

NCIS

"Up For Debate"

Written by

Ryan Paul James

Agent: Zana Scott
The Wayne Agency Talent & Literary Director
Zana@thewayneagency.com
818.383.6244
3255 Wilshire Blvd. 15th floor, Suite 1534
Los Angeles, CA 90010

COLD OPEN

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF MCGEE GETTING A PHONE CALL...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER (DAY 1)

Senator George Brown (40's) makes a speech on the bow of an aircraft carrier.

SENATOR BROWN

We need to stop spending money on endless wars and use that money to help our military families, especially when they come home from the battle fields.

Applause from the crowd.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

With your vote, I can represent you in Washington. I'll see that we bring respect back for our military men and women.

Applause from the crowd.

Campaign manager Robin King (30's) receives a text.

Text - I have the document you were asking about. Ready to make the exchange? I'm in the laundry room.

Senator Brown's speech continues as Robin slips away and heads downstairs to the laundry room.

INT. DARK HALLWAY

Senator Brown's speech draws applause from the crowd which can be heard echoing through the hallway. Robin cautiously opens the door to the laundry room.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM

ROBIN KING

Hello?

Robin looks around and doesn't see anyone. She continues to search the dark room but cannot find anyone. She starts to walk back in the other direction when a hooded dark figure steps out startling her.

ROBIN KING (CONT'D)

Oh! There you are! You scared me. I was starting to think that you chickened out. So, ready to make the exchange?

The dark figure unzips their backpack. They then pull out a knife and begins to stab Robin to death. A campaign button reading "Vote For Brown" falls to the ground in a puddle of blood.

Senator Brown's speech continues, followed by applause.

Robin's body is stuffed in a laundry bag that is stained in blood.

EXT. AIRCRAFT CARRIER

SENATOR BROWN

Re-elect me and we can bring back the respect our country deserves! God Bless You! God Bless America!

Crowd applauds and cheers.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

FROM BLACK:

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - (MORNING)

Agent Jimmy Palmer gets off the elevator looking upset.

NICK TORRES

You okay, Jimmy?

JIMMY PALMER

Not sure. I just got off the phone with my wife.

Agent Palmer walks over to Agents Torres and Bishop.

JIMMY PALMER (CONT'D)
Maybe the two of you can help me.

NICK TORRES
When it comes to relationship
advice you're barking up the wrong
tree.

JIMMY PALMER
No, it's not that. She said that we
have to go on a vacation or the
time share we bought a year ago is
going to charge us for a vacation
we're never going to take.

ELLIE BISHOP
You two got sucked into buying a
time share?

JIMMY PALMER
They offered my wife a free trip to
Cancun and she bought it hook, line
and sinker. Now I have to come up
with a trip before March. Would any
of you be interested in buying the
time share off me?

NICK TORRES
Not a chance.

Agents Gibbs and McGee enter.

LEROY GIBBS
Torres, Bishop, Palmer we gotta a
murder to look at.

NICK TORRES
Good luck, Jimmy.

JIMMY PALMER
Thanks.

Off Agent Palmer's look of defeat.

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM (MID-MORNING)

Agents Gibbs, Palmer, Bishop and Torres investigate the crime
scene.

Agent Gibbs enters the laundry room and is greeted by Agent
Bishop.

ELLIE BISHOP

The body was discovered early this morning and they've been able to close off this area so the crime scene has not been contaminated.

NICK TORRES

This is Private Larson. He's the one that found the body this morning.

LEROY GIBBS

Private Larson?

PRIVATE LARSON

Sir.

LEROY GIBBS

Want to tell us what you saw when you came in this morning?

PRIVATE LARSON

I came to work at five. When I turned on the light, I saw that I was standing in a puddle of blood. I followed the stream of blood to this bag. I peeked in and saw some hair and that's when I realized there was a dead body. I immediately called my superiors and that's when they called you.

LEROY GIBBS

Okay... Mind sticking around?

PRIVATE LARSON

Yes Sir.

Agent Torres comes over holding the "Vote For Brown" button.

NICK TORRES

This campaign button was found over there.

JIMMY PALMER

Should we try to identify the body?

LEROY GIBBS

Let's open it up.

Agent Palmer begins to delicately open the bag. The victim's face can now be seen.

ELLIE BISHOP
Oh my god!

JIMMY PALMER
What?

ELLIE BISHOP
I know her.

LEROY GIBBS
What do you mean you know her?

ELLIE BISHOP
That's Robin! I went to college
with her. She was a year behind me.

Agent Palmer searches the corpse's pockets and finds her I.D.
He passes it onto Agent Gibbs.

Agent Timothy McGee finishes up a phone call as he enters.

TIMOTHY MCGEE
(on the phone)
Ok... Thanks so much. We'll be over
there in about a hour.

Agent McGee hangs up.

TIMOTHY MCGEE (CONT'D)
That was Senator George Brown's
office. Apparently they called the
local police this morning, claiming
their campaign manager has been
missing since his speech here on
the ship yesterday.

LEROY GIBBS
Is her name Robin King?

TIMOTHY MCGEE
Yeah, how did you know?

Agent Gibbs shows him the I.D.

TIMOTHY MCGEE (CONT'D)
Oh boy! We have a meeting with the
senator in a hour. He's at the
Baltimore Community College
debating his opponent,
Congresswoman Ellen Ford.

LEROY GIBBS
All right let's go.

Agents Gibbs and McGee exit while Agents Palmer, Torres and Bishop continue to examine the crime scene.

NICK TORRES
Were you close?

ELLIE BISHOP
No, just had mutual friends.
Everyone seemed to like her a lot.

NICK TORRES
Excuse me, Private?

PRIVATE LARSON
Yes sir?

NICK TORRES
Mind taking off your boots? We have
to process them for evidence.

PRIVATE LARSON
Oh... yes sir.

Private Larson removes his boots and hands them over.

PRIVATE LARSON (CONT'D)
Any idea when I'll get them back?

NICK TORRES
Probably in a couple of days.

ELLIE BISHOP
Nick, look! We have her cell phone.

NICK TORRES
Great! Maybe Kasie and find out who
she's been communicating with.

JIMMY PALMER
There's so much blood and multiple
stab wounds. This looks like a
murder of passion.

Off of Agent Bishops look of sadness.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF GIBBS LOOKING PHYSICALLY SAD AND UPSET.

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

INT. AUDITORIUM - (AFTERNOON)

A debate is taking place.

ELLEN FORD

Senator Brown has been running on "change" and in my opinion, that's why he's trailing me in the polls. It's hard for me or anyone to believe this "change" jargon, since he's been in Washington for more than twelve years. He's been a part of the problem, not to mention, he has voted with ninety percent of the President's agenda. How is that "change"?

Crowd reacts.

MODERATOR

Senator, care to respond?

SENATOR BROWN

Well Congresswoman, you're voting record hasn't exactly helped the citizens of Maryland. You have voted to raise taxes every time a vote for raising taxes has come up. I think most people would like a tax break and not a tax raise.

ELLEN FORD

Well the Gas Bill you voted for just last month raises gas prices which is like a tax. Where does that money go? To the rich, greedy oil industries.

(MORE)

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

Not to repairing our roads or infrastructure, which I have been trying to make better since I started my political career.

SENATOR BROWN

A political career that has done more harm to the middle class by raising their taxes than helping them get out of poverty and giving them hope for a good future.

ELLEN FORD

Oh please! If the senator really cared about the middle class then he should have voted for raising the minimum wage.

Audience reacts.

A bell goes off.

MODERATOR

And that bell means we're out of time. Join us next Saturday when Senator George Brown and Congresswoman Ellen Ford square off for their last and final debate before the big election. From the Baltimore Community College, I'm Jen Sierens... Good night!

Senator Brown and Congresswoman Ford politely shake hands. As Senator Brown starts to exit, he is met by Taylor Howell.

TAYLOR

Senator, there are two NCIS agents waiting for you backstage.

SENATOR BROWN

What do they want?

TAYLOR

They know the whereabouts for Robin.

Off as Senator Brown waving to the audience one last time before exiting the stage.

INT. BACK ROOM (AFTERNOON)

Agents Gibbs and McGee wait for the Senator. They have been watching the debate on some TV monitors.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Have you ever thought about running for office?

Agent Gibbs just laughs.

LEROY GIBBS

What's the difference between a politician and a snail?

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Is this a joke?

LEROY GIBBS

One is slimy, a pest, and leaves a trail everywhere and the other is a snail.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

That actually wasn't that bad.

The door opens and Senator Brown enters followed by Taylor.

SENATOR BROWN

Thank you gentlemen for coming. I understand you have information on Robin.

LEROY GIBBS

I'm sorry to inform you but Robin King was found dead this morning aboard the U.S.S. Lexington.

SENATOR BROWN

I was just there yesterday making a speech.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Her body was discovered in the laundry room.

LEROY GIBBS

When was the last time you saw Robin?

SENATOR BROWN

Right before I delivered my speech. She handed it to me and then I thought she was standing behind me.

LEROY GIBBS

Did you see her after you finished your speech?

SENATOR BROWN

I can't recall. I was so busy shaking hands and kissing babies.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

You?

TAYLOR

I wasn't there. I was working out of the campaign headquarters.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Do you know if she had any enemies? Did she have any disagreements with anyone?

SENATOR BROWN

Not that I know of... She was a great woman and I'm a bit shell shocked at the moment.

LEROY GIBBS

We can understand that.

TAYLOR

Senator? They need you back at the Capital for a vote.

SENATOR BROWN

I'm so sorry gentlemen. I'll have Taylor here give you my contact info. If you need me for anything, please reach out. I'm truly heartbroken and I'm willing to help you in anyway possible.

Senator Brown shakes their hands and then exits. While Taylor hands Gibbs and McGee business cards.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

You want to contact the Ford campaign?

LEROY GIBBS

Yeah, better follow up.

Off Gibb's look of frustration.

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM (LATE AFTERNOON)

Agents Bishop and Torres sit at a computer looking at surveillance footage of the speech.

ELLIE BISHOP

So there she is at the beginning of the speech. She looks fine, she doesn't look nervous. She's not talking to anyone, everything looks normal. Fast forward the tape a few minutes.

Agent Torres fast forwards the tape.

ELLIE BISHOP (CONT'D)

Okay stop.

NICK TORRES

She's not there.

ELLIE BISHOP

Back it up a minute.

Agent Torres rewinds the tape.

ELLIE BISHOP (CONT'D)

Right there.

NICK TORRES

There she is looking at her phone.

ELLIE BISHOP

Wish we could get a clear shot of that screen and see what that text says.

Kasie Hines enters.

KASIE HINES

I'm so ahead of you both!

Kasie holds up the cell phone.

KASIE HINES (CONT'D)

It took some time but I was finally able to get into her phone. Want to know what the text says?

ELLIE BISHOP

Yes!

Kasie hands over the phone.

NICK TORRES

(Reading) *I have the document you were asking about. Ready to make the exchange? I'm in the laundry room.*

ELLIE BISHOP

Do you have the...

KASIE HINES

...Sender's phone number? No, it came from a burner phone...

NICK TORRES

What about a...

KASIE HINES

Location? Yes, the signal the text came from was on the same cell tower that Robin's phone was on, so the text may have indeed come from the killer.

ELLIE BISHOP

Do we have anymore surveillance footage of...

KASIE HINES

The crowd watching the speech?

NICK TORRES

It's really getting...

KASIE HINES

Annoying that I keep finishing your sentences?

Kasie hands over more surveillance footage.

KASIE HINES (CONT'D)

Happy watching! There's a lot of footage here.

NICK TORRES

Great! Thanks!

Off Torres look of being overwhelmed.

INT. CONGRESSWOMAN FORD'S HEADQUARTERS (LATE AFTERNOON)

Agents Gibbs and McGee sit at a conference table with the Congresswoman and her campaign manager Mike Garrett.

MIKE GARRETT

I was with the Congresswoman yesterday at a day care in Baltimore.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Did you have any contact with Robin since the altercation last week?

MIKE GARRETT

Look, I know a lot of people saw me and Robin arguing backstage but I assure you, that we made up that night and there was no animosity between us.

LEROY GIBBS

You didn't answer the question. Did you have any contact with her since that night?

MIKE GARRETT

I'm not sure I can answer that.

LEROY GIBBS

Why?

ELLEN FORD

I can vouch for Michael. He was right by my side all day yesterday. I know of at least a hundred other witnesses that can back us both up. He has a solid alibi.

(Beat)

Now gentlemen, we have a very busy schedule and we have places to be. If we're done here, I'd like you both to go and let us go about winning an election.

LEROY GIBBS

Yeah... you can go. Mind giving us your contact info in case we have more questions?

ELLEN FORD

You both are investigators. You look it up.

Congresswoman Ford and Mike Garrett exit.

TIMOTHY MCGEE
Funny...

LEROY GIBBS
What?

TIMOTHY MCGEE
I was thinking about voting for her
but now I'm not so sure.

LEROY GIBBS
Snails... they're all snails.

Agents McGee's phone pings.

TIMOTHY MCGEE
Just gotta a text from Jimmy. He
has something for us.

Agent McGee puts his phone away.

LEROY GIBBS
There's something not right about
this guy. He's keeping something
from us. See if we can get a
warrant for his phone records.

TIMOTHY MCGEE
Yes sir.

Off of Gibb's upset look.

INT. NCIS MORGUE (EARLY EVENING)

Agent Palmer is upset on the phone.

JIMMY PALMER
(on the phone)
No, I'm not interested in going to
Palm Springs. I want to go Maui for
a week starting March fifth. Can
you help me with that?... NO! I'll
call you back!

Agent palmer hangs up.

LEROY GIBBS
Vacation coming up?

JIMMY PALMER

I was talked into getting a time share. I'm starting to think it was the worst investment of my life. I can never have the actual vacation that I want.

(beat)

How are you?

LEROY GIBBS

Good... Anything new with the body?

They walk over to Robin's body lying on a table.

JIMMY PALMER

Yeah... Twenty stab wounds and each one is about six inches deep. I figure the blade on the knife was pretty long.

LEROY GIBBS

Twenty stab wounds? Looks like the killer really didn't like her.

JIMMY PALMER

Exactly. Something else...

LEROY GIBBS

What's that?

JIMMY PALMER

Robin was 10 weeks pregnant.

Off of Gibbs look of sadness.

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**FROM BLACK:****FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF MCGEE AND GIBBS LOOK OF SHOCK.****PHOOF TO BLACK:**

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - (MORNING - DAY 2)

Agents Gibbs, McGee, Bishop and Torres sit around a computer.

ELLIE BISHOP

Okay, so Nick and I have poured through all the surveillance footage. Here's the footage of Robin on the stage with the senator. She seems fine until about four minutes later, she gets a text and then promptly exits the stage.

NICK TORRES

So I watched the footage of the crowd and I looked to see if there was anyone in the crowd that may be on their phone texting with Robin.

LEROY GIBBS

And?

NICK TORRES

Nothing, but I did very briefly catch this.

Nick cues the video footage.

NICK TORRES (CONT'D)

Look at the left side of the stage.

LEROY GIBBS

The cameras left or my left?

NICK TORRES

Umm...

LEROY GIBBS

Just point!

Nick points at the screen.

NICK TORRES
Right here. See that?

LEROY GIBBS
The very suspicious looking person
wearing a black hoodie and a
backpack?

NICK TORRES
Yeah.

TIMOTHY MCGEE
We can't see his face.

ELLIE BISHOP
But if we do a close up on his back
pack we can clearly make out that
he has a "Vote For Brown" pin stuck
on his bag. Just like the one we
retrieved from the crime scene.

NICK TORRES
He leaves the crowd at the same
exact time Robin goes to the
laundry room. If we fast forward
the tape he's coming back into the
crowd eight minutes later. Without
the "Vote For Brown" pin stuck on
his back pack.

ELLIE BISHOP
That's gotta be our killer.

A TV on in the background catches their attention. It's the
local news covering the campaign.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)
With just two weeks left until the
election, Senator Brown is now neck
and neck with Congresswoman Ford.
The senator, which many compare to
a young Robert Kennedy, has gained
eight percentage points in just the
last two days. It looks like voters
may have sympathy for the senator
and his campaign after they
tragically lost campaign manager
Robin King to a vicious murder.

A somber Senator Brown is now on the TV screen being
interviewed.

SENATOR BROWN (V.O.)

Robin's loss was a tragic one. She is so missed by myself and the campaign. I just hope and pray they catch the person or persons who are responsible for this tragedy. My thoughts and prayers are with the King family at this tough time.

Agent McGee comes over to Gibbs.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

What are you thinking?

LEROY GIBBS

Senator Brown's poll numbers are better. Who exactly is benefitting from Robin King's death?

Off of Gibb's look of interest.

INT. CONGRESSWOMAN FORD'S OFFICE (MORNING - DAY 2)

Mike Garrett enters the office.

ELLEN FORD

Mike, come in. Have a seat.

Congresswoman Ford pours herself a drink.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

Want a drink?

MIKE GARRETT

Sure.

Congresswoman Ford pours Mike a drink and hands it to him. She then grabs Mike and kisses him.

MIKE GARRETT (CONT'D)

What the hell was that?

ELLEN FORD

I forgot how good of a kisser you are.

MIKE GARRETT

I'm really confused right now.

ELLEN FORD

Mike, I still have feelings for you.

(MORE)

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

What do you say we start back up our relationship after the election.

MIKE GARRETT

Ellen, we talked about this. I moved on. I'm seeing Robin.

ELLEN FORD

You were...

MIKE GARRETT

What?

ELLEN FORD

You were seeing Robin, but she's dead now.

MIKE GARRETT

That's a bit of a harsh way of putting it.

ELLEN FORD

I know, it was a secret that you and Robin were seeing each other and the truth is, it was very hard for me to know that you were seeing someone who worked for Senator Brown. In all honesty, I didn't know if I could trust you.

MIKE GARRETT

You know that I never let politics get in the way of the campaign.

ELLEN FORD

Well, you should know I tried to sabotage your relationship and I leaked some information to the press. I wanted you to know before a NCIS agent comes along and tells you.

MIKE GARRETT

What?

ELLEN FORD

Michael, I love you and it killed me to know that you were seeing someone else.

MIKE GARRETT

Ellen, did you have something to do with Robin's death?

Ellen laughs.

ELLEN FORD

No! How could you even think that?
The only thing I'm guilty of is
releasing the Senator's tax records
to the press and making it look
like you did it. I'm not a
murderer.

Congresswoman Ford gets closer to Mike.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

I really missed you and I really
want things to be the way they
were.

MIKE GARRETT

So Robin thought I released the
Senator's taxes?

ELLEN FORD

Michael, you and I have a future
together. If I win OR should I say,
when I win this election, I plan on
bringing you along to Washington
with me. You have a very bright
future ahead of you and I want to
be a part of that future. I know
it's your dream to work in
Washington, right?

MIKE GARRETT

Yes.

ELLEN FORD

So let's forget about all this and
move forward.

Congresswoman Ford tries to kiss him again but Mike pulls
away.

MIKE GARRETT

You're married.

ELLEN FORD

Barely... Ted is never around
anymore. He loves his practice more
than he loves me.

MIKE GARRETT

Ellen, I'm trying to cope with your
campaign and losing my girlfriend.

(MORE)

MIKE GARRETT (CONT'D)
I don't think I can commit to a
relationship with you right now.

ELLEN FORD
I understand, you're in shock right
now but when you're ready to move
on, I'll be waiting for you.

Ellen goes back to her desk and has a seat.

MIKE GARRETT
Are we done?

ELLEN FORD
Yeah, you can go.

Mike starts to leave.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)
Oh, Mike? This meeting never
occurred. You understand?

MIKE GARRETT
Yeah, of course.

Mike exits.

Off of Ellen Ford chugging down the rest of her drink.

INT. NCIS LAB (MID-MORNING - DAY 2)

Agents Gibbs and McGee are meeting with Kasie.

LEROY GIBBS
Kasie, I'm hungry and I need this
to be quick cause I'm border line
hangry right now.

Kasie throws him a candy bar.

LEROY GIBBS (CONT'D)
Thanks.

KASIE HINES
DNA results are in on both the
boots and the pin. Very interesting
what I found out.

LEROY GIBBS
Yeah?

KASIE HINES

I was only able to get one DNA sample on the pin BUT on the boots there are two samples. One belonging to Robin King the other to a Private Matt Larson.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Private Matt Larson?

LEROY GIBBS

He was the one that found the body. His DNA would already be on the boots.

KASIE HINES

His DNA was also on the pin.

LEROY GIBBS

What?

KASIE HINES

I also found something else very interesting.

LEROY GIBBS

What's that?

KASIE HINES

The fibers on the pin don't match the fibers on the backpack. The fibers are from Robin's blouse.

LEROY GIBBS

What are you saying?

KASIE HINES

There has got to be two pins. Look!

Kasie pulls up the video from the campaign speech.

KASIE HINES (CONT'D)

While we were focused on the missing pin from the backpack, we forgot to take a look at Robin. She was also wearing a "Vote for Brown" pin.

Kasie hits play on the surveillance tape.

KASIE HINES (CONT'D)

Look near her left shoulder. My guess is that during the struggle, both pins fell off.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

So where's the other pin? We've already gone over the crime scene quite a few times. That was the only pin at the scene.

KASIE HINES

Two possibilities... the pin is still at the scene or the killer took the pin with them.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Or perhaps Private Larson may have not been completely honest with us.

LEROY GIBBS

Send Torres and Bishop back to the crime scene. See if they can find the missing pin.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Shoot! That reminds me, Ellie wanted us to meet the King family this afternoon.

LEROY GIBBS

Okay, good work Hines!

KASIE HINES

Thank you!

Off of Kasie's look of satisfaction.

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - (MID MORNING DAY - 2)

Agent Bishop sits at a conference table with Robin King's family.

Agents Gibbs and McGee enter.

LEROY GIBBS

Sorry we're late.

ELLIE BISHOP

Gibbs, this is Robin King's mother, Mary, her father, Tom and her brother, Josh...

LEROY GIBBS

I'm so sorry for your loss.

MARY KING

Thank you.

TOM KING

Are you close to getting the bastard who did this?

ELLIE BISHOP

We were just talking about the last time Robin spoke with them.

LEROY GIBBS

When was that?

MARY KING

I talked to her the day before. She was having relationship problems with her boyfriend.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Boyfriend? Who was she seeing?

TOM KING

You didn't know she had a boyfriend? What kind of investigators are you?

ELLIE BISHOP

Mr. King, I assure you, we're all working very hard to find your daughter's killer.

LEROY GIBBS

Mrs. King, who was Robin's boyfriend?

MARY KING

She was seeing Michael Garrett, the campaign manager for the Ford campaign.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Wait... What? I thought they hated each other.

LEROY GIBBS

You said they were having problems?

MARY KING

Yes, Robin said she couldn't trust him anymore. Something about a bit of news he leaked to the press without her permission.

LEROY GIBBS

How long were they together?

TOM KING

Too long!

MARY KING

Just a few months.

Mrs. King begins to cry.

ELLIE BISHOP

Are you okay?

MARY KING

Robin also told me that she was pregnant. She had not told anyone else and was planning to tell Michael the night she was murdered.

ELLIE BISHOP

I'm so sorry.

MARY KING

Do you mind if we go? We have a lot to do in the planning of the funeral.

LEROY GIBBS

Of course.

ELLIE BISHOP

Thank you so much for coming in. I know it's really tough right now.

TOM KING

You find who did this!

Agent Bishop escorts the King family out.

LEROY GIBBS

McGee, get Mr. Garrett here ASAP.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Don't have to.

LEROY GIBBS

What?

TIMOTHY MCGEE

He's waiting for us in the interrogation room.

Off of Gibb's look of intrigue.

INT. NCIS - INTERROGATION ROOM (EARLY AFTERNOON - DAY 2)

Agents Gibbs and McGee enter.

LEROY GIBBS

Mike, what are you doing here?

MIKE GARRETT

I really have to talk to you both
but you have to promise me that
this meeting never gets out there.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

What's going on?

MIKE GARRETT

I have some new information, that
if leaked, could lead to me losing
my job.

LEROY GIBBS

Speaking of leaking, what did you
leak to the press that broke
Robin's trust with you?

MIKE GARRETT

I didn't leak anything to the
press.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

The night before Robin died she
told her mother that you had leaked
something to the press and that she
couldn't trust you anymore.

MIKE GARRETT

So you know about our relationship?

LEROY GIBBS

Look, Mike, we need honesty here.
Right now, you're our number one
suspect.

MIKE GARRETT

I didn't leak anything to the
press! I would never do that to
Robin. We had a deal that the
campaign would never come in
between us and we both stuck to
that deal.

LEROY GIBBS

If you didn't leak anything to the
press, then who did? Any ideas?

MIKE GARRETT

Yes...

LEROY GIBBS

Who?

MIKE GARRETT

Congresswoman Ford.

LEROY GIBBS

WHAT?

MIKE GARRETT

She leaked the Senator's tax records. They're going to be published in the *Times* tomorrow morning. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! I'm innocent but my guess is that Robin thought it was me.

LEROY GIBBS

Okay, suppose we believe you. What else do you know?

MIKE GARRETT

This morning Congresswoman Ford called me into her office and she said she wanted to start up our relationship again.

LEROY GIBBS

Again!? What relationship?

MIKE GARRETT

We had an affair over a year ago. We broke it off right before she started running for the Senate.

LEROY GIBBS

This whole thing is getting nuts.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

What else?

MIKE GARRETT

When she mentioned Robin's death, she said it in a way that led me to think that she may know more than she's letting on.

LEROY GIBBS

A big red flag for me, is when a suspect points the finger at someone else.

MIKE GARRETT

I swear to you, I DIDN'T KILL
ROBIN! I want to find the murderer
too!

TIMOTHY MCGEE

So what you're telling us, is that
Congresswoman Ford could have had
Robin King murdered?

MIKE GARRETT

She would do anything to win and I
mean anything.

LEROY GIBBS

Including murder?

MIKE GARRETT

I wouldn't put it past her.

Off Gibb's and McGee's look of shock.

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF A VERY UPSET CONGRESSWOMAN FORD.

PHOOF TO BLACK:

INT. CHURCH (MORNING - DAY 3)

Funeral for Robin King. Senator Brown does the eulogy while onlookers watch. Among the onlookers are agents Bishop and Torres.

SENATOR BROWN

Robin was a go getter.

FUNERAL ATTENDANTS

Amen!

SENATOR BROWN

She was the perfect campaign manager and I will miss her dearly. She was always by my side, including the day she was killed.

Senator Brown wipes a tear from his eye.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Everyone in my campaign loved her. Like me, she was for responsible gun laws but not doing away with the second amendment. She also agreed that we should raise the minimum wage and when it came to the environment she and I both were at the forefront of cleaning up our air and oceans...

Agent Bishop whispers to Agent Torres as the "eulogy" can be heard underneath.

ELLIE BISHOP

Is this a funeral or a campaign speech?

NICK TORRES

I'm feeling extremely uncomfortable.

ELLIE BISHOP

Me too.

Senator Brown's "eulogy" continues.

SENATOR BROWN

Let's remember Robin as a woman who wanted to make good changes to our country. Thank you.

Everyone applauds as the Senator exits the pulpit.

Off of Torres' and Bishop's looks of disgust.

EXT. OUTSIDE CHURCH (MORNING - DAY 3)

Senator Brown shakes the hands of a few people while Agents Bishop and Torres watch.

Robin's mother, Mary comes over.

MARY KING

Thank you both for coming.

She shakes their hands and then continues to greet some other mourners.

Senator Brown's new campaign manager Taylor comes over.

TAYLOR

Hello... My name is Taylor Howell. I'm Senator Brown's new campaign manager.

Hi. ELLIE BISHOP

Hello. NICK TORRES

TAYLOR

Senator Brown would like me to relay a message to you and the other agents.

ELLIE BISHOP

Okay.

TAYLOR

We're fully prepared to work with you and supply you all with any details or information you may need.

NICK TORRES

Thank you.

TAYLOR

However, now that we've started to lead in some of the polls, we ask that you please stop showing up at our campaign appearances. We don't want the media to start catching on that we have federal agents following us everywhere. Okay?

ELLIE BISHOP

But we have to...

TAYLOR

Thank you.

Taylor quickly walks away as Agent Torres' phone buzzes.

NICK TORRES

(on the phone)

Hello... Okay... Right now? All right we're on our way.

ELLIE BISHOP

Who was that?

NICK TORRES

McGee... He wants us to go back to the crime scene and look for another "Brown" campaign pin.

ELLIE BISHOP

Okay.

Agent Bishop looks out at the crowd exiting the church and spots Mike Garrett wearing a hat and sunglasses trying to not get noticed.

Off of Bishop's look of interest.

INT. U.S. CAPITOL - CONGRESSWOMAN BROWN'S OFFICE (EARLY AFTERNOON - DAY 3)

Congresswoman Ford sits at her desk as she conducts an interview with a reporter.

REPORTER

So you have no idea, who leaked the Senator's tax records to the *Times*?

ELLEN FORD

No, I can assure you, not me or anyone in my campaign would have knowingly done something like that.

(MORE)

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

You have to remember that at the beginning of this campaign, I asked for a civil campaign and I feel like we have kept our end of the bargain.

REPORTER

So according to the polls, Senator Brown now leads you by an average of five points. Are you concerned, since just last week, you were leading in the polls and the election is now just one week away?

ELLEN FORD

I've never been one to worry about what the polls say. I never led in any of the polls when I ran for Congress so I know in one week, I'll be headed to the Senate where I will proudly represent the State of Maryland.

REPORTER

I see, well not many candidates have been able to come back when being down in the polls by this many points.

ELLEN FORD

I still have confidence in the people of Maryland to make the right choice at the ballot box.

REPORTER

Thank you.

ELLEN FORD

And thank you!

The interview ends, they shake hands and the news crew starts to take down the lights and camera as Congresswoman Ford makes her way to Michael Garrett.

She quietly talks to Michael.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

I have always hated that reporter. She's so condescending.

One of the news crew members comes over.

NEWS CREW #1
Excuse me Congresswoman, your mic
is still on and we need it.

ELLEN FORD
Oh! Here!

She takes off the mic and hands it over to the news crew
member.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)
Michael, these polls! Everyone
keeps asking about these damn
stupid poll numbers.

MIKE GARRETT
Just keep giving the same answer-
"I don't care" and "we're going to
win."

The news crew exits.

ELLEN FORD
Do you think we're going to win?

MIKE GARRETT
Yes... I do.

ELLEN FORD
Michael, I'm sorry. It was very
unprofessional of me to kiss you
yesterday. I was stressed, I drank
too much and I was in a moment of
weakness.

MIKE GARRETT
Let's just try to forget it.

ELLEN FORD
I'm really sorry.

MIKE GARRETT
Thank you.

ELLEN FORD
We have a great friendship and I
don't want what I said to get in
the way of that.

MIKE GARRETT
I appreciate that. Thank you.

A secretary enters.

SECRETARY

Mrs. Ford, NCIS agents are here to see you.

Mike gets uncomfortable.

ELLEN FORD

Just when I thought my day was going to get better. Send them in.

Agents Gibbs and McGee enter.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

Come in agents Gibbs and McGee. It's been what - 18 hours? Please have a seat.

Agents Gibbs and McGee sit down.

LEROY GIBBS

We're not going to take too much of your time.

ELLEN FORD

Thank you.

MIKE GARRETT

I'm just going to step out and...

ELLEN FORD

No, please stay. Is it okay if Michael stays?

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Sure.

LEROY GIBBS

We have some information here in this envelope that both of you may be interested in.

ELLEN FORD

What's that?

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Pictures of the two of you. Did you two have an affair?

MIKE GARRETT

I don't think that's any of your business. Now would the two of you leave and get out!

LEROY GIBBS

I don't think you understand. We're trying to solve a murder and right now the evidence points to the two of you.

ELLEN FORD

Where were the pictures taken?

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Ummm... a restaurant.

MIKE GARRETT

NO, THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT A RESTAURANT!

Mike gets extremely uncomfortable.

ELLEN FORD

SO, the pictures were taken at a restaurant?

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Yes?

ELLEN FORD

You don't sound so sure. Gentlemen, I think we need to cut the bull here. Yes, Michael and I engaged in an affair a year ago but I know that the pictures you have in that envelope are not of me and Michael. You see, we kept our affair secret and would have never gone out in public, much less to a restaurant. Our affair was kept behind closed doors. Now if you would have done your research, you would have known that I was one kick-ass attorney back in my day, and I'm well aware of the deceptive tactics that you federal agents use to try and get information.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Ms. Ford.

ELLEN FORD

I'm not finished. The real reason you're here is to see if I had a motive to kill Robin King. The answer is "no". Why would I want her dead?

(MORE)

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

Ever since she was murdered my poll numbers have suffered dramatically. Ask yourselves, why would I sabotage my own campaign this close to an election day? Now gentlemen, I'm due in the House in fifteen minutes for a vote. Are we done here?

LEROY GIBBS

Yeah... we can be done.

ELLEN FORD

Very good... then why don't the two of you see yourselves out. Thank you.

Agents Gibbs and McGee exit.

Ellen looks at Mike.

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

You went to them? Didn't you?

Mike nods his head "Yes".

ELLEN FORD (CONT'D)

You're fired! I never want to see your disgusting face again!

MIKE GARRETT

Ellen...

ELLEN FORD

GET OUT!!!

Michael exits as Congresswoman Ford collapses into her chair.

Off of Congresswoman's look of rage.

PHOOF TO BLACK:

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF TORRES AND BISHOP TRYING TO CATCH THEIR BREATH.

PHOOF TO BLACK:

INT. LAUNDRY ROOM (AFTERNOON - DAY 3)

Agents Bishop and Torres search for the "Brown" pin.

NICK TORRES

There's no pin. We've looked under every dryer, washing machine, laundry bag - Nothing!

Agent Bishop points her flashlight at a closed door.

ELLIE BISHOP

Do you know if they looked behind that door?

NICK TORRES

I'm sure they did.

Agent Bishop walks over to the door. Just as she goes to see if the door is unlocked, Private Larson steps in, startling Agent Bishop.

ELLIE BISHOP

Oh! You scared me!

PRIVATE LARSON

Can I help you?

ELLIE BISHOP

Yes, Private Larson... right?

PRIVATE LARSON

Yes ma'am.

ELLIE BISHOP

We were looking for you.

PRIVATE LARSON

Why?

NICK TORRES

We think you weren't exactly honest with us the other day.

PRIVATE LARSON

I told you everything I knew.

ELLIE BISHOP

What about the pin?

PRIVATE LARSON

I'm not sure I know what you're talking about.

NICK TORRES

Your DNA along with the victim's was found on the pin.

PRIVATE LARSON

Oh, I'm really sorry about that.

ELLIE BISHOP

What happened?

PRIVATE LARSON

My father has had a hobby for a long time now collecting campaign pins so I picked the pins up and one of them stuck me in the thumb and I dropped it.

ELLIE BISHOP

Pins? You said "Pins"?

PRIVATE LARSON

Yes ma'am. I'm deeply sorry. Here's the other one.

Private Larson pulls the other campaign button out of his pocket and hands it over to Agent Bishop. She hands it to Agent Torres, who puts it in an evidence bag.

ELLIE BISHOP

Thank you.

PRIVATE LARSON

Ma'am?

ELLIE BISHOP

Yes?

PRIVATE LARSON

Any idea when I'll be getting my boots back?

(MORE)

PRIVATE LARSON (CONT'D)
They're my only pair and we're set
to ship out in a couple of days and
I kinda need them back.

ELLIE BISHOP
I'll see what we can do.

PRIVATE LARSON
Thanks.

Off of Private Larson's look of thanks.

INT. NCIS HEADQUARTERS - LEON VANCE'S OFFICE (DAY 3 - LATE
AFTERNOON)

Agent Gibbs meets with Leon Vance.

LEON VANCE
In the last six hours, I've
received phone calls from both
campaigns asking me to put off the
investigation into Robin King's
murder until after the election.
Apparently neither candidate likes
having NCIS agents at their
political events.

LEROY GIBBS
What did you tell them?

LEON VANCE
Nothing stops my agents from
solving a murder, including
elections. Where are you with the
case?

LEROY GIBBS
I'm not sure. We're still
untangling all the stories and
evidence.

LEON VANCE
Well in my experiences, mixing
murder with politics is always
incredibly difficult to solve.

LEROY GIBBS
We're trying. We have campaign
managers sleeping with other
campaign managers, politicians
leaking things to the press and
evidence disappearing out of thin
air.

LEON VANCE

Any chance you'll have it all wrapped up before next week's election.

LEROY GIBBS

Hope so...

Leon Vance's office door flies open and Agent McGee enters.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Gibbs, Ellie and Nick found the other campaign pin.

Off of Gibb's look of relief.

INT. SENATOR BROWNS' CAMPAIGN OFFICE (LATE AFTERNOON - DAY 3)

Senator Brown is being interviewed by the same reporter who interviewed Ellen Ford earlier.

REPORTER

Some in your party are already looking ahead and possibly hinting that you may run for President.

SENATOR BROWN

Well let's just get through this election first.

REPORTER

How is your campaign getting along after the loss of Robin King?

Senator Brown tries to hold back tears.

SENATOR BROWN

She was the best campaign manager I've ever had. I'm still saddened by her loss and have decided to dedicate this campaign to her memory.

REPORTER

Thank you Senator Brown. We'll see you again on election night.

SENATOR BROWN

Looking forward to it, thank you.

Lights go off and the news crew starts to pack up. Senator Brown makes a beeline to his campaign manager, Taylor.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)
I have always loved that reporter.
She's always been so good to me.

NEWS CREW #1
Excuse me senator, your mic is
still on.

SENATOR BROWN
Oh... thank you.

Senator Brown hands over his mic.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)
Got a phone call this morning.
Looks like Ellen Ford has fired
Mike Garrett.

TAYLOR
Really? Do you know why?

SENATOR BROWN
Rumor has it that he went to NCIS
without her permission. How are the
poll numbers today?

News crew exits.

TAYLOR
Still looking good sir. We're up
six points.

SENATOR BROWN
NICE! Everything is working out
just as I had planned it.

TAYLOR
Got more good news. The Police
Union has finally announced that
they are in fact going to endorse
you.

Senator Brown goes over and closes his office door.

SENATOR BROWN
Taylor, you're doing a great job
and I think I may have one more job
for you before the election.

Senator Brown sits at his desk.

TAYLOR
What do you have in mind?

SENATOR BROWN
I'll contact you with the details.

TAYLOR
Understood.

Off of Taylor's smile.

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - (DAY 4 - MORNING)

Gibbs meets with Vance, Bishop, Torres, Hines, Palmer and McGee. Evidence is laid out in front of them.

NICK TORRES
We've been through all the evidence so many times and I still have no idea where we are.

LEROY GIBBS
Has the DNA come back from the other pin?

KASIE HINES
Yep... Only DNA found on the pin belonged to Private Larson and Robin.

ELLIE BISHOP
Should we bring Private Larson in for more questioning?

LEROY GIBBS
Maybe... but he had no connection to Robin King or any of the suspects.

JIMMY PALMER
Plus, the stab wounds on the victim seem to indicate that she was killed by someone who already knew her.

LEON VANCE
Since the murder, who has benefitted the most?

TIMOTHY MCGEE
That would be Senator Brown. Before the murder, his poll numbers were down and many had him losing the election, now he looks like a shoe-in to win.

LEON VANCE

Who is the main suspect?

LEROY GIBBS

Mike Garrett, he had a relationship with the victim and they were at odds with each other at the time of the murder.

NICK TORRES

The next suspect would be Congresswoman Ford, who had a relationship with Garrett and pretty much admitted she was jealous of his relationship with King.

JIMMY PALMER

But they both have solid alibi's.

KASIE HINES

Yeah, we have them at another location in front of several witnesses at the same time of the murder.

Kasie has flashing pictures of suspects on a computer screen. One of the pictures catches Agent Gibb's eyes.

LEROY GIBBS

Wait a minute. Go back a couple of pictures.

Kasie goes back.

LEROY GIBBS (CONT'D)

Stop.

She stops on a picture of Taylor, Senator Brown's new campaign manager.

LEROY GIBBS (CONT'D)

What about this guy?

ELLIE BISHOP

Taylor Howell, he's Senator Brown's new campaign manager and he recently confronted Nick and I at the funeral.

LEON VANCE

He's also the one who called me the other day, telling me to pull you all away from the case until after the election.

LEROY GIBBS

Does he have a history with Robin?

Nick Torres has the file on Taylor Howell.

NICK TORRES

He worked with Senator Brown's campaign as an assistant before Robin King's murder. Before that he graduated from Yale and studied Political Science.

LEON VANCE

So he had a lot to gain from King's murder.

LEROY GIBBS

Torres and Bishop, why don't you see if you can bring Taylor in for some questioning.

Off of Bishop's look of "You bet"

INT. SENATOR BROWN'S HEADQUARTERS (MID MORNING - DAY - 4)

Agents Torres and Bishop enter.

CAMPAIGN WORKER #1

Can I help you?

ELLIE BISHOP

Yes, I'm Agent Bishop and this is Agent Torres. We'd like to talk with Taylor Howell.

CAMPAIGN WORKER #1

I'm sorry but I don't think he's here right now. He may have gone to lunch, would you like me to call him or leave a message perhaps?

NICK TORRES

No thanks. We'll find him.

Off of Agents Bishop and Torres making their way out of the office

EXT. SENATOR BROWN'S CAMPAIGN OFFICE (MID MORNING - DAY - 4)

As they make their way to the car, Agent Bishop spots Taylor Howell getting out of his car.

ELLIE BISHOP
Torres, look.

Agent Torres spots Taylor retrieving a backpack that looks like the one from the surveillance camera footage.

They each put their hands on their guns but they keep them holstered.

ELLIE BISHOP (CONT'D)
Hey! Taylor!

Taylor looks up and takes off. Agents Bishop and Torres take off after him.

NICK TORRES
Stop!

Taylor runs down a downtown street pushing over whoever gets in his way.

Taylor then runs down an alley and jumps a fence with Bishop and Torres hot on his feet.

TAYLOR THEN RUNS OUT IN TRAFFIC. HE DODGES A COUPLE OF CARS BUT THEN IS STRUCK HARD BY A TAXI. TAYLOR LIES MOTIONLESS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.

Agents Bishop and Torres arrive at the scene. Torres feels for a pulse but immediately realizes that Taylor is dead.

Agent Bishop retrieves the back pack.

Off of Torres' and Bishop's looks of exhaustion.

PHOOF TO BLACK:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**FROM BLACK:****FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF GIBBS WITH A BIG GRIN.****PHOOF TO BLACK:**

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM (LATE AFTERNOON - DAY - 4)

The agents sit around watching the news on the TV.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

In as little as eight days, Senator Brown has lost two campaign managers. Today in downtown Bethesda, Brown's campaign manager, Taylor Howell was hit by a car while he was being chased by federal agents. Many are now asking what exactly is going on with the Brown campaign. The President was asked about the situation, today and had no comment.

Kasie enters pushing a cart that has the backpack and its contents on it.

KASIE HINES

Well I got some interesting news!
Please everyone have a seat.

NICK TORRES

We're already seated.

KASIE HINES

Oh... yes... okay the backpack is the backpack from the surveillance video. I was able to find small dots of blood matching Robin's DNA on the right side of the bag.

LEROY GIBBS

I'm sure we're not all that surprised by that. What's all this other stuff?

KASIE HINES

This stuff is the contents of the backpack. Here's something interesting I found.

Kasie brings up Taylor's bank records on a screen.

KASIE HINES (CONT'D)

When I went through Taylor's belongings, I came across a receipt for a deposit at his bank. It's a deposit for ten thousand dollars and the money came from a personal checking account from Senator Brown.

Agent Gibbs starts to look through the contents of the bag.

LEROY GIBBS

Interesting, but he wouldn't he be getting money from the Senator anyway. He works for him.

KASIE HINES

Taylor received regular paychecks bi-weekly from the campaign BUT two days before Robin's death, he received a twenty-five thousand dollar direct deposit, not from Senator Brown's campaign but from a personal checking account belonging to a George Meryl Brown.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Meryl?

KASIE HINES

This last deposit was for ten thousand dollars but I don't know what that money was for.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Not sure if this is good enough evidence to really link the Senator to the murder.

LEROY GIBBS

Maybe.

KASIE HINES

I also found another burner phone but I'm having a hard time opening it to see any of the messages on there.

LEROY GIBBS

Mind if I hold on to that phone for a few hours?

KASIE HINES
It's all yours.

LEROY GIBBS
Great job Hines!

KASIE HINES
She shoots, she scores! If you all
want to congratulate me, I'll be
getting coffee over there.

Kasie leaves.

NICK TORRES
Where is Senator Brown today?

Agent McGee is now looking through the contents of the bag
and finds a calendar.

TIMOTHY MCGEE
According to this schedule, he's
making a speech at Baltimore
Memorial Hospital.

LEROY GIBBS
Okay! Let's go!

ELLIE BISHOP
All of us?

LEROY GIBBS
He hates it when just two of us
show up at his campaign stops. He's
really going to hate to see all
four of us.

CUT TO:

INT. BALTIMORE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM (EARLY
EVENING - DAY - 4)

A crowd of around three hundred people sit around and listen
as Senator Brown makes another campaign speech. The media
coverage is off the charts with lots of reporters and
cameras.

SENATOR BROWN
The number of health care
professionals is at an all time
low. We have less doctors and
nurses than we did just five years
ago.

(MORE)

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

If you elect me, I'll see to it that we create a health care environment that will promote more young people wanting to be doctors and nurses.

Some applause.

Agents Gibbs, McGee, Bishop and Torres enter the conference room and stand in the back.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Another problem is the cost of health care. It's too expensive. I received a letter from a Elizabeth Chambers. In her letter she talked about how tough and expensive it was to take care of her ailing mother. Unfortunately, her mother passed last month because she couldn't afford the medicine she needed. These are horror stories being played out all across this country. Is a national health care system the way to go? Maybe, but we need to do it the right way.

Some applause.

Senator Brown looks out into the audience and with all the media lights he can just barely make out the agents standing in the back of the room.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Too many... umm... too many people are losing health care and doctors need to be back in the work force. We... umm

People are starting to notice that the Senator is a bit flustered.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

Umm... The American people shouldn't be sick anymore with medical bills that are too high. I mean, Americans shouldn't be stuck expensive medical bills. Elect me and I will make your work environment better. God bless you and God bless America.

Senator Brown storms off stage as people in the crowd as well as the media look confused.

Off of agents Gibbs, McGee, Bishop and Torres follow the Senator back stage.

INT. HALLWAY - (EARLY EVENING - DAY - 4)

Agents Gibbs, McGee, Torres and Bishop walk toward a holding room where they can hear the Senator going off on one of his staff members. The agents stop in the hallway to listen.

SENATOR BROWN (O.C.)

What the hell are they doing here?!
I told you to take care of those
agents coming to my campaign stops!

BROWN ASSISTANT (O.C.)

Senator, I'm sorry...

INT. HOLDING ROOM

SENATOR BROWN

I was so flustered out there and in
front of all those TV cameras and
the press!!!

The agents enter cautiously.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

OH! And here they are!!! Do you
realize you may have just cost me
the election! That speech was
supposed to put me over the top and
I couldn't concentrate because you
all four of you were out there! If
I lose this election, I'm blaming
you.

LEROY GIBBS

Senator, two of your campaign
managers have died in the last few
days...

SENATOR BROWN

And one of those deaths was your
fault!

LEROY GIBBS

We have every right to
investigate...

SENATOR BROWN

Yeah, but you're influencing an
election.

LEROY GIBBS
No, we're trying to solve a murder.

SENATOR BROWN
Then solve it without making me
look like a suspect!

LEROY GIBBS
Well to be frank, you are a
suspect.

SENATOR BROWN
I'm a suspect?

LEROY GIBBS
We're not sure Taylor was working
alone.

SENATOR BROWN
I'm a senator of the United States!
I have been proudly serving my
country for the last four years.
How dare you accuse me of murder!

TIMOTHY MCGEE
No one is accusing you of murder.

LEROY GIBBS
There's no doubt, Taylor killed
Robin King. We have surveillance
footage and the DNA points to him.

SENATOR BROWN
So Taylor was jealous of Robin's
position in the campaign. He
probably killed her so he could
move up. He's the only one that had
a motive to kill Robin. Not me! I
have an air tight alibi and a large
crowd on an aircraft carrier who
saw me making a speech during the
murder. Plus, I have nothing to
gain by Robin's death.

LEROY GIBBS
Technically you benefitted too.

SENATOR BROWN
How so?

LEROY GIBBS
Your poll numbers bounced back. The
election is now in your favor.

SENATOR BROWN

That's out of my hands.

LEROY GIBBS

Senator, we were able to pull up Taylor's bank records and found that he got regular paychecks from your campaign.

SENATOR BROWN

Of course, he worked for me.

LEROY GIBBS

True, but you sent him twenty-five thousand dollars two days before Robin's murder. What was that money for?

SENATOR BROWN

Umm... Campaign stuff.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Wouldn't that kind of money come from your campaign's account and not a personal account? I think that's against the law to use your personal accounts for campaign related expenses.

LEROY GIBBS

You also sent Taylor another ten thousand dollars yesterday, again coming from your personal account. What was that ten thousand dollars for?

Senator Brown begins to laugh.

SENATOR BROWN

Is this all you have? Two separate deposits that I sent to Taylor from my personal account? You all are wasting my time and you have nothing.

Senator Brown begins to leave.

Agent Gibbs reaches in his pocket and retrieves the burner phone.

LEROY GIBBS

I actually have something else.

Senator Brown turns to see the burner phone and looks a bit worried.

SENATOR BROWN

What's that?

LEROY GIBBS

A burner phone we found in Taylor's bag. Criminals use these when they don't want anyone finding out what they're up to. Are you familiar with these?

SENATOR BROWN

Nope.

LEROY GIBBS

Technology is a funny thing. You see, we can now go into these phones and find out exactly who was called and read the text messages. It may take some time but we can find out a lot by breaking into one of these things.

SENATOR BROWN

Really?

LEROY GIBBS

Yep... Want to know what the text messages say.

SENATOR BROWN

NO! Now if you would excuse me, I'm needed back in Washington for a vote, if you need to ask anymore questions...

TIMOTHY MCGEE

As of yesterday, the Congress and Senate are on a break until after the election. You're not needed anywhere.

SENATOR BROWN

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME!?

LEROY GIBBS

THE TRUTH!

SENATOR BROWN

You all are pathetic! Fine, I paid Taylor to do some dirty work but I never asked him to kill anybody.

LEROY GIBBS

You sure about that? I can pull up the messages from the night before the murder.

Agent Gibbs starts to open the burner phone.

LEROY GIBBS (CONT'D)

Shall I read them?

SENATOR BROWN

As of this moment, I refuse to answer any more questions until I have my attorney present.

Agent Gibbs motions to Agent Torres and he starts to put hand-cuffs on the Senator. As he's putting the hand-cuffs on he's telling the Senator his rights.

SENATOR BROWN (CONT'D)

You're arresting me!? How dare you! I'll see to it that you all lose your jobs!

NICK TORRES

You have the right to consult an attorney before speaking to the police and to have an attorney present during questioning now or in the future.

LEROY GIBBS

Take him away!

Agent Torres takes away Senator Brown.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

When were you able to open the phone and read those messages?

LEROY GIBBS

I didn't.

Agent McGee starts to laugh.

TIMOTHY MCGEE

Very well played.

LEROY GIBBS

Thanks.

Off of Gibb's look of pleasure.

EXT. BALTIMORE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (EVENING)

All four agents escort the Senator to a waiting car as the press captures everything.

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - CONFERENCE ROOM

In a conference room, agents Gibbs and Bishop meet with Mary King and Mike Garrett. Mrs. King hands Mike a sonogram of his and Robin's baby. Mike breaks down and sobs as Mrs. King comforts him.

OFF OF THEM CRYING TOGETHER.

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM

Agents Torres, McGee, Vance, Palmer and Kasie watch a TV screen as Congresswoman Ford gives her acceptance speech.

ELLEN FORD

Tonight, the people of Maryland have spoken! I can promise you that there will be no more corruption under my watch. As long as I'm your senator you can put your trust in me to always do the right thing.

As Gibb's enters, he looks around at his team as they all have a look of "yeah right". He smiles as we...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW