under your authority, 7 times...refers to Loretta Davis as the President of the United States.....”

(Thymes’s face shows shocked realization...)

Dez: “The question of whether or not Loretta Davis is President, has been answered and declared by none other than.....”

(She grins...finishes...)

“You”

(Courtroom erupts....Judge bangs gavel....Thymes sits, blank face....)

Judge: “ORDER!...ORDER!...”

(Dez turns to Thymes...blank face..)

Dez; “Mark...you are a great politician...but..”

(pause..her face glares..)

Dez: “...you suck as an attorney”

(Dez walks away, towards her table...Allison leans over)

Allison: ‘You just saw greatness, guys...”

Angela: “WE KNOW!....OH MY GOD!...SHE WAS WONDERFUL!”

Allison: “You two aren’t too bad yourselves...”

(Dez sits...courtroom quiets...)

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio...do you have any further comments before I rule on this case?”

(Dez says nothing...smiles...)

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio?”

(Dez smiles bigger...)

Dez: “It’s not over your honor...at least not for Senator Thymes...”

(Allison leans..whispers...)

Allison: “You think Destiny is the bomb?...Wait...it’s coming...”

Judge: “Mizz Nuncio...I don’t understand...”

Dez: “You will, your honor...”

(rear doors in court open....sing song voice heard...)

“Bad boys bad boys...what you gonna do when I come for you....”

(Everyone turns....Mimi Carson, hair in blonde dog ears, green bows, white button up blouse, short plaid schoolgirl skirt, knee high white socks, black patent leather shoes, comes skipping down the aisle...Judge’s face in disbelief...Mimi enters the

front area, turns to the crowd....grasps the opening at her collar.... rips her white blouse open....court gasps....)

Mimi: “TA DA!....”

(T shirt under blouse shows blue and red Superman ‘S’ with IRS printed under...)

Mimi: “IT’S SUPER IRS AGENT!....”

(Dez laughs...)

Dez; ‘I love that woman!...”

(Mimi turns to Thymes...face shocked...)

Mimi: “SENATOR THYMES!....Your Super Pac!...It’s funded by North Korea! Of course there’s 6 companies trying to hide it, but gosh dang and whoo hoo, I found you!...And you haven’t paid taxes on it!....OH MY GOD!....WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?”

(Thymes turns pale..Mimi, wide eyed, asks the courtroom)

Mimi: “WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?”

(Mimi turns to the Senator...sings...)

“Bad boy Bad boy...I know what to do when I come for you....”

(She blurts out, spreads arms wide...one hand dangling handcuffs...)

“SUPER ARREST YOU!....”

(pause)

“TA DAAAAAAA !...”

(audience shocked into silence...Mimi bows...then in high pitch Elvis voice)

“Thank you..thank you....thankyouverymuch...”

(Mimi holds up handcuffs...shyly twirls, high pitch laughter...then she sings.....)

“You’re going to jail...you’re going to jail....nanny nanny boo boo....you’re going to jail”

(Mimi nods to Dez....Dez picks up paper, hands to the shocked and bewildered judge)

Dez: “Your warrant your honor....and before you ask, yes, we had this the entire time, but we really wanted the win on this case....”

(Judge looks at Dez...blank face...looks at warrant...then back at Dez....then burst out laughing....Dez smiles....)

Mimi: “HEY DEZ!...”

(Dez smiles at Mimi...)

Dez; “Hello you beautiful woman....Come give me a hug...”

Mimi: “Are we still going to lunch? I’m soooooo hungry!...”

Dez: “Yes we are...at the White House....”

(Dez turns to Angela and Tobias)

Dez: “You’re coming too...”

(Both young man and woman show shock...)

Allison: “And Tobias...a car is on its way to pick up your parents....We kind of thought they’d like to see what their sacrifice and hard work is producing....”

(scene fades out to Dez and Allison smiling....Mimi hugs both shocked Angela and Tobias...)

(scene shifts to mountain...)

(Tali says nothing...listens...Dil continues..)

Dil; “It’s where Hercules lay for the last time...because Sis killed him”

(Tali’s eyes get wide...her hand flies over her mouth...)

Dil: “It changed your Aunt’s life forever...and it took a girl, so in love with life...and changed her into an angry and bitter woman”

(silence)

Dil: “Sis lost her cool....she lost control of her horse....and that horse, other than me...was her best friend”

(scene fades to black and white)

Part 3

(scene opens in forest, Tali sitting on fallen tree, Dil sitting beside her....)

Dil: “Yea...that scream was mine...but Sis....She bolted....she ran out of the house, ran to the small stable we had, jumped on Hercules, bareback....”

Tali: “My Aunt Destiny rode bareback?”

(Dil stops...small smile...)

Dil: “Honey...no one could ride a horse like your aunt....”

Tali: “But Uncle Dilbert...you are the best anyone has ever ever seen!...”

Dil: “No”

(Tali stops...waits...)

Dil: “Your Aunt Destiny was untouchable....she did things on a horse no one else could do...Sis and Hercules...those two were like...”

(pause)

Dil: “They were like one person, or one horse...take your pick...but honey...they were something...”

Tali: “But I never see her ride....we have horses, and we have...”

Dil: “She rides....She rides Prissy sometimes....but never Cheyenne...”

Tali: “Why?”

Dil: “I’ll tell you...but I’ll tell you after the important part....”

(pause)

Dil: “Sis jumped on Hercules and both of them tore off into the mountain....Sis was screaming...she kept screaming No..no...no....”

(pause)

Dil: “I did what I always did when Sis lost it....”

Tali: “You went after her...”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “Yea...I went after her....seems I’ve been doing that a long time...”

Tali: “It is because you are her brother....and you love her....”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “I chased her into the mountain....I kept yelling at her to stop...she was doing things that were dangerous...jumping over rocks that who knows what was on the other side, racing through trees....she was out of control....”

(pause)

Dil: “Then came the hill.....Sis was maybe a 100 feet in front of me....she and Hercules came to the hill, and Sis yelled at Hercules to take his head....to do what he wanted....and all that damned horse wanted to do was run....”

(he stops...silence....Dil looks off...)

Dil: “I saw her and Hercules go over the top...and before I got there....the next thing I heard was screaming....terrible screaming....”

(Tali’s face shows fear...)

Tali: “Aunt Destiny!...She was hurt!....”

(Dil shakes his head)

Dil: “The screaming was from Hercules...”

(pause)

Dil: “You’ve never heard a horse scream, Tali....and I hope you never do.....it’s....It’s the most horrible sound you’ll ever hear....”

(pause)

Dil: “I got over the top of the hill, looked down.....Hercules was trying to get up....one leg horribly broken....he was limping...trying to walk...Sis is crying and screaming at him to stop.....Hercules got maybe 20 feet into the woods.....”

Tali: “Where the rocks are....”

(Dil nods..)

Dil: “He fell over...crying out again.....I rode up....Sis was standing... looking at Hercules...and she turned to face me....and said...”

“Look what I’ve done. This is what happens when you’re me”

(Tali’s face in anguish)

Dil: “She walked to my horse, pulled out my rifle....walked to Hercules....That horse looked at her...then she shot him....”

(Tali lets out sob...)

Dil: “Dez turned to me...told me he wasn’t hurting anymore....and then she said....I’ll never forget it....she had this blank face...she said...”

“I forgot to tell him I’m sorry. I didn’t get to tell him I loved him”

Dil: “Sis was never the same again...She became angry....bitter....”

Tali: “But Uncle Dilbert!...She is so loving!...She is wonderful!...”

(Dil smiles...)

Dil: “Want to know what changed all that? Do you want to know who taught her to smile again?”

(Tali nods, eagerly....)

Tali: “It was Uncle Caelesti!....”

Dil: “No...it was your Aunt Nell...”

(Tali looks on in surprise)

Dil: “Sis treated Nell like the smart aleck woman she was...But Nell wouldn’t have any part of it....Nell kept on loving Sis....Sis backed off, and Nell still wouldn’t stop....”

(pause)

Dil; “It was my wife..before she was my wife...that broke Dez...just like a rider breaks a horse, except Nell did it with love....”

Tali: “Is that why Aunt Destiny calls Aunt Penelope her sister?”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “Pretty much, honey....”

(silence)

Tali: “It is both a horrible and a wonderful story.....”

Dil: “It is....especially since it has kind of a happy ending....”

Tali: “So you covered Hercules in those rocks...”

Dil: “You ever tried to dig a hole big enough to fit a horse into?”

(Dil grins at Tali....)

Tali: “No...and I hope I never have to....but I do understand now...”

Dil: “Understand what?”

Tali: “Why my Aunt Destiny does not ride Cheyenne.....I think Cheyenne reminds her of Hercules...and she is afraid she might hurt him....”

(Dil looks down...)

Dil: “No...maybe....but that’s not the main reason....”

(pause)

Dil: “Sis is ashamed.....”

Tali: “Ashamed of what?”

Dil: “Honey....Dez never got to say goodbye to Hercules....she never got to say I’m sorry. She never got to say I love you one last time.....And she’s afraid Cheyenne knows that....and holds it against her...”

Tali: “I..I do not understand....”

(Dil gets up....)

Dil: “Tali....Cheyenne is the grandson of Hercules....”

(Tali’s eyes widen....)

Dil: “Sis knows...or thinks...that somewhere in Cheyenne, there’s a part of him that remembers.....”

(pause)

Dil: “Sis isn’t afraid she’ll hurt Cheyenne....She’s afraid of facing Hercules...”

(pause)

Dil: “Now come on....we have two kids waiting for us to show up....Let’s not disappoint them...”

Tali: ‘Yes!...But one more question, Uncle Dilbert...”

(Dil looks at her...)

Tali: “Does Aunt Penelope know that story?”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “She does...Sis told her....Nell is the only person other than me and Dez that know it....”

Tali: “What about Uncle Caelesti?”

(Dil grins...)

Dil: “Yea...I bet he does...she either told him...or...”

(pause...he thinks...)

Dil: ‘Heck...maybe he was there....”

(Tali looks at Dil, in surprise...Dil shakes his head...)

Dil: “Just joking...

Tali: “And now I also know”

(Dil nods)

Dil: “I told you because I trust you.....Do you understand?”

Tali: “Yes. It will go no where from me, Uncle Dilbert...I promise...”

(pause)

Tali; “But it is sad....My Aunt Destiny carries that inside her....I wish so much she would forgive herself....”

Dil: “Well...maybe someday, Tali....who knows?”

(scene fades out to Dil and Tali mounting Cheyenne and Prissy...Daisy and Kitty seen trotting in front....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in White House Dining Room...Dez, Allison, Angela, Tobias sitting at formal table, Angela and Tobias looking around the room, wide-eyed....)

Dez: “There’s a lot of history in this room....”

“And this man’s father did NOT pay his taxes!....”

(They look...Dez laughs....Mimi standing in front of a portrait of JFK....Mimi turns...frowns...)

Mimi: “Joseph Kennedy was a tax dodger!”

(Mimi turns...frowns at the picture...)

Mimi; “If your daddy was alive, I’d....I’d.....I’d fine him!...”

“And then he’d ruin your life forever...”

(Loretta walks in the room....)

Loretta: “That was one mean man, Mimi....he’s find a way to hurt you, and you’d never know it was him....”

Mimi: “If I collected what he owed, it would be worth it!...”

Loretta: “Well..his son was responsible for much of the tax code we have today....I think he felt guilty about his father dodging taxes....”

Mimi: “And that is why I have a picture of JFK in my office....”

(Mimi nods...)

Mimi: “He is my hero!...”

Loretta: “Mine too....but for other reasons....”

(Simon seen grinning....Loretta looks at him...scowls...)

Loretta: “And you...hush...”

(Evans and Garcia, standing against wall, both snort...)

(pause, Simon frowns at the agents.....Loretta faces the group)

Loretta: “JFK did not let this office get in the way of things he liked best....”

(Simon grins again)

Simon: “She misses Leon...”

Loretta: “Damn right I do!....”

“Then show him how much...”

(Loretta looks towards the voice.....Vance standing in open doorway to room....Loretta yells out...)

“LEON!....”

(She runs to Vance....hugs him....)

Loretta: “God, I’ve missed you!...”

(She looks up at his face)

Loretta: “How are you here? You weren’t supposed to be back for....”

(Leon nods towards Simon....)

Vance: “He did it.....Said something about you channeling your inner JFK....”

(Vance looks at Loretta, curiously)

Vance; ‘Any idea what that meant?”

(Loretta grins....)

Loretta: “Later, big boy.....and I’ll show you...”

(she turns to the group)

Loretta: “Leon....We have some guests...and I need to fill you in on what they’ve done for me...”

(side door opens....Secret Service agents lead the parents of Tobias into the room....the father and mother look at Tobias...both in awe...)

Father: “Son....what have you done?”

Tobias: “Nothing, dad....”

Mother: “But honey!...Are you in trouble?”

Tobias; “No mom....I was just in the right place at the right time....”

“Hello..I’m so glad to meet you”

(The parents turn...see Loretta...both stand in shock...Loretta comes up...)

Loretta: “Your son is a credit to your family.....That’s why he’s here today.....Sit...and listen to what your hard work, your sacrifice...and your son, have done...”

Mother: “My son is a good boy!....He didn’t do it!”

Loretta: ‘Yes he is....and no he didn’t”

(mother looks at Tobias...)

Mother: “Tobias...we will get this straightened out...don’t you worry...”

(The father looks at the Secret Service agents standing next to them)

Father: “What is his bail?”

(Loretta laughs...leads the parents to chairs by Tobias... begins telling the story of Senator Thymes’s accusation...)

10 MINUTES LATER

(The mother and father sit...say nothing....silence....then...)

Mother: “How did he do that?”

(pause)

Mother: “I couldn’t even get him to clean his room!...”

(laughter at table...Tobias hides face in hands...Angela laughs...)

Tobias “Mother.....”

Mother: “Well? You would not!...”

(She turns to Loretta...)

Mother: “I’m serious!...”

(Loretta leans against Vance, both smiling....Simon leans down, whispers in Loretta’s ear...)

“This is why you’re President....These are your people...”

(Loretta nods...reaches up, takes Simon’s hand, kisses back of hand....looks up at Simon...)

“Thank you...thank you from the bottom of my heart...for everything...”

(scene shifts to forest....sun setting.....Dil brings Cheyenne to a stop...)

Dil: “Sun’s about to go down...we’ll camp here for the night...”

(He looks at Tali...)

Dil: “Why am I picking here?”

(Tali looks around...)

Tali: “Because it is pretty?”

Dil: “No...because it has everything we need.....dismount, cowgirl...and I’ll show you”

(Dil walks to clump of wild flowers.....)

Dil: “Dandelions....horses eat both the leaves and the roots...very healthy and tasty...”

Tali: “Yuck...”

(Dil grins...)

Dil: “Over there...a small pool of water....if you walk to it, you’ll find it’s cold...that means it’s spring fed and pure...If it were warm, then no bueno”

(Dil pulls down a pine branch)

Dil: “And this is our bed...”

(Tali looks at the branch)

Tali: “We are sleeping in the trees tonight?”

Dil: “No....these are going to be our bed...”

(Dil pulls out large hunting knife....serrated edges on one side...)

Dil: “I cut, you weave...”

Tali; “Weave?”

Dil; “I’m cutting branches long enough for us to lay on....you will take them, lay them across each other like a big tic tac toe game....”

Tali: “So they will be our bed!...”

Dil: “Yes...but do you know why?”

(Tali shakes her head)

Dil: “The first thing you do out here is prepare a bed off the ground...It’s going to get chilly tonight...if we were to lay right on the ground, the ground would pull the heat out of our bodies, and we’d be shivering all night....”

Tali: “Then I will make us the very best beds!...”

Dil: “You do that....”

Tali: “You are cutting pine branches...you are not cutting oaks or other trees....”

Dil: “And why am I doing that?”

(Tali thinks....)

Tali: “They are softer?”

Dil: “That’s one reason...why else?”

Tali: “They smell fresh!...”

(Dil laughs...)

Dil: “Close honey...they smell that way because of the pine oil in them....but mostly, insects don’t like pine oil....and we don’t want any creepy crawlies sharing our beds tonight...do we?”

(Tali’s eyes widen...)

Tali; “NO!...”

Dil: “Then we use pine...and you make the best beds ever....Right?”

Tali: “You will be so happy with the beds I make!....”

Dil: “I have no doubt, cowgirl....and while you do that, I’ll rustle us up some grub..”

(Tali laughs...)

Tali: “You said that like Poppa Jethro’s cowboy movies...”

(Dil looks at her curiously)

Dil: “Poppa Jethro?”

Tali: “Yes...he is like the beloved and respected and much revered grandfather...”

Dil: “Gibbs tell you all that?”

Tali: “Yes...he was quite sure of it...”

(Dil grins...cuts another branch)

Dil: “I’ll bet he was....”

Tali: “But we do not call Caprice Nanna Caprice, or Granny Caprice....”

(pause)

Tali: “She is Aunt Caprice...”

Dil: ‘Oh? Why’s that?”

Tali: “I do not know....she said a strange thing....”

(pause...Dil stops, looks at Tali, waiting)

Tali: “She said if I call her Nanna or Grandmother, she would paint my back porch red...”

(Dil smiles...)

Tali: “And our back porch would not look good as a red porch....It makes no sense to me...”

(Dil grins..walks to horses, takes saddlebags off....)

Dil: “Stick with Aunt Caprice....”

Tali: “Yes...but now, I am Tali...master bed weaver...”

Dil: “And I’m the master chef....We’re having sandwiches....”

(Tali frowns...)

Dil; ‘Unless you want me to make this stew I prepped before we left....”

(Tali smiles..nods her head)

Dil: “And sour sticks for dessert...”

(Tali smiles bigger...)

Dil: “And we eat far away from Daisy and Kitty.....They caught their own grub...Watching them eat what they kill is the best way to kill an appetite...”

Tali: “Yuck”

Dil; ‘Yuck is right.....now weave, girl...we’re going to need a good night’s sleep”

Tali: “I hope those children can sleep...”

(scene shifts to inside cave...dark...sound of waterfall heard, Sandi and Reggie seen laying on floor of cave, both close to each other, heads laying on backpacks, both covered in foil blanket)

Reggie: “I’m glad we have this blanket”

Sandi: “I used to make fun of mom when she told us we always had to be prepared”

Reggie: “I did too”

Sandi: “I’m cold....”

(Reggie reaches into backpack...pulls out chocolate bar...)

Reggie: “Here..eat this...”

Sandi: “No!...It’s yours!...I ate mine already!”

Reggie: “Eat it...remember what dad said...if you’re cold, eat sugar...it makes your body speed up and makes heat....So you take it...”

Sandi: “What if we split it?...That way you can get warm, I can get warm, we can keep each other warm...”

(Reggie nods....takes half of the bar...)

(silence....then..)

Reggie: “I’m sorry I don’t tell you enough that you’re a good sister...”

Sandi: “I’m sorry too....”

(silence...then)

Reggie: “If we have to be here....I’m glad it’s with you”

(Sandi snuggles against Reggie....)

Sandi: “Me too”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens, daytime, inside cave...Reggie sits up...looks towards entrance...Sandi whispers...)

Sandi: “Are those animals coming in?”

Reggie: “No...but listen....”

(loud shrieking heard...)

Sandi: “What is that?”

Reggie: “I don’t know...it’s not pigs or coyotes...that’s for sure....”

(Reggie stands)

Reggie: “I’m going to go see...”

Sandi: “Please be careful, Reggie!...”

(scene shows Reggie pressing against entrance wall, edging alongside rocks, water falling close...Sandi waits....Reggie comes back in cave...)

Sandi: “What was it?”

(Reggie shrugs....)

Reggie: “Just a big bird....”

Sandi: “A big bird?”

Reggie: ‘It was an eagle....It saw me and flew away...”

Sandi: “I wish it could have been an angel....An angel would help us....”

Reggie: “Sorry...it was just an eagle...”

Sandi: “Maybe it’s an eagle angel....and maybe it’s going to get help for us....”

Reggie: “...and maybe it had a helicopter strapped to its back....”

(Sandi frowns...)

Sandi: “Don’t make fun of me!...I can wish anything I want!...”

(scene shifts to sky...Amare circles over the falls, shrieking.....then swings wide, flies towards the forest...)

(scene shifts to Dil and Tali, riding....)

Dil: “Tali..in about half a mile, we’re going to come up to a fork in the trail....”

Tali: “Which way do we go?”

Dil: “I don’t know...we’ll have to decide...”

(pause)

Dil: “The right trail takes us to three small water areas....clean water, some shelter in the rocks...not a bad place to hide out if you’re two small kids afraid of grown ups...”

Tali: “Then we should go!...”

Dil: “Well...to the left is a trail that takes us to Water Cave....”

Tali: “What is Water Cave?”

Dil: “It’s beautiful...There’s a large waterfall that covers the entrance to a cave...”

(Dil thinks...)

Dil: “You remember the movie Last of the Mohicans?”

(Tali smiles..nods)

Dil: “Remember when Hawkeye and Cora were in a cave with a waterfall?”

Tali: “Yes!...”

Dil: “It’s just like that....”

Tali: “Would that be a good place for them to go to?”

Dil: “Yes and no...Yes because of the cave and water, no because of the clearing down below...”

Tali: “Why no?”

Dil: “It’s surrounded by large rocks....and there’s a pool of fresh water below...which means lots of animals go there to drink....”

Tali: “The pigs...”

Dil: “Yes...more accurately, the wild boars.....They have babies this time of year...and if they’ve taken those babies there to drink, then that means it’s a herd...and every herd has a big bad daddy....”

Tali: “Like my daddy?”

(Dil grins)

Dil: “Yes...and every bit as protective...”

Tali: “Then I will simply explain to the bad daddy that we will not hurt his children...he will understand and leave...”

(Dil looks at her...shaking his head...)

Tali: “I know....that was silly....”

Dil: “Nothing wrong with hoping honey...but if you do talk to that bad daddy boar? Be sure you’re up in a tree...way up in a tree...”

Tali: “I do not think I will talk to the daddy...he sounds like what Aunt Ellie calls Uncle Nick.....”

(Tali scrunches face..does fake pig snort)

Tali: “She says he is a pig”

(Dil laughs loud....Tali’s face shows shock)

Tali: ‘I did not say that!...”

Dil: “Yes you did!.....”

Tali: “NO!...I LOVE MY UNCLE NICK!...”

(Dil snorts....laughs again...)

Tali; “NO!...Please do not say I said that!...”

Dil: “I promise....but it was funny....”

Tali: “It was terrible...I am very sorry...”

(Dil snorts...Tali grins...)

(Tali snorts....Dil laughs....)

Tali: “Now we are both terrible....”

(Both snort at the same time....both laugh...)

Dil: “Come on pig girl...”

Tali: “I am coming, Uncle pig....”

(scene shifts to outside of cave...Reggie stands next to edge of waterfall, looking down...face fearful...)

(scene shifts to clearing below...group of 6-8 large wild boars, several with long tusks...group of small baby hogs shown in the middle...above, on rocks, coyotes stand, looking down, growling....)

Reggie: “Oh....no....”

(sound of close growling heard...Reggie slowly looks to his right, rock trail leading down from cave into forest....one large coyote stands, staring at Reggie....deep growl...head hanging low, eyes on the boy, starts slowly advancing up the rock trail towards the boy)

(scene shifts to Dil and Tali....Dil brings Cheyenne to a slow lope, then stops...)

Dil: “We’re here”

(scene shows fork in trail, one to right, one to left...)

Tali; “Have you decided which way we should go?”

Dil: “No...Honey...both ways would be a good choice...”

Tali: “Then why are Daisy and Kitty blocking one way?”

(Dil looks down the right path...Daisy and Kitty sit...staring at them....Daisy barks loudly...)

Dil: “Girl? Are you trying to tell us something?”

(Daisy barks again....Kitty leaps up, crosses through bushes, comes out on left trail....Daisy follows....Daisy stops...looks back at them...barks three times...)

(loud screeching heard....Dil looks up..Amare swoops over their heads, flying low to the ground along the left trail....the bird squawks, rises up, circles in the sky...Dil looks at the animals....then up at the bird...)

Dil: “That bird’s found them”

(Tali looks on in awe..)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert!...How can you tell?”

Dil: “I can’t...”

Tali: “But then why...”

Dil; “But they can”

(pause)

Dil: “Animals know things....They always know things...”

(Dil kicks Cheyenne...the war horse leaps forward...Tali kicks Prissy...the horse sprints after the others....animals and humans, travelling down the trail to Water Cave)

Part 4

(scene opens on forest trail, Dil and Cheyenne slow, Tali and Prissy catch up, stop...Dil looks ahead...)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert...is something wrong?”

(Dil says nothing....then...)

Dil: “Yes”

Tali: “What is....?”

(Dil dismounts quickly....)

Dil: “Get off!...Check and tighten your cinches and bridle....quickly, Tali!...”

(Tali swings a leg over the saddle, slides off Prissy....)

Tali: “Yes, but why!...”

(Dil nods towards the trail in front of them)

Dil: “Do you see Daisy and Kitty?”

(Tali looks...shakes her head...)

Dil: “About 15 seconds ago, they both bolted towards Water Cave...”

(Dil looks up)

Dil: “Even the bird is gone...”

Tali: “Then they know something....”

(Dil tightens cinch, pats Cheyenne’s nose, the horse pawing the ground...)

Tali: “Cheyenne knows, as well...”

Dil: “Yea”

(Dil gets up on Cheyenne....he looks down at Tali...stern face...)

Dil: “You do exactly what I tell you...You do NOT do anything I tell you not to!...If things go bad, Tali, I want you on that horse and I want you out of here!...Do you understand?”

(Tali looks at Dil, confused...)

Tali: “But Uncle Dilbert!...We have to rescue....”

(Dil yells out...)

“DO WHAT I TELL YOU!....DO YOU UNDERSTAND?...”

(Tali’s face falls...she stares at Dil, chin quivering...)

Tali: “I did not do anything, Uncle Dilbert...please....do not be angry with me....”

(Dil closes his eyes...looks away....face in anguish....He moves quickly to Tali...kneels down, hugs her...)

Dil: “I’m sorry Tali....I’m sorry.....”

(Tali begins crying..)

Tali: “What have I done? Please tell me and I will...”

Dil: “Nothing....You haven’t done anything wrong, honey.....It’s me....I’m sorry....”

(Dil hugs her tighter...)

Dil: “I’m just afraid.....”

(Tali hugs Dil tight...)

Tali: “No..you are not afraid of anything....”

Dil: “Yes I am....I’m afraid of you being hurt...or losing you.....I couldn’t live with myself if that happened....I’m sorry honey...I’m so sorry I yelled at you...”

(silence....then..)

Tali: “We will be okay, Uncle Dilbert...I will do exactly as you say...I will be careful...i promise.....”

Dil: “I know, sweetheart...You’ve been nothing but perfect this trip...I know...”

(Dil stands..wipes eyes...)

Dil: “Forgive an over protective uncle....okay?”

(Tali looks up..nods....)

(Dil turns to walk to Cheyenne...)

Tali: “I love you, Uncle Dilbert....”

(Dil stops...nods...)

Dil: “I love you too, honey....”

Tali: “We will be fine..”

(Dil walks to Cheyenne....)

Dil: “I know”

(Dil mounts...Tali mounts....Dil looks back at her, studying her...then...)

Dil: “Let’s go”

(Dil kicks Cheyenne, both horses and riders quickly speed up to a fast lope on the trail...)

(scene shifts to cave entrance...Reggie stands by edge of waterfall, frozen in place, staring fearfully at the large coyote, slowly advancing towards him.....his eyes widen as the coyote, head hanging low, eyes locked on his, begins to growl, then slightly open its mouth....)

(Reggie screams....light brown flash seen landing in front of the coyote...)

(scene shifts to inside cave...Reggie runs inside, yelling...)

Reggie: “THERE’S A MOUNTAIN LION OUT THERE!”

(scene shifts to ledge....Kitty roars at the shocked coyote....coyote backs up....Kitty advances, roaring loud....Kitty leaps forward, one paw up, slashing the air, claws in front of coyote's face....Coyote yelps, turns, leaps off ledge onto rock below.....Kitty looks down....)

(scene shows hogs in clearing, gathered tightly, multiple coyotes on rocks above them, looking down, growling....)

(scene shifts to Kitty, staring at thicket on far side of clearing....Daisy crouches, hidden....Kitty sits on the rock ledge...tail twitches.....then she leaps off the ledge into the forest....Daisy darts around the clearing, leaps onto the rock ledge leading to the cave, sits, ears up, looking towards the trail leading into the area)

(loud awed whisper heard....)

"Oh....my.....god....."

(pause)

"It's a nightmare"

(Dil seen on Cheyenne, standing on trail end, looking down at the coyotes and wild hogs...all the wild animals stop...stare back at him....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens, morning, Oval Office, Loretta sitting at large desk, Simon sitting across, grinning....Loretta looks at Simon...)

Loretta: "Stop it!.."

Simon: "Just glad to see you smiling again, Madame President..."

(Loretta looks over at wall, Evans and Garcia looking straight ahead, both with small smiles...)

Loretta: "You two stop it too!..."

(Evans and Garcia grin bigger...)

Simon: "You have the Thymes decision on your desk, ma'am..."

(Loretta looks down at file...)

Loretta: “I don’t think this office will be pressing charges against him, Donald...”

(Simon looks at her, curious...)

Loretta: “I think I’ll let Mrs. Carson handle that”

(Simon nods...)

Simon: “I think he’d prefer you bring the charges, ma’am...”

Loretta: “Let Mimi have him....”

(Simon looks on curiously)

Loretta: “This office will simply put the man in jail....Mimi will find, secure, and confiscate whatever he owes the IRS...which in turn, means, he’ll be paying the American taxpayer....If we indict him, any monies he has will be tied up in the court system, which includes appeals....the taxpayers will never see that money”

Simon: “Yes ma’am...Mrs Carson is quite capable....”

(Loretta grins...)

Loretta: “She’s a flipping force of nature, Donald.....”

(pause)

Loretta; “I wish we had 10 of her”

Simon: “I doubt if our court system could stand the shock of 10 Mimi Carsons....”

(Loretta laughs...)

Loretta: “She actually danced up to the judges bench, ripped open her blouse, and did a ‘TA DA’?”

(Simon grins...nods...)

Loretta: “And Donald...look into Miss Hernandez and Mr. Tobia Waters....see if they need anything..”

Simon: “Both are on a combination of scholarships and grants...Director Garvey has pulled Miss Hernandez into the FBI Intern program....and I’m pretty sure Mrs

Nuncio and my daughter have some plans for Tobias Waters...if they can win the bidding war with Miss Hart..."

Loretta: "Just keep an eye on them, Donald, please....we need young people like them in our system....they are..."

(She stops...Loretta looks at Simon, curiously...)

Loretta: "Margaret?"

Simon: "She seems to think the Women's Rights program would benefit if a young male joined...It would add some diversity and perspective..."

Loretta: "So...this is a big time case of being in the right place at the right time for those two"

Simon: "Helps that they've both struggled ma'am...they appreciate it more...."

Loretta: "I agree...we've got far too many privileged people getting favors...."

(pause)

Loretta: "Keep an eye on them, Donald....I'll want to know how they're doing..."

(pause)

Loretta: "And how are Captain Bosworth and my favorite adopted niece doing?"

Simon: "They should be getting to the area soon, ma'am...."

Loretta: "We still can't get a good look?"

Simon: "No ma'am...it's too thick....too remote...and to make matters worse..."

(scene shifts to The D Ranch, Drone Room....Nell sits at console, Gibbs and Torres standing behind her...large monitor shows map of cave area)

Nell: "....the conditions are too good for it not to..."

Gibbs: "So, you're saying a fog bank is going to form below them...."

Nell: "It won't form where they are, too much high level wind...but lower...between them and the only road out there....fog as thick as anything you've seen is going to cover the forest....and the road...."

Torres: “That is no bueno...that means they’ll have to stick to the trail...and that will take an extra day.”

Gibbs: “They can’t take the straight line down?”

Nell: “No..that fog will cover the forest...like a blanket...”

Gibbs: “They’ve got Daisy and those horses....”

“They can navigate.....”

(They turn...Dez in doorway, holding Benedict...)

Dez: “They can move around in the trees....the fog will gather at the top of the trees, attaching to the leaves...they’ll be able to see to get around...”

(Dez looks at the map on the screen)

Dez: “But they won’t be able to see beyond 15 feet in front of them....There’s nothing to show them the way home....”

Gibbs: “That means they’ll have to spend another night up there...wait for daylight to burn the fog off...”

(Dez nods...stares at the map)

Dez: “Yea....”

(Gibbs stares at Dez...studies her....)

Gibbs: “We need a beacon of light to lead them home...”

(Dez turns...looks at Gibbs in disbelief)

Dez: “Gibbs? Did you just get poetic? That was sort of pretty...”

(Gibbs stares...cocks head...)

Gibbs: “No”

Dez: “I didn’t think so...”

(Gibbs turns to Torres....)

Gibbs: “Navy yard?”

Torres: “Coast Guard....they’re bigger...and detachable...”

Gibbs: “Trailer?”

Torres: “20 minutes and I can have it hitched”

Gibbs: “Then let’s go”

(Dez watches Gibbs and Torres quickly walk out....she looks at Nell, sees Nell smiling...)

Dez: “What was THAT all about?”

Nell: “He’s being Gibbsy”

Dez: “What?”

(Nell nods...)

Nell: “Yea”

(Nell turns to keyboard...clicky clacks...)

Nell; “Let me show you what they’re doing....it’s all about light diffusion and color frequency....”

5 MINUTES LATER

Dez: “Oh...my...god.....it’s brilliant.....”

Nell; “If they don’t get caught...”

Dez: “That’s okay...they can handle their own case against themselves....”

(pause)

Dez: “But it is smart....and it just might work”

Nell: “Of course it will!...He’s my Gibbsy!”

(Dez looks up at the map on the screen...)

Dez: “I hope so....if that doesn’t work, then there’s no way they’ll find their way home until daylight.....”

Nell: “Maybe it won’t matter? I’m sure it’s a successful trip with no problems....”

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

Nell: “And of course there will be a problem...”

Dez: “Isn’t there always?”

(Nell frowns...)

Nell; “We’re due for an easy one...”

Dez: “Sis...”

Nell: “I know...but we have to think positive....”

Dez: “You do positive, I’ll do end of the world scenario....”

Nell: “You are so negative!...”

Dez: “You’re right, sis...I’ll do in between easy and world’s end...”

(pause)

Dez: “I’ll do good old nail biting, edge of seat, scared shitless, middle of the road...”

(Nell smiles..nods...)

Nell: “That’s my girl!...”

(pause)

Nell: “We’ll do poopless together”

(Dez looks at Nell...shakes her head...)

Dez: “Poopless doesn’t quite convey the emotion, Nell...”

Nell: “It does for me, and you have curious ears listening to you....”

(Dez looks at Benedict...infant’s eyes wide....)

Dez: “Your Aunt Nell said that word...not me...”

Nell: “DEZ!....”

Dez: “And she cusses all the time....we’re going to have to be careful with you and her...”

(Benedict smiles..gurgles....)

Nell: “Spit up on her, Benny....”

Dez: “He’s already done that twice today, sis....”

Nell; “Go for number three, Benny!...”

(Benny smiles..waves arms....)

(scene shifts to Nell, laughing.....)

Dez: “OH MY GOD!....BENEDICT!....”

(Nell laughs....Dez curses....Benedict throws up again..Nell claps hands...)

(scene shifts to Coast Guard Station....Abigail Borin stares at Gibbs, disbelief...)

Borin: “YOU WANT TO BORROW WHAT?”

(pause)

Borin; “HELL NO, GIBBS!...”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at trail end, Dil and Tali standing, horses tethered to tree...)

Dil: “Tali...I want Daisy to go in that cave first....We got a glimpse of both kids...they saw me and darted back inside....it has to be you going in, talking to them first...but I want Daisy...”

Tali: “Uncle Dil!...She is so big!...They will be afraid of her!...”

Dil: “I know, honey...but what if there’s something in that cave...something dangerous....snakes..maybe a bear....I don’t want you going in unless...”

Tali: “They are alive, are they not?”

(Dil stops...looks at Tali, curiously...)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert...if there was something horrible in there....we would not see those children...and they look okay....”

(Dil thinks...then nods...)

Dil: “I don’t know, Tali....”

Tali: “You are being too careful with me...please.....Daisy can come with me up the ledge..”

Dil; “That’s a given....”

Tali: “And our Kitty is ready as well...”

(Dil looks at the rocks surrounding the clearing below...the mountain lion sits, looking down at the hogs...)

Tali: “I will go to the rock trail, Daisy will be behind me...and the coyotes are gone...”

Dil: “They’re not gone, Tali....they’re hiding..and waiting.”

Tali: “Uncle Dil...you said from the beginning that it had to be me to go in....it was the only way to do this....”

(Dil says nothing...)

Dil: “You sure are your mother’s daughter....”

(Tali gives small mischievous smile..)

Tali: “Her very elegant and graceful daughter....”

(scene shifts to view of cave entrance...waterfall roaring...Tali seen walking slowly on rock ledge, Daisy following...Dil watches as she disappears behind the falling water...whispers...)

Dil: “Please be careful....”

(scene shifts to inside cave...Reggie and Sandi sit, holding each other....eyes closed...)

“I am Tali.....”

(Both twins open their eyes in shock...Tali standing in the cave entrance, soaked, looking at them both...)

“And we have come to take you home”

(Both twins shriek...run to Tali, hugging her....)

Tali: “And I have someone with me....he is the nicest and kindest man....he is a man that helps children...”

(Reggie wipes his eyes....)

Reggie: “Are you sure?”

Tali: “Yes...he is my uncle....and his job is rescuing children....he is a good and kind man like your father...”

Sandi: “We can’t!...There is a mountain lion out there!...and coyotes!...and mean pigs!...”

Tali: “You need not worry...We have guardians....and you can meet one now...”

Reggie: “NO!...”

Tali; ‘You do not want to meet our puppy?”

(Both children look at her...blank face...)

Tali: “It is Daisy...she is a very large puppy....”

(Tali turns...whistles....both twins look at the entrance to the cave....then their eyes widen.....)

Reggie: “That’s a BIG puppy!...”

Tali: ‘She is a wonderful puppy....Come here, sweet Daisy!...”

(Daisy trots to the twins...sits in front of them...gives big goofy dog grin...)

(scene shifts to Dil, watching intently...his face brightens...)

Dil: ‘She did it....my god....she did it!....”

(scene shifts to rock ledge...Daisy leading, Tali, Reggie, Sandi, single file, holding hands, slowly walking along the ledge...Sandi calls out...)

Sandi: “Be careful!...There is a mountain lion!...”

Tali: “Do not worry...That is Kitty!...”

(Reggie looks back at Sandi...shrugs....)

Sandi: “She’s a kitty like Daisy is a puppy?”

Tali; ‘Yes!...That is exactly right!...”

Tali: “And now you can meet my Uncle Dil!...He is the nicest man in the world!...”

Reggie: “Good...i thought you were going to say he was a boy”

Sandi: “Me too!...If that big dog is a puppy and that mountain lion is a kitty, then your uncle should be a little boy...”

Tali: “My Aunt Penelope says that sometimes he is....but he is a grown up when he needs to be....”

(The children walk the ledge, approach the rocks below...herd of wild boars seen below them, looking up...)

Reggie: “They want to get us”

(Dil walks up to them, smiling...)

Dil: “Youngsters...I am sure glad to see you...”

(Reggie and Sandi stop....move together...both stare at Dil...)

Dil: “You’ve met Daisy...and you’ve seen Kitty....how would you like to meet....”

(Dil puts fingers in mouth...loud whistle...)

“Prissy and Cheyenne?”

(Both horses come trotting to Dil...the twins faces brighten...)

Reggie: “Horses!....”

Sandi: “Beautiful horses!...”

Tali; “Yes...and they are wonderful horses!...Prissy!...Come here!...”

(Prissy walks to Tali....)

Tali: “Prissy, this is Sandra and Reginald...they are friends....”

(Prissy whinnies...moves forward...both twins begin stroking her nose...)

“Tali...”

(Tali turns to Dil’s voice....)

Dil: “Get them on the horses....Now....”

(Dil looks across the clearing...coyotes seen moving along edges towards them...)

Dil: “TALI!...NOW!...”

(Tali grabs Sandi around the waist)

Tali: “UP ON PRISSY!...”

(Tali pushes the little girl up on the saddle...)

Tali; “CHEYENNE!...COME!...”

(Growling heard....coyotes tear out of thicket, running towards group...Dil yells out...)

“DAISY! KITTY!....PROTECT!...”

(Coyotes come running....then a yellow flash streaks through air from boulder to ground...black and brown flashes bursts into middle of coyote pack....Dil pulls knife out of scabbard....)

(scene shifts to pack of coyotes, Daisy tears into a throat, Kitty slashes with a paw, blood spraying, Daisy and large coyote stand on hind legs, both snapping at the others neck, Daisy clamps on jaw of coyote, snaps her head to one side, coyote falls to ground....)

(Tali slaps Prissy’s flank, Sandi hanging onto saddle horn, frightened...)

Tali: “GO PRISSY!...”

(She turns, looks for Reggie....He stands, paralyzed...)

(scene shifts to trail up rocks...One wild boar runs up trail...Reggie screams....)

(scene shifts to boar, reaches top...charges at the young boy....140 pounds of snarling mountain lion leaps, slashes, rips, twists in air, pulling the boar to the ground....Boy seen turning to run, ground crumbles underneath his feet...Tali screams out...)

“REGINALD!....”

(Dil turns to Tali’s scream....She points downward...)

Tali; ‘He fell!...He fell down there!....Uncle Dilbert!...HELP HIM!....”

(scene shows clearing 20 feet below...small pool of water, dirt and grass...Reggie lays on the ground, dazed....raises up...)

(scene shifts to herd of wild boars....they charge towards the boy....)

(scene shifts to top of rocks...)

Dil: “TALI!....BOTH OF YOU!...GET OUT OF HERE!....”

(Dil, knife in hand...jumps off the ledge...Tali screams as she watches Dil fall into the pit below....)

(scene shifts to bottom of clearing....Dil lands, rolls, comes up quick, knife in hand, ready....herd of boars startle...back up...)

(Dil runs to Reggie....boy still laying on ground...)

Dil: “Son!..Are you okay?”

(Reggie nods...)

Reggie: “Trying to.....breathe...”

Dil: “You got the wind knocked out of you....come on...I’ll give you a hand...we’ve got to get out of here fast....”

(Dil lifts the boy up...stands....Reggie shrieks...)

(scene shifts to large boar....head lowers...)

(loud squawking above them heard.....)

(scene shifts to sky...Amare diving through air, boar seen below....)

(scene shifts to boar...it charges....blur of brown feathers, then talons rake across the boars face....Boar screams loud....twists, lands on ground, face slashed, eyes bleeding....yellow flash seen leaping off rock, landing on all fours...Kitty stands in between the boy and the boars...Kitty lowers her head, growls....)

Dil: “COME ON!...SHE’S GOT OUR BACK!...”

(Dil takes a quick look up....Tali standing, looking down, Sandi on Prissy....Cheyenne seen to the left, rearing up, hooves slashing at coyotes....Daisy on right, snapping and snarling at coyotes on right....)

(another loud shriek....Amare dives again, talons slashing neck of next boar....the large bird swoops up in air, blood dripping from large talons...Dil watches, hypnotized...)

Dil: "I...don't...believe....."

(scene shifts to Tali....she screams at Dil...)

"OVER THERE!....."

(scene shifts to far side of pit...large bull boar, long curved tusks, paws ground....then charges...then stops...pawing ground again, eyeing the young boy....)

Dil: "TALI!...GO!...."

(Tali runs....Dil sees her running...turns to the boar, knife in hand...legs spread...)

Dil: "Come on you bastard.....I'm ready....my girls are safe...."

(scene shifts to Prissy....hand seen reaching for Winchester...rifle is pulled out of scabbard....)

(scene shifts to Dil...he waits....)

Dil: "I can't win this....That hog's too big....too fast..."

(Dil turns quickly, snatches Reggie up off the ground....The boar charges....snorting loud...)

(Dil lifts the boy....runs to a rock wall...drops to his knees, drops the boy in between him and the wall...places his hands against the wall on both sides of the boy...closes his eyes and waits for impact...sound of boar charging heard....)

(scene shifts to top of pit... Tali, kneeling...rifle to shoulder..aiming...she fires...)

(scene shows bullet entering side of charging boar....)

(Tali levers the gun...aims...fires again...)

(bullet hits side of boar again...boar keeps charging...)

(scene shifts to Tali...)

Tali: “Head...have to hit....”

(view shows barrel of rifle...charging boar in sites...barrel moves down to head....Tali lets out breath, pulls trigger....)

(scene shifts to Dil..eyes squeezed shut...ready...Charging boar’s head suddenly plows into dirt, large body flips up in air, huge boar slams into Dil’s left side, knocking him off the wall....)

“UNCLE DILBERT!....”

(Tali seen running down trail, Kitty snarling and roaring at pigs, forcing them back....Daisy leaps off rocks, joins Kitty....Tali runs to Dil, laying on ground....Reggie sitting next to him...)

Tali: “UNCLE DIL!....”

(Tali drops by Dil....Dil groaning....)

Dil: “Is the boy.....”

Tali: “HE IS FINE!....”

Dil: “Tali...I told you to go....I told you...”

Tali: “You can punish me after!....We have to go!...”

(Dil nods...slowly gets up...Tali’s face pales....)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert....your arm....”

(scene shows Dil’s left arm, broken, forearm at awkward angle...)

Dil: “I know....it’s bad....it’s real bad....”

Tali: “Then I will help you....we go...Can you walk?”

(Dil nods....)

Tali: “Our family has us protected...we can get out of here if we hurry....”

(scene shows Kitty and Daisy forcing the hogs back, away from trail upwards...Cheyenne seen dancing, daring coyotes to charge...Prissy in group of trees, protecting Sandi...Amare dives, hogs scattering, the eagle ripping another hog's face...Dil looks on....awe on face...he sees the dead bull boar laying on ground by rock wall.....)

Dil: "Yea...if they weren't before, they're family now...."

(scene fades out to Tali, Dil, Reggie, climbing trail upwards....Dil stumbles...screams out...Tali and Reggie help him up....)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in forest...Dil laying on blanket, opens eyes....Tali kneeling next to him, Reggie and Sandi kneeling behind her...Dil blinks...)

Dil: "Where are we?"

Tali: "We are safe, Uncle Dilbert..."

(He looks around....)

Tali: "We have travelled for almost an hour....you fell asleep..."

Dil: "No...I passed out...I remember..."

Tali: "Uncle Dilbert...you are going to lay here...I am going to have to help you..."

(Dil looks down at his arm...shakes his head...)

Dil: "No...you take those kids back, Tali....leave me here...I'll be okay..."

Tali: "You are delirious and talking stupid, Uncle Dilbert....Aunt Caprice has taught all of us how to set an arm..."

(Dil looks at her...disbelief...)

Tali: "See? I have taken your knife with the teeth and cut the sticks to fit...Now please lay still and let me do this...."

(Dil looks at his arm...forearm straight...)

Dil: "How...How did you do that...it was....it was..."

Tali: “Crooked and ugly....I did that while you were sleeping....you did not protest...”

Reggie: “Sir?”

(Dil looks at the young boy...)

Dil: “Son? Are you and your sister okay?”

(Reggie nods...)

Reggie: “Thank you for saving my life sir....Your niece said your job was rescuing children...I didn’t know that meant being hit by a giant pig....”

Tali: “Oh yes...being hit by giant pigs is part of their training....”

(Tali smiles at Dil...Dil shakes his head...)

Dil: “Glad we weren’t fighting elephants...”

Sandi: “Do you fight elephants?”

Tali: “Of course not...elephant fighting is for elephant people...We are coyote and pig people...”

(Dil stares at Tali....sees Winchester laying against nearby tree....)

Dil: “Tali...you shot that boar...”

Tali: “Yes..it was necessary...”

Dil: “I told you to run”

Tali: “Yes, you did”

(silence....then...)

Dil: “Thank you, sweetheart”

(pause)

Dil: “You saves my life...his too...”

(Tali lines the sticks up against Dil’s arm...lifts the knife...)

Tali: “I am going to have to cut your shirt, Uncle Dilbert....i am sorry...”

(Dil nods...Tali gently lifts his arm...Dil groans loudly...Tali flinches...)

Tali: “I am sorry I am sorry I am sorry...”

Dil: “It’s okay, honey....but we need to get those two something to eat...and check them....”

Tali: “I have fed them, and given them water...Cheyenne and Prissy are eating dandelions like you said, and I gave them water, as well....”

(Tali nods to the side...small bonfire)

Tali: “And I began a fire, just as you taught me....”

(Dil looks around...looks at Tali in awe...)

Dil: “You did all that....”

Tali; “It was necessary...and it is as you have taught me...nothing else...I did not do anything you said not to do...”

Dil: “You didn’t run like I said to....”

(Tali looks at Dil...)

Dil: “Thank you”

(Tali nods...cuts Dil’s sleeve off...looks at the arm...turns away...)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert?”

(Dil looks at his arm...view shows the forearm swollen, dark blue....)

Dil: “Damn....”

Tali: “It is bad...is it not?”

Dil: “Hematoma...”

(pause)

Dil: “It’s bleeding inside...and it’s infected already...I can feel the heat.”

(Tali looks at the arm....face in anguish...)

Dil: “Tali...I’m sorry...”

Tali: “What do I do?”

(pause)

Dil: “Tali...you need to put your pocket knife blade in that fire....get it red hot...and give me a stick to put in my mouth....”

(Tali looks at Dil, wide eyed...)

Dil: “You’re going to have to cut me..This needs to drain....so I want you to take my knife...get some alcohol swabs out of the first aid kit, clean the blade....”

Tali: “NO!...”

Dil: “If you don’t honey....I’m going to die of blood poisoning....It’s okay....I’ll tell you what to do...”

(Tali looks at Dil, horrified...)

Dil: “Honey...come here...”

(Dil takes her with his right arm...draws her close...)

Dil: “There’s no one in the world I trust right now more than you....and I’m sorry...this isn’t fair to you....and if it’s too much, honey...I’ll understand...”

(Tali wipes tears from eyes)

Tali: “No...helping you will never be too much....Tell me what to do...”

(scene shows pocket knife in fire, Daisy sitting, whining....Kitty laying on ground, her head turned...Amare circles the sky, screeching.....Dil closes his eyes...)

Dil: “Do it just like I said, Tali...easy and steady....”

(Dil puts stick between his teeth....Tali lifts the hunting knife up.....)

(scene fades out to Dil’s face stretching upwards, neck muscles swollen, screaming through stick in teeth....)

The Conclusion

(scene opens in forest, Dil laying against tree, breathing hard, arm laying in lap, Tali crying out....)

Tali: “I am sorry Uncle Dilbert!...I am sorry!...”

(weakly...)

Dil: “Water...wash it....”

(Tali reaches for bottle of water, opens, turns head, pours over open wound on arm....Dil grits his teeth....)

Dil: “Good girl....Now....”

(Tali, tear streaked face, slowly turns head and looks at arm...open 3 inch incision seen, bloody, white fluids mixed in...)

Tali: “It is still bleeding....”

(Dil weakly nods...)

Dil: “Let it....it needs to...needs to until it’s just blood...”

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert...that stuff.....what came out.....”

(Dil’s eyes closed....nods...)

Dil: “Poison, honey....poison came out....had to...”

Tali; “I hurt you, Uncle Dilbert...I am so sorry....I am so sorry...”

(Dil looks at arm...eyes flutter...)

Dil: “No....saved me.....you.....saved....”

(Dil’s eyes close...head lays to one side....)

Sandi: “TALI!...IS HE...?”

Tali: “No..he is asleep.....”

Reggie: “Passed out you mean....”

Tali: “It makes no difference....”

Reggie: “What do you do now?”

(Tali looks at the arm...pours more water on the wound....bright red flows...)

Tali: “I must stop the bleeding....It is now only blood...”

Sandi: “How are you going to do that?”

(Tali looks at the campfire...sees pocketknife blade in fire...)

Tali: “What my Uncle told me I have to do....”

(scene shows Tali, hand gloved, pulling pocketknife out of fire....blade red hot...)

Tali: “I am so sorry.....”

(Tali presses the blade against the wound....Dil’s eyes open....he screams....Tali jerks back....)

Tali: “YOU TOLD ME TO!.....”

(Tali, hands shaking, pours water on the burned flesh...Dil grits teeth...)

Dil: “Damn...!...”

(Dil breathes hard....opens eyes...looks at the two twins...both wide eyed, staring at him...)

Dil: “Sorry...”

Reggie: “Sir?..Are you okay...?”

(Dil looks at the wound...nods...looks at Tali...Tali’s face fearful

Dil: “You did good honey.....You did exactly what I told you to do...”

Tali: “I am tired of doing what you tell me to do!....I am doing nothing but hurting you!...”

Dil: “No honey...no....no...”

(Dil breathes hard again...)

Dil: “Put the ointment on it, Tali...then wrap it....”

Tali: “Will it hurt you again? Maybe we can wait until there is something I can do to make you feel better?”

(Dil grins weakly...)

Dil; “That ointment will make it feel better....The big hurt time is over...”

Tali: “Oh...now only small hurts....I am not so sure I like that, Uncle Dilber....”

Dil: “Love you, honey...you were so brave....”

(Tali reaches for first aid kit...)

Tali: “I have heard mommy and daddy say that love hurts.....I did not know this is what they meant....I do not think I will ever love!....”

(Tali takes out tube of ointment...Dil reaches for it..)

Dil: “Let me do that, Tali....”

(Tali jerks the tube away)

Tali: “NO!...I will take care of you!...It is my job!....”

(Tali squeezes ointment out onto the wound....she looks at Dil, waiting...)

Dil: “Oh yea...that feels better...”

Tali: “You are such a fibber!....It cannot!...”

Dil; “Does”

Tali: “Does not!...”

Dil: “Does too...”

Tali: “Does not!....”

(Dil grins....Tali frowns....)

Tali: “I will wrap it now and then I will put the splint I made back on it....”

(She looks at Dil...)

Tali: “It will hurt...I am sorry...”

(Dil gives small grin)

Dil: “It’s your job...right, trail boss?”

Tali: “Yes it is!....But before I do....”

(Tali leans down...hugs Dil...)

Tali: “I love you Uncle Dilbert....”

(Dil hugs her with right arm...)

Dil: “I know you do...I love you right back...”

(Tali leans back...looks at Dil...Dil looks back..curious...)

Tali: “It is time”

Dil: “Time for what?”

Tali; “For you to go to sleep again....”

(Tali holds elastic Ace bandage roll in one hand....slightly lifts Dil’s arm....)

Dil: “DAMN!....”

(Dil’s eyes close...head slumps....Tali nods...)

Tali: “Thank you”

(The two twins look on in shock, Tali quickly places white pad on wound, then places wooden sticks on each side of forearm...wraps Dil’s arm with elastic bandage....Dil’s eyes open...looks at the bandage...)

Dil: “Tali...that’s an elastic bandage....)

Tali: “I am aware, Uncle Dilbert....”

Dil: “Why are you....”

Tali: “Your arm...it will get bigger again...this will be more comfortable because it can get bigger too....”

(Dil stares at the bandage...then...)

Dil: “Okay...that makes sense...”

(Tali takes bandana scarf from around Dil’s neck....flaps it..folds into large triangle...)

Tali: “Here...We do not have a sling...It is all we have...”

(Tali tie’s ends of bandana together...Dil lowers his head..Tali slips makeshift sling over his head....)

Dil: “You keep amazing me, Tali....”

Tali: “You may amaze me as well if you will put your own arm in it....I am going to cry again if I hurt you more....”

(pause)

Tali: “I am tired of crying....”

(pause)

Tali: “It does not do us any good....”

(Tali wipes her eyes with sleeve...)

(Dil grits his teeth..lifts arm towards sling..)

Dil: “Tali...some help please...”

(Tali reaches down....pulls sling hole open....Dil slides forearm in....lays head back against tree, closes his eyes...breathes out in relief.)

Dil: “Love you, honey...”

Tali: “You do not have to keep saying that, Uncle Dilbert....”

Dil: “Yes...I do”

(Dil pulls legs under him...)

Tali: “What are you doing...?”

(Dil leans against tree...stands...)

Dil: “We need to go...We can’t stay here because of me...”

Tali: “Then I will bring you Prissy....”

Dil: “Cheyenne...bring me Cheyenne...”

Tali: “No...”

(Tali walks to Prissy...leads her to Dil...)

Tali: “Your arm cannot stand bumps...and Prissy is a softer ride...”

(Dil looks at Tali...)

Tali: “You said so yourself, Uncle Dilbert....Now, get on the horse...I will help you...”

(Dil shakes his head..)

Dil: “Okay, boss...”

Tali: “Then I will help you with Reginald...he will ride with you...”

(Dil puts a foot in the stirrup....swings one leg over, sits up straight in the saddle...leans down, right arm grabs Reggie by the collar, lifts him easily up into the saddle in front of him...)

Dil: “I can still handle my share of the load, Tali....”

(Dil looks towards the sun...)

Dil: “We have about 2, maybe 3 hours until the sun sets....We need to make as much ground as we can before we camp...”

(Dil looks at Tali, sees her hat laying on her back shoulders, held by loop around neck...)

Dil: “Tali....Your hat...”

(pause)

Dil: “Trail boss wears a hat, honey...”

(Tali smiles...nods...pulls her cowboy hat on her head....)

Dil: “Tilt the brim down in front...makes you look like you mean business....”

(Tali tugs at the front brim...looks at Dil...he grins...)

Dil: “Now you look like a cowgirl...”

(Scene shows Tali, sitting straight up on Cheyenne, Sandi in saddle with her...both horses, Daisy, Kitty, seen moving down trail...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on road in mountain....Gibbs and Torres seen pulling trailer behind truck...two ambulances seen parked on side of road...Caprice steps out of one, waits...Nell and Dez step out of other ambulance...Techs open rear doors, exit...)

Caprice: “There they are...”

Nell: “And they actually got what they went for...”

Caprice; “You know Jethro....Once he sets his mind to something...”

(scene shifts to long trailer...two large spotlights sit, one large generator on trailer...Gibbs and Torres step onto back of trailer..)

Gibbs; “Hook ‘em up.....let’s make sure they work”

(Torres holds cables...looks at spotlights..)

Torres: “Man...Borin might of given us dead spotlights...There’s no place to plug these in....”

Gibbs: “She was mad enough...”

Torres: “She’s mad because you sent her to check with the base commander....Then we took her spotlights while she was gone...”

Gibbs: “She’ll get over it...”

(Torres stands....looks down road...)

Torres: “I don’t know....”

(Coast Guard sedan comes speeding up....slams on brakes...)

Gibbs: “Guess we’ll find out...”

(Borin exits car, fast....walks fast to trailer...)

Gibbs; “Hey Borin...”

(Borin looks at Gibbs....angry face...)

Borin: “Don’t you Hey Borin me!...”

Torres: “Girl...we’re gonna bring them back!...”

(Borin steps up on the trailer....shakes her head...)

Borin: “I didn’t think so....”

(Gibbs and Torres look at her, curiously...Borin jumps down, goes to car, opens trunk...pulls out two black boxes...jumps onto trailer....)

Borin: “Here, criminals....”

(They look at the black boxes...confused...)

Borin; “Adaptors for the generators....those lights won’t work without them...”

(Borin shakes her head...)

Borin; “Men....Can’t live with ‘em...can’t hook up spotlights...”

(Gibbs gives small grin...)

Gibbs: “Thanks”

Borin: “Just don’t break my spotlights.....I want them back....”

(Torres grins...)

Torres: “You’re okay, ma’am....”

Borin: “No, Torres...I’m NOT okay!...”

(she scowls...)

Borin: “Criminals....”

Torres: “We’re more like pirates..you know...?”

(Borin stares at Torres...says nothing....)

Torres; ‘Criminals is good, too.....”

(Torres plugs cable into boxes, then attach to spotlight...hits both switches....spotlights hum loudly....then beam of light bursts into the sky...)

(Gibbs looks over to Caprice...nods...twirls finger in the air...Caprice walks to one ambulance, Nell to the other...both reach in, hit switch...Red beacons on roof begin to twirl....)

(scene shifts to Gibbs...watches...)

Gibbs; ‘We’re good”

Torres: “Cool...now we wait for the fog....”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in forest, Tali, on Cheyenne, looks back...sees look of pain on Dil’s face....slows...Prissy comes up next to Cheyenne....)

Tali: “I believe this is a good place, Uncle Dilbert...”

Dil: “Need to make time, honey....”

Tali; “No...Cheyenne and Prissy are thirsty...The children look tired..There is everything we need here...Look...”

(Tali points to clump of wild dandelions....)

Dil: “Well...who am I to deprive our horses of their favorite...”

(Dil looks up...)

Dil: “Only an hour before sunset....it should be okay...”

(scene shows Dil lifting Reggie up with right arm, lowering him down to Tali..)

Tali: “Uncle Dilbert, you can rest...I will have everything done quickly...”

Dil: “No, honey...I’ll do my part...”

Tali: “Of course you will...but Reginald and Sandra wish to help....”

Reggie: “Sure do!...”

Sandi: “Yes! Please!...”

(scene shows Dil dismounting, sitting against tree, gently moving arm onto lap..slowly closes his eyes.....)

(scene shifts to campfire, dark, fog covering trees...Tali kneeling by Dil, unwrapping his arm...)

Dil: “It’s fine...”

Tali: “I am sure it is, Uncle Dilbert...but you have been riding...and it has been bumpy...I just wish to look...”

(Dil looks away...Tali unwraps the arm....looks at the arm...view shows skin dark, swollen...)

Dil: ‘Doesn’t look too good....does it...”

Tali: “No....”

Dil: “I’ll get some rest tonight...in the morning, it’ll be better...just get the kids something to....”

Tali: “They have eaten...they are fine, Uncle Dilbert...”

(Dil stares at Tali....)

Dil: “How long was I out?”

Tali: “You slept for several hours....”

Dil: “What time is it?”

Tali: “I do not know...but I would assume it is close to 8....”

(Dil says nothing....)

Tali: “It is time for you to get up....”

Dil: “Get up?”

Tali: “Yes...we are not waiting for the sun to come up....”

Dil: “Tali!..We can’t travel at night....Look at the fog...We might not even be able to see the trail...”

Tali: “We are not taking the trail....We are going straight down the mountain...it will be our short cut...”

(Dil looks at her, disbelief....)

Tali: “Come....Come with me....please...I wish to show you something”

(pause)

Dil: “Tali...I don’t know what you’re thinking...but...”

Tali: “They have come for us....”

(pause)

Tali: “They are showing us the way home, Uncle Dilbert....)

Dil: “Who?”

(Dil stands...walks to edge of trees...Tali points far off.....Bright glow of lights in fog in distance...red flashes seen reflecting off clouds....)

Tali: “It is our family...Our family is showing us the way home...”

(scene shifts to roadside....Gibbs and Torres on trailer, swinging huge spotlights into the sky, red beacons on ambulances rotating, reflecting off fog....)

Gibbs; “Keep swinging it!....”

Torres: “Can do boss!...Where did this idea come from?”

Gibbs; ‘Ships....Ships in the fog before there was radar on every boat...it’s how they kept from crashing into each other...The fog makes the sky light up.”

Torres: “Dude...this is so crazy!....”

(pause)

Torres; “I love it!...It’s so bueno!....”

Gibbs: “Let’s just hope they see it, Torres....”

(scene shifts to forest...dark..dense trees....ahead, steep drop off...)

Dil: “Tali...We have to go around this....”

Tali: “It is steep....”

Dil: “Tali...that’s Sliding Drop....people stay away from it....It’s over 100 feet down, and 45 degrees...at its best....worse in some places....”

(Tali looks off in the distance...sees lights shining into the air...red flashes in the fog....)

Tali: “We shall do down....Can you do it?”

Dil: “Yes!..I can!...But you!...On Cheyenne?...Tali, it’s not a very smart thing to do!....”

Tali: “How long will it take us to go around it?”

Dil: “3...maybe 4 hours....but it’s a level trail...”

(Tali looks at Dil’s arm....)

Tali: “We can not take that long....”

Dil: “Tali...I want you to listen to me.....”

Tali: “We are wasting time....”

(Tali spurs Cheyenne towards the drop off....)

Dil: “TALI!....NO!....DAMMIT!...NO!....”

(Tali and Sandi reach the edge...Tali pulls on the reins, Cheyenne rears up, pawing the air....)

Tali: “Cheyenne!...It will be you and me....You will listen to me...you will do this slow....We are counting on you...And you can count on me!...”

(The huge horse lands....head bobs....Tali wraps an arm around Sandi, grabs the reins with one hand, leans back....tightens reins...then nudges with her knees....)

(scene shows Cheyenne stepping over the edge...starts slowly moving down the steep hill....)

Dil: “That damn girl!....”

(Dil watches...shakes his head....)

Dil: “Let’s go Prissy....you know how it’s done...”

(Dill kicks...Prissy bolts forward.....)

(scene shifts to hillside...Prissy sliding, Dil holding Reggie, Dil weaving Prissy back and forth on the hillside....)

(scene shifts to Tali...)

Tali: “Slower, Cheyenne!...Left...!...”

(Tali whips the reins to the left...Cheyenne moves sideways, sliding downward, Tali leaning back, tension on reins...)

Tali: “I have you, Cheyenne!....”

(Cheyenne sees rocks in front...)

Tali: “Cheyenne!...OVER!...”

(Cheyenne leaps...clears large boulder...lands, front feet sliding, Tali pulling on reins....Cheyenne settles...)

Tali; “YES!....YOU ARE A WONDERFUL HORSE!....”

(scene shifts to Dil..watches the large horse leap over the boulder...)

Dil; “WHAT IS SHE DOING?”

(Dil kicks....)

Dil: “UP PRISSY!.....”

(Prissy leaps...clears boulder...lands...soft hooves settle into sand, Prissy prances...)

Dil; ‘Oh? You think you’re something, don’t you, girl?”

(Prissy bobs head up and down...)

Dil: “Well you know what? You are!...”

(Dil watches Tali leading Cheyenne down hill, leaning far back, talking to her horse....)

Dil: “...You know what, Reggie?”

Reggie: “I don’t know what that was!.....”

Dil: “Take a good look....you don’t see that every day...”

(pause..Dil looks at Tali...low voice..)

“That’s a horsewoman you’re looking at....”

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens on roadside...Borin moving spotlight back and forth, Nell on other spotlight...)

Borin: “Nell...what time is it?”

Nell: “3:10 am...”

Borin: “You think those two see these?”

Nell: “Have to hope so....”

Borin: “This fog’s thick...”

Nell; “We still believe....”

(silence...Borin moves spotlight sideways...)

Borin: “Okay...”

Nell: “We have to believe....”

(Nell nods towards ambulances....Ziva, holding Rivka, Tony, stand against the barb wire fence along the road...A large woman stands, staring into the foggy forest...)

Nell: “That’s the mother’s sister....They’re a close family...”

Borin: “Nell...You do know the odds are against them making it down tonight...”

Nell: “The odds are always against us, Agent Borin....”

(Borin nods...)

Borin: “Sure seems that way...”

(Borin looks towards fence....Gibbs and Caprice stand at the fence...Dez next to them...Torres next to Dez...)

Borin: “Everyone cares....”

(Nell nods...)

Nell: “We all care”

(silence...then)

Borin: “I still want my spotlights back....”

(Nell stops...looks at Borin....)

Nell: “I didn’t thank you for coming....Thank you”

Borin: “Fools forgot the adaptor...I had to”

Nell; “No you didn’t”

Borin: “Bosworth...?”

Nell: “Yes?”

Borin: “You stop believing?”

(Nell frowns...)

Nell: “No”

Borin: “Then get that light moving....”

(Nell grins...begins swinging light.....)

(loud scream heard....)

(scene shifts to Caprice....she looks up...)

Caprice: “LOOK!....”

(scene shifts to sky...Amare swings over the group, hurtles downward, swoops up, lands on roof of Gibbs’s truck...)

Nell: “AMARE!....”

(Amare looks at Nell...squawks....)

(Nell yells out)

Nell: “THEY’RE COMING!....IT’S AMARE!....”

(The eagle flaps its wings, rises, flies upwards, disappears into the fog....)

Borin: “Bosworth?”

(Nell, smiling big..turns....)

Borin: “What was that?”

(Nell smiles...)

Nell: “My eagle!...Isn’t she beautiful?”

(Borin says nothing...looks at Nell....then nods...)

Borin: “Uh huh”

(Borin shakes her head...starts pushing spotlight...)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens at roadside...sun coming up...fog lifting...spotlights off, group gathered at the trailer, sitting on edge of rails...)

Nell: “They’ll come”

Gibbs: “Might not till later...”

Nell: “No...they’ll come real soon...”

(Dez stands...stares at the forest....)

Dez: “Ziva...”

(Ziva looks at Dez....Dez staring at forest...)

Dez: “That’s not a wolf....”

(100 yards away, forest edge...Daisy runs out of forest...barking furiously....)

Ziva: “DAISY!....DARLING!....”

(Yellow streak comes out....)

Torres: “DUDE!...LOOK!...”

(scene shifts to Borin....)

Borin: “Bosworth...that’s a wolf and a mountain lion...”

(Nell smiling big....)

Nell: “Uh huh!...”

Borin: “Those yours too?”

(Nell nods...big smile...Borin says nothing...shakes her head again..)

(Ziva shrieks....)

“LOOK!....”

(They all stare at the forest edge...)

(scene shifts to edge of tree line....Cheyenne breaks through tree line...comes into opening....Tali sitting tall in the saddle, one hand on reins, one on Sandi, Tali’s hat pulled low over her eyes, shoulders back, confident in saddle...Dez stares...whispers in awe.....)

“Look at her....She was born to ride...”

(Tali kicks at Cheyenne...)

Tali: “Show them Cheyenne!....Show them who we are!....”

(Cheyenne rear up...paws the air....lands, then begins prancing...high stepping....slightly sideways, head bobbing up and down, dancing....)

(scene shifts to Dez...big smile)

Dez: “Look at those two!...Look how good they are together!....”

(Dez yells out a loud whoop, takes cowboy hat off and waves it in the air...)

(Dez stops...face falls...)

Dez: “Tali is on Cheyenne....Why is she on Cheyenne?....What happened?”

(Dez’s face shows alarm...)

Dez: “WHERE IS BUBBA?”

(Dil and Prissy come out through the trees..., Reggie being held.....slow....Prissy begins to lope towards the group...Caprice sees, yells out....)

Caprice: “TECHS!....GET OUT THERE!...HE’S HURT!....”

(Nell’s face turns to Prissy and Dill...face falls...)

Nell: “HE’S ALMOST UNCONCIOUS!...”

(scene shifts to Dil....laying forward, head bobbing....)

(Tali comes racing up to the fence on Cheyenne....pulls the horse to a stop...looks at Caprice...)

Tali: “His arm is broken!...It is big and dark!...I had to cut it open last night to let the poison out!..”

(Caprice and group look at Tali, shock...Tali yells out...)

“GET MY UNCLE DILBERT HELP NOW!....”

(Torres and Tony seen racing to Dil....They reach Prissy, Torres pulls Dil over, Dil falls off Prissy, Torres catches him...cradles the large man in his arms....Dil’s eyes open....look at Torres...)

Dil: “I’m in hell”

Torres; ‘DUDE!...”

Dil: “I’ve died and gone to hell....”

(Nell seen running up...)

Nell: “DIL!....”

(Dil looks at Nell....)

Dil; ‘Okay...I’m in heaven....”

(Dil looks back at Torres...)

Dil: “What are you doing in heaven?”

(Torres scowls...)

Torres: “I’m gonna drop you, dude....”

(Dil gives weak grin)

Nell: ‘BABY!....Your arm....it’s....”

Dil: “Broken...I know...Tali....Tali.....Tali....”

(Dil’s eyes close...Nell shrieks...)

“CAPRICE!....HELP HIM!...”

(Caprice running up, ambulance techs following with rolling gurney....)

Caprice; “Jethro!..Take the kids to their aunt then the other ambulance!...They’re okay!...”

(pause, Caprice calls out to the running techs...)

Caprice; “Get this man in the ambulance!...I’ll cut the bandage off!...Just get moving!...”

(Nell walks fast alongside the gurney...Dil’s eyes open...he looks at Nell...)

Dil: “She saved my life....”

Nell: “Dilbert!...My god...what happened up there?”

(silence....then...)

Dil: “Tali saved my life....she saved everyone’s life....”

(pause)

Dil: “I want Ziva and Tony to ride with me...”

Nell “Us”

Dil: “I need to tell them....I need to tell them…”

(Dil’s eyes close....low voice...)

Dil: “Need to tell them....”

(Dil reaches out...)

Dil: “Tali...honey....”

(Tali stands...fearful face...)

Tali: “Please tell me I was not too late, Uncle Dilbert....please tell me you are going to be okay...”

Dil: “I will...I promise...now come here...”

(Tali moves slowly to Dil...Ziva and Tony stand back, watching...Dil pulls Tali close...)

Dil: “I am so proud of you....Tali...I am so proud of you....”

(Tali says nothing...then breaks...lays her head on Dil's chest...begins crying...Ziva cries, Tony looks on, awed...Dil strokes Tali's hair...whispers softly..)

"It's okay now...let it out...you've held it in for so long....let it out, sweetheart...."

(scene fades to Dil holding crying Tali, Tony looking on in awe, Ziva watching one hand over her mouth...eyes moist)

(scene fades to black and white)

(scene opens in Walter Reed Hospital...Dil in bed, arm wrapped...Tali sits by Nell and Dez, watching nurse change dressing on Dil's arm...Ziva and Tony walk in the room...)

Ziva: "Tali?"

(Tali looks up...)

Tali: "I did what I was told, mommy...."

(Ziva kneels in front of Tali's chair...)

Ziva: "Your Uncle Dilbert told us what you did..the cave...shooting the boar.."

(Tali looks down...nods...)

Ziva: "Tali...when you had to cut your Uncle Dilbert's arm...what were you thinking?"

(Tali says nothing...then..)

Tali: "That it is what you or daddy would have done"

(Ziva looks at Tali, awed....)

Ziva: "My precious..but after you did that...you cauterized the wound with your knife...My darling!....I do not know if I could have done that"

(Tali nods...then...)

Tali: "None of us know what we can do...."

(pause)

Tali: “...until we have to do it”

(pause)

Tali: “My Uncle Dilbert told me that...”

(Ziva leans forward, pulls Tali against her...)

Ziva: “I cannot tell you how proud we are of you....and how much we love you...”

(Dez stands....looks down at Tali...)

Dez: “Tali...Bubba told me what you did...at the rocks....”

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

Tali: “It was something I think you would have wanted”

(Dez nods...kneels...)

Dez: “Thank you, sweetheart...it was a wonderful thing to do”

Tony: “You want to fill us in on this part?”

Dez: “I lost a horse up there when I was young...”

Tali: “A beautiful and wonderful horse that was your best friend....”

(Tali looks up at Tony...)

Tali; “His name was Hercules”

(Dez nods...)

Dez: “This sweet angel of a girl saw that the rocks we covered him with had fallen...”

Tali: “All I did was straighten them, Aunt Destiny....I wanted his bed to be neat....”

(Dez looks away...nods...Ziva looks at Tali...then softly...)

“Chesed”

(They look at Ziva, curious)

Ziva: “She performed a Chesed....It is very old Jewish word that means loving act from the heart”

(Dez nods...)

Dez: “Chesed...yes...it was....”

Tali: “I am so sorry, Aunt Destiny....but I also learned that Cheyenne is the grand son of Hercules...”

(Dez nods...)

Tali: “He was...Cheyenne was wonderful on our trip.....he was so much what it sounds like Hercules was....”

Dez: “I know....I know, baby...”

(Dez stands...looks at Tony and Ziva...)

Dez: “This is a very special child”

Ziva: “Thank you, Destiny...we know...”

Dez: “Raised by very special people....”

(Dez surprises Tony and Dez...hugs them...)

Dez: “Thank you for being the perfect mother and father that you’ve been”

(They turn...Cal, in white coat enters, holding large laminate sheets...)

Cal: “Tali...I would like you to see something....”

(Cal goes to lighted wall..pins XRay images up....)

Cal; “Tali..this is your Uncle’s arm before we started...)

(XRay shows multiple breaks....)

Cal: “Do you see this white cloud?..That is toxic fluid....”

Tali; “Poison”

Cal; “Yes...very...now do you see how it goes up from the bone and flows to one spot on the edge of the arm?”

(Tali looks...nods)

Cal: “That is where you cut the swelling...the toxic fluids...the poison...travelled quickly to the opening, and fortunately, most of it left the body.....”

Tali: “I was afraid it was going to hurt him...”

(Cal looks down at Tali....then at Nell...)

Cal: “Brave girl...if you had not done what you did.....that poison would have entered his body in a matter of hours...even with what you did, he was running a very high fever when he came in”

(Cal looks at Tali, face to face..)

Cal: “You not only saved his arm, Tali....You saved your uncle’s life”

(pause...Tali wide eyed)

Cal: “Make no mistake...Without you....he would have died up in those mountains”

(Cal turns to Nell...)

Cal: “We will operate tonight....We are going to implant a titanium rod in place of the bone...”

(Nell looks at Cal..nods...)

Nell: “His arm...his hand...will he be able to...”

Cal: “There will be no difference...He will be fine....”

(Cal looks at Tali, still staring at the XRays..Cal whispers...)

“Chesed...yes...That is what she is to all of us”

The Epilogue

(scene opens in Walter Reed, Dil’s hospital room, left arm wrapped, strapped to chest...Nell sits...)

Nell: “Baby? How do you feel?”

Dil: “Amazingly....not too bad”

(Nell takes his right hand....kisses it..)

Nell: “I’m glad you’re okay...”

“Barf”

(scene expands, Dez standing at end of bed, arms crossed...)

Dez: “You two....”

(Nell grins...)

Nell: “How’s your sweet and loving Cal?”

(Dez shows blank face...then smile breaks out....Nell laughs...)

Dez: “A-hole!...Someday I’m not going to react like that....”

Nell: “Yes you will...”

(Dez scrunches her face, frowns...)

Dez: “Probably....”

(Dez moves to side of bed..Dil looks up at her)

Dil: “Doc said I’m going home tomorrow...”

Dez: “I know...I thought it would take a long time...But Cal said implants like yours are in and out, 2 days in the hospital max...”

Nell: “And six weeks of being very careful and letting me take care of him...”

Dez: “Barf”

(Nell grins, kisses Dil’s hand again, Dez rolls her eyes, shakes her head...)

Dez: “Well, Bubba, don’t expect a party or streamers or any big deal when you come home....”

(pause)

Dez: “It’s not like it’s a big deal or anything....”

(scene shifts to The D Ranch, front lawn....Tali and Song pulling streamers from front porch to bushes in lawn, red, white and blue balloons cover the landscape...Tali looks back...)

Tali: “Here?”

(scene expands, Caprice on edge of lawn, directing Tali and Song...)

Caprice: “Over here, baby!...yes..that’s it...!”

Tali: “My Uncle Dilbert is coming home!....”

Caprice: “We know, honey....this is nice of you....”

“Hey!...Where do you want these?”

(Caprice turns....Gibbs and Torres standing by trailer, spotlights on back...)

Caprice: “Jethro!...You told Abigail you would have those things back!...”

Gibbs: “Torres told her...not me...”

Torres: “Oh now I see how you are...Blame Torres!...Okay!...”

Gibbs: “I told her we’d clean them up...It takes time to do a good job...”

Caprice: “Why don’t you two criminals put the trailer by the fence...”

Torres: “Criminals...man...that’s so no bueno...”

(Caprice shrieks out...)

Caprice: “NO!....DAISY NO!...”

(Daisy seen running fast around corner of house, runs through balloons, balloons scattering on lawn....Caprice shrieks out again...)

“NO TO YOU TOO!....”

(Kitty runs after Daisy, balloons fly up in air, Kitty leaps up, takes a swipe at one, balloon pops....Kitty lands, runs after Daisy....Caprice stands, hands on hips...glares after the two animals running around other side of house....Tali and Song laughing loud....)

Caprice: “Jethro!...Keep control of your dog!....”

(pause)

Caprice: “And you too, Nick!....That is your cat!...”

(loud squawk heard....Amare dives into floating balloons, several pops heard as the large bird swoops down, then climbs into the sky again....Caprice yells out...)

“WHERE IS NELL?...THAT’S HER BLASTED BIRD!...”

(Tali and Song still laughing, clapping hands....)

Song: “It is okay, Aunt Caprice!...We have more balloons!...”

Tali: “Yes!..We have so many more!....”

(Tali smiles big...)

Tali: “My Uncle Dilbert is coming home tonight!...”

NIGHT

(scene opens to Dil’s truck, Nell driving, Dil in front passenger seat, arm bandaged, sling over shoulder...they turn off the two lane road, enter the Ranch road, white wooden ranch fence seen on right....)

Nell: “And there she is....”

(Prissy seen running to the fence, rearing up, then running along the fence, keeping pace with the truck...)

Dil: “That’s a good horse...”

Nell: “Yes, she is...my favorite...”

(Dil looks over at Nell...small smile...)

Dil: “I remember when you two first met...”

(Nell thinks...small smile...nods...)

Nell: “I do too...”

Dil: “She took to you right away....and she ate for you....”

Nell: “That part I don’t want to talk about....You were going to have to put her down...”

Nell: “You gave her a reason to live, Nell...”

(silence...Dil looks at Prissy, running....)

Dil: “You gave us both a reason to live”

(Nell says nothing...reaches out, touches Dil’s bandaged arm....)

Nell: “Things changed after that...”

Dil: “Yes...they sure did....”

“Barf...barf, barf, barf and more barf!...”

(scene expands, Dez in back seat, sitting next to Andreas in car seat...Dez turns to the baby)

Dez: “And don’t you do it!..Just because your Aunt Dez says barf, that doesn’t mean you have to barf!...”

(Dil looks out windshield...face surprised)

Dil: “WHOA!....WHAT THE...?”

(scene shifts to front of main house...Tali jumping up and down...)

Tali: “THEY ARE COMING!....POPPA JETHRO!...UNCLE NICK!....NOW!...”

(Gibbs and Torres, standing on trailer, flip switches...spotlights hum, beams of light flash into sky...)

Tali: “MOVE THEM AROUND!....PLEASE!...”

(Gibbs and Torres look at each other...shrug...begin pushing spotlights back and forth...)

(scene shifts to truck....)

Dil: “Sis!...I thought you said.....”

Dez: “It wasn’t my idea!....You can be damn sure of that!...”

(Dez murmers)

Dez: “If I had it my way, you’d be cleaning toilets”

(Nell grins...sees spotlight beams lighting up sky and clouds overhead...)

Nell: “It was your nieces...Tali and Song did it....”

Dez: “With a little help from butthead and Torres....”

(pause)

Dez: “Under the direction of Caprice....of course...”

(pause)

Dez: “By the way, Song has a recorder...She got it at school...”

Dil: “A what?”

Dez: “Recorder...it’s what they call a flute, butthead....and she’s going to play a welcome home tune for you...”

Nell; ‘That is so sweet!...”

Dez: “She only knows one song....”

(pause)

Dez: “Be prepared...Don’t you dare laugh....”

(Nell smiles...)

Nell; “Welcome home, baby....”

(Dil stares out front windshield, looking up at the lights in the sky...whispers)

“Our family is showing us the way home...”

(Nell looks over...)

Nell: “What honey?”

(Dil shakes his head...)

Dil: “Nothing....Just something Tali said”

(silence...then he looks over at Nell..)

Dil: “You said things changed after that day with Prissy....”

(pause)

Nell: “Yes?”

Dil: “It wasn’t a change...It was a beginning.....Life began that day”

(Dez, back seat, watches...looks out side window...silent...then slow nods...)

(Truck pulls into front, stops...Tali, Song, Gibbs, Torres, Cal, Tony, Ziva, cheering, clapping...Daisy dancing on front feet, yipping....Off to side, in pasture, Kitty

roars.....An eagle circles, screeching....Dil exits....Song puts flute to her mouth, takes deep breath....)

(scene shifts to Dil, face surprised...looks at Nell...)

“That’s her tune?”

(scene shows Song blowing into flute, “Here Comes The Bride” tune loudly playing, group singing along....Dil scratching his head, grinning)

(scene fades to black and white)

NEXT DAY

(scene opens in D Ranch stable, Prissy and Cheyenne in stalls...Dez stands, arms crossed, staring at Cheyenne...The large horse stands still, looking at her...)

Dez: “You did good, Cheyenne....You brought them back...”

(silence....Dez looks down..moves dirt with her boot...)

Dez: “I’m sorry I haven’t paid more attention to you...”

(pause)

Dez: “You’re so much like your grandfather.....”

(Cheyenne stretches his head over the stable door, towards Dez....She reaches up, strokes the horse’s nose...)

Dez: “It was like it was yesterday...”

(She stares at the horse...)

Dez: “Do you blame me?....Is there something inside you that remembers what I did?”

(She drops her hand....)

Dez: “I’d hate me”

(She turns...walks away...stops...surprised...)

Dez: “Tali....”

(scene shows Tali standing, saying nothing...)

Tali: “He misses you”

(Dez laughs nervously...)

Dez: “Who? Cheyenne?...I doubt it....”

Tali: “No...Hercules...I do not know...I only know Cheyenne is a beautiful friend, and he misses you”

(Tali turns away...then stops...turns back...holds hand to chest)

Tali: “My mother is in me...my father is in me...My family is in me....”

(pause)

Tali: “I believe we live forever in each other”

(Tali walks out....Dez stands...face shocked....Cheyenne whinnies...)

Dez: “No”

(pause)

Dez: “Not a chance you big dummy....”

(Dez turns to Cheyenne....)

Dez: “There’s no way in this green earth that I’m getting on you and riding...”

(scene shifts to main house....Tali stands in living room, looking out front windows...Nell walks to her...)

Nell: “Whatcha doing, pretty girl?”

Tali: “Waiting”

Nell: “Waiting for what?”

(silence...)

Tali: “Magic”

(Nell looks out the window....)

Nell; “What kind of magic?”

Tali: “Family magic...I think...I do not know, Aunt Penelope”

(Tali turns to Nell...looks up at her...)

Tali: “Do you believe in magic, Aunt Penelope?”

(Nell smiles...)

Nell: “I sure do, honey....”

(pause)

Nell: “And this magic you’re waiting on....does it have to do with your Aunt Destiny riding Cheyenne?”

Tali: “Yes...but I think I will have to wait for a long time....My Aunt Destiny hurts....and sometimes, I think...hurt can be stronger than magic...”

Nell: “Maybe you won’t have to wait so long....”

Tali: “I hope so...but I do not think so....”

Nell: “You might want to turn around, pretty girl...”

(Tali looks at Nell, curiously....then turns....face lights up...Tali runs into the kitchen..)

“UNCLE DILBERT!....COME!...COME LOOK!....”

(Nell waits...Tali comes, pulling Dil by his right hand.....Dil looks out the window...shock...)

Dil: “Well I’ll be....I never in a million years thought I’d see this again...”

(scene through window shows Cheyenne walking out of the stable, Dez in saddle...)

Tali: “They have stopped!....”

Dil: “She’s about to have a talk with Cheyenne....”

Tali: “How do you know?”

Dil: “I just know, honey....it’s what she always did before she rode...”

(scene shifts to Dez, sitting on Cheyenne....she strokes the horse’s neck...)

Dez: “Let’s just get used to each other, big boy....take it easy....”

(Dez urges the horse forward...Cheyenne prances in place....)

Dez: “Easy boy....”

(Cheyenne rears up slightly....whinnies...)

Dez: “Easy...easy.....”

(Cheyenne continues to dance in place, eager...)

Dez: “Are you telling me you want to run?”

(Cheyenne’s head bobs...front hooves scrape ground..Dez squirms in saddle, sets her seat...tightens reins in her hand...)

(scene shifts to Dil...watching...)

Dil: “Wait for it.....wait for it....”

(scene shifts to Dez....she reaches forward...pats the neck....straightens up, takes a deep breath....)

Dez; “Okay, you beautiful boy....Show me whatcha got....”

(Dez kicks hard.....yells out...)

“YAAAA!....YAAA CHEYENNE!....”

(Cheyenne rears upwards, hooves pawing at the air, lands....then races forward through the pasture, Dez leaning forward, hair blowing back....yelling out....)

“YAAA CHEYENNE!....SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO!...”

(scene shifts to living room..Tali jumping up and down, clapping...Dil moves to the door, steps outside...watches....)

Dil: “Go Sis.....get it out...get it all out and leave it behind!...”

(Dil steps outside...Tali and Nell follow....Gibbs, Caprice, Torres, Bishop, Cal step out....)

Cal: “Tali....”

Talli: “ISN’T IT WONDERFUL UNCLE CAELESTI?”

Cal: “You have broken it, beautiful Tali....”

(pause)

Cal: “You have broken her curse...”

(scene shows Dez racing across the pasture, Cheyenne’s long main flowing back...Dez pulls hard on the reins, Cheyenne plows to a stop, Dez yanks the reins around, Cheyenne turns...they race towards the stable....)

Tali: “NO!...She is coming back!..It is over!...”

Dil: “Honey...Remember I told you no one could ride like your Aunt Destiny...?”

(pause)

Dil: “Watch...”

(scene shifts to Dez...She grabs the saddle horn, Cheyenne still racing...swings both legs over to one side, drops, hits the ground with her feet, both legs come up and over the saddle, swinging to the other side, both feet hitting the ground, legs swinging up again.....)

Nell: “MY GOD!....SHE CAN DO THAT!....”

Dil: “And more...”

(Dez lands in saddle, rears Cheyenne to a stop, begins spinning the horse in a tight circle...yelling out..)

“SHOW ME!...SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT!....”

(Dez pulls back hard on reins...Cheyenne rears up...)

Dez: “WAVE AT THEM CHEYENNE!....”

(Cheyene's hooves paw the air....)

Dez: “WALK FOR ME, CHEYENNE!....STAND UP AND WALK!....”

(Cheyenne, still on back feet, moves forward a step...)

Dez: “NOW HOP, HERCULES!....SHOW MOMMY YOU CAN JUMP!....”

(Cheyenne kicks with back feet, lands on both....)

“AGAIN HERCULES!...SHOW MOMMY!....”

(scene shows Dil’s face....shock...)

Dil; “No Sis...that’s not Hercules....”

(Dez screams out....)

“THAT’S MY HERCULES!....YES!....”

(Cheyenne drops back down....pawing dirt....dancing....Dez sits in saddle...blank face....silent....)

Dez: “You’re....you’re not.....”

(Dez slowly swings leg over, slides down side of horse....stands...softly speaks...)

Dez: “You’re not Hercules....”

(Dez scrunches face...places both hands over her face...drops to her knees.....)

“I’m sorry....”

(Cheyenne moves head around, looks at Dez.....then front legs fold...Cheyenne lowers his body...)

“I’m so sorry....”

(Cheyenne’s rear legs fold...the huge horse lays on ground behind Dez....her shoulders shaking....Cheyenne moves his head towards Dez...the horse’s face pulls Dez into its side....Dez turns, lays both hands on Cheyenne’s large side, lays her head against the horse.....and wails loudly.....)

“I’M SO SORRY!...I’M SO SORRY!....I LOVED YOU SO MUCH!....I’M SO SORRY....”

“He hears you Sis...”

(Dez looks up...Dil standing in front of her.... her mouth opens wide....face in anguish)

“I killed him!....I’m so sorry.....”

(Dil kneels down....pulls Dez to him....)

Dil: ‘Hercules knows, honey.....He knows....”

(Cheyenne gives soft whinny...then stands....Dil continues to hold his sobbing sister, her face buried in her brother's chest....)

"He knows...you hear him?....He knows, Sis..."

(scene fades to black and white)

AFTERNOON

(scene opens at The D Ranch, the Dinozzo House, Tony and Ziva looking out open top half of back Dutch door, looking at Tali, sitting by herself at the old picnic table...Tali looking up at the mountain behind the house..)

Ziva: "She is thinking about Destiny....and Cheyenne...and Hercules..."

Tony: "Yea...it was a nice moment...."

Ziva: "It is always a nice moment when the past is faced....and one wins..."

(Ziva looks up at Tony...small smile...)

Tony: "I guess we know a little about that...don't we?"

(Ziva nods...looks back at Tali...)

Ziva: "I am worried, Tony...."

Tony: "I know"

Ziva: "She is wonderful, and brave, and strong...."

Tony: "But growing up to fast?"

(Ziva nods...)

Ziva: "I do not want her to grow up as I did....I want her to have a childhood, to be young...to worry about wanting a pony for Christmas, not to think about how she has held life and death in her hands..."

(silence....Ziva looks up at Tony...)

Ziva: "Tony...say something...."

Tony: "Wait"

Ziva: “Wait for what? For the next situation that a child should not be in? How long will it be before she cannot sleep because of nightmares? How long before...”

Tony: “Wait...and listen....”

(Tony looks off towards the pasture....far away sound of gas powered 4 wheelers heard...)

Ziva: “Tony...what is that? And why are you listening for it? What have you done?”

Tony: “I made a call....”

Ziva: “You made a call to whom?”

(4 wheelers close in....then the sound of the engines idling...Tony grins...Nell and Torres seen walking across the back yard towards Tali....Nell looks at Ziva and Tony, waves, smiling big...Tali sees them, jumps up, smiling...runs to Torres...Torres picks her up, puts her over his shoulder, her head and hair hanging down... Tali laughing....)

Ziva: “What are Penelope and Torres doing? Why is she smiling that smile?”

Tony: “I don’t know...let’s go see...”

(scene shifts to back fence of D Ranch property, base of mountain...Tony and Ziva stop their golf cart...both get out, stand...)

Ziva: “Tony...why are we here?”

Tony: “Wait”

Ziva: “I will not wait!...All you are saying is Wait! Watch! Listen!...”

Tony: “Yea”

(Ziva looks towards the mountain)

Ziva: “This is the place where they have the zipper line!....”

Tony: “Zip line, Ziva...Zip line...”

Ziva: “Zip, zap, zoop...I do not care!...Where is my Tali?...”

(loud scream heard.....Ziva looks towards the ridge, surprised...)

(scene shifts to Tali, sitting on small seat, hurtling down zip line from mountain....Tali's face shows huge smile, laughing, then waves at Ziva...)

"MOMMY!...DADDY!...LOOK AT ME!..."

(Tali comes zooming down line, then line straightens out, Tali slows....Tali jumps off....sound of 4 wheeler heard coming down mountain....Torres jumps a rock, lands, vehicle slide sideways, then races towards a waiting Tali, jumping up and down...)

Torres: "HEY!...YOU GOING UP?"

Tali: "YES! YES! YES!...AGAIN UNCLE NICK!..."

(scream heard...)

Ziva: "Tony....is that....."

Tony: "Uh huh..."

(Nell seen sliding down wire, laughing...Tali watching, laughing....)

(Ziva watches, amazed...Tali climbs in 4 wheeler, Nell runs to it, climbs in....)

Nell: "UP DRIVER!...."

(Torres seen gunning engine, roaring up the mountain trail....)

(scene shifts to Ziva, smiling, shaking her head...leans against Tony...He places an arm around her, pulls her closer...)

Ziva: "I should have known...."

Tony: "Yep"

Ziva: "You knew my concern"

Tony: "Yes"

(She turns to look up at Tony, face serious...)

Ziva: "You were worried as well?"

(Tony nods...)

Tony: “Very....”

(pause)

Tony: “I called Torres...he called Nell...we talked....and this is what came of it...”

(Ziva turns back to the zip line...)

Ziva: “Anthony?”

Tony: “Yes?”

Ziva: “Tali is having fun...she is being a child...”

(pause)

Ziva: “How do you have fun?”

Tony: “Well for you, that usually involves either a gun or knocking someone out....”

(Ziva elbows Tony in ribs...)

Ziva: “They are having fun....”

(pause)

Ziva: “Our Tali is a little girl again...”

Tony: “Get in the cart”

Ziva: “No..I can see our Tali fine from where...”

Tony: “Cart, Ziva...”

(Ziva looks at Tony, curiously...then her eyes widen...)

Ziva: “NO!...NO!..I Am not going on that zipper line!...”

(Tony says nothing...smiles....)

Ziva; “It does not matter what you say, I will not!...Anthony! I just had a child!..”

(Tony smiles bigger)

Ziva: “I WILL NOT!....That is final!...”

(scene shifts to zip line....screaming heard....Ziva comes racing down the wire, hair blowing back, face in shock, Tony standing, smiling, holding Tali in his arms, both laughing, Tali clapping her hands, yelling out.....)

“YAY MOMMY!....”

(scene fades out to Ziva’s shocked face, hair blowing back..Ziva’s screams echo....)

(scene fades to black and white)

THE END