

# THE COMEY RULE

A two-part mini-series

Night One  
Written by Billy Ray

Based on the book *A Higher Loyalty* by James Comey

1 SMASH TO... MEDIA: 1

An entire world talking about a man named James Comey...  
Doesn't seem like he has a lot of fans out there. CUT TO:

2-5 OMIT 2-5

6 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - EARLY MORNING (NOW) 6

JUSTIN BAQRI (23, in a suit) stands alone in an office.

Lots of PHOTOS and PLAQUES in here - from a lifetime spent in public service. And a NAMEPLATE on the desk:

"Rod Rosenstein - Deputy Attorney General."

Justin notes it all. He seems to have some kind of connection to this place, despite his youth. Then:

ROSENSTEIN (O.S.)  
You're wondering why there isn't  
any cake.

ROD ROSENSTEIN enters, hurrying for the safety of his desk. He's 53, a bundle of intellect and nervous energy.

JUSTIN  
Morning, Mister Rosenstein.

ROSENSTEIN  
Two reasons. One, I don't really  
like cake. Two, I hate false  
ceremony; thank-you's are for  
Mother's Day. Sit?

JUSTIN  
Should probably just--

ROSENSTEIN  
I could order you, Justin.

He laughs as if that had been a joke. Either it wasn't, or it wasn't funny. So Justin looks around, needing a distraction. Spots a biography of J. EDGAR HOOVER on the shelf.

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)  
Funny story about Hoover, when he  
ran the Bureau...

Seems like *Rosenstein wants to chat*. Justin smiles thinly.

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)  
He was reading a memo once; across  
the top of it he wrote "Watch The  
(MORE)

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Borders." Instantly, a hundred FBI agents were dispatched to South Texas - but all Hoover had meant was that *he didn't like the size of the MARGINS on the memo.*

(a beat)

Director of the FBI is afforded an almost cult-like status. To resist that takes discipline. *Humility.*

Justin's eyes flit, for a second, to another book up there:

*"A Higher Loyalty" by James Comey.* Rosenstein notices.

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Know what they do on the Fourth of July? Jim Comey and his family?

JUSTIN

No.

ROSENSTEIN

They gather together and read the Declaration of Independence aloud to one another. Really. That's not in his book. He just found a way, without ever saying it publicly, to make sure everyone knows. That's Jim.

Great. *But why is this guy telling me all this?*

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

In governance, there are people who do the work, and there are showboats. Jim was always a showboat.

Some pain there, regret. Suddenly, we CUT TO:

7

INT. COMEY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAWN (2013)

7

Six years ago. JAMES COMEY sleeps. He's 6'8", a very tall Boy Scout, lifelong Republican. His wife PATRICE stares at the ceiling. She's 5'5", Iowa-born, fierce. But *anxious* today.

The alarm goes off. Comey's eyes open; he reads her uneasiness instantly, gives her a comforting kiss.

COMEY

Don't worry; he *can't* pick me. They think I'm a Bush-guy.

Comey grabs an ASPIRIN. Swallows it. Rises. We CUT TO:

8 INT. COMEY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - CLOSET - MINUTES LATER 8

Shaved and showered now, Comey eyes his options: 20 DARK BLUE SUITS hanging here, nearly identical. Which one to pick? Patrice appears behind him, fakes a sigh:

PATRICE

I know. Each makes such a different statement.

Comey breathes out a smile, grabs a RED NECKTIE and a BLUE one. Can't really go with either. We CUT TO:

9 OMIT 9

10 INT. COMEY HOME - BREAKFAST ROOM - MORNING (2013) 10

Patrice makes breakfast for CLAIRE, 16, and ABBY, (13, long red hair.) The family dog BENJI eats happily.

Taped to the fridge is a QUOTE: "*I don't care about politics. I don't care about expediency. I don't care about friendship. I care about doing the right thing.*"

The author? "James Comey," (on the day he testified to become Deputy Attorney General.)

He appears now: dark blue suit and a gold tie.

PATRICE

Ta Da....

CLAIRE

He goes gold! Nice.

ABBY

Handsome.

COMEY

Have a great day.

ABBY

Say hi to Barack for me!

11-12 OMIT 11-12

13 INT. WHITE HOUSE - WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 13

Comey sits. Phones ring. A huge staff works efficiently. Through an open door we hear a voice from the OVAL OFFICE:

OBAMA (O.S.)

Governor, I'm told you've got 24 dead and over 200 injured. Do we  
(MORE)

OBAMA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
have that right? Well I've ordered Janet Napolitano at DHS and Craig Fugate at FEMA to coordinate with your team to provide any assistance you need. And I'll be out there myself on Sunday. You just hang in there. Help is coming.

(a beat)

You too. And thank you for managing this as well as you have.

A beat. The phone hangs up. Comey's adrenaline kicking in... as PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA appears, in the flesh. Comey rises.

OBAMA (CONT'D)  
C'mon in, Jim.

COMEY  
Good to meet you, Mister President.

Obama smiles warmly. They shake hands. Comey half-kids him:

COMEY (CONT'D)  
I should confess, Sir. I supported John McCain. And Romney.

OBAMA  
(mock seriousness)  
I know.

Comey hesitates. Then that big Obama smile... And the tension is gone. Just like that. We CUT TO:

14

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

14

Comey sits on a couch, Obama in an arm-chair beside him. The feeling is familiar, easy. Obama has that gift. But:

OBAMA  
So why should I hire you to run the Bureau? Why shouldn't I pick, say, someone who *supports* my criminal justice reform initiative?

BANG. Test #1. Comey has to respond fast, and well:

COMEY  
You could, Mister President - and that's an issue on which reasonable people can disagree. But I believe stiffer sentencing laws have on the whole made this country safer. A lot of Americans aren't dead today  
(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)  
because the guys who *might* have  
killed them were locked up.

OBAMA  
Still, might be easier to have an  
FBI Director who agrees with me.

COMEY  
That's true. But you've always  
struck me as one of those leaders  
who gains just as much from  
thoughtful disagreement.

Okay, Comey's got some game. Obama regards him.

OBAMA  
You garnered a lot of attention for  
taking on the Mob as a prosecutor,  
and for defending the DOJ in '04.

COMEY  
I suppose that's true.

OBAMA  
Do you need a lot of attention?

TEST #2. Obama x-raying the guy. Comey tightens.

COMEY  
That's not a huge driver for me.

OBAMA  
No interest in politics down the  
line?

COMEY  
None.

OBAMA  
Good. Politicians are awful.  
(Comey smiles)  
An advisor of mine says you were an  
outstanding Deputy A-G.

COMEY  
Thank you.

OBAMA  
He also says you can be self-  
righteous and morally superior.

COMEY  
Your adviser sounds like an  
excellent judge of character.

So much for Test #3. Obama's regard growing by the second.

OBAMA

What else do I need to know about you? What do you think your weaknesses are?

COMEY

Sometimes I can be impulsive and convince myself I'm being *decisive*.

OBAMA

How's your health? Any recurrence?

COMEY

None, Sir. Clean scans for seven years now.

OBAMA

Because there's no pressure in ANY private sector job equivalent to the burden of national security.

COMEY

That's understood.

OBAMA

The Director can be a whipping boy for Congress. And you certainly wouldn't *make* what the private sector can pay you. Given all that, why would you want to come back to government?

COMEY

When I was sixteen, a man in a knit-cap broke into our house and put a gun to my kid-brother's head. He said, "You move and I will blow his head off."

Silence, that fast. Obama is engaged, utterly.

COMEY (CONT'D)

The guy'd been terrorizing our neighborhood for months; people called him the Ramsey Rapist. I showed him where my parents kept their few valuables - and begged him not to kill us. For some reason, he didn't. Just locked us in our basement and left.

The memory runs deep. Obama can see that.

COMEY (CONT'D)

I slept with a butcher's knife in my bed for years. The guy was never caught, so I had this "what if" tape in my head: "What if he comes BACK? What if my *sister* is home when he *does*?" I'd been so powerless.

(the bottom line:)

Money's nice. Stopping Bad Guys is better.

Obama's sold now. They both know it.

OBAMA

Ya know, if you were to get this job, conversations like this would be impossible. The President and the FBI Director have to be at arm's length. One day you might be called upon to investigate something someone in my *party* may have done - or someone on my *staff*--

COMEY

(kidding again)

Or you.

OBAMA

For those investigations to be credible, we cannot be close.

COMEY

Sir, I hope I can look forward to *years* of not being close with you.

They shake hands. This could not have gone better. CUT TO:

15-16 OMIT 15-16

17 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - MORNING (NOW) 17

Justin remains stuck... Rosenstein seems a bit wistful:

ROSENSTEIN

Thus, the combatants in today's Counter-Intelligence war: in *one* corner we have Jim "Aw Shucks" Comey. And in the *other*...

18 EXT. NATIONAL MALL - REFLECTING POOL - DUSK (2013) 18

VICTOR PODOBNYY (30, Russian spy) sits on a bench. IGOR SPORYSHEV, 32, approaches, sits.



SPORYSHEV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)  
*You do love this Mall.*

PODOBNYY (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)  
*Why not? People feel happy here.*

SPORYSHEV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)  
*And our work?*

PODOBNYY (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)  
*See for yourself.*

Podobnyy holds up an I-PHONE: On it, a PHONY FACEBOOK PAGE:  
an "article" stating that Hillary Clinton has ALZHEIMER'S.

Sporyshev smiles, impressed.

PODOBNYY (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED) (CONT'D)  
*Today I beta-tested an article on  
Twitter, claiming Hillary had AIDS.  
300,000 likes! On Facebook alone we  
could reach 100 million voters,  
maybe more. And there's nothing we  
could say about her that people  
won't believe.*

SPORYSHEV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)  
*I have a few ideas...*

Podobnyy nods. An American FAMILY walks past. We...

19-21 EXT. FBI DC - ESTABLISHING - DAY (2013) 19-21

A place of power, on Pennsylvania Ave. Flags flying...

22 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - MOVING - DAY 22

Comey walks alongside FBI DIRECTOR BOB MUELLER, shadowing  
him. Mueller is a gruff, buttoned-down former Marine.

MUELLER  
*...All the Field Offices regard us  
with some suspicion. The New York  
Office gripes the most. They think  
they're their own Bureau.*

COMEY  
*How have you handled that,  
generally?*

MUELLER  
*I tell them "If you're not happy,  
leave. There are plenty of people  
who want your job."*

(MORE)

MUELLER (CONT'D)  
(Comey reacts)  
Can't run this place if you mind  
being resented.

They round a corner, passing TWO BARELY-AUDIBLE AGENTS:

BARELY-AUDIBLE AGENT #1  
Morning, Director.

BARELY-AUDIBLE AGENT #2  
Morning, Director.

Mueller barely acknowledges them. Comey smiles a warm hello.

MUELLER  
I've arranged for you to talk to  
the leaders of all the Divisions.  
An hour each. Then I'll meet with  
you after each session to tell you  
what's really going on.

That was unsettling. They pass through the EXECUTIVE SUITE--

MUELLER (CONT'D)  
I've got the Senior people here  
well-trained. We do stand-up  
meetings so I don't waste time  
waiting for them to sit down and  
get back up again.

They pass Mueller's secretary, ILENE, imperious, then--

23 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (MUELLER) - CONTINUING 23

Great view of Pennsylvania Ave. There are pictures of FALLEN AGENTS on the wall. Comey's now not sure if he should sit...

MUELLER  
But you'll have to make changes;  
there's not a lot of talent in the  
pipeline, even for Deputy. And you  
need someone who's ready,  
politically. The FBI is the world  
of the bank-shot.

Ilene enters with a five-page MEMO.

ILENE  
Director Mueller, this is the  
promotion for the SAC in the Kansas  
City Office.

Mueller grumbles, starts to sign without reading it, as--

MUELLER  
Keep your eyes on Cyber. We're  
hugely vulnerable to a coordinated  
attack--

COMEY  
Bob?

MUELLER  
Yeah?

COMEY  
Shouldn't we discuss what you're  
signing?

Mueller looks up. Ilene doesn't react at all.

MUELLER  
What for?

COMEY  
That's a senior executive who's  
going to be reporting to me in a  
week. Can I know who he is and why  
you're promoting him?

Mueller grumpily grabs the memo and FLIPS IT OVER THE DESK AT  
COMEY, the pages landing in Comey's lap, as:

MUELLER  
You want it? It's yours.

COMEY  
I *don't* want it. I just wanted to  
*discuss* it. To be caught up.

Mini-stalemate. Mueller sighs, exhausted, *almost* apologizing:

MUELLER  
Word of advice: if you've been  
doing this ten years, and a  
President asks you to *stay on* for  
another two, say no.

24-31 OMIT

24-31

32 INT. FBI DC - AUDITORIUM - DAY

32

Comey - no jacket, blue shirt - is on stage, addressing  
HUNDREDS OF FBI EMPLOYEES and a CAMERA. Mid-speech:

COMEY  
You should know that I have several  
expectations of you. I expect you  
(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)

to work hard, because you owe that to the taxpayer. I expect you to exercise good judgment. Being here means you have power to do *good* - or, if you abuse that power - great harm.

33 INT. FBI NYFO - 5TH FLOOR - SAME

33

Via remote, the NEW YORK FBI FIELD OFFICE is watching too, grudgingly. (Agents here think all HQ guys are weenies.)

COMEY (THRU TV)

I expect you to find joy in your work. You are part of an organization devoted to doing good, protecting the weak, rescuing the taken, and catching criminals. That is work with moral content. Doing it should be a source of great joy. I expect you to treat all people with respect and dignity, without regard to position or station in life. I expect you to protect this institution's reservoir of trust and credibility which make possible all of our work.

These agents are expressionless, a very tough sell.

34 INT. FBI DC - AUDITORIUM - RESUMING (2013)

34

Comey continues...

COMEY

I expect you to fight for balance in your lives. You are all driven by our mission, and you are used to absorbing stress. That means you need more time with your loved ones, not less. So I order you to love someone. It's the right thing to do. It's also good for you.

The Agents react. This is NOT Bob Mueller. He ends with:

COMEY (CONT'D)

Crime, in *any* form, makes people feel powerless. Let's fix that.

35, 36 OMIT

35, 36

37 INT. FBI DC - CAFETERIA - DAY

37

Comey enters. Instantly, 200 heads pop up, mid-bite. THE FUCKING DIRECTOR IS HERE. Now what?

Comey heads for the PANINI LINE. It parts for him, but:

COMEY

Oh, no, no. That's okay. I'll wait.

He waves them back in place, takes a spot at the end of the line. The WOMAN IN FRONT OF HIM (PAM, 40) eyes her shoe-tops.

COMEY (CONT'D)

Hi. Jim.

And he waits for her to reply. Pam pauses: *I'm just supposed to chat with the Director?* (Yes, she is.)

PAM

Pam.

COMEY

What do you do here?

PAM

Counter-Terrorism Analyst.

COMEY

What did you do *before*? What drew you here?

PAM

Nine-Eleven. I was an analyst at Cantor Fitzgerald; missed work that day because of the flu.

COMEY

Thank you, Pam.  
(to MAN BEHIND HIM)  
What do *you* do here?

MAN BEHIND HIM

Computer-Tech, Counter-Intel.

COMEY

What were you *before*? What called you here?

MAN BEHIND HIM

I worked for Monsanto. Hated it.  
What do you do here?

A beat. Everyone else in line goes SILENT. How to reply?

COMEY  
I'm the Director.

MAN BEHIND HIM  
Oh yeah? Director of what?

COMEY  
Dude. The Bureau.  
(no reply)  
This morning? The big speech?

MAN BEHIND HIM  
(paling a bit)  
Oh. Sir. I was in the bathroom.

Comey is about to reply, when:

PANINI COUNTER-GUY  
Next!

38-41 OMIT 38-41

42 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - RESUMING (NOW) 42

Rosenstein continues:

ROSENSTEIN  
In his first two years at the Bureau Jim did everything you'd expect a Boy Scout to do. He shook hands with the janitors and asked them for their life-story. He was adored, *beloved*.

43 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - DAY (2015) 43

Comey stares at a MAGNET BOARD. On it, pics of 330 FBI SENIOR EXECS - the "talent pool" - as:

ROSENSTEIN (V.O.)  
Nothing slowed him. There were lone shooters, terror plots, kidnappings; his Chief of Staff left to run the DEA - but his sunniness was undimmed.

Comey (somewhat sadly) takes the "Chuck Rosenberg" MAGNET off the board and moves a "JIM RYBICKI" MAGNET into its place. Then he swallows another ASPIRIN, as:

The Board shows us that Rybicki is Chief of Staff. JIM BAKER is Chief Counsel, and MARK GIULIANO is Deputy Director... as:

44 OMIT 44

45 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUING 45

Giuliano sits into frame. He looks a lot like a Country-Club Republican. But he's an agent's agent, all business.

Facing him: Baker, PETER STRZOK, BILL PRIESTAP, JIM RYBICKI (35, Mormon, Comey's new Chief of Staff). Plus: ANDY MCCABE, TRISHA ANDERSON. LISA PAGE -- on each, more later.

GIULIANO

Morning. What'd the analysts pull together? What's in the PDB?

That fast, we're off:

MCCABE

Got a potential issue in the UK. Getting chatter that AQAP is gonna hit another airliner bound for the US. JTF is reporting chatter in New York indicating the same thing. We don't yet know where they'll be flying from, or what techniques they're planning to use.

GIULIANO

Do we have a time-frame on this?

MCCABE

Nothing specific. Just increased chatter.

GIULIANO

Is it something the Boss needs to brief the AG on?

MCCABE

Not yet.

GIULIANO

What else?

MCCABE

Got an operation in Detroit that's ready to go down. Guy at a mosque there told an informant yesterday he was planning to target a Jewish Children's Center.

GIULIANO

Do we have enough to charge?

MCCABE

Yes.

GIULIANO

Do we have the right resources on the ground? A good takedown plan?

MCCABE

Will give them to you off-line.

GIULIANO

Okay. Let's skinny down for the Director. Thank you.

Most of these people rise to go. But--

JOHN GIACALONE (EAD of NatSec Branch) comes in - and:

GIACALONE

Mark, we got an I-G referral on Secretary Clinton and her emails. We're gonna hafta open a case.

And *everything STOPS*. The room goes SILENT.

GIULIANO

Say more.

46-48 OMIT 46-48

49 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - RESUMING 49

Giuliano, fighting dread, eyes his team, rises... opens the door behind him, and we are now:

50 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - CONTINUING 50

...just as Comey is rising from his desk--

GIULIANO

Boss.

COMEY

What's up?

Over Giuliano's shoulder, we see the team... as:

GIULIANO

Got a referral from the Intel I.G. about Secretary Clinton's emails. We're gonna hafta open a case.

Comey does not betray a reaction, just nods calmly. Then...

COMEY

Say more.



GIULIANO

"Did she mishandle classified information by using her personal email system while serving as Secretary of State?"

(a beat)

You know you're screwed. Right? I do not see a positive outcome here, no matter what we find.

COMEY

Just do it right.

51, 52 OMIT

51, 52

53 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - MORNING (2015)

53

HEAVY RAIN pours down... as Giuliano faces the MIDYEAR EXAM TEAM: ANALYSTS, COMPUTER SPECIALISTS, McCabe, Pete Strzok, Jim Baker, Jim Rybicki, Trisha Anderson, Lisa Page.

GIULIANO

Welcome to your new home.

(a beat... then:)

I want to say something before we start. Whatever this investigation yields, History will look at what we do here through a microscope. So our work needs to be letter-perfect. No leaks, everything buttoned-down. We cannot cut corners, cannot screw this up in any way. Is that clear?

(everyone nods)

Now, this is NOT gonna become some kind of octopus. We're not gonna chase down spills to the ends of the earth, which could take a decade. We're looking for CORRUPT PURPOSE. Did Secretary Clinton knowingly break the law - either by using a personal email server to handle classified information while serving at State, or by directing the *deletion* of emails from that server. Period. I wanna be briefed on this thing every day. Pete?

Strzok rises. Giuliano yields the floor. We TIME-CUT TO:

54 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - LATER DAY (2015)

54

The MidYear Team at work. The WHITE-BOARDS in here are *filled* with three trees of information. Strzok leading:

STRZOK

We have three primary lines of inquiry: One - Collection and Examination of the emails that traversed Secretary Clinton's servers. Her attorneys have produced *some* of these. But 31,830 emails - deemed too *personal* by her attorneys to produce to the State Department - have been wiped from her current server.

Names on the white board: Cheryl Mills, Heather Samuelson, Paul Combetta, Justin Cooper, Bryan Pagliano...

STRZOK (CONT'D)

Two - Interviews of relevant witnesses who WIPED all those files off Secretary Clinton's server using BleachBit.

We PAN ALONG A TABLE, 30 of Hillary's DEVICES: flash-drives, laptops, phones, three I-PADS. Plus Hillary's BANK RECORDS, PHONE RECORDS, CABLE-BILLS... Trisha Anderson eyeing them...

STRZOK (CONT'D)

Three - Secretary Clinton used these devices while overseas, often within the borders of sophisticated adversaries. So, analysis: did that lead to classified information being compromised by hostile cyber actors. Intrusion Analyses have already begun.

55 INT. FBI DC - OTD LAB - SAME (2015)

55

Operational Tech Division, the COMPUTER LAB. Here, FBI TECHS are literally pulling apart TWO SERVERS, as we hear:

STRZOK (V.O.)

OTD will image all of her devices and the two servers currently in our custody. A filter-team will remove any material privileged by attorney-client, medical, or marital, and attempt de-duplication.

56 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - RESUMING

56

BACK TO: Strzok, his focus laser-like.

STRZOK

We're sending preservation requests to the State Department, CIA, DIA, DOD, and EOP for emails from Secretary Clinton or the clintonaccount.net domain. Are there any questions?

LISA PAGE

Yes. Are we stuck with the two chickenshit prosecutors Justice has assigned, or are we gonna demand someone with actual balls?

Hello, Lisa Page: whip-smart, fiercely opinionated, offensive to everyone (and *proud of it.*) The room settles, then:

STRZOK

We're looking into that.

LISA PAGE

Those two are zeroes.

STRZOK

Anything else?

GIULIANO

Do you have all the resources you need? Do you need something pushed up the chain across the street?

STRZOK

We'll let you know, Mark.

57 INT. FBI NYFO - 5TH FLOOR - HALL/STAIRS - MORNING (2015) 57

On the move -- FRANK PELLEGRINO, in a Mets hat, and JOEY VOTA are hectoring BILL SWEENEY, Asst. Dir in Charge of NYO.

VOTA

Okay, now I'm pissed off. Midyear's gonna be run out of NSD at Headquarters. By a Deputy! How's that supposed to work?

PELLEGRINO

Fucking DC. Those guys couldn't find an Elephant in the middle of Yankee Stadium. And the *Prosecutors* down there are even worse! Boss, we have venue on this one. You gonna put up with this?

SWEENEY

(keeps walking)

Gee, guys -- You having trouble finding "joy in your work" today?

(yes, they are)

Relax. *Everything* comes through here eventually. Doesn't it?

58 OMIT

58

59 EXT. JEFFERSON DR. - DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE - DAY (2015)

59

Open-air. Giuliano sits on a bench. Comey approaches, hands him a coffee, sits. (Shaun discreetly in bg.)

GIULIANO

So *this* is what daylight looks like.

(Comey smiles)

Not too sure I can make it through ten more speeches.

COMEY

Tell me about Midyear. Do you have all the resources you need?

GIULIANO

Sort of. Hillary's lawyers are slow-walking everything and no one at Justice is doing anything to stop it. Her lead guy is David Kendall; one of the Prosecutors used to work for him, so there's an intimidation factor. Midyear Team's getting frustrated with it.

COMEY

I'll take care of it. Thank you. How's Judy?

GIULIANO

She's good.

They share a smile. Then, with mild discomfort--

COMEY

So... Those 18 months you signed up for. How would you feel about making that 24 months?

Giuliano eyes him...

GIULIANO

Aw Jeez. Now I understand the picnic setting.

(Comey smiles, caught)

I need to make some actual *money*, Boss. We're strapped. Apartment here, house in Atlanta, two college tuitions. If I wanna get home I hafta *drive* ten hours because I can't afford to fly.

COMEY

I know. I'm sorry. But I've got no one to replace you, Mark. No one's ready. And the Bureau can't function without a Deputy who commands the respect you do.

GIULIANO

I made her a promise, Boss.

COMEY

We're steaming toward an iceberg. You know that. Do you see anybody ready to step in and do the job at your level, Day One? No drop-off, nothing getting missed?

The truth is, Giuliano *doesn't*. And that sucks.

COMEY (CONT'D)

C'mon. Just six more...

Giuliano pauses. They both know he's going to say yes...

60-64 OMIT

60-64

64A INT. KIEV - UKRAINIAN HOUSE BLDG. - LOBBY - DAY (2015) 64A

RICK GATES, exasperated, looks around for someone--

And there he is, seated: PAUL MANAFORT, shaking with anxiety, eyes red from crying. But Man Oh Man is his suit beautiful.

GATES

Paul. Jesus. Meeting was supposed to start *twenty* minutes ago.

MANAFORT

(knows better)

Meeting?! Deripaska wants his money back. Yanukovich won't even take my call. We're out of clients!

That was too loud. A few PASSERSBY heard it--

GATES

You gotta buck up. Can't let people see you like this.

MANAFORT

What's the difference? We're *dead*.  
(looks up... lost)  
How're we ever gonna get whole?

GATES

Same as always. The next election.

MANAFORT

You're not listening. We are now unhireable in Ukraine.

GATES

We go back to America then.

MANAFORT

Jeb Bush isn't gonna hire me. Marco Rubio isn't gonna hire me.

GATES

So what? There's *plenty* of GOP money out there; people'll spend anything to keep that cunt Hillary out of the White House. In an atmosphere like that, a person of your skill-set and slightly-ugly reputation becomes a very valuable commodity.

That encouraged Manafort, as intended.

GATES (CONT'D)

Just gotta find a candidate who knows how to go *low*; this election's gonna make Kiev look like a Student Council race.

MANAFORT

I fixed one of those once. Junior year. I ever tell you about that?

Some life returning to Manafort's eyes... so:

GATES

But Paul - back home, appearances still matter. You've gotta get your family back. Ditch the mistress. Nobody's gonna trust you if your

(MORE)

GATES (CONT'D)  
own daughters think you're an  
asshole.

MANAFORT  
I am an asshole. People used to  
think that meant I was *tough*.

GATES  
Get up. We'll call Roger Stone.

Manafort, feeling better, nods. Gates extends a hand.

65

INT. DC - MELLON AUDITORIUM - AFTERNOON

65

A performance is about to begin in this huge space, about  
FIFTY PARENTS here. We find Comey, (prepared with cellophane-  
wrapped flowers) Patrice, and Claire.

Shaun discreetly in back. Patrice is looking at a NEWS ITEM  
about Hillary on her phone, exasperation all over her face.

CLAIRE  
Mom, you can breathe. She's gonna  
win.

PATRICE  
You don't know that.

CLAIRE  
Who's gonna beat her?

PATRICE  
Trump.

CLAIRE  
Trump?! He's an idiot!

PATRICE  
But he's a man, and male voters are  
gender-loyal in a way that women  
aren't. Also, he's not being  
*investigated* by anybody.

CLAIRE  
Yeah. What's up with that, Dad?

COMEY  
If she broke the law, wouldn't you  
want to know?

CLAIRE  
No, not really.

PATRICE  
(less convincingly)  
Me neither.

COMEY  
(with a smile, to God)  
They didn't mean it, I promise. The  
Rule of Law really does matter to  
them!

His CELL rings. He *pretends* to be irritated:

COMEY (CONT'D)  
Family-time interrupted. That  
really frosts me!

Claire rolls her eyes. Comey answers his CELL:

COMEY (INTO CELL) (CONT'D)  
Hey, Mark. What's up?

GIULIANO (THRU CELL)  
Boss, sorry to hit you on a Sunday.  
Ya got a second? It's important.

That fast, Comey is up out of seat and seeking refuge behind  
a row of MASSIVE COLUMNS in this place.

COMEY (INTO CELL)  
What's up?

GIULIANO (THRU CELL)  
*Russia*. Some anomalous behavior  
concerning the election.

Russia. Still a magic word at the FBI.

COMEY (INTO CELL)  
What kind of anomalous behavior?

GIULIANO (THRU CELL)  
We think they're trying to sabotage  
Secretary Clinton's campaign.

COMEY (INTO CELL)  
How?

GIULIANO (THRU CELL)  
Ever spend much time on Facebook?

Oh. Behind Comey, we hear those parents APPLAUDING, as:



68 INT. FBI DC - CORRIDOR - NIGHT (2015) 68

Jim Baker heads down a hallway, troubled. He reaches a door. But before he can open it, an AGENT passes by:

PASSING AGENT  
Hey, are you in on Midyear? The  
Hillary case?

BAKER  
Yeah?

PASSING AGENT  
Godspeed, Brother. I hope you nail  
that bitch.

With that, Passing Agent is gone. Baker "badges in", to:

69 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - CONTINUING NIGHT (2015) 69

Strzok is at the head of the room again. The WHITE-BOARDS behind him are filled with names, dates...

STRZOK  
Okay. Secretary Clinton was a part  
of 81 email chains containing 193  
emails ranging from Confidential to  
Top Secret, all sent on  
unclassified systems.

TRISHA ANDERSON  
That's staff failure.

STRZOK  
Tell me why.

TRISHA ANDERSON  
On sensitive material, staff is  
supposed to include headers or  
footers with classification  
markings. That's how these things  
get flagged. It's standard. Her  
staff didn't do it.

MCCABE  
But she knew the material was  
sensitive and she knew the systems  
were unprotected.

STRZOK  
Let's chase that down later. Where  
are we on Huma Abedin's emails?

MCCABE

I asked. Justice doesn't feel the need to get a warrant for them because "Abedin's work for Clinton was administrative in nature and she was never an originator of classified materials."

LISA PAGE

But she coulda been a FORWARDER of classified materials! Or taken stuff off of classified systems and dumped it down! They're just too fucking scared to walk into Williams and Connolly and tell David Kendall to stop obstructing this investigation!

TRISHA ANDERSON

That's a pretty big word.

LISA PAGE

They have obfuscated every step of this process. I don't blame them - they should use every legal advantage at their disposal. I blame our fucking snowflake PROSECUTORS for letting them do it.

STRZOK

Where are they? Where's Bob?

BAKER

Uh, Bob won't be able to make it this morning.

STRZOK

Why's that?

BAKER

He's in his office, crying.  
(that lands...)  
I asked him to push Hillary's team on the PRN Server - and apparently Kendall yelled at him.

LISA PAGE

Cool. One of our line-prosecutors is crying because a fancy lawyer yelled at him. THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, PETE!

70 EXT. DOJ - ESTABLISHING - DAY (2015) 70

Right across the street from the FBI...

71 INT. DOJ - AG'S OFFICE (LYNCH) - SAME 71

A tense standoff (or sit-off), DOJ vs. FBI. Comey and Giuliano facing:

Atty. Gen. LORETTA LYNCH, Dep. Atty. Gen. SALLY YATES, Yates' Deputy MATT AXELROD, GEORGE TOSCAS, and a PROSECUTOR named BOB (the one who'd cried in his office.)

Yates is a *force*: clear-eyed, solid, effective, from Atlanta. Likes her Diet Coke. Lynch lets her officiate.

YATES

In a case this high-profile, there are bound to be tensions.

COMEY

Sally, my team feels their investigation is being impeded.

TOSCAS

And my team feels their work is being second-guessed.

COMEY

Our strong consensus is that Secretary Clinton's attorneys have not been operating in good-faith with this investigation, and that they are being allowed to obfuscate by the Line-Prosecutors here at Justice.

BOB

You think I'm not doing my job, Jim? You think I'm getting played?

COMEY

I think you're risk-averse, Bob.

GIULIANO

Crying in your office doesn't help.

That stung. Bob tries to recover... Then:

BOB

Every document or device that we have requested we are going to get.

COMEY

Her attorneys are only going to be as helpful as you push them to be.

BOB

We're trying to be careful.

COMEY

Be careful faster.

YATES

Thank you, everyone.

People pack up, but *they're not gone yet*, as:

COMEY

One other thing: The Bureau's getting bombarded with questions about whether or not we're investigating Secretary Clinton, and it's starting to feel silly to keep issuing a "no-comment." People are openly talking about it in the press, and even Secretary Clinton herself has referred to it. So I'd like your permission, if asked, to acknowledge it with "we don't comment on investigations."

Suddenly, everyone's lingering - to hear Lynch's answer:

LYNCH

Fine... But I think it would be better to refer to it as a "matter."

COMEY

Why would we do that?

LYNCH

Because we don't comment on investigations.

COMEY

But if we're trying to establish that we're treating this like any other case, wouldn't it be helpful to use the same *language* we'd use on any other case?

LYNCH

I'm trying to thread the needle here. I think matter does that.

She's his boss. And there's no point in arguing, so--

COMEY

Okay. We can make that work.

LYNCH

Good. Thank you.

72

INT. DOJ - AG'S OUTER OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (2015)

72

They emerge. Toscas teases Comey:

TOSCAS

Bye, Jim. And congratulations!

COMEY

For what?

TOSCAS

You're now the Director of the  
"Federal Bureau of *Matters!*"

Comey takes that pretty well. He heads for the door--

Then he pauses - because *guess who's sitting out here:*

**Rosenstein**, awaiting a meeting.

ROSENSTEIN

Oh. Hi, Jim.

COMEY

Hi, Rod.

ROSENSTEIN

Budget meeting. How've you been?

COMEY

Fine, fine. Good to see you.

Comey's *about to go*, when it just blurts out--

ROSENSTEIN

Hey, would you ever wanna come talk  
to my team about leadership?

(Comey turns)

I bring guest-speakers in for them  
now and then. Various topics.  
Leadership's a big focus for you,  
isn't it?

COMEY

It is.

ROSENSTEIN

Well, then, would you? I'm sure they'd appreciate it. Right now their idea of leadership is me!

COMEY

We've got a Child-Exploitation-Force right down the street from your shop. I could visit both on the same day, make it a two-fer. Couldn't I, Mark?

Rosenstein sags, a bit a wounded, but--

GIULIANO

Sure.

COMEY

Great. Contact my office - will you, Rod?

ROSENSTEIN

I sure will. Thanks, Jim.

Comey smiles, leaves. Rosenstein watches him go. We CUT TO:

73 EXT. RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT BLDG. - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING (2015)73

A jewel, shining on a crisp December night.

74 INT. RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT BLDG. - RECEPTION ROOM - SAME 74

RET. LT. GEN. MICHAEL FLYNN stands, awaiting someone.

He makes sure his cuffs look right, checks his breath. Then:

A door opens - and FOUR RUSSIAN SOLDIERS enter. Flynn stiffens a bit, wants to look his martial best.

...as VLADIMIR PUTIN enters.

He's flanked by his CHIEF OF STAFF SERGEY IVANOV. They approach Flynn - soldiers assessing one another, warmly.

IVANOV

Ah, General! Good to see you!

FLYNN

And you, Sergey.

IVANOV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)

(to Putin)

*Mister President, allow me to introduce Lieutenant General*

(MORE)

IVANOV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED) (CONT'D)  
*Michael Flynn of the United States.*  
(English now)  
General Flynn, President Putin.

FLYNN  
I very much appreciate the  
invitation, Mister President. And  
the courtesy of this visit.

IVANOV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)  
(to Putin)  
*General Flynn serves as an adviser  
to the campaign of Donald Trump.*

Putin says something in Russian. Ivanov translates:

IVANOV (CONT'D)  
"A colorful and talented man."

FLYNN  
He is that. I understand you're no  
fan of our current President.  
Mister Obama.

Putin smiles, shakes his head, which means he understood...

FLYNN (CONT'D)  
Neither am I!

Putin chuckles...

IVANOV  
We think you should enjoy the gala.  
Julian Assange is hosting, via  
satellite! And Jill Stein will be  
at your table. She's also running  
to be the US President!

FLYNN  
That pretty much tells me how you  
folks feel about Secretary Clinton!

Ivanov translates. Putin laughs. Then, in halting English:

PUTIN  
Come.

Flynn nods with appreciation. CUT TO:

SNOW falls on a blustery January night, as we hear:

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

All eyes are now on what's being called "The Comey Primary" - the FBI's investigation of Hillary Clinton and her infamous emails...

76 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - NIGHT (2016) 76

Comey packing up. Giuliano enters, looking guilt-stricken.

GIULIANO

Got a minute, Boss?

COMEY

Sure. What's up?

Giuliano sighs... then:

GIULIANO

24 months.

In other words, "I'm leaving." Comey sags. We CUT TO:

77 INT. FBI DC - BULLPEN - NIGHT (2016) 77

A HUGE GOING-AWAY PARTY for Giuliano: A big STANDEE of him, 100 people here to wish him well. Baker is jokingly presenting Giuliano with a TOBACCO PIPE, as:

BAKER

Now that your days of actual *hard work* are over...

Everyone laughs. Comey's trying to be gracious about all this - but losing Giuliano is a blow.

We JUMP ACROSS THIS BIG SPACE to the back: a table, where the punch is. Pete Strzok is refilling his cup, when Lisa Page zeroes in on a CELL PHONE she'd left here.

LISA PAGE

There it is! Hi, Pete.

STRZOK

Hey, Lisa.

LISA PAGE

Sorry if I spoke out of turn in the brief today. But those two are idiots. You gotta shit-can 'em. Pronto.

She amuses the hell out of him, so he baits her:



STRZOK

Anybody else not up to your standards?

LISA PAGE

Yeah, since you're asking. There're a couple of losers in WFO that're slowing us down. And the A-G is no great shakes either.

STRZOK

How 'bout the Commissioner of Baseball?

LISA PAGE

Retarded. They should have the Designated Hitter in both leagues or not at all.

Strzok eyes her. He likes her. She likes him too.

STRZOK

Ya want some punch?

78

INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - SAME

78

Comey eyes that MAGNET BOARD, pulls down the pic of Giuliano as Deputy, replaces it with one of Andy McCabe. Sighs...

Just then, *Giuliano appears in the doorway.* Time to go.

GIULIANO

Got a flight to catch, Boss. Thanks for the swell party.

COMEY

Thanks for the two years.

GIULIANO

I got Andy up to speed on a few things. He'll do a great job. The guy's so smart.

(Comey smiles thinly)

He'll learn how to connect better with people. And he can reach out anytime he needs to. So can you.

COMEY

I'll be taking you up on that.

GIULIANO

Y'ever wanna talk through the endgame on Hillary, just call.

COMEY

...he said, while slipping into a lifeboat.

(Giuliano smiles)

Thank you, Mark. I owe you.

Giuliano nods. They both know hard times are coming.

79

INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - CONTINUING

79

Giuliano exits, passing Comey's new Admin Asst., ALTHEA (African-American, from the FBI's GREECE office).

GIULIANO

Be good, Althea.

ALTHEA

Don't be a stranger, okay?

Giuliano smiles. Then he sees:

Strzok and Lisa Page - down the hall, sharing a laugh.

That makes Giuliano's radar ping. CUT TO:

80

INT. FBI DC - MCCABE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

80

This was Giuliano's office this morning. Now, *Andy McCabe's moving in* - taking things out of boxes.

McCabe extends a small bottle of Multi-Vitamins.

MCCABE

Found these under the desk. Yours, right?

GIULIANO

Couple things, before I go?

MCCABE

Sure.

GIULIANO

Keep an eye on Russia. I know how much bandwidth Midyear is eating up - but I don't like what I'm seeing.

MCCABE

Agreed.

GIULIANO

Every Field Office, we got Shorty and Boo running around trying to  
(MORE)

GIULIANO (CONT'D)  
find Hillary's emails. Meanwhile,  
we're under attack.

MCCABE  
I'm with you.

GIULIANO  
One other thing, completely  
unsolicited, but I gotta say it.  
(McCabe waits...)  
Your Counsel's gonna become a  
problem, I think.

MCCABE  
(hackles up)  
Lisa?

GIULIANO  
People complain to me about her.

MCCABE  
She rubs some the wrong way, I  
know. Opinionated people do that.

GIULIANO  
She's divisive, she creates issues  
where there don't need to be any. I  
don't let her in my briefings.

MCCABE  
She's smart. She helps me get shit  
done. And I like a contrarian voice-

GIULIANO  
Hey, Dummy. Are you hearing me? She  
creates PROBLEMS. She rips everyone  
a new asshole in meetings, but as  
soon as the Boss is around it's  
*"Sir, may I raise a concern here?"*  
People hate that. You better get  
snapped-in on this.

MCCABE  
Anything else?

GIULIANO  
Yeah. There is.  
(McCabe waits, annoyed)  
This is a lunch-pail culture.  
Driving a Blue Porsche and wearing  
matching blue cuff-links may not be  
the best message for you to send.

McCabe tightens a bit. His cuff-links are indeed bright blue.

MCCABE  
These were a gift from Jill.

GIULIANO  
They're on your wrists.

MCCABE  
Mark, I didn't get here by dressing well.

Giuliano nods. He knows. Then, finally:

GIULIANO  
Take care of the Boss, awright? He thinks being right will save him. It won't. And, smart as he is, his political instincts are not good.

McCabe understands - just not too sure what to do about it.

GIULIANO (CONT'D)  
G'night...

81 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - MOVING - DAY (2016) 81

We're TIGHT on McCabe's bright-blue CUFFLINKS as he strides through the Exec Suite. He ducks into:

82 INT. FBI DC - KITCHENETTE - CONTINUING 82

Comey grabbing a cookie. McCabe enters, grim as hell.

COMEY  
Caught me.

MCCABE  
There's been a cyber-breach of the DNC. Looks like the hack went all the way up to Podesta.

COMEY  
Was it a foreign state?

MCCABE  
We believe so. The malware led us to a string of code that we've seen before - emanating from Russia.

Russia again... Comey gestures, "Want a cookie?" Nope.

COMEY  
Let's start recruiting sources.  
Find out more.

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)  
(McCabe nods)  
What the hell're they up to?

No one knows, and the guesses are unsettling. We CUT TO:

83 EXT. KENSINGTON WINE ROOMS - LONDON - NIGHT (2016) 83

London on a spring night.

84 INT. KENSINGTON WINE ROOMS - SAME 84

GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS is 28, brash, boastful, and HAMMERED.

He sits opposite Aussie diplomat ALEXANDER DOWNER, who is smart enough to let Papadopoulos drink up.

DOWNER  
You were saying... Russia.

PAPADOPOULOS  
Russia! Wow are those guys smart!  
Do you know Professor Mifsud?  
Joseph Mifsud?

DOWNER  
'Fraid I don't. Is he Russian?

PAPADOPOULOS  
Malta. Or Maltese. Anyway, he's  
from Malta. But he has connections  
in Russia, all the way up to Putin.  
We've been talking for months.

DOWNER  
About what?

PAPADOPOULOS  
Hillary.

Downer's internal alarms just started pinging...

DOWNER  
In what context?

PAPADOPOULOS  
Russia's got dirt on her. LOTS of  
embarrassing stuff - thousands of  
emails. And they've *made it all*  
*available to us*, to the campaign.

DOWNER  
How did they get them?

PAPADOPOULOS

Hacked straight out of the DNC and  
the Clinton Campaign!

DOWNER

And the Russians are making them  
available to the campaign?

PAPADOPOULOS

"We have dirt on Hillary and we  
want to help." That's a quote. They  
said they could release it  
anonymously, a big data-dump on the  
Internet, timed to do maximum  
damage to her.

DOWNER

Who else knows of this, George?

PAPADOPOULOS

That's the beauty of it! No one!  
God Bless America.

85 OMITTED

85

86 INT. UNNAMED MED. BLDG. - WAITING ROOM - LATER DAY (2016) 86

Comey and Patrice, seated. Patrice looking very uptight.

By the door is Shaun, out of earshot. Comey eyes Patrice,  
noting her anxiety... and:

COMEY

We should go to France.

PATRICE

Okay. When?

COMEY

2024?

PATRICE

Good. That's good. Distract me.

Just then, A MALE NURSE enters. He's 40, Indian. Patrice  
involuntarily digs her nails into Comey's hand, bracing.

MALE NURSE

Everything looks great, Mister  
Comey. The doctor doesn't see any  
hot-spots or signs of recurrence.

*Relief floods Patrice. She shuts her eyes tight.*

PATRICE

Thank you. That's wonderful.

Wait a minute: Comey had *cancer* at some point? Yep.

MALE NURSE

You still taking the aspirin?

COMEY

Every day.

MALE NURSE

Good. Don't want any more blood-clots. See you in a year?

PATRICE

He still has the numbness in his fingertips, and his feet.

MALE NURSE

That's common. The chemo.

PATRICE

Ten years out?

MALE NURSE

Yep. Are you getting enough rest?

COMEY

I think so.

No.

PATRICE

MALE NURSE

How're you doing on stress?

Comey just smiles thinly. Male Nurse signs a form, as--

MALE NURSE (CONT'D)

I don't imagine Hillary's making that any easier!

Patrice just tightened. Male Nurse doesn't notice. So:

MALE NURSE (CONT'D)

I'll tell ya, I don't know how you keep your cool in the face of that kind of arrogance and entitlement. I think I'd explode.

PATRICE

Actually, he--

--Comey *squeezes her hand*, silencing her.

COMEY

Thanks for the good news. We'll see you next year.

87 INT. UNNAMED MED. BLDG. - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER (2016) 87

Patrice and Comey descend a long staircase:

PATRICE

Everybody's got an opinion.

COMEY

And the right to voice it.

PATRICE

The Crooked-Hillary stuff is sticking to her. Now it's part of your colonoscopy results?

COMEY

It's been a good day. Let's celebrate.

PATRICE

In Paris?

COMEY

Love you.

A kiss. She heads off. And for a moment, *Comey is alone.*

We see the relief hit him. A cancer-free result. He shuts his eyes, exhales... Then Shaun approaches down those same steps.

88 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - DAY (2016) 88

We're in SLOW-MO, scanning all of Hillary's ELECTRONICA, as:

ROSENSTEIN (V.O.)

The Midyear Team's investigation of Hillary Clinton ground on. They issued 56 Grand Jury subpoenas, conducted 72 voluntary witness interviews. Search warrants, court orders, immunity agreements...

REVEAL COMEY... alone in here at this huge table. Eyeing all these items, thinking...

ROSENSTEIN (V.O.)

They got every last one of her laptops, examined them all, and found...



89 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (YATES) - DAY (2016) 89

Comey, Rybicki, Yates, (another Diet Coke) and Axelrod--

COMEY

...*nothing*. No crime that any reasonable Prosecutor would charge. We think she was guilty of great neglect and carelessness, but we don't see anything indictable. The systems at State were so arcane if you wanted to charge her you'd have to charge 150 other people there too; the negligence was viral.

YATES

After poring through the relevant case law, we've reached the same conclusion. Neither the Espionage Act nor Volstead apply here. And we think it's time to start asking what the *end-game* on this might look like.

COMEY

In the middle of an election year, on something this visible, I don't think DOJ can just put out a statement reading, "We looked at it. We're NOT prosecuting Secretary Clinton. Case closed." I think we're going to need to explain our thinking on this to the American people, via the press.

YATES

We feel that way too.

COMEY

But there's a very real downside to having the A-G make a statement on this. It cannot appear to be partisan in any way.

YATES

We thought the right approach might be for you and the A-G to make the statement *jointly*. We hold hands and jump off the bridge together. How would you feel about that?

Comey has *many* feelings about that. We SLAM TO:

90 INT. FBI DC - CAFETERIA - EVENING (2016)

90

Sparsely populated. We find Jim Baker (eating fries) and Comey.

BAKER

As I see it, you've got three options, and all of them are terrible.

Comey nods, in complete agreement.

BAKER (CONT'D)

You can make a joint statement with the A-G, as requested, which is terrible because there's a widespread belief, rightly or wrongly, that Loretta is overly friendly with the Clinton Campaign. So standing beside her makes the Bureau seem complicit as well.

(Comey agrees)

Two. You can fall back on Department norms, just issue a brief statement declining the case, and move on. That's terrible because the public needs to see that the Bureau really did try to make a case against Hillary - aggressively, thoroughly.

COMEY

Then there's the idea of me making the statement on my own.

BAKER

...which is the *worst* idea, by a mile.

(Comey waits...)

The Bureau doesn't do that. EVER. It would violate a sacred norm in a culture built on norms. And, in my opinion, it would look horrible.

COMEY

But it's the only one that allows us to tell the truth. Loretta would never just stand there and let me explain what Hillary did and why we think it was dangerous.

Baker sags, knows what's coming. Comey slides over a FILE.

Baker doesn't open it, doesn't want to. Just eyes Comey...

COMEY (CONT'D)

This is a first attempt at a statement. I think it represents our outer boundaries in terms of transparency.

BAKER

I really wish you hadn't done that. Anything committed to writing is discoverable.

COMEY

I'd ask you to assess three things: the accuracy of the facts laid out in the draft, any policy or other limitations around making such a statement, and the wisdom and mechanics of presenting it to the American people. Awright?

Baker eyes him. We CUT TO:

91 EXT. SMITHSONIAN - LATE AFTERNOON (2016)

91

Comey and Patrice leave the museum, hand in hand.

PATRICE

Anything on your mind?

COMEY

Why?

PATRICE

A little quiet.

(he shrugs)

Maybe a dead-end-politically-motivated investigation of a certain female Presidential candidate?

He smiles, but doesn't reply. Then, out of nowhere:

COMEY

Do you ever worry about my ego?

PATRICE

Why, has it not been feeling well?

He sighs, guilty about something he hasn't even done yet.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Is there something you'd like to tell me?

COMEY  
Just that I love you.

PATRICE  
That, I knew yesterday! What's on  
your mind today?

He smiles, kisses her. We CUT TO:

92 INT. UNNAMED HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT (2016) 92

Two hands, intertwined, post-sex. Cuddling beneath a blanket  
on a sofa chair we find Pete Strzok and Lisa Page.

LISA PAGE  
By the way, how'd the 302 on that  
programmer go?

STRZOK  
Awesome. He lied his ass off. Guy  
went from "I was never inside the  
SCIF" to "I may have removed the  
trash from there twice" to "I  
trouble-shot the fax in there a  
couple times" to "Every time there  
was a secure fax sent, I sent it."

LISA PAGE  
It kills me when people lie even  
though they know we know they're  
lying. Meanwhile there's a Russian  
inside everyone's computer and  
nobody's talking about it.  
(Strzok nods)  
I love this room.

STRZOK  
Heard a joke today: "How many  
people work at the DOJ?"

LISA PAGE  
I don't know. How many people work  
at the DOJ?

STRZOK  
About half of 'em.

Lisa laughs. Then--

STRZOK (CONT'D)  
It's five-fifteen. We should log in  
from somewhere.

They open their LAP-TOPS. Blue glare. We CUT TO:

93 EXT. 57TH ST. - MANHATTAN - DAY (2016) 93

TRUMP TOWER looms. SUPER: "June 9, 2016"

94 INT. TRUMP TOWER - 25TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME 94

FOUR RUSSIANS in a garish, crass room: NATALIA VESELNITSKAYA, ROB GOLDSTONE, IKE KAVELADZE, and RINAT AKHMETSHIN. And:

PAUL MANAFORT, JARED KUSHNER, and a grinning DONALD TRUMP JR.  
(SUPERS under each person tell us who they are.)

DON JR.

It's good to meet you all. Thank you for coming such a long way.

VESELNITSKAYA

We are happy to help.

DON JR.

Natalia, the floor is yours.

VESELNITSKAYA

I'm sorry?

DON JR.

Oh. I apologize. That's an American expression. It means we're ready to hear every single disgusting detail of the dirt you have on Hillary.

VESELNITSKAYA

Hillary? I thought we were here to discuss adoption!

A beat. Awkward silence. Then the Russians start LAUGHING. Phew! And the Yanks start laughing too. What fun! Then--

VESELNITSKAYA (CONT'D)

Let's talk about the Magnitsky Act.

94A INT. DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - RESUMING 94A

Rosenstein sighs...

ROSENSTEIN

Some days, our job is chasing Russians. On others, we chase monsters. Jim had to do a lot of that.

95-97 OMIT

95-97

98 INT. PULSE NIGHTCLUB - DANCE-FLOOR - DAY (2016) 98

A HAND clutches a ringing cell-phone. We PULL BACK to find--

*The hand is extending out from under a SHEET: someone died holding that cell-phone. We PULL BACK FARTHER -- there are 49 BODIES in here, under sheets. Blood everywhere.*

More PHONES, several of them RINGING. Texts pinging - messages that will never be returned. PULL BACK FARTHER--

Here's Comey, amid utter slaughter. All those hollow ring-tones. And he looks flattened, sickened. COPS and FBI and ATF CREWS working the scene. He takes it in.

SUPER: "**Pulse Nightclub - Orlando - June 13, 2016**"

This is what he came to the Bureau to *stop*. He turns to the COP to his right:

COMEY

Assemble the first-responders for me, would you? I want to thank them.

Cop nods, goes. Comey eyes the scene. His head drops. The rings continue.

Then he realizes, ONE of the rings is coming from *his* cell. He grabs it.

COMEY (INTO CELL) (CONT'D)

Not a great time, Andy.

MCCABE (THRU CELL)

Sorry, Boss. Just... It's about the A.G.

Huh? On Comey we CUT TO:

98A OMITTED 98A

99 EXT. PHOENIX AIRPORT - TARMAC - DAY (2016) 99

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT G-5 sits on a sun-baked tarmac.

100 INT. JUSTICE DEPT. JET - CABIN - DAY 100

Loretta Lynch sits, reading. A timid STAFFER approaches:

TIMID STAFFER

Uh, General Lynch? Um... Former President Clinton is here as well, and he'd like to pay his respects.

LYNCH

Here where?

TIMID STAFFER

On the tarmac. That's his plane.

Lynch looks out the window, sees ANOTHER PLANE cozying up. She sighs deeply... then her "South" kicks in:

LYNCH

Well, it'd be rude to leave him standing out there. Show him in.

Timid Staffer looks to ANOTHER STAFFER. Uh-oh. We CUT TO:

101 OMIT 101

102 INSERT - SMASH TO: TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE -- 102

An ERUPTION: CNN, MSNBC, Fox: Bill Clinton met privately on a jet with the Attorney General while Clinton's WIFE is still being investigated by DOJ. The optics horrible.

Lynch is now under brutal fire from the press. We CUT TO:

103 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (2016) 103

The Midyear Exam Team faces Comey. Every face tight.

COMEY

The AG has just announced that she will not recuse herself from this investigation. But she will accept our findings, whatever they may be. Meaning this is now on us.

LISA PAGE

What a profile in courage.

COMEY

I no longer believe that I can credibly stand *beside her* to announce that Justice is closing the Clinton case. This Bureau - and the whole Department - will look utterly compromised and partisan. Does anyone see it differently?  
(no hands go up)  
But I think the public is now going to demand an explanation for our declining the case.

That's hard to disagree with.

COMEY (CONT'D)

So I'm going to go ahead and  
deliver the declination alone.

SILENCE. Everyone thinking "That's a HORRIBLE idea" - while  
waiting for someone of RANK to say it. Baker's silent. So...

MCCABE

Um... That could go *really* wrong,  
Boss. For a million reasons. It's  
just so not what we do.

COMEY

I get that, Andy. And conventional  
wisdom might mitigate against it.  
But this is not a conventional  
circumstance. This is a 500-year  
flood. If we let Justice issue a  
one-sentence declination now, it  
will place a corrosive doubt about  
our investigation - and more  
broadly the Rule of Law - into the  
public square. Even standing next  
to her at this point will make our  
work look suspect. And it isn't.

MCCABE

Then why not just call for a  
Special Prosecutor and take it off  
our plate?

COMEY

That would be brutally unfair to  
the Clinton campaign. A world-class  
FBI team just investigated her for  
a year. And not one of us believes  
there is a prosecutable case here.  
Calling for a Special Prosecutor  
would suggest just the opposite. It  
would be a lie.

Trisha Anderson starts to raise her hand. Pulls it back.

COMEY (CONT'D)

Trisha.

TRISHA ANDERSON

That's fine. Withdrawn.

COMEY

No. I want to hear what you're  
thinking.



TRISHA ANDERSON

Well, I guess what I'm thinking is Grand Juries are secret for a reason. We don't comment on the propriety of a subject's conduct. Especially in an Election Year.

PRIESTAP

DOJ has given this kind of detail about conduct in uncharged cases when the public needed it. They did it after Ferguson.

TRISHA ANDERSON

But the *Bureau's* never done it. This is going to expose you to enormous fire. Unnecessarily. It will look political - when our entire intent has been to appear apolitical.

COMEY

People in D.C. know I'm apolitical. They know I'm not a hack.

BAKER

In any other year, that might matter. But not now.

RYBICKI

Would Justice know ahead of time what you'd be saying?

COMEY

No. I wouldn't want ANY appearance of coordination between the Bureau and Justice on this. We have to appear completely independent.

BAKER

What if Loretta or Sally ordered you not to do it?

COMEY

Then I would do as ordered - which is why I don't want it to get out.

TRISHA ANDERSON

There is still the option of standing beside Sally to do this.

COMEY

There's a valid argument for that. She's my immediate superior. But

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)  
she also reports directly to  
Loretta, who is now tainted.  
(no one fires back)  
I have looked at this from every  
angle. They're all terrible. Once  
you embrace that, this option  
becomes easier to accept.

Maybe. But everyone in here hates it.

MCCABE  
Well, if anyone can pull it off,  
Boss, it's you.

LISA PAGE  
Sir? May I raise a concern?

Her "My Boss Is In The Room" voice. A few hide eye-rolls.

COMEY  
Sure.

LISA PAGE  
Paragraph Three of your draft.  
"Grossly negligent." I think it's  
confusing to use a term that has a  
legal definition, especially since  
we're NOT charging her with Gross  
Negligence.

...which means *she is ready to accept Comey's plan and is  
already helping him to execute it.*

COMEY  
Let's say "extremely careless."

Brownie-points for Lisa, irritating everyone. Then:

COMEY (CONT'D)  
If the country ever starts to  
distrust the Bureau's intentions,  
it's a bell that can never be un-  
rung.

Behind them, on TV - *MUTED* footage of a *TRUMP SUPPORTER*  
wearing a "Hillary is a C--t" t-shirt. Great.

BAKER  
Jim, none of this can be un-rung.

COMEY  
Mark it up. And be brutal.

106 INT. PATRICE'S OFC. - NIGHT (2016)

106

The DOOR reads "Court-Appointed Special Advocate, Juvenile Division." Comey, bearing a bag of TAKEOUT FOOD, pauses outside the door, Shaun discreetly in BG, as:

PATRICE (INTO PHONE)

Let me reframe this for you; maybe that would help: We just rescued a mom and four children from an abusive father, and you tell her, her kids can't attend your school because of a *paperwork* error? Do you see the disconnect there?

Comey smiles... A beat passes...

PATRICE (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

That would be great. Thank you. They'll see you on Monday.

She hangs up the phone. He enters her office.

COMEY

Maybe you should be running the Bureau.

Patrice looks up from her cluttered desk, smiles. Comey sets the bag of takeout food down. She eyes it.

PATRICE

Just happened to be in the neighborhood?

COMEY

Couldn't stand the idea of your eating alone.

She knows him. Really well. So she's ten steps ahead...

PATRICE

You're gonna get clobbered, Jim.

COMEY

I've got a ten-year term, right?

He sits. They eye one another. We CUT TO:

107 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - DAY (2016)

107

A punch-up session on Comey's statement: Strzok, Lisa Page, Rybicki, Baker, Trisha Anderson, McCabe, Priestap.

STRZOK

I think we should add "Had these same emails been sent on a state.gov system, the FBI would never have investigated this matter."

PRIESTAP

Let's not say "matter," hmm?

Everyone chuckles. Priestap is thoughtful, nervous, careful.

STRZOK

Would also change "It's reasonably likely that states hostile to the US gained access to her servers" to "It's possible" that they did so. Forensics can't take us any farther.

PRIESTAP

We shouldn't say the President was one of the people she was emailing with. No reason to make the GRU's job any easier. Replace that with "another senior government official."

LISA PAGE

..."who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

More chuckles.

MCCABE

It's important to say why the FBI can, in good faith, recommend to DOJ that no charges should be brought here. NOT just because no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case, but also because it's the right thing to do.

TRISHA ANDERSON

But that's not the tone of this statement at all. The tone is "I'm now going to prove that the Bureau did NOT take it easy on Hillary Clinton. And I'm going to do that by telling you what a horrible thing Hillary Clinton did... even as I'm recommending AGAINST prosecution in her case."

LISA PAGE

Look. If she'd followed normal protocol in the first place, we wouldn't have spent the last year fighting her fucking lawyers. Why does she get coddled for *breaking* protocol and possibly the LAW?

TRISHA ANDERSON

Because we've decided NOT to charge her. And I have real concerns about criticizing uncharged conduct. I also think this statement might violate the Department's Election-Year-Sensitivities Policy. We're not supposed to do anything within six months of an election that might affect the outcome.

PRIESTAP

That applies only to election-crime cases.

TRISHA ANDERSON

Then the policy isn't *broad* enough. But it should still guide us.

LISA PAGE

Trisha, half the country thinks these emails are Nine-Eleven! We have to go big here! You don't think she crossed a line?

TRISHA ANDERSON

I think her behavior was appalling. I think she's been told how smart she is for so long she didn't think the normal rules applied to her. But it is NOT our job to say so, and I think the Director is going to get SLAUGHTERED for doing this.

...just as Comey enters. They eye him.

She just articulated everyone's fear. And Comey knows it.

COMEY

You may be right, Trisha. I don't know. Does everyone agree with her?

Silence... then:

PRIESTAP

I think the piece is superb.

LISA PAGE

I think the A.G. put us in a box,  
and this is a credible response to  
that.

Strzok nods tightly. McCabe too. Trisha is a stone.

COMEY

Anybody else?

Baker *has to* say something...

BAKER

I'm with Trisha, Boss. I think  
you're under-estimating how  
poisonous the political climate is  
at the moment.

COMEY

I'm not a politician.

108 INT. DOJ - AG'S OFFICE (LYNCH) - MORNING

108

Sally Yates sits opposite Lynch, hits a button on a phone:

LYNCH

Yes?

109 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - SAME - INTERCUT 109

Comey, at his desk...

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Good morning. I wanted to let you  
know that I've called a press  
conference for today to announce  
the Bureau's recommendation on  
Secretary Clinton.

Yates and Lynch eye one another.

YATES (INTO SPEAKER)

And what will you be recommending?

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

I'm sorry but I'm not going to  
answer that. It's very important  
that I not have coordinated this in  
any way with DOJ. I hope someday  
you will understand why.

LYNCH (INTO SPEAKER)

Today. This morning?

COMEY (INTO PHONE)  
Yes. At eleven.

So if Lynch wants to order him NOT do it, now is the time.  
But Lynch is silent. A lonnnnnng beat. Yates reads it.

LYNCH (INTO SPEAKER)  
Thanks for letting us know.

110 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - MOMENTS LATER 110

Comey, statement in hand, walks - his stride purposeful...

111 INT. FBI DC - WEBSTER ROOM - DAY 111

A bank of mic's. A ton of PRESS. Comey steps up, and:

COMEY  
Good morning. I'm here to give you  
an update on the FBI's  
investigation of Secretary  
Clinton's use of a personal e-mail  
system during her time as Secretary  
of State.

The WORDS OF HIS SPEECH have been projected on to the back  
wall - visible behind a phalanx of NEWS-CREWS...

COMEY (CONT'D)  
After a tremendous amount of work  
over the last year, the FBI is  
completing its investigation and  
referring the case to the  
Department of Justice for a  
prosecutive decision. What I would  
like to do today is tell you three  
things: what we did; what we found;  
and what we are recommending to the  
Department of Justice...

112 INSERT - TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE -- 112

The world reacts, ANGRILY. A blizzard of bad reviews:

RUDY GIULIANI is all over the place, shredding Comey, and  
claiming there's a revolt about this *inside* the FBI. On  
MSNBC, CNN, FOX - Comey's getting crushed. CUT TO:

113 OMIT 113

114 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - DAY (2016) 114

Comey returns from the presser. No one congratulates or castigates him. We land on Trisha, watching him pass.

115 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - LATER NIGHT (2016) 115

Patrice and Abby are on the Couch, watching him get shredded on TV. Benji too. They all study Comey as he enters.

COMEY

At least I'm finished with her emails already.

Abby eyes him. Today has not been fun for her...

ABBY

Daddy, I don't think so.

Shit. She's probably right.

Patrice studies Comey, pats the seat beside her. We CUT TO:

116 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (YATES) - SAME NIGHT (2016) 116

Yates sits alone. Just a lamp on. Lost in thought.

JUSTIN (O.S.)

Ma'am?

It's our own Justin in the doorway. He's an *intern* at this point, still in Law School. Brand-new.

Yates, unfailingly gracious, smiles at him.

YATES

Hello, Justin! How was your second day at the DOJ?

JUSTIN

Interesting.

YATES

Sorry about that.

JUSTIN

I thought you might want another soda.

YATES

Oh, no. Just one a day. But thank you.

He smiles, about to back out, when--



JUSTIN

Mind if I ask you, Ma'am -- what is that? In the frame behind you?

She turns. So do we... to find an old PIECE OF CLOTH, with writing on it, in a glass frame. It makes her smile fondly.

YATES

That was from my first trial ever. Pro bono case when I was at King Spalding.

A story, from the Boss! Justin is thrilled...

YATES (CONT'D)

An all-white jury that found for an African-American woman named Lovie Morrison against a white family trying to steal her land. In Barrow County, Georgia. That cloth was the deed.

(a beat)

I had never tried a case before. I didn't even know where to stand. My star witness was a bootlegger's wife. But that jury did right anyway. You remember that, next time someone tells you this country can't be its best self. Or the Law doesn't matter.

Justin appreciates it. Nods...

JUSTIN

'Night, Ma'am.

YATES

'Night, Justin. I hope tomorrow's a little more boring for you...

He goes, leaving her alone again. She eyes the framed deed. We do too, and CUT TO:

117 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (2016)

117

McCabe, Strzok, Baker, Rybicki, Trisha, and Priestap wait. Comey enters, and finds a sea of grim faces.

COMEY

Okay. Russia.

MCCABE

Bill?

LIGHTS OUT, MOUNTED MONITOR ON, and under a HEADING that reads "CROSSFIRE HURRICANE," we see a photo... of George Papadopoulos, with relevant facts.

COMEY

Who picks these file-names?

MCCABE

It was randomly generated in C.I.

PRIESTAP

His name is George Papadopoulos, adviser to the Trump Campaign. We've just learned that in March Papadopoulos told an Australian diplomat that the Russian government had dirt in the form of emails on Secretary Clinton and had offered it to the Trump Team.

Whoa. A beat passes. Comey digesting what he just heard.

COMEY

Say more.

PRIESTAP

The diplomat didn't think much of it until last week when he saw that the Russians had hacked the DNC.

COMEY

How high up is Papadopoulos?

STRZOK

He had a hand in writing Trump's first foreign policy speech, the Mayflower Hotel Address, which was kind of a love-letter to the Russian government.

Whole thing feels like a sink-hole, growing wider...

COMEY

Okay, if Russia were to make other contacts inside the Trump campaign, who would be their likely targets?

Three more photos: CARTER PAGE, Michael Flynn, Paul Manafort.

(Each has his own SUBFILE-NAME: "Crossfire Volcano," Crossfire Earthquake," etc.) Comey recognizes the first one:

COMEY (CONT'D)

Carter Page.

PRIESTAP

We briefed you on him in '14 when he was working at Merrill Lynch, Moscow and the GRU recruited him as an asset. The guy's a dope; he was living in his car not long ago. But he was the first member of Trump's National Security Team.

STRZOK

And he is blinking red.

COMEY

How high up is he? Who does he report to?

PRIESTAP

In Russia? Or on the campaign?

Christ... Next face - General Michael Flynn:

PRIESTAP (CONT'D)

You know General Flynn, fired by President Obama two years ago. He was paid 45,000 dollars by *Russia Today* last December to speak at their gala in Moscow where he sat next to Putin. Also paid to lobby for Saudi Arabia AND Turkey. Now a senior adviser to Trump. We've tried to bump him with a CHS, not getting anything.

Baker's been silent -- just watching...

COMEY

Let's see if we can develop anything else. Who's next?

PRIESTAP

You know Paul Manafort, also under criminal investigation since 2014. On the payroll of Russian Oligarchs Oleg Deripaska and Dmytro Firtash for ten million per year, close ties to Konstantin Kilimnik of Russian Intel, served as paid lobbyist for a bunch of Russian-backed officials in Ukraine. Now serving as Trump's Campaign Chair.

STRZOK

Also blinking red.

COMEY

Why are there four guys with ties  
to Russia on one campaign?

MCCABE

Maybe Trump doesn't vet people very  
well.

STRZOK

Maybe he does.

(they react)

We're starting to see propaganda  
about Secretary Clinton from Radio  
Sputnik and Russia Today showing up  
verbatim in Trump's *stump-speeches*.  
We don't know that it's being co-  
ordinated.

COMEY

Obviously, we're going to keep this  
extremely close-hold. Any  
connection between Russian efforts  
to influence this election and the  
Trump campaign is a very serious  
and explosive matter. I don't want  
it mentioned in morning briefings.  
Thanks, everyone. We'll skinny-down  
now.

(they rise)

And can someone find out why I keep  
seeing *Rudy Giuliani* on tv saying  
things about our investigations  
that he shouldn't know?

MCCABE

We suspect another leak at NYO.

COMEY

Well plug it, would ya? Before I go  
rip-shit? That really frosts me.

They leave. Comey hangs back, in this darkened room...

118 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - MOMENTS LATER (2016)18

McCabe walks, angry, his CELL pressed to his ear.

119 INT. FBI NYFO - SHIPPING ROOM - DAY - INTERCUT 119

Bill Sweeney (we met him before) picks up his phone.

SWEENEY (INTO PHONE)

Yes Sir.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)  
You've got a leaker in your office.

Sweeney gets some ROLOS from the VENDING MACHINE, heads out.

SWEENEY (INTO PHONE)  
Wanna give me some context, Andy?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)  
Rudy Giuliani's on tv non-stop since the declination predicting things that he shouldn't know. Now I know you've got a bunch of Hillary-haters up there, pissed off that we dropped her case - but you've gotta shut this down, Bill.

SWEENEY (INTO PHONE)  
You sure it wasn't one of the Formers? *They* have the ties to Rudy.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)  
The Formers wouldn't have access to the kind of intel he's revealing.

SWEENEY (INTO PHONE)  
Could be SDNY. He's got ties there too.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)  
Let me level-set this for you, Bill: you need to rein your guys in. FIRE people if you have to. But get your office's shit together.

SWEENEY (INTO PHONE)  
Will do.

120 INSERT - TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE -- 120

Giuliani is on six screens at once, six competing tracks of his voice hitting a crescendo as we SLAM TO:

121-124 OMITTED 121-124

125 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (2016) 125

THWAK -- a THICK FILE is dropped before Comey. He looks up at McCabe, Priestap, Strzok, Lisa Page, Rybicki, Baker, Trisha.

PRIESTAP

Boss, we've now been presented with a *dossier* concerning Russia and its possible connection to Trump.

A familiar feeling of dread building now. Comey just waits.

PRIESTAP (CONT'D)

We have not independently corroborated any of the conclusions here - but they come from a highly credible source, ex-MI-6, who has a history of co-operation with the Bureau and the rest of the IC.

COMEY

Then let's hear it.

126 INT. MOSCOW THEATER - BACKSTAGE - NIGHT (2013) - INTERCUT 126

A MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT. 25 GORGEOUS WOMEN in swimsuits, backstage. A CREW assembling a JIB-ARM. A few A.D.'s positioning people. We drift through as:

PRIESTAP (V.O.)

The dossier asserts that Putin began cultivating Trump as an asset more than five years prior to his entry into politics.

The swimsuited beauties note a man entering this backstage:

*DONALD TRUMP*. We're behind him as he plunges in... Ogling, grazing, touching. The girls tighten, as we hear:

PRIESTAP (V.O.)

They traded favors with him, aided his Miss Universe pageant, offered their help on future Trump real estate deals within Russia, including a Trump Tower in Moscow.

Trump zeros in on one PAGEANT CONTESTANT in particular. Joking, flirting, touching. She tries to smile through it.

Awaiting Trump are Sporyshev, Podobnyy, and Rob Goldstone.

PRIESTAP (V.O.)

...and granted him access to *hundreds of millions* in loans from banks controlled by the Russian oligarchy just as US banks had declared Trump to be an unworthy credit-risk.

127 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - RESUMING (2016) 127

Priestap continues:

PRIESTAP

It was a years-long effort to recruit and maintain Trump as an asset of the FSB, with the long-term strategy of using him to sow discord and disunity within the US and amongst our allies.

128 INT. MOSCOW THEATER - BACKSTAGE - RESUMING (2013) 128

Trump nears Sporyshev, Podobnyy, and Goldstone, as we hear:

PRIESTAP (V.O.)

The dossier further asserts that since last year the Trump campaign has "accepted a regular flow of intelligence from the Kremlin on his political rivals."

129 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - RESUMING (2016) 129

Again, all eyes on Priestap:

PRIESTAP

Again, we have NOT corroborated any of this independently. And it should be noted that the original financier of this dossier was a Republican Never-Trumper. The funds to finish the dossier then came from the Democrats.

COMEY

Go on.

130 INT. MOSCOW HOTEL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT (2013) 130

Two GORGEOUS RUSSIAN HOOKERS walk down an empty corridor...

PRIESTAP (V.O.)

The dossier holds that the FSB's main leverage over Trump is likely blackmail, made possible because the Russians had videos of Trump engaging in "perverted sexual acts" when he stayed in the Presidential suite of Moscow's Ritz-Carlton hotel, in 2013.

The Hookers knock on the door of the Presidential Suite.

PRIESTAP (V.O.)  
Specifically a "golden showers  
show."

COMEY (V.O.)  
I'm sorry. What does that mean?

131 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - RESUMING (2016)

131

Priestap reddens a bit.

PRIESTAP  
It means they defiled a bed that  
Barack and Michelle Obama had slept  
in during a state visit - by  
urinating on it.

COMEY  
I see.

PRIESTAP  
Again, the Bureau has not yet been  
able to independently corroborate  
the claim - nor the dossier's  
ultimate conclusions. But coupled  
with what we now know of Trump's  
complicated financial ties to  
Russian banks, his loans from known  
Oligarchs, his ongoing attempt to  
build that tower in Moscow, the  
dossier does provide a plausible if  
alarming working theory:  
(reluctantly...)  
Russia has compromised Trump.

Holy Shit. That hovers. Comey gathers himself, then--

COMEY  
That supposition does not leave  
this room. Let's just find out if  
it's true.

MCCABE  
How aggressively?  
(a beat)  
The harder we pursue, the more  
likely we are to burn our source.

STRZOK  
Can't think that way on this one.  
Can't do a traditional, years-long  
CI approach.



BAKER

Why not?

STRZOK

Because what if *candidate* Trump becomes *President* Trump before we've determined whether or not any of this is true? If he takes office and we still think he may be a Russian asset, how would we share Intel with him? How do we vet his National Security nominees?

It lands, as always, on Comey. He sighs, then--

COMEY

Get me Jim Clapper.

131A INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY (2016)

131A

Comey, JAMES CLAPPER, JOHN BRENNAN, SUSAN RICE, and MIKE ROGERS report to Obama and his CoS, DENIS McDONOUGH.

CLAPPER

Mister President, as you know, for the past year we've been watching the Russians engage in a multi-faceted influence campaign concerning our election, directed by Putin himself. Cyber-espionage, *propaganda* across all social media platforms, hacking DNC emails and releasing them at the moment of maximum damage.

(Obama nods calmly...)

The goals of this effort, in our assessment, had been to harm our democracy and weaken Secretary Clinton's future Presidency. But we can now say with a high degree of confidence that the Russians have added a third goal. They are now actively trying to secure the *election of Donald Trump*, by any and all means.

That registers. Obama nods calmly, thoughtfully.

OBAMA

Who else knows about this?

CLAPPER

It is extremely close-hold. A very tight circle within the IC.

OBAMA

Does it make sense to alert the public of this attack?

CLAPPER

We have some disagreement on that. Jeh and I think it's the right thing to do. But there is a compelling argument against.

COMEY

It might achieve the Russians' goals by undermining the public's confidence in our electoral system.

OBAMA

I'm determined not to do that. Do they know we have this?

CLAPPER

Mister President, we're not entirely sure that they care.

That was an ugly truth. We CUT TO:

132 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - RESUMING (NOW) 132

Rosenstein looks to Justin:

ROSENSTEIN

Crossfire Hurricane was suddenly *Priority Number One.*

(a sigh... then:)

Then came Anthony Weiner.

133 INT. FBI NYFO - 5TH FLOOR - SHIPPING ROOM - DAY (2016) 133

SUPER: "**SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.**" A CASE AGENT named HARTZ wears SURGICAL GLOVES as he inspects a LAP-TOP. Boring.

A PRETTY AGENT appears at his 1 o'clock, grabbing something from a cabinet. Hartz notices her. She turns, catches him. He blushes. She smiles.

PRETTY AGENT

Back to work.

He shrugs, absently opens a FILE... And his eyes go wide:

ON HIS LAP-TOP: *a Blackberry pin message dated 2009 from "HR15@BBM.Clintonaccount.net" to "HumaAbedin@BBM.clintonaccount.net"*

Hartz looks again. Then clicks on another link and:

*141,000 more emails suddenly appear before him. All from various domains, but all between Hillary and Huma Abedin.*

HARTZ

Holy Shit...

134 INT. FBI NYFO - SWEENEY'S OFC. - DAY (2016)

134

Hartz and Joey Vota watch from the doorway, as:

Sweeney is on a SECURE VIDEO TELE-CONFERENCE CALL with 39 OTHER FBI EXECS. He looks grim as hell. They all do.

SWEENEY (ON CONF. CALL)

There are roughly 141,000 emails on the laptop that might be relevant to Midyear Exam, associated with seven domains, primarily state-dot-gov, clintonaccount-dot-net, and clinton-dash-foundationfund-dot-net.

135 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME - INTERCUT

135

Lisa Page, Priestap, and an oddly-calm McCabe are here.

SWEENEY (CONF. CALL) (CONT'D)

As I said, NYO only has legal authority to look at the material on the Weiner laptop relevant to the sex-crime charges against him. We can't look at any of the Midyear material, nothing to which Abedin was a party. It's our feeling that you're going to need a new warrant here.

MCCABE

Okay, C.D. and NYO personnel should connect on this to figure out what you have there. Hopefully it's all just duplicates.

SWEENEY

The time-frames overlap with the periods you were looking at. This is very much in the Midyear lane.

MCCABE

They did such a thorough scrub before, it's likely just duplicates of what we've already seen.

Sweeney's troubled: *Why isn't McCabe on fire about this?*

SWEENEY

Uh... Andy? We think this is--

MCCABE

Listen, Bill, let's take this offline; I hafta get to Quantico. Can I call you from the car?

SWEENEY

Sure.

136 OMIT

136

137 INT. UNNAMED MOTEL ROOM - SAME DAY (2016)

137

Strzok and Lisa Page undress - shedding guns, gear...

STRZOK

I don't think it's a crank lead, but there are all kinds of process-issues attached to it, and technical issues too. My guess is it's something we wind up dealing with after the first of the year. Anyway, I'm going up tomorrow.

LISA PAGE

You dick! I hafta stay here dealing with more fake email hysteria while you're lounging on the Acela?

STRZOK

Someone's gotta do it...

LISA PAGE

Like I said. Dick.

Naked now, they climb under the sheets. But before a kiss:

LISA PAGE (CONT'D)

Trump can't become president, right?... *Right?*

STRZOK

No. He won't. We'll stop him.

LISA PAGE

"We" as in the Bureau? You just gave me a boner.

STRZOK

"We" as in the public.

LISA PAGE  
*That's* who you're counting on?

138 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - 5 PM - RESUMING 138

Rosenstein and Justin:

ROSENSTEIN  
NYO now thought *Headquarters* was handling the Weiner laptop. And Headquarters thought there were technical and legal issues *preventing* them from handling it. So, for 23 days, *no one* handled it. The laptop sitting like a bomb under everybody's desk. Meanwhile, Election Day just kept coming.

139-142 OMIT 139-142

143 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - MINUTES LATER 143

McCabe enters, tense. The MIDYEAR TEAM awaits him.

MCCABE  
Where are we on the Weiner laptop?

SUPER: **"October 24, 2016. 15 Days Before Election Day."**

No one wants to reply. It's been a collective fuckup. But:

STRZOK  
We're behind.  
(McCabe waits...)  
We weren't able to begin the carving process on the laptop in New York last month due to legal limitations - we needed either a new search warrant or a modification of the prior one.

MCCABE  
And did we SEEK a modification or a new warrant?

STRZOK  
No. There was a miscommunication.  
(McCabe glares)  
But we now know that the laptop contains 347,000 emails... including backups of Hillary's *BlackBerry* emails.

MCCABE

Her BlackBerry emails. The ones we did not have access to in Round One. *The ones that might prove criminal intent.*

STRZOK

Yes.

MCCABE

So we're now... 15 days before a Presidential election, and we have to go through 347,000 emails to determine *if one of the candidates in that election needs to be indicted* - and we could have had that answer a MONTH ago?

STRZOK

Yes.

MCCABE

We need to get this in front of the Director.

144

INT. COMEY HOME - BREAKFAST ROOM - DAWN (2016)

144

7:12 AM. Comey's dressed. He gets a TEXT from Andy McCabe: "*Midyear Team needs to see you.*"

Comey eyes it... Then replies: "*Copy.*" Patrice enters--

PATRICE

Was that Andy?

COMEY

Yeah. Why?

PATRICE

So's *this*.

Huh? She places the WALL STREET JOURNAL in front of Comey - an article about McCabe, and his wife JILL, and her run for office in Virginia, and a financial tie to the Clintons.

COMEY

I'm aware.

PATRICE

And...?

COMEY

And I think it's crap. A story like that brings an unnecessary vector of suspicion upon the Bureau.

PATRICE

He told you about the contribution, right? I mean, he'd have to if he was going to have anything to do with an investigation into Hillary.

(no reply...)

Jill should never have run. No Democrat was gonna win in Loudoun County anyway.

COMEY

It was long before he became Deputy - and he's doing fine. Working his tail off.

PATRICE

Jim, please don't go Jimmy Stewart on this one. He's an operator. Mister Porsche.

COMEY

There's no law against driving a Porsche, Treecy.

PATRICE

*But doesn't this make you angry?*

COMEY

Anger doesn't help.

145 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING (2016)

145

At the table sits the MIDYEAR TEAM, plus Comey. Through a SPEAKER-PHONE, McCabe calls in from his car:

MCCABE (THRU SPEAKER)

Boss, the Anthony Weiner laptop - that NYO recovered last month.

COMEY

Okay.

MCCABE (THRU SPEAKER)

It contains email metadata *from* Secretary Clinton, from her Blackberry-Domain account, which she used in her first three months at State. As you know, these were

(MORE)

MCCABE (THRU SPEAKER) (CONT'D)  
the emails we did NOT have access  
to in our initial investigation.

Silence - a massive "we have fucked up" cloud hanging.

MCCABE (THRU SPEAKER) (CONT'D)  
If any emails were going to  
indicate criminal intent on her  
part, it would be these.

COMEY  
I see. And we discovered these last  
month?

MCCABE (THRU SPEAKER)  
Yes Sir. I did mention it to you  
initially; I imagine you didn't  
index it.

COMEY  
No. Andy, you can drop off now. I  
don't need you on this call.

That surprised everyone. And hurt McCabe. Silence, then--

MCCABE (THRU SPEAKER)  
Yes Sir.

CLICK. Holy Hell. Comey eyes the room.

COMEY  
What do you need?

STRZOK  
Permission to seek an expanded  
search warrant.

COMEY  
Of course. How fast can you review  
and assess these extra emails?

TRISHA ANDERSON  
Several weeks.

COMEY  
The election is *twelve days away*.  
Can we bring in more bodies?

PRIESTAP  
We've determined that that would be  
ineffective. Outsiders wouldn't  
know what to look for.



COMEY

So our chance of resolving this  
before November 8?

PRIESTAP

Zero.

COMEY

Okay. Do it as quickly as you can -  
but do it well, always well, no  
matter how long it takes.

Lots of nods. And the BIG question hovers:

COMEY (CONT'D)

Now. Does Congress need to be  
advised of this?

No one wants to touch that.

COMEY (CONT'D)

We told Congress in July that this  
was all OVER. That is now  
materially untrue; we're RE-OPENING  
our investigation. If we conceal  
that fact, will it look like we sat  
on information to benefit one  
campaign over another?

(no one replies)

I want you all to take a break for  
an hour. Get out of this room, get  
some air. Then we'll reconvene so I  
can hear your thinking.

Everyone nods, starts to pack up. But--

TRISHA ANDERSON

Sir, the FBI has never publicly  
commented on the re-opening of an  
investigation. It might be unfair  
to Secretary Clinton in terms of  
due process.

The team-members stop packing, to hear the answer:

COMEY

We *wouldn't* be publicly commenting  
on it. We'd be notifying Congress -  
a letter to the Chairs of the eight  
appropriate committees in the House  
and Senate.

BAKER

But this close to an election, that will almost certainly leak, so notifying Congress is tantamount to notifying the public.

COMEY

So we should conceal it? Lie by omission?

BAKER

What if we announce and then don't find anything?

COMEY

What if we DON'T announce and then find criminal intent?

STRZOK

Even if we *did* conceal it, NYO would leak it anyway. So we'd look sneaky *and* ineffective.

TRISHA ANDERSON

We don't know that.

STRZOK

Of course they'd leak it. That place is a sieve, and they HATE Hillary. In five minutes Rudy Giuliani'll be screaming it on Fox News.

TRISHA ANDERSON

He's a former prosecutor AND a former USA.

STRZOK

So?

TRISHA ANDERSON

So he knows better.

STRZOK

That's hysterical. This whole campaign is a job audition for him.  
(at Comey)  
What was the saying about him at SDNY, Boss? Back in the day?

COMEY

"The most dangerous place to stand in the world is between Rudy Giuliani and a microphone."

STRZOK

Right.

He studies them all. Then--

COMEY

One hour.

They exit. Comey sits, alone. We DISSOLVE TO:

146

INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

146

Baker, Trisha, Rybicki, Strzok, Priestap - (No McCabe and Lisa Page.) And these people look *exhausted*.

COMEY

Thoughts?

PRIESTAP

My fear is how partisan we'll look if word gets out and we've said nothing.

BAKER

Saying something would be worse. And we don't know, categorically, that NYO will leak it.

STRZOK

*Weiner's lawyers* could leak it. *DOJ* could leak it. It's not close-hold.

COMEY

That's my fear too. We don't announce, and three days before the Election, word leaks: "The FBI has re-opened the investigation into Hillary Clinton and *not told anyone about it*." Where does that put the credibility of this institution?

(no one replies)

Another scenario. Hillary's just been elected. A Republican-controlled House is drafting Bills of Impeachment before she's even sworn in. Now imagine we find something incriminating. We present those findings to House Judiciary; they ask us *when we first found these emails*. We'll be obliged to say that we learned of them *a month before the election*. And the world will conclude that we actively concealed this from the American

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)  
public in order to tip the  
election. Where does *that* put the  
credibility of this institution?

TRISHA ANDERSON  
ANY letter you put out at this  
juncture will be interpreted by the  
public to mean that we've found *new*  
*evidence* of wrong-doing.

COMEY  
If I don't inform Congress on this,  
I should be fired, run out of town.

TRISHA ANDERSON  
But Boss, what if our doing this  
results in the election of Donald  
Trump as President?

SILENCE. The idea of it landing. Sounds almost hellish...

COMEY  
That is a great question, thank you  
for asking it... But down that road  
lies the death of the FBI as an  
independent force in American life.  
If I ever start considering whose  
political fortunes would be  
affected by a decision, even for a  
second, then we are done.

No one likes it. But no one argues. Trisha sighs...

COMEY (CONT'D)  
You still disagree?

TRISHA ANDERSON  
I know you believe in telling the  
truth. I do too... But there are  
all *kinds* of truths out there. We  
are also for example investigating  
the possibility that *Trump's*  
*campaign is in bed with the*  
*Russians*.

STRZOK  
That's Intel.

TRISHA ANDERSON  
But it's a *truth*. And concealing  
one truth while publicly announcing  
another is selective honesty. Isn't  
it?

COMEY

Trisha, I told Congress and the country that this case was closed. If that's revealed to be a lie, how would they ever believe us again?

On their reactions, we CUT TO:

147 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - NIGHT (2016) 147

Comey looks out the window at a PIGEON on the ledge. Baker, Priestap, Rybicki, Trisha, and Strzok enter.

STRZOK

Boss?

Comey gestures to his TV, where the FACE OF RUDY GIULIANI ON FOX NEWS is now frozen. He hits a button on his REMOTE, and:

*RUDY GIULIANI (ON TV)*

*He's got a surprise or two that you're going to hear about in the next two days. I mean, I mean, I'm talking about a pretty BIG surprise.*

*FOX NEWS HOST (ON TV)*

*I heard you say that this morning. What'd you mean?*

*RUDY GIULIANI (ON TV)*

*You'll see.*

*(he laughs, then)*

*We've got a couple things up our sleeve that should turn this around.*

Comey hits another button. Rudy's face FREEZES again.

STRZOK

He's gonna leak it.

RYBICKI

If he hasn't already.

BAKER

That's likely true.

TRISHA ANDERSON

A second ago you were telling him NOT to do this!

BAKER

I'm trying to find some door other  
than the one that leads to Hell!

No one has an answer. But they have to have one. So:

COMEY

As I see it, we have only two  
options here: Speak. Or Conceal.  
One is really bad, the other  
catastrophic. Welcome to really  
bad.

148 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - AFTERNOON (NOW) 148

Rosenstein sags

ROSENSTEIN

If he'd just been a little humbler,  
a little less certain *his* morality  
was somehow all that mattered...  
the world wouldn't know my name  
today. Do you see?

Justin doesn't reply. We CUT TO:

149 INT. DOJ - AG'S OFFICE (LYNCH) - NIGHT (2016) 149

Lynch, opposite Yates and Axelrod.

LYNCH

This is a *conversation*? Or a  
*decision* he's already made?

AXELROD

The official line is "The Director  
believes that he has a duty to  
inform the appropriate  
Congressional committees." That's  
not quite "I alone can fix it," but  
it's close, which to me means he's  
going to do it.

YATES

(at Lynch)

Unless you order him not to.

LYNCH

Then he does it anyway and we have  
to fire him. Or he resigns and  
people find out why. Or the  
contents of the letter are leaked  
and we've exposed ourselves to an  
Obstruction of Congress

(MORE)

LYNCH (CONT'D)  
investigation for knowingly  
preventing him from correcting a  
misimpression.

YATES  
Loretta, he's taking a beat here;  
he's not calling a press  
conference. To me that means he's  
giving us the option to step in and  
*make the decision for him.*

LYNCH  
No. We CANNOT be perceived to be  
leaning on him. The best way to  
convince him not to do it is to  
convince the people close to him to  
stop him from doing it.

YATES  
But you are his boss. You can ORDER  
him to stand down and deal with the  
consequences if they come.

LYNCH  
(at Axelrod)  
You agree?

AXELROD  
I think norms and policies matter.  
And I think Director Comey believes  
that his own ethics now count for  
more than the norms that have  
always steered us.

YATES  
Do you want to bring him in?

Lynch sighs. Then she looks to Axelrod, and:

LYNCH  
Please tell Director Comey that we  
think this is a bad idea, but we do  
not wish to discuss it with him.

Weakest answer ever. On Yates, we CUT TO:

150

INT. COMEY HOME - UPSTAIRS/ABBY'S ROOM - NIGHT (2016)

150

Abby does homework on her bed, her long red hair in a  
ponytail. Then--

COMEY  
Hey.

She looks up. Comey is in her doorway, looking troubled.

ABBY

Hi, Dad.

COMEY

Got a minute?

Abby smiles. Comey enters, sits on the bed.

COMEY (CONT'D)

Abs, your father is about to get punched in the face in public again. Thought I should warn you. It's not something I'm looking forward to, but I'll be fine.

ABBY

(mild dread)

Another press conference?

COMEY

No. But the effect will be the same. Worse.

ABBY

Are you doing the right thing?

Comey LOVES that question. He mulls it... Then:

COMEY

I think so. Pretty sure.

ABBY

Then that's it.

He breathes out a smile of deep appreciation. Hugs her.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Love you, dad.

COMEY

Love you too, babe. Thanks.

Then out he goes - but:

151

INT. COMEY HOME - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUING

151

Patrice is here, top of the stairs, worried as hell.

PATRICE

It's too close to the election, Jim. Much too close. Do you want him to *win*?



COMEY

I can't talk about this with you  
anymore, Treecy.

He heads downstairs. She follows:

152 INT. COMEY HOME - GROUND FLOOR - CONTINUING

152

She steams toward him.

PATRICE

Jim.

(he turns, angry)

Jimmy, what're you doing?

Comey looks like he's about to snap. She studies him... then:

PATRICE (CONT'D)

I've never asked you to prosecute  
someone or *not* prosecute someone in  
my life. I wouldn't do that.

(a beat)

But you've got four daughters.  
Think about what it would mean for  
them to see a woman become  
President. Now think what it would  
mean for them if she *lost* - to him.  
You'd have to live with that. So  
would they, forever.

COMEY

Please don't make it seem like my  
choices are loving my daughters or  
doing my job.

PATRICE

This is not your job. Swinging  
elections is not your job.

COMEY

But protecting the Bureau *is*.

PATRICE

No. You went there *to put BAD GUYS*  
*away*. The Ramsey Rapists of the  
world. Not to help them become  
President.

COMEY

You have NO idea what I'm dealing  
with.

PATRICE

Then tell me!

COMEY

I can't.

PATRICE

You're gonna convince everyone  
she's Crooked Hillary. Then what?

Just then, Abby appears -- in the doorway of the kitchen.

Patrice could send her back upstairs... Instead, to Comey:

PATRICE (CONT'D)

I'm begging you, just this once -  
*don't* do your duty. Let it go.  
Please?

Another body-blow. Comey's in Hell, with his kid watching.

COMEY

Honey, I can stand having the whole  
world mad at me, I really can. But  
not you.

PATRICE

Then listen to me. Jimmy...

He sags, torn. And walks away. CUT TO:

153 INT. COMEY'S SUV - MOVING - MORNING (2016) 153

Comey sits in back on a RAINY DAY. Gets a TEXT FROM RYBICKI:  
"Letter is ready. Send?"

Comey sighs. Thinks. His face working. Then he types...  
"Send." Stares out the window, as we PULL UP TO:

154 EXT. BALTIMORE U.S. ATTY'S OFC. - DAY (2016) 154

Rosenstein, umbrella in hand, waits to greet us.

Comey emerges from his SUV in full Director-mode. Rosenstein  
shakes his hand warmly.

COMEY

Morning, Rod.

ROSENSTEIN

Can't tell you what an honor this  
is, Jim.

COMEY

Flattered to be asked.

SUPER: "11 Days Before Election Day."

155 INT. BALTIMORE U.S. ATTY'S OFC. - BULLPEN - DAY 155

Rosenstein and Comey face 25 ATTORNEYS from Rosenstein's Baltimore office, Elizabeth Swale and Rhyen among them. Comey may be twisting inside, but he *looks* unshaken, solid...

ROSENSTEIN

By now you all know Jim Comey's resume. Former US Attorney in SDNY, former Deputy Attorney General, currently Director of the FBI. He is a man of utter integrity and patriotism. He's also the reason I'm a US Attorney; Jim *selected* me for this post twelve years ago - which I guess means he owes you all an apology!

(a few strained laughs)

I wanted him to talk to you about an obsession of his: leadership, especially as seen through the lens of the firestorm he experienced this summer during the Bureau's investigation of Secretary Clinton. Please welcome my friend and colleague, Jim Comey...

The ATTORNEYS applaud. Rosenstein shakes Comey's hand and takes a seat. Comey steels himself. Then he begins:

COMEY

Thank you, Rod. I'll try to live up to that.

(eyes the room...)

It's ironic that we're here to talk about leadership today. In an hour or so, you're going to see something on your newsfeeds that might make you question whether or not I am actually capable of it.

The lawyers laugh. We SMASH TO:

156 INSERT - TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE -- 156

*Comey's letter, having been delivered to Congress, is leaked by Congressman Jason Chaffetz via Twitter...*

*...and the world simply ERUPTS: TV. Internet. Print. A BLIZZARD of stories, as we RETURN TO:*

157 INT. BALTIMORE U.S. ATTY'S OFC. - BULLPEN - RESUMING 157

Comey, mid-speech.

COMEY

First, I want to *thank* each of you. You came here to do good - and you've all made sacrifices to keep that promise. You stay up late working on your summation to explain why a drug dealer or child pornographer is guilty. You chase down materials to organize court exhibits that some yoyo from the Bureau has mislabeled.

(they loved that)

You shrug pleasantly when you hear people speak of the "awesome resources of the federal government" as you eye the fancy supplies at a law firm and think about swiping some stuff to take back to your office.

(more laughs)

Despite obstacles, you do the work. You protect people. That's noble.

Rosenstein watches, knowing that he could never do what Comey is doing so easily right now. We SMASH TO:

158 INSERT - SMASH TO: MORE TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE 158

*Lots of misstatements: "New evidence has come to light in the Hillary Clinton email case." The story is EVERYWHERE.*

159 INT. BALTIMORE U.S. ATTY'S OFC. - BULLPEN - RESUMING 159

Comey, continuing:

COMEY

What makes that work possible is a reservoir of trust and credibility, a reservoir built for us, and filled for us, by those who went *before* us in this work - most of whom we never knew. Our obligation is to protect that reservoir, to keep it full, or to make it fuller, for those who will follow us into public service.

Comey has them. Rosenstein can see it...

COMEY (CONT'D)

The problem with reservoirs is that it's hard to *fill* them, but one tiny hole can drain them. That's what happens if our vigilance

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)  
fails, even for a second, if we  
ever put *anything* - politics,  
partisanship - above the primacy of  
truth and justice.

160 INSERT - SMASH TO: MORE TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE 160

More of the blur. DEMOCRATS eviscerating Comey. Then BACK TO:

161 INT. BALTIMORE U.S. ATTY'S OFC. - BULLPEN - RESUMING 161

Comey continues:

COMEY  
I love the Bureau. I love its  
mission--

Hold it. His voice just caught. That surprises everyone in  
here, including *Rosenstein*. Comey swallows it down, and:

COMEY (CONT'D)  
That guides me, every day, in  
everything I do. And if it leads me  
to make mistakes, well, I know  
they'll be honest ones.

Again, he's more choked up than he thought he'd be. We--

162 INSERT - SMASH TO: MORE TELEVISION AND INTERNET COVERAGE 162

A COLUMN asks: "*DID JAMES COMEY JUST HAND THE ELECTION TO  
DONALD TRUMP?*" CUT TO:

163-165 OMIT 163-165

166 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - DAY (2016) 166

We DRIFT THROUGH as the MIDYEAR TEAM sifts through 347,000  
EMAILS. New TABLES have been brought in. CUT TO:

167 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - NIGHT (2016) 167

Comey and Patrice watch TV. On the sofa is a WASHINGTON POST  
EDITORIAL in which Eric Holder has ripped Comey...

168 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - NIGHT (2016) 168

Same team, same emails, days later. Grinding. DISSOLVE TO:

169 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (2016) 169

The whole team is spent, half-alive. Comey enters, wary--

STRZOK

We got through all the emails; the wizards downstairs built a program... And there is nothing here. No new evidence of intent.

COMEY

You're sure? This is not just fatigue talking?

TRISHA ANDERSON

We double and triple-checked each other's work, and every email. Our conclusion is solid... And our feeling is that the Bureau is now obligated to write *another* letter to Congress, advising them.

Comey considers that. Everyone's so exhausted...

SUPER: **"November 6, 2016. Two Days Before Election Day."**

COMEY

I want you all to go home and get some sleep, with my deepest thanks for your work. No one in America appreciates it. But I do.

They nod. Then--

170 INSERT - PING! AN ARTICLE POPS UP ON A COMPUTER SCREEN 170

CNN's Website. "FBI Clears Clinton Again in Email Probe."

But our CURSOR clicks on a different article instead: "*Trump Rallies Overflow Crowds in Florida...*" CLICK. Then we CUT TO:

171 INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT (2016) 171

Comey and Patrice dine with Claire and Abby.

CLAIRE

It's not a huge part.

PATRICE

But it's an *important* part. And you get two songs.

ABBY

I think it's awesome.

COMEY

Me too.

Just then, TWO WOMEN walk past. One growls:

WOMAN IN RESTAURANT  
Go Hillary!

Comey smiles thinly. The kids look away.

172 INT. JUNIOR HIGH GYMNASIUM - MCLEAN - DAY (2016) 172

Comey, Patrice, and Claire enter a gym, now a POLLING PLACE.

SUPER: "November 8, 2016. ELECTION DAY."

People in here NOTICE HIM. He's hard to miss. So there are a lot of looks. He shakes them off, smiles at Claire:

COMEY  
Go ahead. So proud of you...

PATRICE  
You gonna join us, Dad?

COMEY  
Naah.

PATRICE  
You can, you know.

COMEY  
It's not something an FBI Director should do.

CLAIRE  
You're still a citizen.

COMEY  
The point was to see you cast a vote. Go.

Claire heads for the sign-in table. Comey and Patrice watch as she gets her ballot. A surge of pride.

...coupled with all the complications of 2016.

Claire vanishes into a booth.

Some people glare at Comey. Some go out of their way NOT to make eye contact. He offers the same pleasant smile for one and all, but inside he's struggling, mightily.

PATRICE  
You okay?

Comey nods. Patrice goes off to vote, but before she's gone--

COMEY

Treecy?

(she stops, turns...)

I wanted to stop the Bad Guys. Did  
I just help one *win*?

She stands still, trying to integrate what he just asked her and how much it must pain him to do so.

Just then, a well-fed, successful WHITE EXEC drifts by. The guy must be a Republican, because he eyes Comey fondly and:

WHITE EXEC

Brilliantly done, Brother.

White Exec even winks at Comey - then glides past.

And here's Comey, plastering that thin smile on his face...

Patrice doesn't know what to say.

Claire emerges from the voting booth...

Comey sniffs in a tear. We CUT TO:

...footsteps, moving fast. We are:

173-174 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUING

173-174

A group of Agents and Employees watch ELECTION COVERAGE. Lisa Page looks like she's about to cry. Or vomit. Or collapse.

175 INT. COMEY HOME - FOYER/DEN - SAME

175

Claire explodes through the front door, into the DEN, where she sees Patrice and Abby, staring at the tv in utter shock.

175A OMIT

175A

176 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - AFTERNOON (NOW)

176

Rosenstein, re-living a bad day, just shakes his head...

177 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - NIGHT (2016)

177

Comey is at work, at his desk. A MOUNTED TV in the corner carries ELECTION COVERAGE. Muted.

Comey, meanwhile, is reading "The Hill", an Op-Ed written by Michael Flynn in support of Turkey... when--

PRIESTAP (O.S.)

Boss?



Comey looks up. Priestap, Baker, and Rybicki stand in his doorway, stunned. Rybicki nods to that TV, unmutes it - as...

WOLF BLITZER (ON TV)

Donald Trump has just been elected  
the 45th President of the United  
States.

Comey stares. Silence hangs. We CUT TO:

178 OMIT 178

179 EXT. WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL - SAME (NIGHT) 179

Podobnyy and Sporyshev, flasks in hand.

SPORYSHEV (RUSSIAN, SUBTITLED)

*My friend, most wins in our  
business are incremental - small  
victories that one can only hope  
will amount to something one day.*

(smiles)

*Not this one. This was a moonshot.  
And it landed. Well done.*

They raise their flasks solemnly. We CUT TO:

180 INT./EXT. COMEY HOME - BACK PORCH - NIGHT (2016) 180

Comey enters, whipped. Looks for Patrice... and STOPS:

She's in the backyard, crying by an outdoor fire.

That hurts. Comey emerges, pauses on the steps. She doesn't respond. He eyes his shoe-tops.

Guilt on his face? Dread? It's hard to know. But we PUSH IN ON HIM slowly, and this much is certain:

He *knows* that something disturbing has just happened, something intrinsically un-American.

And it's his now. Forever. We...

END NIGHT ONE