

NCIS

"Cabin Fever"

Episode #273

Written by

Scott Williams

Directed by Bethany Rooney

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CAST LIST

SPECIAL AGENT LEROY JETHRO GIBBS
SPECIAL AGENT TONY DiNOZZO
PROBATIONARY AGENT ELEANOR "ELLIE" BISHOP
DOCTOR DONALD "DUCKY" MALLARD
FORENSIC SCIENTIST ABBY SCIUTO
SPECIAL AGENT TIMOTHY McGEE
DIRECTOR LEON VANCE

SENIOR FBI AGENT TOBIAS "T.C." FORNELL
EMILY FORNELL
RUSSIAN COUNSELOR ANTON PAVLENKO
INTERNATIONAL MERCENARY SERGEI MISHNEV

VIRGINIA STATE TROOPER KEYES [X]
VIRGINIA STATE TROOPER JOHNSON [X]
FRANKIE BOULOS
NAZAR BOULOS
PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS JUDY SLOAN

VOICE ONLY:

DIANE STERLING

FEATURED (non-speaking)

EMERGENCY CREW MEMBERS
WOUNDED SEAMEN
DIGNITARIES
UNIFORMED PERSONNEL [X]
SECURITY MAN
PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS KATE GOMEZ
NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMAN

SET LIST

EXTERIORS (DAY)

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE STATION [X]
USS CORTLAND (DDG 144) (STOCK)
GIBBS' CABIN
URBAN ALLEYWAY
BACKWOODS POND

INTERIORS (DAY)

NCIS HEADQUARTERS
SQUAD ROOM
ABBY'S LAB
CONFERENCE ROOM
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
INTERROGATION ROOM
OBSERVATION ROOM
USS CORTLAND (DDG 144)
MAINTENANCE BAY
MAINTENANCE ROOM HALLWAY
WARDROOM
GIBBS' CABIN
HOSPITAL
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
ROOM #2
ROOM #3 [X]
HALLWAY

EXTERIORS (NIGHT)

VIRGINIA
RURAL INTERSTATE
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE CRUISER [X]
GIBBS' TRUCK
FOREST ROAD

INTERIORS (NIGHT)

NCIS HEADQUARTERS
SQUAD ROOM
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE CRUISER [X]
GIBBS' TRUCK
GIBBS' CABIN
GIBBS' HOUSE

NCIS

"CABIN FEVER"

PREVIOUSLY ON NCIS: Gibbs' helicopter is shot down over Russia. Sergei Mishnev chases Gibbs and company to a "final" stand-off near the Finland border, as Gibbs shoots Mishnev. Vance tells Gibbs that Mishnev survived. Mishnev resurfaces, killing Diane Sterling on a rooftop. Gibbs nearly strangles Mishnev to death before he's knocked out. Gibbs and Bishop's husband, Jake, meet for dinner, as Gibbs asks a favor...

COLD OPEN

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF GIBBS AND VANCE, QUITE CURIOUS...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

1 EXT. RURAL INTERSTATE - VIRGINIA - NIGHT 1

On a lonely two-lane, a VIRGINIA STATE POLICE CRUISER speeds by...

TROOPER KEYES' VOICE

Well, you know the deal with them
two, don't you?

2 EXT./INT. VIRGINIA STATE POLICE CRUISER - NIGHT 2

VIRGINIA STATE TROOPER KEYES, 40s, male, drives. VIRGINIA STATE TROOPER JOHNSON, 30s, female, rides. Both enjoy the quiet night and local gossip.

TROOPER JOHNSON

Them two who? Judge McGraff...?

TROOPER KEYES

And Wilson, the D.A. Two of them
were college sweethearts.

TROOPER JOHNSON

Is that a fact?

TROOPER KEYES

Check them out next time you're in
court. Little looks between them,
smiles. He objects, she sustains.
Every time.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

TROOPER JOHNSON
Old flame's still burning, huh?

TROOPER KEYES
I think they'd burn it up right
there on the bench if they could.

They chuckle, as they roll up behind a slow-moving CAR...

TROOPER JOHNSON
Keyes, you are bad.

TROOPER KEYES
Not as bad as this yahoo.

The car's TAILLIGHTS swerve between the yellow line and the
curb. Keyes blips the SIREN as Johnson grabs the P.A. mic...

TROOPER JOHNSON
Pull over to the side, please.

3 EXT. RURAL INTERSTATE - NORTHERN VIRGINIA - NIGHT

3

The car pulls over, but it pulls too hard, as it jumps the
curb before rolling to a stop in the grass.

The cruiser pulls up behind and the Deputies cautiously climb
out and flank the car. Johnson FLASHLIGHTS the UNSEEN DRIVER.

TROOPER JOHNSON
How we doing tonight, Sir? License
and registration.

DRIVER'S VOICE
Damn brakes don't want to listen.

Johnson flashlights an open BOURBON BOTTLE in the cup holder.

TROOPER KEYES
And what do we have there?

We now reveal SENIOR FBI AGENT TOBIAS "T.C." FORNELL at the
wheel. His head's shaved clean, but his face sports two days
of stubble and a bleary, wise-ass smile...

FORNELL
S'okay, it's prescription bourbon.

Neither Trooper smiles back. Fornell drops the act, leaning
back with a sad sigh upon his headrest, as WE SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

FROM BLACK:

4 EXT. VIRGINIA STATE POLICE STATION - MORNING

4

The morning sun stings Fornell's bloodshot eyes, as SPECIAL AGENT LEROY JETHRO GIBBS walks him toward his car in the lot.

FORNELL

You know, all fairness to alcohol, I've done plenty of stupid things when I'm sober, too.

GIBBS

Glad you think it's funny.

FORNELL

It's not. But it's nothing I wanted my daughter or anybody at the FBI making a big deal about either.

GIBBS

So you called me.

FORNELL

I figured I could at least count on you for the shortest lecture.

GIBBS

Bourbon, huh?

FORNELL

Barely cracked it. It was more the beer I had with dinner, mixed with the pain meds I take for my 'Gibbs ass wound.' It still smarts like hell in cold weather, you know.

GIBBS

I saw the police report, Tobias.

FORNELL

This isn't me, Gibbs. It was just a fluke thing I intend to learn from and put behind me. And if you're my friend, you'll do the same.

As Gibbs decides whether or not he'll "do the same," his CELL PHONE RINGS. CALLER I.D. says "Vance." He answers...

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

GIBBS

Hey, Leon...
(listens, darkening)
Where?

FORNELL

What is it?

A parting nod to Fornell, and Gibbs hurries away...

FORNELL (cont'd)

Let me know if you need me, Gibbs.
I owe you one!

GIBBS

No you don't!

Fornell opens his mouth to respond, but nothing comes, as he continues his walk of shame, alone again with his denial...

5 EXT. USS CORTLAND (DDG 144) - DAY (STOCK)

5

AERIAL STOCK of a DESTROYER docked in Norfolk, with a lazy wisp of CGI SMOKE streaming from a porthole...

6 INT. USS CORTLAND (DDG 144) - MAINTENANCE BAY - DAY

6

Gibbs enters amid contained chaos, as EMERGENCY CREW MEMBERS carry TWO WOUNDED SEAMEN out on stretchers, while OTHERS help ANOTHER TWO SEAMEN (less wounded) out to the Sick Bay or fresh air outside.

Through the crowd, DIRECTOR LEON VANCE finds Gibbs...

VANCE

Fire's out and your team just got here, Gibbs. Wardroom.

GIBBS

Still thinking a gas explosion?

VANCE

Hoping. Galley's one room over.
Figure a leaky stove or oven.

Gibbs eyes a few DIGNITARIES being escorted out by UNIFORMED PERSONNEL.

GIBBS

Who are the suits?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

VANCE

Dignitaries from a dozen international agencies. We'd just started boarding when it happened, though there were a bunch of crew members in there setting up.

GIBBS

SecNav?

VANCE

On the West Coast. We were patching her in on closed circuit.

GIBBS

What's the occasion?

VANCE

Summit on global terror.

As Gibbs double-takes, almost amused. Almost.

GIBBS

No irony there.

VANCE

And I'm not going there, Gibbs. Keep thinking gas explosion.

As Vance checks on the Dignitaries, Gibbs heads down the corridor to...

7 INT. USS CORTLAND - WARDROOM - DAY

7

Gibbs enters as SPECIAL AGENTS TONY DiNOZZO, TIMOTHY MCGEE and PROBATIONARY AGENT ELEANOR "ELLIE" BISHOP grimly inspect embers of SHATTERED FURNITURE and a three-foot HOLE that's been blown through the scorched wall between the wardroom and the galley next door.

TONY

(grim)

Welcome to the party, Boss.

GIBBS

Casualties.

MCGEE

Six reported injured. Two taken to sick bay. Two more seriously, being rushed to Norfolk Memorial.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BISHOP

And one dead.

They turn as Bishop shines a FLASHLIGHT under a pile of rubble consisting of a smashed PLASMA TV and the collapsed TABLE holding it. Gibbs steps over as Bishop regards the unseen FEMALE SEAMAN's body, and its not a pretty sight.

BISHOP (cont'd)

Female petty officer. Can't make out her name tag.

MCGEE

I'll call Ducky.

As McGee speed-dials his cell, Gibbs closely regards the hole in the wall and is instantly dubious...

GIBBS

No gas explosion.

BISHOP

Yeah, we had our doubts.

GIBBS

Wall's blown in from here, not out from the galley. No gas smell, just gun powder.

TONY

And then there's this.

Tony shows Gibbs a cylindrical METAL FRAGMENT he found. It's like half of a burnt soda can that's still smoking.

TONY (cont'd)

Bomb fragment?

GIBBS

Grenade. Anti-tank.

Gibbs wipes away soot to reveal RUSSIAN LETTERING beneath.

GIBBS (cont'd)

Russian.

Instantly, our agents make the Russian connection to an all-too-familiar nemesis. Gibbs' wheels turn fast, as Tony plays the obligatory devil's advocate.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

TONY

Of course, just because it's
Russian, doesn't mean it's...

As Gibbs bolts, unwilling to think otherwise...

8 INT. USS CORTLAND - MAINTENANCE BAY - MOMENTS LATER

8

As Gibbs shows Vance the fragment...

VANCE

Sergei Mishnev. We knew he wasn't
done with you, only a matter of
time.

GIBBS

This makes you the target.

VANCE

Any friend of yours is an enemy of
his.

As Vance pulls the GUEST LIST from his jacket pocket...

VANCE (cont'd)

Let me check the guest list.
Russian ambassador had to cancel,
but they were sending someone here
in his place...

Vance pauses when he sees the name. Gibbs guesses.

GIBBS

Someone we know?

VANCE

Another 'friend.'

Vance hands him the list. Gibbs flattens at the name, but
before he can say it...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Director Vance... Agent Gibbs...

As if on cue, RUSSIAN COUNSELOR ANTON PAVLENKO (last seen in
#262 "Choke Hold") arrives, gesturing for his SECURITY MAN to
stay by the door as he approaches...

VANCE

Counselor Pavlenko.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Thank goodness you're all right. I
just heard about the explosion.

GIBBS
Interesting, you running late.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Meetings at the embassy. Was anyone
hurt? Do we know what happened?

VANCE
We have a pretty good idea.

Vance holds up the grenade fragment. Pavlenko whispers.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
A bomb?

GIBBS
Russian grenade.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
You think Sergei?

GIBBS
Like you don't?

Pavlenko shudders. Gibbs and Vance aren't buying it.

VANCE
And here you are, conveniently
rolling in after the fact.

Pavlenko straightens, insulted.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Please, tell me we are not about to
engage in this farce yet again.

VANCE
What farce is that?

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Where you accuse me, a trusted and
dedicated envoy to my country, of
complicity with a known terrorist.

VANCE
You have to admit, Counselor...

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
I admit nothing. In fact, let me
assure you, Director, if Sergei is
behind this, I was his target. Not
you, and not Agent Gibbs. Me.

Pavlenko shudders again, both frightened and furious.

Off Gibbs and Vance, exchanging curious looks...

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF GIBBS OFFERING FORNELL A DRINK...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

9 INT. USS CORTLAND - MAINTENANCE ROOM HALLWAY - DAY 9

Continuing their previous conversation in private, Anton Pavlenko pounds the wall before a dubious Gibbs and Vance...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
I simply cannot believe I am forced
to defend myself once again for the
actions of a criminal.

VANCE
A Russian criminal, Counselor, with
whom you once had a working
relationship.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Once, Director. And we paid dearly
for that mistake, leaving Sergei
now a man without a country.

GIBBS
Freeing you up to play the victim.

As Pavlenko looks Gibbs square in the eye, almost pleading...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Not a victim, Gibbs. A target,
like you. For reasons that make
sense only to Sergei.

VANCE
Reasons such as?

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
Your helicopter crash. He saw my
help in the rescue as a betrayal.

GIBBS
Help?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

And now he perceives that I owe my
life to Agent Gibbs for 'saving me'
from our defector, the scientist.

(to Gibbs)

You shoot Nelly Benin dead and now
we are practically golf buddies.

GIBBS

I don't golf.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Who has the time, I mean really?

A breath of levity. Pavlenko looks to Gibbs.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO (cont'd)

My sympathy for your loss, Gibbs.
I have suffered a few myself. We
are in this together, I'm afraid.

GIBBS

No. We're not.

VANCE

All due respect, Counselor, but you
created this monster.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Don't fool yourself, Director, many
hands went into creating Sergei.

Gibbs rises to go, weary of Pavlenko's posturing...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO (cont'd)

Tell me, please, what I can do?
What can I say, Gibbs, to convince
you that I'm on your side here?

GIBBS

Just stay the hell out of my way.

Gibbs storms out. Off Vance and Pavlenko, not much to add...

10 INT. USS CORTLAND - WARDROOM - DAY

10

With the rubble removed from the body of PETTY OFFICER THIRD
CLASS KATE GOMEZ, 19, Bishop moves in with her camera...

CLICK-FLASH! - THE PETTY OFFICER'S TWISTED BODY

CLICK-FLASH! - THE BLOODY GASH ON THE SIDE OF HER HEAD

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

DOCTOR DONALD "DUCKY" MALLARD kneels close beside her, as Tony and McGee continue gathering evidence in the b.g.

DUCKY

Oh dear. A mere child.

BISHOP

Tell me about it.

DUCKY

Eager to serve, to learn, to see the world and experience its many adventures. Until along comes a coward with a bomb.

GIBBS' VOICE

Update. Where are we?

As Gibbs enters with a head of steam, Ducky snaps...

DUCKY

We're damn tired of this bastard, Jethro, that's where we are.

GIBBS

Take a number, Duck. McGee?

MCGEE

So we know for sure that it's...?

Gibbs' seething glare is all the answer he or anyone needs.

MCGEE (cont'd)

Okay, we've collected the rest of the grenade fragments. Looks like there was only one used.

GIBBS

Get everything to Abby now. Now!

As McGee loads his BAGGED EVIDENCE and starts out...

GIBBS (cont'd)

And I want a list of every delivery the ship's received in the last forty-eight hours. Bishop?

BISHOP

We've ID'd the victim, Petty Officer Third Class Katherine Gomez, nineteen, assigned to the ship only three weeks ago and...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

GIBBS
Witness interviews?

A look between Bishop and Tony. Gibbs simply won't be distracted by sad details right now. He's in overdrive.

BISHOP
Well, we were just about to start.

TONY
Sick bay just gave us clearance,
and we're still waiting to hear
from the hospital...

GIBBS
Then we start in the sick bay,
let's move, let's go...

Gibbs starts out. Bishop starts to follow, but not Tony.

TONY
Boss. We'll take care of it.

GIBBS
What?

TONY
Bishop and I. We'll handle the
interviews. It might be better.

GIBBS
Better how? Spit it out, DiNozzo,
what are you saying?

TONY
Your bedside manner, Boss, it might
not be... You may be too close...

DUCKY
He's saying take a breath, Jethro.
Good advice for us all.

Before Gibbs can disagree with both of them, his CELL PHONE RINGS. CALLER I.D. startles him: "DIANE" (as it did in #271 "We Build, We Fight"). But this time, he knows who it is. Gibbs draws the breath Ducky suggested and answers...

GIBBS
Still using your mom's phone?

We HEAR EMILY FORNELL on the other end...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

EMILY (V.O.)
Only to call certain people. I
need to see you right away.

GIBBS
Well, I'm pretty busy right now.

EMILY (V.O.)
Please. It's important.

Gibbs looks to Tony and Bishop, already heading to the sick bay as Ducky and a NAVY HOSPITAL CORPSMAN start bagging the petty officer's body. Things are handled here. Off Gibbs...

11 INT. NCIS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

11

Gibbs enters with EMILY FORNELL (last seen in #244 "Devil's Triad"), who, now at 14, is still very much her mother's daughter, even with her school BACKPACK and UNIFORM...

GIBBS
Get you a soda, Emily? Water?

EMILY
No, I just had a low-foam latte and
this won't take long. I've got
debate quarterfinals in an hour.

GIBBS
High-school debate?

EMILY
I'm varsity captain as a freshman.
Arguing's pretty much in my blood.

Gibbs suppresses a smile: Ain't that the truth.

GIBBS
Could've done this over the phone.

EMILY
No, we couldn't. I know about you
bailing out my dad this morning.

Gibbs pauses, trying not to betray a trust, but...

GIBBS
Wasn't bailing out exactly. He's
just going through a tough time.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

EMILY

Don't soft-pedal me, Uncle Gibbs.
He looks nuts with that bald head.

GIBBS

For some undercover operation.

EMILY

You don't believe that. Last week,
he shaved it twice in one day.
Said it 'helps him feel clean.'

Gibbs gets the implication: Fornell can't get clean.

EMILY (cont'd)

Since Mom died, he's been angry,
bitter, self-destructive. Oh, and
drunk. He's drinking way too much.

Gibbs nods, hating to admit it.

EMILY (cont'd)

You know what he's experiencing. I
try to help, but he doesn't listen
to me and I've got my own grief to
work through.

GIBBS

And how's that going?

EMILY

Some good days, some awful. All
compounded by being a teenager, who
can't be expected to maintain a
teenage social calendar if I'm too
busy worrying about...my dad
hurting himself or anyone else.

Despite her superficial reasoning, her love and concern for
her father shines through in the tiny crack of her voice.

GIBBS

Okay. I'll talk to him.

EMILY

No. Help him. Please?

GIBBS

I will.

Emily shoulders her backpack and turns toward the door, but
then doubles back to give Gibbs a hug. Off which...

12 INT. ABBY'S LAB - DAY

12

McGee regards the image of a Russian RKG-3 GRENADE on the screen, as FORENSIC SCIENTIST ABBY SCIUTO sifts through the GRENADE FRAGMENTS on a lab tray...

ABBY

It's an oldie, but a baddy, McGee.

MCGEE

Russian RKG-3 anti-tank grenade.
Straight out of a *Rambo* movie.

ABBY

Dates back even further. And still
turning up in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MCGEE

And here. Any shot at tracing it?

ABBY

Who are you talking to? If there's
anything on these fragments leading
us to Sergei, I'll find it.

McGee's CELL PHONE RINGS...

MCGEE

(into phone)

Yeah, Tony... Already?

(beat)

Okay, I'm on my way.

(hanging up)

Gibbs wants an update and they
barely just got back from the ship.

ABBY

You said yourself Gibbs is on fire.

MCGEE

Like you've never seen, Abby.

ABBY

Come on, we've all seen.

MCGEE

Not like this. If Sergei gets away
again, I'm not sure there's a level
of Hell below where Gibbs is right
now.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

ABBY

Then we can't let him get away.

Bolstered by Abby's resolve, McGee bolts out to...

13 INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - DAY 13

Gibbs gazes at the I.D. PHOTO of PETTY OFFICER GOMEZ on the plasma, as McGee joins Tony and Bishop, mid-update...

BISHOP

Petty Officer Gomez was a culinary specialist, setting up a catering station when the bomb went off.

TONY

As for witness interviews, none of the four in the ship's sick bay could say with certainty where the blast originated.

GIBBS

You show them Sergei's mug shot?

BISHOP

Them and everyone else on the ship. No one reported seeing him.

FORNELL'S VOICE

Well, hell, it's not like Sergei would deliver the bomb personally.

They turn to find Fornell entering from the elevator. All air is sucked from the room, as our agents react to the sight of the bloodshot Fornell trying to act natural.

GIBBS

Tobias...

FORNELL

Sorry to interrupt. Just got word about the ship and...

GIBBS

And you're on leave.

FORNELL

Not anymore. FBI's here to help. Continue.

Our agents look to Gibbs, trying to gauge what to do with his friend. Tony gives Bishop a nod to keep talking...

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

BISHOP

There were two other victims taken to Norfolk Memorial. Both still in surgery, but we'll interview them as soon as they're able.

Tony looks to McGee to keep it going...

MCGEE

And Abby's already checking the grenade fragments for prints...

FORNELL

(interrupting)
Grenade fragments?

GIBBS

Let's get some coffee.

Gibbs closes to Fornell...

FORNELL

No, I'm good. He used a grenade?

GIBBS

I'm not asking.

Gibbs grabs his arm and Fornell pulls it away.

FORNELL

What the hell are you doing?

GIBBS

What are you doing?

VANCE'S VOICE

Gibbs!

All eyes turn to Vance on the upstairs landing...

VANCE

And Fornell. My office now.

Off Gibbs and Fornell...

14 INT. NCIS DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

14

Fornell rigidly pleads his case to Vance, who exchanges surreptitious looks with Gibbs...

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

FORNELL

It's just lack of sleep, Leon. You know it better than anybody. Same with Gibbs. Until Sergei's dead, there's no peace...

VANCE

But unlike Gibbs, you've let your demons get the better of you.

Fornell's stunned silent as Vance gets in his face.

VANCE (cont'd)

I can smell it on you.

FORNELL

One Bloody Mary with lunch when I heard about the bombing. Gibbs and I were just getting coffee...

VANCE

I need you to wait outside.

FORNELL

Look, I deserve a shot at Sergei more than anyone.

VANCE

And I need a word with Gibbs. Please. Have a seat outside.

Fornell looks to Gibbs, who leverages him...

GIBBS

You want a shot at him or not?

Fornell goes. And the moment he's out...

VANCE

We can't cover for him, Gibbs.

GIBBS

Give us time. Let me talk to him.

VANCE

And say what? Does he look like he's listening to anyone right now?

GIBBS

It's his career on the line here, Leon, his whole life...

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

VANCE

And what about your life? He's a danger to himself, his fellow agents, and to us. FBI has to know, if they don't already.

Vance speed-dials as Gibbs' mind races, formulating a plan.

VANCE (cont'd)

This hurts me, Gibbs, but we can't look the other way and you know it.

(into phone)

Assistant Director Wilt, please...

CLICK. Vance looks over to see Gibbs has hung up his phone.

VANCE (cont'd)

Have you lost your damn mind?

GIBBS

I'll take full responsibility. Get Fornell out of the way and leave my team to go after Sergei.

VANCE

Wait, what? Leave your team?

GIBBS

They're more than capable, Leon, and I'll be a phone call away.

VANCE

Gibbs, this is Sergei Mishnev we're talking about.

GIBBS

And maybe I'm too close. Fornell and I both.

VANCE

And you think I'll just let you.

GIBBS

That or bench me. Or trust me.

Vance can't believe his ears, trying to make sense of it.

VANCE

Never thought I'd see the day. I mean, where are you going to go, Gibbs? Where are taking him?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (3) 14

Off Gibbs...

15 EXT./INT. GIBBS' TRUCK (MOVING) - NIGHT 15

Gibbs steers his TRUCK over rough terrain and puts it in "park," as Fornell awakens blearily beside him.

FORNELL

Where are we?

GIBBS

Help me unload.

As Fornell realizes what's in the headlights: Gibbs' cabin.

FORNELL

Holy Jeremiah Johnson. Are you kidding me?

16 INT. GIBBS' CABIN - NIGHT 16

Gibbs and Fornell carry in a BACKPACK, a DUFFEL and some GROCERIES. As Gibbs lights a GAS LANTERN...

FORNELL

This is not what we agreed to. You said we were going after Sergei.

GIBBS

No, you said it. I said let's go.

FORNELL

Which would imply agreement. What the hell are we doing out here?

Gibbs unlocks a FOOT LOCKER, as Fornell has a scary thought.

FORNELL (cont'd)

Wait a minute. An intervention? Is that what this is?

GIBBS

Think you need one?

FORNELL

No. I mean, sure, last night was bad, but not bad enough to make any kind of New-Age-Come-to-Jesus even remotely necessary.

GIBBS

Good. That's not what this is.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

Gibbs pulls TWO BOTTLES of bourbon from his foot locker.

GIBBS (cont'd)
No more slow-motion suicide,
Tobias. You want to kill yourself,
let's just get it over with.

As Gibbs pours himself a tall GLASS...

GIBBS (cont'd)
I'll even come with you.

As Gibbs takes a swig and plops a bottle before Fornell...

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF VANCE AND TONY, WONDERING IF PAVLENKO ISN'T THE DUPLICITOUS CREEP THEY THOUGHT HE WAS...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

17 INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - MORNING 17

Bishop enters, joining Tony and McGee already at their desks, each eager to get a jump on the day...

BISHOP
Still no word from Gibbs?

TONY
Not a peep since he left last night.

MCGEE
Can't believe he'd go at a time like this, even to help Fornell.

BISHOP
Family first. Not to mention Tony's brave suggestion that he might be too close.

TONY
Seriously?

BISHOP
He obviously took it to heart.

TONY
Okay, one, that's adorable. And two, trust me: Gibbs would never bail on a case, much less a Sergei case, and much much less at my suggestion.

MCGEE
Unless...he has a plan.

Tony and Bishop are struck by that notion, but before they can discuss it, McGee's DESK PHONE RINGS...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

 MCGEE (cont'd)
 (into phone)
Special Agent McGee. Yes. Oh
great. Thanks for letting us know.
 (hanging up)
Hospital. Both victims are awake
and well enough to be interviewed.

As McGee rises to go and Tony and Bishop follow his lead...

 BISHOP
Gibbs's plan, McGee, what do you
think it is?

 MCGEE
Oh, I have no idea. All I said is
he'd never leave unless he had one.

 TONY
I'm with you there, McTuitive.
Gibbs has to be up to something.

And now Tony's CELL PHONE RINGS. CALLER I.D. says "Gibbs."

 TONY (cont'd)
And maybe we're about to find out
what.
 (hitting SPEAKER)
Morning, Boss.

INTERCUT WITH:

18 EXT. GIBBS' CABIN - MORNING

18

CELL PHONE to his ear and bundled against the cold, Gibbs
sets up LOGS for chopping...

 GIBBS
 (into phone)
Where are we, DiNozzo?

 TONY
Well, you know where we are. What
we don't know is where you are.

 GIBBS
McGee hasn't pinged my phone yet?

BACK IN THE SQUAD ROOM

McGee shrugs sheepishly.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

MCGEE

Actually... I did, Boss, yeah.

BISHOP

Really?

TONY

And you didn't tell us?

They mouth outraged invectives as McGee shrugs again.

MCGEE

I didn't know if he'd want me to.

BACK WITH GIBBS

GIBBS

(into phone)

I don't, McGee. And I don't want anyone coming here when you do tell them after we hang up.

TONY

So...what can we do for you?

GIBBS

You can give me an update.

BISHOP

Well, we're still combing the ship's deliveries the last forty-eight hours. Nothing there yet.

TONY

And we were just about to leave for the hospital to interview...

Suddenly, Fornell stumbles out behind Gibbs and DRY-HEAVES into the nearest bush...

BACK IN THE SQUAD ROOM

Our agents exchange looks at the SOUNDS of retching...

TONY (cont'd)

Is that you choking, Boss, or you choking someone else?

GIBBS

Gotta go. Call me back after the interviews.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

TONY

Wait, Boss, is that it? Isn't there anything you need to tell us?

MCGEE

Any, you know, plan of some kind?

BACK WITH GIBBS

Gibbs doesn't bite.

GIBBS

You need a plan? Catch Sergei.

Gibbs hangs up just as Fornell stumbles back, blinded by the sun and shivering with the cold.

FORNELL

Wait, who was that?

GIBBS

Morning, Tobias.

FORNELL

Was that your team? Any progress?

GIBBS

They're working on it. Sleep okay?

FORNELL

I hate you, Gibbs, you know that? What the hell are we doing out here? Where's my cell phone?

GIBBS

How should I know?

FORNELL

Give me yours. Need to call Emily.

GIBBS

Emily's fine. Staying with friends. I called her.

FORNELL

You called? She's in on this?

GIBBS

Nope. But she's okay.

Fornell stink-eyes Gibbs. Knows he's not getting anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

FORNELL
We're really doing this?

Gibbs shrugs and Fornell gives in, exasperated.

FORNELL (cont'd)
Fine. You win. What now?

GIBBS
What now what?

FORNELL
What do we do first? Bang drums?
Sweat lodge? Squirrel juggling?

Gibbs extends an AX to Fornell.

FORNELL (cont'd)
Really? You think handing me an ax
is a good idea right now?

Gibbs nods toward the WOOD PILE...

GIBBS
Cold and getting colder. That ass
wound of yours will be acting up.
I'll make coffee.

FORNELL
Milk. Two-percent.

GIBBS
Black.

As Gibbs finds a LOG the size of a baseball bat in the wood pile, flipping it in his hand admiringly...

FORNELL
Right. Any fake sugar?
(off his look)
Why do I ask?

As Gibbs heads inside with the log, Fornell buries his ax into a log and feels it right in his aching temples, as we...

19 INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM #2 - DAY

19

McGee interviews bandaged and IV'd FRANKIE BOULOS, 25, a civilian, whose relieved father, NAZAR BOULOS, 49, hovers, holding a WATER CUP for his son to sip from.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

MCGEE

So you're not military?

FRANKIE

No, Sir. In fact, it was my first time on a Navy ship.

NAZAR

He was so excited when he left the shop and now look at him.

MCGEE

The shop?

FRANKIE

Video and sound. Navy had us running a satellite feed for anyone who couldn't attend the breakfast.

NAZAR

(proudly)

Like your Navy Secretary.

MCGEE

SecNav, yeah. Were you there as well, Mister Boulos?

NAZAR

No, I just do the books now. Frankie's the expert on the new equipment. Which we don't care about losing, by the way. All that matters is my boy is alive.

MCGEE

Absolutely. Any details you recall before the explosion, Frankie?

FRANKIE

The crew was nice. I was running a sound check and last thing I remember was thinking maybe we'd been torpedoed.

Nazar shudders, kissing his son's head, as, off McGee...

20 INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM #3 - DAY

20

PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS JUDY SLOAN, 23, weak, IV'd and head-bandaged, speaks with Tony...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

PETTY OFFICER SLOAN
Just can't believe Katie's dead.

TONY
You and Petty Officer Gomez were friends?

PETTY OFFICER SLOAN
She was new, but yeah. Happiest C.S.-Three anyone ever met.

TONY
You were nearby when it happened?

PETTY OFFICER SLOAN
We were setting out pastries, joking about eating them all, and next thing I knew, she...went flying across the room.

As she fights back emotion...

PETTY OFFICER SLOAN (cont'd)
Her parents. She talked about them all the time. Do they know yet?

TONY
Navy's flying them in now, yeah.

PETTY OFFICER SLOAN
Who would do something like this?

As she gives into tears, Tony's eyes say "a dead man," as...

BISHOP
Excuse me, Tony?

Bishop leans in from hall, summoning him out to...

21 INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 21

Tony and McGee join Bishop, shaking off their interviews...

TONY
I hate Sergei, have I said that enough?

MCGEE
Yeah, me too.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

BISHOP

Me three. But if you don't mind, I just need to vent about something else for a second.

TONY

Uh-oh, what did we do?

BISHOP

Not you. Jake. He just called. And that dinner he and Gibbs ended up having last week?

MCGEE

The one you and Tony ditched?

TONY

Leaving them to become BFFs?

BISHOP

More than any of us realized. Gibbs apparently asked Jake to share intel. Everything NSA has on Russian-Palestinian relations, Sergei Mishnev, Anton Pavlenko...

MCGEE

He said nothing to us about it.

BISHOP

He didn't want us or anyone knowing. But how could Jake not tell me?

TONY

Sounds like he just did.

BISHOP

Only because Gibbs called early this morning and told Jake to send us everything he had and we'd know what to do with it.

Tony and McGee exchange a gleeful look.

TONY

Could that be part of...a plan?

BISHOP

(off her smartphone)
The email just came through and it's a huge file.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2) 21

As our agents hurry out...

22 EXT. GIBBS' CABIN - DAY 22

His head pounding, the agitated Fornell keeps chopping as Gibbs stacks the split wood against the cabin...

FORNELL

So what's the deal here, Abe Lincoln? I keep chopping until you've added a second floor?

GIBBS

Or your arm falls off.

FORNELL

Excuse me?

GIBBS

We got enough for now. You hungry?

FORNELL

Thirsty. What's here to drink?

Gibbs shoots him a look and Fornell doesn't like it.

FORNELL (cont'd)

For thirst, Gibbs.

GIBBS

Just water.

FORNELL

You spoil me.

As Fornell buries the axe and heads inside...

23 INT. GIBBS' CABIN - MOMENTS LATER 23

Fornell drinks a TIN CUP OF WATER, but opens the foot locker to check for something else, as Gibbs leans in...

GIBBS

I dumped it.

FORNELL

You what?

GIBBS

The bourbon. All gone.

Fornell slams the foot locker and gets in Gibbs' face.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

FORNELL

Dammit, Gibbs, what are you trying to prove? I'm a grown man! I don't need you monitoring my intake!

GIBBS

Looks to me like you do.

FORNELL

I don't! And I don't need this!

GIBBS

Me neither, but here we are.

FORNELL

Enough! I'm done!

GIBBS

Done what? Embarrassing yourself?

Fornell stops cold.

GIBBS (cont'd)

Or your badge maybe? You're doing a helluva job at both.

POW! Fornell punches Gibbs square in the face. Gibbs staggers back into the table, and comes up almost smiling...

GIBBS (cont'd)

That all you got, Alice?

Fornell swings again, but Gibbs leans away, sending Fornell stumbling past him.

GIBBS (cont'd)

Another embarrassment. You're batting zeroes, Tobias.

Fornell charges Gibbs, who steps aside like a matador, and Fornell flies out the door to...

24 EXT. GIBBS' CABIN - CONTINUOUS

24

Fornell hits the ground HARD, the wind is knocked from him. As Gibbs leans in the doorway, an ABRASION on his cheek...

GIBBS

Feel better?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

As Fornell gradually sits up, drawing labored breaths...

FORNELL

We should be back in DC looking for Sergei.

GIBBS

Not in this condition. And forget Sergei. What's really bugging you?

FORNELL

Don't be playing Freud now, you're not qualified.

GIBBS

You know what I'm asking.

FORNELL

Back the hell off!

GIBBS

You blame me.

FORNELL

Gibbs...

GIBBS

It's okay. I blame me. I'm the one that got her killed.

Fornell wilts, unable to stave Gibbs off anymore...

GIBBS (cont'd)

If Diane wasn't on that roof, she'd be alive. And you wouldn't have to be walking around pretending it wasn't me who put her there.

FORNELL

So it's all about you.

GIBBS

It is about me. And you. And her. The drinking, all of it.

FORNELL

No, Gibbs. It's just me. I killed her. Nobody to blame but myself.

As Fornell rises and heads back to the cabin...

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2) 24

FORNELL (cont'd)
And now I really need a drink.

Off Gibbs...

25 INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - DAY 25

Vance comes down from his office as Tony, McGee and Bishop pour through Jake's NSA INTEL on their computers...

VANCE
That NSA intel give us anything?

BISHOP
We're just getting started,
Director, and there's a whole lot
to comb through.

TONY
Stuff in here about the Soviets in
Afghanistan, the mujahideen...

MCGEE
Actually, I've got something about
Sergei and that Russian Counselor
Pavlenko...

VANCE
Our 'friend' Anton. What is it?

MCGEE
They go way back. College.
Competed at Saint Petersburg
University in the biathlon.

BISHOP
Isn't that the one where they cross-
country ski and shoot rifles?

TONY
As random Olympic sports go, why
not bullfighting on a trampoline?

VANCE
Explains a lot though. Go on.

MCGEE
They were friendly rivals for a
while, contending for the Soviet
Olympic team.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

MCGEE (cont'd)

When neither made the cut, Pavlenko went to law school and Sergei discovered the Afghan heroin trade.

VANCE

Explains even more.

BISHOP

Like his soft spot for an old college buddy gone bad.

TONY

Making Pavlenko less of a cold, duplicitous creep, and more a sentimental, duplicitous creep.

Off Vance, considering this...

26 EXT. URBAN ALLEYWAY - DAY

26

Pavlenko turns off the street and walks alone between dumpsters, glancing nervously between them before lighting a CIGARETTE.

One puff and he's grabbed from behind and slammed hard against a wall by INTERNATIONAL MERCENARY SERGEI MISHNEV (last seen in Ep. #269 "Check")...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Sergei...

Sergei puts a hand over Pavlenko's mouth while pulling open his shirt and frisking him for a wire. Pavlenko frees his mouth...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO (cont'd)

(in Russian)

Stop, I am not wired.

SERGEI

(in Russian)

English, Anton...

(in English)

This is America, speak English.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

We are quite alone, I assure you.

SERGEI

And the last time you assured me, I lost good men in the Kola Peninsula.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

That was no assurance, it was a warning. To stay away from NCIS. You chose to ignore it and where are you now? Setting off hand grenades and hiding in alleys.

SERGEI

It's not how you fall, Anton, it's how you rise. Remember that one?

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Which is why I called. To help you rise. With a proposal on behalf of the Russian government.

SERGEI

A government that wants me dead.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Not anymore. I've convinced them to offer you asylum. Full immunity on one condition.

SERGEI

This should be good.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Kill Gibbs.

Sergei's stunned, certain he heard him wrong.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO (cont'd)

This vendetta of yours has dragged on long enough and we'd like it put to an end.

Sergei moves quickly from stunned to suspicious.

SERGEI

So now I have your blessing? Why now? Why the sudden change of heart? You owe Gibbs your life.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

I know you believe that, as I once did, but new details have come to light recently that...

As Pavlenko searches for words to a complicated story...

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

SERGEI

That what? Tell me. Convince me.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Nelly Benin.

SERGEI

The scientist.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

She's alive. Gibbs killing her to save me was a ruse. An elaborate sleight of hand to help her defect. As you know, we don't like defectors. And I don't like being played for a fool.

SERGEI

Gibbs. Hard not to admire him.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Not for me. Dispose of him, Sergei, quickly and quietly. And you can live out your days in peace in Mother Russia.

SERGEI

Is there a timetable?

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Now. Today. My people know where he is and it's a rare opportunity we cannot miss. I can have you there in a matter of hours.

As Sergei considers the offer, a smile creasing his face...

Off the very duplicitous Pavlenko, we...

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**FROM BLACK:****FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF GIBBS WEIGHING HIS NEXT MOVE...****PHOOF TO BLACK:**

FROM BLACK:

27 EXT. BACKWOODS POND - DAY

27

Gibbs and Fornell fish off a small BOAT, their LINES cast in the frigid water. Though both are bundled up, Fornell shivers with cold sweats...

FORNELL

This is insane. I'm sure I saw cans of tuna in those grocery bags.

GIBBS

Can't beat fresh catfish.

FORNELL

Ugly bottom-feeders. How does anything actually live down there?

GIBBS

You never fished as a kid?

FORNELL

In the summer, sure. Finger Lakes.

In his weakened condition, Fornell grows wistful...

FORNELL (cont'd)

Loved it. Should get back to it, but... Lot of things I don't do enough of anymore. Get outdoors. Work with my hands...

Before his regrets can plunge him back into melancholy, Fornell's rod is nearly jerked out of his hands...

FORNELL (cont'd)

Whoa, whoa, look at this...

GIBBS

Reel her in steady...

After a brief fight, Fornell reels in a flailing foot-long STRIPED BASS. As Gibbs scoops under it with a net...

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

FORNELL

Whoa... Beauty.

GIBBS

Just big enough for two.

FORNELL

I'm not sharing this baby, Gibbs.
Come on, let's get you one.

As Gibbs BUCKETS the fish, relieved to see Fornell forget himself momentarily as he casts his line out again...

28 INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - DAY

28

Vance paces, reading a PRINTOUT from Jake's intel, comparing notes with Tony, Bishop and McGee at their computers.

VANCE

Am I reading this right? Sergei's
originally from Israel?

MCGEE

Born 1965. Father Dimitri was a
Russian officer stationed there.
Nothing here about his mother.

TONY

This report says she was a doctor,
a Saudi national with roots in
Palestine.

This lands like a bomb on Vance, Tony and McGee, who exchange stunned looks, as Bishop fills in her portion of the intel...

BISHOP

Apparently, the father took Sergei
back to Russia when he was ten,
leaving his mother behind...

As Bishop looks up, now seeing their pale gazes...

BISHOP (cont'd)

Birth of some issues right there.

(beat)

What? Am I missing something?

MCGEE

Is that really what's driving him?

TONY

No wonder the guy's pissed off.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

BISHOP

Whoa, whoa, whoa. Details. Now.

VANCE

Your predecessor at that desk.
Ziva David had a half-brother...

BISHOP

Ari Haswari. Same father. I know
the story.

TONY

Ari's mother was also a doctor with
Palestinian roots.

MCGEE

So it's quite possible that Sergei
and Ari were...

TONY

Half-brothers.

VANCE

Shedding even more light on the
depth of his hatred for Gibbs.

As it now sinks in to all of them...

BISHOP

Should we call him?

MCGEE

Not sure what he'd do with that
information at the cabin other than
punch out a grizzly bear.

TONY

But it does open up a new world of
possible allies for Sergei.

As they consider other possibilities, McGee's DESK PHONE
buzzes. He puts it on SPEAKER...

MCGEE

Hey, Abbs, we're kind of in the
middle of...

ABBY (V.O.)

Which one of you wants to be Gibbs
Gibbs Gibbs?

Off Vance and our agents...

29 EXT. BACKWOODS POND - DAY

29

Still waiting on fish number two, Gibbs listens as Fornell's wistfulness continues, losing himself in a memory...

FORNELL

And it wasn't a bad little table. I mean, Diane would always stick a matchbook under one leg to remind me I'd measured wrong. But she never got rid of it. Probably just to torture me, but still...

GIBBS

Or she liked that you built it.

FORNELL

Well, you know she was a pushover for that manly man stuff. God knows it worked for you.

GIBBS

Don't know about that. You're the one she was remarrying. Not me.

Fornell darkens on this and stops reeling his line...

GIBBS (cont'd)

Right?

Fornell reels his line in fast and changes the subject.

FORNELL

What the hell are we doing? One fish is enough. Where's your team with those updates?

As Fornell shuts down, grabbing the oars to start paddling ashore. Off Gibbs...

30 INT. ABBY'S LAB - DAY

30

Abby shows Vance and McGee the multitude of grenade fragments she's combed through, spread out on the evidence table.

ABBY

Twenty-six individual grenade fragments and not a single print on any of them. Not even a partial.

VANCE

So what's the urgency, Miss Sciuto?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

ABBY

The urgency is that this type of grenade doesn't go off by itself, Director. You twist the handle and throw it and then boom. But the way this one went off required a detonator of some kind.

MCGEE

Which we never found.

ABBY

Yes, you did. Or at least a piece of a detonator. This baby here.

Abby lifts a small melted BLOB OF PLASTIC from among the fragments and displays it on her RUBBER-GLOVED hand.

VANCE

Looks like a blob of plastic.

ABBY

That's exactly what it is. But before it melted, it was a highly sensitive paper-thin plastic sheet that vibrates at certain sound frequencies to trigger whatever device it's attached to.

A light goes on for McGee...

MCGEE

The A/V guy. Frankie Boulos. He said the grenade exploded while he was doing a sound check. Could his voice have set it off?

ABBY

Depends on his voice. It's most sensitive to high-pitched frequencies. Unless the device was like super close to the sound equipment. Or even planted inside.

As Vance and McGee exchange a look: Inside the equipment?

31 INT. GIBBS' CABIN - DAY

31

Gibbs forks GRILLED FISH from the fire and sets it on a PLATE between him and Fornell, who sits in a very dark place.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

GIBBS
Pretty great, huh?

FORNELL
What? Oh. Yeah.

Gibbs breaks off a hunk of BREAD from a loaf and extends it to Fornell. He takes it but quickly loses interest.

GIBBS
Gotta eat.

FORNELL
Later, maybe. Not that hungry.

Gibbs takes a bite, regards him for a beat.

GIBBS
You gonna make me ask you again?

Fornell sighs deeply. Resistance is futile.

FORNELL
You mentioned before about Diane
and me getting remarried.
(off his nod)
In the end...she wasn't so sure.

GIBBS
Natural to get cold feet.

FORNELL
Wasn't that, Gibbs.

As Fornell pushes his plate aside and rises, pacing...

FORNELL (cont'd)
We were arguing one night over
something stupid. Don't even
remember what. And in a fit of
anger, I said us being together,
our rekindled romance, was a big
mistake. And I stormed out.
(beat)
Next day, she called. I was in a
classified briefing, so she left a
voicemail. It's why I hope I
haven't lost my phone. Only way I
can still hear her voice.

Gibbs now reaches into his pocket and pulls out FORNELL'S
PHONE. Fornell's too relieved to be truly angry.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

FORNELL (cont'd)
Didn't I ask where it was?

GIBBS
I'd have given it back eventually.

Fornell takes it and plays the MESSAGE. As WE HEAR the voice of DIANE STERLING...

DIANE STERLING (V.O.)
Hey, baby, it's me. Look, can we just forget last night? Between Jethro's wife Number Two in town and... I don't know, let's hit rewind or delete or whatever. I don't think we're a mistake at all, Tobias, and I pray you don't either. I haven't felt this good about anything in years and I know we can work through the petty stuff. Jethro just texted me to meet him, but call me back as soon as you can, okay? I love you, Tobias, and I always will.

Click. The message ends and Fornell swallows hard...

FORNELL
Every word. I agreed with every word she said. But instead of calling her right back... I chose to play small. Petty. Let her twist in the wind a while. Serves her right.

(beat)
And then she was gone. Died thinking it might be over between us. Not truly knowing just how much I loved her.

GIBBS
She knew.

FORNELL
(shakes his head)
'We're making a big mistake.' Last thing she ever heard me say, Gibbs. And for that, I can't forgive myself. Could you?

Gibbs seems unable to summon an answer, until...

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

GIBBS

If I had a daughter, yeah.
(off his look)

Her daughter. You want Diane to
know you loved her, Tobias, that's
the only way you've got left.

Off Fornell, drinking this in, emotions churning...

32 INT. HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - ROOM #2 - DAY

32

Frankie Boulos awakens from a nap, startled to find Tony,
McGee and Bishop around him...

FRANKIE

Oh. Hey.

MCGEE

Sorry to wake you, Frankie.

FRANKIE

This I.V. drip packs a kick.
Everything all right?

MCGEE

Just forgot one thing in our
interview this morning. A photo.

Bishop steps up with Sergei's MUG SHOT.

BISHOP

Before the bomb went off yesterday,
do you recall seeing this man?

As Frankie vaguely recognizes Sergei...

FRANKIE

I don't know. He looks kind of
familiar.

TONY

Kind of?

NAZAR'S VOICE

What is this?

As Nazar enters with a TRAY OF SNACKS from the cafeteria...

NAZAR

My son needs his rest. How many
times are you going to disturb him?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

MCGEE

Sorry, Mister Boulos, we...

Nazar spots Sergei's mug shot and DROPS THE TRAY on the floor. He stands awkwardly for a moment, then looks to his son...

NAZAR

What did you tell them?

Frankie doesn't know what to say. Tony does.

TONY

Not as much as you're about to tell us.

Off Nazar, devastated as Tony pulls his HANDCUFFS...

33 INT. GIBBS' CABIN - DAY

33

Fornell sits alone at the table, regarding a PHOTO OF DIANE on his phone. With a reflective breath, he sets it aside and takes a bite of fish, his appetite restored. Unburdened. Lighter somehow. Until he hears Gibbs outside...

GIBBS' VOICE

Wait, say it again. I lost you.

Gibbs enters, trying to get his cell signal back...

GIBBS

(into phone)

DiNozzo? Can you hear me?

Gibbs enters with a load of FIREWOOD, checking his cell...

FORNELL

DiNozzo? What's going on?

GIBBS

They've got a suspect, but we got cut off. Lost my signal.

FORNELL

A suspect? Not Sergei?

GIBBS

No, but there's a connection. They're bringing him in for questioning now. Check your phone.

As Fornell checks his phone...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

FORNELL

Same here. No bars. But who cares? Let's go.

GIBBS

Go?

FORNELL

If it concerns Sergei, you and I should be asking the questions.

GIBBS

But it's not Sergei. It's someone else. And we're not done here yet.

FORNELL

What? Yes, we are. I'm done.

GIBBS

You think so?

As Gibbs starts tending the FIRE, Fornell pleads his case...

FORNELL

I know so. I was just sitting here, feeling not lousy for the first time in I don't know when. And I appreciate it, Gibbs. The little wake-up call to my liver. Getting to say things out loud I never thought I'd say. I may not be whistling rainbows just yet, but I got the message. One night was enough and, you're right, I need to see my little girl.

Gibbs checks his dead cell phone, then rises to the window.

GIBBS

Not yet.

FORNELL

What do I need here, a safe word? Gibbs, what's going on?

Gibbs stays at the window, eyes on the surrounding woods...

FORNELL (cont'd)

There's something else, isn't there? What aren't you telling me?

Wheels turning, Gibbs looks back at Fornell...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

FORNELL (cont'd)
What, Gibbs? What is it?

There is something. And Gibbs is ready to tell Fornell.

Off Gibbs, weighing his next move...

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF GIBBS AND VANCE, RELIEVED...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

34 INT. NCIS INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

34

As Tony and Bishop grill a contrite Nazar Boulos...

NAZAR

Sergei is no friend. We played together as boys in Palestine and reconnected as young men in Kabul.

TONY

Reconnected as he was making his name in the heroin trade?

NAZAR

Which I wanted no part of. I came to this country to pursue the American dream. I've been doing just that for years, until Sergei walked into my shop last week.

BISHOP

Had to be a surprise.

NAZAR

Not a happy one. He knew we'd been contracted by the Navy and insisted that I help him deliver a package.

TONY

A 'package'?

NAZAR

His threat to my family was clear. I could not say no. He placed it inside a speaker and assured me that my son would be safe.

BISHOP

How'd your son feel about it?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

NAZAR

I could not tell him. And my
deceit nearly cost his life.

BISHOP

Someone else wasn't so lucky.

TONY

Where do we find him?

NAZAR

I wish I knew. When I saw him
today, I wanted to kill him myself.

Bishop and Tony exchange a look, as we...

INTERCUT WITH:

35 INT. NCIS OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME

35

Vance and McGee look on...

VANCE

He saw Sergei?

TONY

You saw him today?

BACK IN INTERROGATION

NAZAR

He had the nerve to call,
pretending to be concerned for my
boy, then demanding a device.

BISHOP

What kind of device?

NAZAR

I keep only one in stock for the
proper authorities to use. It's a
transmitter that blocks cell-tower
reception...

BACK IN OBSERVATION

Intuitively, Vance is already speed-dialing Gibbs...

BISHOP

A cell-phone jammer.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

NAZAR
Portable, long range, very
expensive. And he just took it.

VANCE
Come on, Gibbs, pick up...

As Vance gets a loud RAPID BUSY SIGNAL on his phone...

36 EXT. GIBBS' CABIN - DAY 36

From a distance, we see the cabin with a thin billow of smoke wafting from its chimney. A gorgeous setting, bucolic and peaceful, until WE REVERSE ANGLE to see whose POV we share:

It's Sergei, moving stealthily between trees, armed with a RIFLE and SIDEARM as he closes upon the cabin.

36A INT. GIBBS' CABIN - CONTINUOUS 36A

Sergei sneaks in, ready to open fire on Gibbs, but instead finds only Fornell stoking the fire, his back to the door.

FORNELL
Maybe you were right, Gibbs. One
more night might do some good...

Sergei looks around. No Gibbs. Fornell rises and stops cold, stunned by the rifle in his face and who's holding it.

FORNELL (cont'd)
Mishnev.

SERGEI
Not Gibbs, but...Special Agent
Fornell, is it? We've yet to be
formally introduced.

FORNELL
I know you, you murdering son of a
bitch.

SERGEI
Yes, my apologies. I meant only to
hurt Gibbs. Never realizing just
how much Miss Sterling got around.

Sergei smiles. Fornell doesn't.

SERGEI (cont'd)
Where is he?

(CONTINUED)

36A CONTINUED:

36A

FORNELL

Like I'd ever tell you.

SERGEI

I took your child's mother. Do you think I'd hesitate to make that pretty girl an orphan altogether?

Fornell SPITS at his feet. Sergei cocks his rifle.

SERGEI (cont'd)

Suit yourself.

Sergei's about to squeeze the trigger, when...

CRACK! Something heavy swipes across the base of his skull. Hitting the floor, he stares up to see Gibbs looming over him with the log he found earlier.

As Sergei quickly succumbs to the hit and BLACKS OUT...

37 INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - NIGHT

37

Tony, McGee and Bishop work the phones, as Vance regards the plasma with a MAP of the area around GIBBS' CABIN. As Tony slams his phone down...

TONY

Enough with the mockingbird dial tone already. I'll be hearing that in my sleep.

BISHOP

Same with Fornell's phone. There's no getting through, Director...

As Abby races in and grabs the REMOTE...

ABBY

And it's not just their phones. It's the whole area...

She taps the remote and the map reflects what she reports, with a TRIANGLE forming between distant cell towers...

ABBY (cont'd)

Three new cell towers reporting a complete loss of service, covering over twelve square miles.

VANCE

Bishop, local law enforcement?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

BISHOP

Already called, Sir, but they're
getting slammed right now...

TONY

We've got to get out there.

As McGee hangs up his phone and rises to Vance...

MCGEE

You got it, Tony. Chopper's gassed
up on the helipad. It can have us
there in twenty minutes.

VANCE

Get on it, all three of you!

As our agents scramble out, they cross frame to BLACKOUT...

38 EXT. FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

38

FROM BLACK, our POV blinks awake to the sight of distant
HEADLIGHTS through a haze of dust, silhouetting a LONE FIGURE
standing before them. WE REVERSE ANGLE to reveal...

Sergei waking up in the middle of the road, rubbing his
aching neck. His rifle's gone, but his sidearm is still on
his belt. Glancing around at the dark forest, a sense of
déjà vu overwhelms him.

Sergei spots the lone figure and assumes it's Gibbs. It's a *
near recreation of their first meeting months ago, a mile
from the Russia-Finland border (from Ep. #259 "Twenty
Klicks"). As Sergei rises to his feet, feigning amusement.

SERGEI

(to himself)

Feels familiar.

(calling out)

Out to rewrite history, Agent
Gibbs? Turn back the clock?

FORNELL

If only that were possible.

Sergei now realizes it's Fornell before him and not Gibbs.

SERGEI

Where is Gibbs? This is between me
and him, and no one else.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

The unseen Gibbs calls out from the trees between Sergei and Fornell. *

GIBBS' VOICE

Oh, I'm here, Sergei! Is this uncomfortable for you? *

Sergei's unnerved to not see Gibbs. He looks around warily, trying to stay cool, but he's cracking. *

FORNELL

This is between us now, Sergei. *

SERGEI

Perhaps you don't know, Agent Fornell, what Gibbs took from me.

FORNELL

I know about your family tree, Sergei. But I have a family of my own. This is for Diane!

SERGEI

And this? What is this?

FORNELL

Seems you got three options. You could unbuckle that sidearm, put up your hands and surrender...

SERGEI

Not exactly my style.

FORNELL

You could run. Make us hunt you down. See how that feels...

SERGEI

Again, you know better.

FORNELL

I was hoping you'd say that.

Fornell assumes a gunfighter's pose as Sergei continues searching the shadows for Gibbs. Fornell and Sergei now stand face-to-face bathed in the glow of headlights. Fornell doesn't flinch. A tense beat between them. Open hands hovering beside weapons. Eyes locked. And on this, Sergei draws his sidearm, raises it fast and CLICK! Sergei's sidearm misfires. Or did it? *

As a look of panic washes over Sergei...

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

Fornell draws, takes careful aim and -- BANG! -- puts a clean shot through Sergei's forehead. Almost exactly where Diane was hit. But this time, totally justified and deserved.

Sergei collapses in a heap as Fornell stands frozen with his SIG extended. He trembles a bit, awash in conflicting emotions, until Gibbs emerges from the darkness. He gently rests his hand on Fornell's still-outstretched arm as if to comfort him. Fornell lowers his gun and Gibbs continues toward Sergei. Fornell follows.

Gibbs checks Sergei's pulse. Fornell approaches.

FORNELL (cont'd)
I got him.

GIBBS
Yeah.

They just stand there staring down as the THUP-THUP-THUP of a CHOPPER approaches overhead, along with distant SIRENS of local LAW ENFORCEMENT.

GIBBS (cont'd)
Feel better?

FORNELL
Not even close.

As Gibbs and Fornell exchange a look...

FORNELL (cont'd)
Well, maybe a little.

But neither man smiles, as Fornell is suddenly hit with a wave of emotion. He leans on Gibbs.

39 INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - NIGHT

39

In the immediate aftermath, Gibbs sits exhausted at his desk, checking messages, alone with his thoughts, until...

VANCE
Gibbs...

Vance comes down from his office...

VANCE (cont'd)
Just heard back from DiNozzo and McGee. Mishnev's still dead.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

GIBBS

That supposed to be a joke?

VANCE

He's fooled us before.

GIBBS

Not this time.

VANCE

That's for sure.

And what a relief, as Fornell emerges from the men's room...

FORNELL

Man, I really do look like hell.

GIBBS

You think we were all lying to you?

FORNELL

Wasn't thinking much at all, I guess.

GIBBS

Or too much.

VANCE

Nothing a hot shower can't fix.

FORNELL

Amen to that, Leon. Followed by a piping hot meal with my daughter.

BISHOP'S VOICE

Well then, our timing's perfect.

As Bishop escorts Emily Fornell from the elevator...

EMILY

And I was thinking more of sushi?

Emily's teenaged cool and contained happiness gives way to emotion the moment she meets eyes with her father. A long look between them, before Emily folds into his arms...

EMILY (cont'd)

Or a steak, Dad, if you need one.

FORNELL

Whatever you want, kid. Whatever you need, it's yours.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

With Emily in his arms, Fornell looks to Gibbs with a look of gratitude he can't put words to. Just as well, as far as Gibbs is concerned. No thanks necessary. It's understood.

FORNELL (cont'd)

Well then... Good night.

GIBBS

Night.

As Emily and Fornell head for out, Bishop lingers, but it's clear Vance needs a moment with Gibbs.

BISHOP

And unless you need anything else from me, Gibbs or Director, Jake's waiting on me. We have much to discuss.

GIBBS

Go easy on him.

Bishop smiles and goes.

Vance looks to Gibbs, studying him a beat, knowing there had to be a plan of some kind, but...what?

GIBBS (cont'd)

What?

VANCE

Nothing, just...glad you're okay.

GIBBS

Fornell too.

VANCE

You bet. He's lucky to have a friend like you.

GIBBS

Yeah well...anything else?

VANCE

No, not unless there's anything I should know. Any detail I missed that you might need to tell me.

Gibbs thinks a beat and shrugs.

Vance smiles a nod, knowing there's more to it, but letting it go as he goes. Off Gibbs...

40 INT. GIBBS' HOUSE - NIGHT

40

Gibbs cracks a BEER and collapses onto his couch in front of the fire. He takes a swig, and after a beat, a KNOCK at the door. Gibbs doesn't budge.

GIBBS

It's open.

Anton Pavlenko enters.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Open. Why am I not surprised?

GIBBS

Come on in, Anton.

Pavlenko walks in...

GIBBS (cont'd)

Don't have any vodka, but there's cold beer in the fridge.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

You are thoughtful, but I cannot stay. I understand we had some success.

GIBBS

Could say that.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

I admit I was nervous. He was quite suspicious at first, but you were right. I told him you faked Nelly Benin's death and he bought it. Completely.

Gibbs smiles subtly: He lied to Pavlenko with the truth.

GIBBS

People believe what they want to.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

Had he not, we might not be having this conversation right now.

GIBBS

But here we are.

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO

All your planning...isolating yourself...setting the trap...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO (cont'd)
Life will be easier for everyone
concerned, Gibbs. Nice to finally be on
the same side.

GIBBS
For now.

As Pavlenko turns for the door...

RUSSIAN COUNSELOR PAVLENKO
(in Russian)
Thank you, Gibbs.

GIBBS
(in Russian)
Spa-see-ba VOM, sah-VET-neek.
[Thank you, Counselor.]

Pavlenko closes the door behind him.

**Off Gibbs, gazing into the fire, alone with his beer and his
secrets, we...**

PHOOF TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW