

THE COMEY RULE

A two-part mini-series

Night Two
Written by Billy Ray

CBS Studios
CBS All-Access
The Story Factory
Secret Hideout
Producers - Shane Salerno, Alex Kurtzman

Final Post-Production Draft - May, 2020

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

FADE IN... on a *WASHINGTON POST*. Trump has won. We are:

1 INT. COMEY HOME - KITCHEN - DAWN (2016) 1

Three plates of uneaten breakfast. Patrice stunned.

SUPER: "Nov. 9, 2016"

Abby stares lifelessly at her laptop: a PHONY NEWS ARTICLE on a FACEBOOK PAGE -- "*Thousands of MASSACHUSETTS voters cast ballots illegally for Hillary in New Hampshire.*"

Red-eyed from crying, Abby deletes it. Clicks on:

"James Comey Might Be The Most Hated Man In America."

DELETE. She clicks on something else, which simply reads "FUCK JAMES COMEY." Then she shuts her lap-top. We CUT TO:

2 INT. COMEY HOME - GYM - SAME 2

Comey is on a CYCLING MACHINE, sweat-soaked, his face a mask. No tv. We RETURN TO:

3 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - SAME 3

Patrice, Abby, and (now) Claire sit - all in shock.

CLAIRE

He won. The guy from "The Apprentice" is now President.

CNN begins a story about COMEY'S IMPACT ON THE ELECTION. The girls tighten. Patrice changes the channel, as--

4 INT. COMEY HOME - GYM - SAME 4

Comey, cycling, out of breath.

5 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - RESUMING 5

Patrice, Abby, Claire, and (now) KATE COMEY watch the tv, which has now been muted. That same pall hanging...

ABBY

Maybe Ivanka will tell him what to do. Everyone says she cares about the environment.

They eye her: "You really believe that?" Abby sags.

6 INT. COMEY HOME - GYM - RESUMING 6

Comey cycles even harder. Gasping. Punishing himself?

7 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - RESUMING

7

Patrice, Abby, Claire, Kate, and (now) MAURENE COMEY are in their socks, on the couch, consoling each other.

MAURENE

He said "Grab 'em by the pussy."
Didn't everyone hear him say "You
can grab 'em by the pussy"?

Abby starts to cry again. They reach for her, when--

Comey appears, dressed for work, briefcase in hand. He STOPS, takes them all in. They look up. He can see the hurt...

COMEY

We're gonna be okay. America will
figure this out.

ABBY

I can't go to school today, Dad.
They're gonna kill me.

That lands.

8 OMIT

8

9 INT. DOJ - CORRIDOR - MORNING (2016)

9

Sally Yates passes through.

To her right, an ASSISTANT quietly cries at her desk. Behind a glass door, a CAREER-PROSECUTOR is shrieking into his cell-phone, completely unglued. The name COMEY pokes through...

Yates gets to her outer office, where her ASSISTANT is.

YATES

Everyone inside?

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

10

A shouting match between Axelrod and Bob is at full throttle, with Toscas and TWO SENIOR STAFFERS watching:

BOB

All the Formers are up my ass about
this! They think it's OUR fault!

AXELROD

The Formers can think whatever they
want. They aren't HERE!

BOB

But you were. And what you let that fucking guy do is disgusting. Might be the end of the Goddamn republic!

YATES

Good Morning.

(they go silent...)

I saw she was leading in Florida so I curled up with a romance novel and went to bed. How much did she win by?

They appreciate it. But no one can laugh. She knows that.

YATES (CONT'D)

Today is a day to remember that this is a politically-agnostic institution. In that spirit, we're going to welcome every lawyer sent here by the new administration and we're going to do everything in our power to ensure their success in serving and protecting the American people. Right?

(they all nod)

Meanwhile, we have until January 20 to complete the projects that are *essential* to us before our tenures here are finished. What things do we most need to get across the finish line?

11 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - MORNING (2016) 11

Start on an EMAIL on a COMPUTER SCREEN. It reads: "*Fuck Hillary. She got what she deserved.*" Then someone quickly QUILTS the screen, as--

Comey walks by, heading for his office. Across the floor, a WOMAN sniffs back tears. Comey continues on.

12 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME 12

His SENIOR TEAM is here. On the table, we see 20 STACKED COPIES of a GAG CALENDAR featuring a shirtless VLADIMIR PUTIN. Seemed so funny yesterday. Now? Devastation:

PRIESTAP

We should be looking at likely scenarios now. Hate Crimes spiking, White Nationalism.

MCCABE

Maybe he surrounds himself with people who keep him in check. I mean, they won't just let him govern by *tweeting*.

TRISHA ANDERSON

It's just... I keep thinking we were causal in some of this. It was razor-thin in some states...

STRZOK

Ya know what was *causal*? She ran a horrible campaign.

LISA PAGE

What if none of that mattered? What if we didn't matter? *What if Russia just handpicked our next president and we fucking missed it?*

What a grim reality. No one comments. Comey enters, and:

COMEY

Good morning. I'm the guy who got Donald Trump elected!
(they appreciated that)
We're still responsible for monitoring the Russian threat and it just got a whole lot worse. We need to get a better understanding of what that means TODAY. Now what's in the PDB?

13, 14 OMIT 13, 14

15 INT. UNNAMED RESTROOM - SAME (MORNING) 15

Comey, in profile, stares into a mirror - just splashed WATER on his face. He steels himself, then emerges into:

16 INT. WHITE HOUSE - CORRIDORS/VARIOUS - CONTINUING 16

A pall hangs. The corridors feel lifeless. We CUT TO:

17 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - SAME (DAY) - INTERCUT 17

Comey, Clapper, Brennan, and Rogers are here to brief President Obama and DHS SECY JEH JOHNSON.

Obama *looks* calm, but he's seething. A feeling of urgency pulsing. White House photographer PETE SOUZA snaps pictures.

Comey's head is spinning. Horrible day. The tone is sober.

OBAMA

Okay. We've been *attacked*, on my watch. I have to get my arms around that.

(they nod...)

I want a complete I.C. assessment of what just happened. Sources and methods. I have to protect this country for the rest of my term - and prepare the incoming President for the threat he's about to face.

JOHNSON

Mister President, what if he's a *part* of that threat?

OBAMA

Then I *really* need to get my arms around it. What are the questions I need to be asking?

CLAPPER

How deeply did they penetrate our democracy? Who in Russia was directing the effort? Did any Americans conspire to help, and if so, how were they coerced or enticed into doing so?

OBAMA

I want it largely unclassified. And done before I leave office. John, what is your gut on this?

BRENNAN

Mister President, I don't know enough yet to be sure. I'm troubled by President-Elect Trump's consistent unwillingness to criticize Putin, even in private. That indicates to me some kind of relationship, some kind of coercive pressure being applied. I'm trying to limit myself to facts here, but I think it's fair to start asking why Putin would have wanted Donald Trump to be elected. I have to believe it's not just a personal animus toward Secretary Clinton.

OBAMA

Then what does Putin stand to gain by having a friend in this office instead of me?

CLAPPER

Well, Sir, at the very least, an end to the financial sanctions you imposed on them for Crimea.

BRENNAN

A weakening of our most critical Western Alliances...

JOHNSON

Probably looking to collapse NATO.

CLAPPER

An end to the Iran-Nuclear deal.

BRENNAN

Oil-drilling in the Arctic.

CLAPPER

Pathway for Turkish incursion against the Kurds. Trade War with China. Most importantly, discord. The US Government consumed by hyper-partisanship, at war with itself. Republicans and Democrats no longer able to govern together. That was the goal all along.

Christ. It hits Comey hard.

CLAPPER (CONT'D)

Until we know better, we would ask you to give careful thought to what *intel* you're going to share with the incoming administration about anything Russia-related.

OBAMA

All I've told him so far is "Keep your eyes on North Korea, and don't hire Michael Flynn." Obviously, I'll be imposing new sanctions on Putin for this. We have to respond.

(that hovers)

Okay, Fellas. Thank you. Jim, can you stay for a minute?

COMEY

Of course, Mister President.

The others file out - Comey pretty certain he's about to get pummeled. Pete Souza snaps a photo, then:

OBAMA
Thanks, Pete.

Souza leaves. It's just Obama and an anxious Comey now...

OBAMA (CONT'D)
How's your family?

COMEY
Fine, Sir. Thank you. Yours?

OBAMA
Shaken.

Comey tightens. Fuck. Here it comes, an upbraiding...

OBAMA (CONT'D)
I want you to know, I picked you to be FBI Director because of your integrity and your ability. And nothing - *nothing* - has happened in the last year to change my view.

A wave of emotion hits Comey hard. Verging on tears...

COMEY
Mister President, that means a... I have hated the last year. The *last* thing we wanted was to influence an election in any way.

OBAMA
I know that.

COMEY
I'm trying not to pre-judge. I'm trying to be hopeful about the next four years.

OBAMA
That's good, because for the next four years the Bureau is likely to matter, a *lot*. You'll have to keep it pointed in the right direction. I'm confident you can do that.

18-22 OMIT

18-22

23 INT. COMEY'S SUV - MOVING - DAY (2016)

23

Shaun's up front. Comey's in back. His CELL pings. He grabs it. A TEXT from McCabe:

Trump just named Michael Flynn to be his National Security Adviser. Hmmm... On Comey's reaction, we CUT TO:

24 EXT. BEACH HOTEL - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - DAY (2016) 24

General Flynn, troubled, hovers in an ALCOVE by a pool. He hits REDIAL on his cell, talking HANDS FREE, to:

KISLYAK (THRU CELL)
Did you see this?

That's the voice of RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR SERGEI KISLYAK.

FLYNN (INTO CELL)
Yes. I saw it. I'm as upset by it as you are.

KISLYAK (THRU CELL)
I doubt that. Sanctions strangle my country, not yours.

FLYNN (INTO CELL)
I understand, Mister Ambassador--

KISLYAK (THRU CELL)
Expelling 35 diplomats, closing two of our properties, financial hardship. President Putin views these as unwarranted attacks on his people. And a personal insult.

FLYNN (INTO CELL)
I understand that, but please tell him not to react. The President-Elect and I do not support the Obama sanctions, so there's no need to engage in any kind of reciprocal tit-for-tat response.

The email fades off our screen, like a ghost...

KISLYAK (THRU CELL)
Provocation requires a *response*, General.

FLYNN (INTO CELL)
Please. Just let us get in there and fix this.

25 INSERT - NY TIMES WEBSITE - 25

The HEADLINE: "Putin Announces He Will Not Retaliate For Sanctions." Which is immediately followed by:

26 INSERT - TWITTER FEED 26

From @RealDonaldTrump: "Great move on delay by V. Putin. I always knew he was very smart!" Then we CUT TO:

27 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY (2017) 27

Comey, Clapper, Brennan, and Rogers (in full NAVY GEAR) sit opposite Obama, Jeh Johnson, and McDonough. Before each man is the ICA (Intel Community Assessment).

SUPER: "January 5, 2017"

CLAPPER

...in Tab Five you'll find our conclusion, which is this: the Russian effort succeeded. They achieved their aim, the election of Donald Trump, at minimal cost, without damage to their own interests. And they have at present no real incentive to stop.

MCDONOUGH

Meaning we can expect more of this kind of espionage.

COMEY

This was not espionage. Espionage connotes, at least to us, a passive collection of intel. This was an attack.

CLAPPER

And it will be replicated unless aggressive measures are undertaken by this government to stop it.

OBAMA

Did they hack only Democrats?

COMEY

No, Sir, they hacked both parties successfully. But they only *weaponized* the info from the DNC.

OBAMA

What else?

CLAPPER

Sir, there is *additional* material in the report. A dossier. The IC didn't commission this material and we have not integrated it into our
(MORE)

CLAPPER (CONT'D)

analysis. But it comes from a credible source. We thought it important to brief you on it.

(Obama waits...)

The dossier alleges a long history of financial ties between Donald Trump and Russia. Loans from Putin-run Russian banks and members of the Russian oligarchy. Of particular concern is a long-proposed Trump Tower in Moscow. We now know that on October 13 of 2015, Mister Trump signed a letter of intent with a Russian billionaire and close Putin ally named Andrei Rosov to build the tower, the money guaranteed by VTB.

MCDONOUGH

He said a *hundred* times on the campaign trail that he had no deals with Russia.

CLAPPER

He said a lot of things.

(McDonough nods)

There may be *other* points of coercion as well. The dossier also alleges that while in Moscow in 2013 Trump engaged in unusual sexual activities with prostitutes - and that the Russians taped the incident to use as leverage over him.

OBAMA

Your confidence in this intel?

CLAPPER

Nothing in the dossier has been disproven to date.

OBAMA

Okay. So what's the plan?

COMEY

We feel a duty to warn the President-Elect on all of this. Even if the allegations are false, they could be used as leverage over him by Putin or his cohorts. And of course, any public disclosure of them could be highly impactful to

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)
his Presidency. Briefing him
tomorrow in New York.

CLAPPER
Jim will take Mister Trump through
the more salacious material
privately, to spare the President-
Elect any undue embarrassment.

Obama throws him a "Good luck with that" eyebrow.

COMEY
We drew straws. I lost.

Everyone laughs. Even Comey. But it all feels so creepy...

28

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

28

Comey is just about to exit when Jeh Johnson catches him.

JOHNSON
Before you go?... When you sit down
with Trump tomorrow - it's vital
that you be very careful how you
present this information to him. I
mean very careful. Ever met him?

COMEY
No. What's your read on him?

JOHNSON
Thing about Trump is, he can take a
beating but he can't actually take
a *punch* - meaning if half the
country hates him he really doesn't
give a damn, but if one person
insults him he never gets past it.
You walk in there and tell him
what's in this dossier, he might
think you're trying to *leverage* him
in some way.

COMEY
He has to be briefed on it, Jeh.

JOHNSON
Just, *carefully*. He's got three
impulses that drive his decision-
making: spite, spite, and spite.
You have to be encouraging, like
giving a kid a lollipop before a
flu shot.

Comey pauses. We're talking about the incoming President.

29 EXT. MANHATTAN - 5TH AVENUE - MORNING (2017) 29

An 8-SUV caravan rolls down 5th Avenue, led by police.

SUPER: "**January 6, 2017. 14 Days Before Inauguration.**"

30 OMITTED 30

31 INT. TRUMP TOWER - ELEVATOR - MINUTES LATER 31

SILENCE. Lots of TRUMP signage. Comey, Clapper, Brennan, and Rogers ascend. Some dread hanging...

CLAPPER

Remember, we are here simply to lay out the facts.

Tight nods all around. We CUT TO:

32 INT. TRUMP TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - MINUTES LATER 32

At a table we find Michael Flynn, REINCE PRIEBUS - facing Comey, Clapper, Brennan, Rogers.

Chairs in back for MIKE POMPEO, TOM BOSSERT, K.T. McFARLAND. The lighting in here feels dark, shadowy. A door opens...

And DONALD TRUMP enters. Comey rises. They all do.

TRUMP

Good morning.

Seems pleasant enough. Clapper is the first to greet him:

CLAPPER

Mr. President-Elect. Jim Clapper.

TRUMP

I know who you are. Saw your testimony yesterday. You look good on tv.

CLAPPER

No, Sir. I have a face made for radio. Please meet Jim Comey, John Brennan, and Mike Rogers.

COMEY

Mister President-Elect.

Comey and Trump shake hands. We CUT TO:

33 INT. TRUMP TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - ONE HOUR LATER (2017) 33

Deep into the briefing now.

CLAPPER

The Russians' initial objectives were to make Americans doubt the validity of our electoral process, and to weaken what they saw as the likely Presidency of Secretary Clinton. In July, once you'd become the nominee, the Russians' objective changed. At that point, their focus became helping you become President.

NOT a small assertion. Comey awaits a collective gasp. Yet *no one in the room seems even mildly surprised*.

BRENNAN

A part of the effort was a social media campaign using fake Facebook accounts, fake YouTube videos, false identities on Twitter and Instagram, all of it tightly coordinated to duplicate propaganda coming from Russia Today and Sputnik Radio.

Again, no one reacts. No one is surprised...

COMEY

There was also an attempt by the Russians to attack the voting process itself. Voter rolls in twenty-one states were targeted.

PRIEBUS

Do we have any evidence that those efforts met with any success?

COMEY

No, Sir. We don't.

PRIEBUS

So there was no actual *impact* from the meddling--

CLAPPER

I think we should be careful with that word. "Meddling" is what my mother-in-law does.

(at Trump)

We can also say with a high degree

(MORE)

CLAPPER (CONT'D)

of confidence that this was not a fishing expedition conducted by low or mid-level GRU officers. This was a Putin-directed effort. That's been substantiated by human intelligence, signal intelligence, and cyber forensics.

TRUMP

How dumb were the Democrats not to protect their cyber? The RNC was a lot smarter about that, a lot tougher. And you said there was no impact on the result, right?

CLAPPER

Sir, we were not given the charter, the authority, or the resources to make a call on how much the Russians *affected* the electoral process. We were simply tasked with assessing their methods and objectives - namely your election - a result which is now viewed in Moscow as a success.

PRIEBUS

We should get in front of this. There's information in the unclassified version that should come from us as opposed to unfriendly news outlets.

(Asst. nods)

Let's start drafting a statement for the press. "The Chiefs of the Intel Community have found NO evidence that Russian meddling affected the election results." Should this be a release or a press conference?

Asst. actually starts drafting a statement on a TABLET. Right here. McFarland joins in. Wildly inappropriate.

CLAPPER

Mister President-Elect, there is also some additional material in this assessment - *sensitive* material - that we thought Director Comey should review with you more privately.

TRUMP

How private?

COMEY

I thought the two of us would be best.

PRIEBUS

Can I join?

COMEY

(to Trump)

Entirely up to you, of course. I just didn't think it would be fitting in front of a larger group.

Trump's instincts kick in, and he decides:

TRUMP

Just the two of us. Thanks, everybody.

With that, everyone stands... and files out. We STAY ON COMEY AND TRUMP as the room thins...

...until it's just the two of them. Then:

TRUMP (CONT'D)

You've had one hell of a year.

COMEY

I suppose I have, Sir.

TRUMP

I thought you handled the email thing honorably. First you saved her but you were tough on her, and they hated you for that, but what choice did you have? And I've asked - you've got a great reputation at the Bureau. People there really like you. I hope you'll stay on.

COMEY

I intend to, Sir.

34

INT. TRUMP TOWER - ELEVATOR - SAME

34

Clapper, Brennan, Rogers. Glad as hell that's over. But:

BRENNAN

Did you happen to notice what they *didn't* ask? "How can we stop the Russians from doing this again?"

CLAPPER

Maybe they know.

35 INT. TRUMP TOWER - CONFERENCE ROOM - RESUMING

35

Comey shifts in his seat, then:

COMEY

Mister President-Elect, as Director Clapper mentioned, there is additional sensitive material in the assessment.

(no reaction)

A few caveats: this material was collected by a private intelligence firm on behalf of private clients. We have not independently corroborated it. But its source is a person known to the Bureau as a reliable former employee of a friendly intelligence service who collects information from a layered network of sub-sources.

TRUMP

Okay.

COMEY

At the request of his clients, he compiled a dossier of seventeen separate reports on you and your past dealings with Russia. One of those reports asserts that in 2013 you spent a night with Russian prostitutes in a Moscow hotel room, which was secretly videota--

TRUMP

--There were no prostitutes; there were never prostitutes. You'd have to be an idiot to believe something like that.

COMEY

I am not saying that the FBI *believes* these accusations. We simply have a duty to make you aware of them.

TRUMP

Do I look like I need to go there? Like I need to go to prostitutes?

COMEY

Again, Sir, the Bureau has not passed judgment on the *truth* of the allegations. Our endeavor is to

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)

protect you. The dossier is out there and will become public. At least two Members of Congress have it, as do the Press. CNN has it.

TRUMP

CNN. Of course.

COMEY

The dossier further states that you had the prostitutes urinate on a bed that had been slept in by President Obama and the First Lady.

TRUMP

This is what happens when you're rich and famous; it just happens more to *me* because no one's ever succeeded like I have. Women come forward, say I harassed them, and it's never true. Lady sues me, says I touched her at Mar-a-Lago with her boyfriend in the room! But guess what? Whole thing was the boyfriend was unhappy with a business deal he and I were in. I give him what he wants and poof! She drops her suit. Summer Zervos says I harassed her on "The Apprentice." Kissing her open-mouthed and touching her, and she's SO upset and hurt by it. So why's she inviting me to DINNER during the campaign? 'Nother woman says I harassed her on a plane from London - except people on the flight say it never happened. All these lies, it's disgraceful, and they NEVER prove anything! My ex-wife once said I raped her to get a better settlement out of me. Then she retracted it. Can you imagine that? Accusing the father of her children like that? Sad. So now some guy steps forward - probably paid by Hillary - people laughed when I first called her Crooked Hillary but it stuck because everybody knew it was true, a lot of people had always thought it they'd just never said it until Trump did - and says the Russians, it's always the Russians lately, they're the new bogeyman - the Russians say I

(MORE)

TRUMP (CONT'D)

needed hookers? And the FBI takes it seriously! I know some people in the Bureau have it in for me. I could see that, the way they gave Hillary a free pass. But *I'm the President now.*

COMEY

The FBI is not investigating you, Sir. We're always trying to assess what the Russians are doing, and what they *might* do.

Wait. Comey's not sure he should have said that...

TRUMP

If I were Russia, I'd be worried about what *Trump* might do. Okay?

A death-stare. Comey has met the monster now. We CUT TO:

36

INT. TRUMP TOWER - ELEVATOR - MINUTES LATER

36

Comey descends, shaken, beside Shaun. He starts to dial a number, but he's so unsettled he literally has to stop and draw a breath first. So:

SHAUN

You wanna cancel the visit, Boss?

COMEY

Huh?

SHAUN

NYO. You wanna cancel?

COMEY

No, Shaun. Thanks. That's fine... How'd the recital go?

SHAUN

Sir?

COMEY

Your daughter had a recital last night, didn't she? How'd it go?

SHAUN

(mild awe)

Fine, Sir. Thank you.

37

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

37

Rosenstein just shakes his head in disgust.

38 INT. COMEY'S SUV - MOVING - DAY (2017) 38

Manhattan blows by on all sides of us. Comey frantically types notes into his I-Phone about the Trump meeting.

Then, a PRESS RELEASE pops up -- issued by the TRUMP TRANSITION TEAM:

"...there was absolutely no effect on the outcome of the election including the fact that there was no tampering whatsoever with voting machines. There were attempts to hack the Republican National Committee, but the RNC had strong hacking defenses and the hackers were unsuccessful."

Comey eyes it, ingests it... We CUT TO:

39-41 OMITTED 39-41

42 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR - EXEC SUITE - EVENING (2017) 42

McCabe moves through the suite, with some news to deliver. Althea's desk is EMPTY. McCabe leans into:

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

Althea facing Comey's desk. SUPER: "**January 10, 2017.**"

ALTHEA

Director Comey, the President-Elect
is on Line One.

Great. Comey is about to reply, as McCabe enters.

MCCABE

Boss, Buzzfeed just released the
Steele Dossier.

Also great. But now Comey knows what the call is about. He indicates to McCabe "Stay."

COMEY

Thank you, Althea.

Comey picks up:

COMEY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Evening, Sir. How are you?

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)

I'm very concerned about the
leaking of this phony Russian
dossier. I think it's a disgrace
that it could happen, and I want to
know how it did.

Comey rises, phone in hand, turns to his window, where a family of PIGEONS has made a home on the ledge - as:

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Well, Sir, it's not entirely accurate to call it a leak. This wasn't a government document and it wasn't classified. It had been compiled by private parties and was widely distributed before the FBI ever learned of its existence. So we really can't call it a leak.

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)

Whatever we call it, I think it's a disgrace. It shows a great lack of respect for the Presidency and I think it's a terrible thing. I've been thinking about that phony tape, which can't exist because it never happened. Anyway, I don't like the leaking and the talking out of school. Maybe that's how Obama did things, but when I take office we're gonna run a tighter ship. No leaks.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

That would be ideal, Sir.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

I saw you on tv today, on the Hill - thought your answers were very sharp; and that's not easy, not easy. People try to trip you up. I hope you're going to stay on.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

That is very much my intention.

TRUMP

Good. Well, g'night, Jim.

44,45 OMITTED

44,45

46 INT. UNNAMED BOX-LIKE SPACE - DAY (2017)

46

Trump's first presser since the election. Small, informal:

QUESTION #1

On that intelligence report, the second part of their conclusion was
(MORE)

QUESTION #1 (CONT'D)

that Vladimir Putin ordered it
because he--

TRUMP

Look, if - if Putin likes Donald Trump, I consider that an asset, not a liability, because we have a horrible relationship with Russia. Russia can help us fight ISIS, which, by the way, is, number one, tricky. I mean if you look, this administration created ISIS by leaving at the wrong time. The void was created, ISIS was formed. If Putin likes Donald Trump, guess what, folks? That's called an asset, not a liability. Now, I don't know that I'm gonna get along with Vladimir Putin. I hope I do. But there's a good chance I won't. And if I don't, do you honestly believe that Hillary would be tougher on Putin than me? Give me a break. Russia will have far greater respect for our country when I'm leading it and I believe and I hope - maybe it won't happen, it's possible. But I won't be given a little reset button like Hillary. *Here, press this piece of plastic.* A guy looked at her like what is she doing? There's no reset button.

47 INT. UNNAMED MED. BLDG. - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT (2017) 47

Comey and Patrice again await the results of his colonoscopy. Patrice fighting anxiety. She glances at:

A NATIONAL ENQUIRER lying around. Its cover? "HILLARY AND HUMA GOING TO JAIL! TRUTH ABOUT THEIR GAY AFFAIR!"

PATRICE

We really should go to Paris.

COMEY

Amen.

PATRICE

I mean now.

Comey considers that...

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Hey, do you care if the girls and I go to the Women's March the day after the Inauguration?

COMEY

(kind of)

Nope. Just don't get arrested.

She smiles. Comey's cell rings. He eyes it.

COMEY (INTO CELL) (CONT'D)

Hey, Andy.

MCCABE (THRU CELL)

Boss, Michael Flynn had five phone conversations with Russian Ambassador Kislyak on December 29.

Whoa. Very bad. Comey absorbs it. Patrice notices. He rises.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Say more.

MCCABE (THRU PHONE)

The conversations took place the day after POTUS announced the additional sanctions on Russia. We were on Kislyak for all of them. And, Boss, they discussed those sanctions. Flynn promised to remove them upon taking office.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Anyone else know?

MCCABE (THRU PHONE)

No, we have it in a box at the moment.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Keep it there. Thanks, Andy.

End of call. Comey exhales, thinking. We CUT TO:

48

INSERT - TELEVISION COVERAGE --

48

On CBS' "Face The Nation," we see VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:

PENCE (ON TV)

I talked to General Flynn about that conversation and actually it was initiated on Christmas Day. He had sent a text to the Russian

(MORE)

PENCE (ON TV) (CONT'D)
 ambassador to express not only
 Christmas wishes but sympathy for
 the loss of life in the airplane
 crash that took place. It was
 strictly coincidental that they had
 a conversation. They did not
 discuss anything having to do with
 the United States' decision to
 expel diplomats or impose censure
 against Russia.

BLACK. And a SUPER: "**January 20, 2017. Inauguration Day**".

49 EXT. DC - NATIONAL MALL - NOON - (2017) 49

We're OVERHEAD, looking down on a sparse crowd.

50 INT. US CAPITOL - CORRIDOR - SAME 50

Trump prepares to step outside and be sworn in. A MAKE-UP ARTIST tries to touch him up. He shoos her away.

51 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - SAME 51

Patrice blows in, on her phone, gathering her things...

PATRICE (INTO PHONE)

This one's complicated. Four
 siblings, each living in separate
 homes. So it's weekly home visits
 for each kid, weekly meetings with
 each set of fosters, court reports,
 Family Partnership meetings, school
 visits, co-ordinating with their
 Social Workers. It's all tracking,
 but yes another set of eyes to help
 me on this one would be great.

(a beat)

No, why would I be watching the
 Inauguration? I didn't even know it
 was on. Courthouse at two?

We find the TV behind her, beaming the INAUGURATION.

CLICK. Off it goes.

52 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (YATES) - SAME 52

Yates is in her office. A MUTED TV behind her shows us the Inauguration, in progress...as Comey enters.

COMEY

Morning, Sally. How are you?

YATES

Another day! What's up?

There's tension here, but respect too. Comey sits.

COMEY

We intercepted five phone calls on December 29 between Sergei Kislyak and Michael Flynn in which sanction-relief was discussed.

That lands with a THUD. Yates needs a second to regroup...

YATES

The VP was just on television proclaiming that not to be true.

COMEY

It's true.

YATES

The new administration needs to be alerted about this immediately.

COMEY

I don't think we can do that at this moment.

YATES

Why not?

COMEY

Flynn is the subject of an open investigation by the Bureau. We need to interview him first.

YATES

The Russians have *kompromat* on the incoming NSA. That constitutes a real threat to National Security.

COMEY

We need to know what he knows, Sally.

YATES

But we also need to alert the--

She STOPS, mid-word, her attention stolen by the TV...

...where *Donald J. Trump is now being sworn in*. His hand on Bible. His wife at his side.

Comey and Yates just stare. And *it just slips out*:

COMEY

He reminds me of Sammy the Bull.

Comey could retract that. He doesn't. Will he be upbraided?

YATES

I see that.

Hardly an upbraiding. They share a smile.

COMEY

The boss gets absolute power and absolute loyalty and no one *outside* the inner circle counts.

YATES

"My soul should burn if I ever betray Cosa Nostra."

Comey nods. They study Trump on the tv again...

YATES (CONT'D)

Let me think on this.

53-62 OMIT

53-62

63 EXT. DC - NATIONAL MALL - NOON (2017)

63

A CAROUSEL in BG: pretty music and wooden horses. Then a MOTHER (40) and DAUGHTER (16) walk through our frame:

ANGRY DAUGHTER

We were SO CLOSE! A woman President! SO CLOSE!

ANGRY MOM

I know, Baby. I know. Fucking James Comey...

That's when we realize that Patrice, Abby, Claire, Kate, and Maurene are walking right behind these two - and they heard that. The Comey girls are bundled up, holding banners.

Claire's about to fire back, but Patrice holds up a hand, gently. We PAN LEFT to find that the MALL IS PACKED TODAY.

It's the WOMEN'S MARCH. A million protesters. The Comeys fall in, passing a guy selling PUSSY HATS. We CUT TO:

64 INT. WHITE HOUSE - BLUE ROOM - 4 PM (2017)

64

A reception for LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HEADS: from the Capitol Police, Washington Metro Police, Park Police, etc.

Finger-foods and chatter. Comey is in a far corner of the room, hearing conversations without participating in any.

Doors open across the room. And in comes PRESIDENT TRUMP.

He's accompanied by a crush of REPORTERS and CAMERA CREWS. Bright lights blazing. This will be televised.

Comey looks around; BLUE CURTAINS hang behind him. Luckily, he's in a BLUE SUIT. He starts backing toward the curtains, trying to disappear, wishing he were 5'3", as--

TRUMP

Thank you all for coming. We're gonna have a great eight years together! This is a good room for me because law enforcement people all love Trump! Military people too - probably everybody in this room voted for me. I won't ask you to raise your hands if you did, but I guarantee a big portion did because guess what? We're all on the same wavelength, folks. So I wanna thank you for the fantastic job you did to keep our Inaugural events safe. I know it wasn't easy with all those people - biggest inaugural ever, and you know better than anyone how that's been distorted by the dishonest media and the fake news - but you did your jobs. We're all gonna bring law and order back to this country because that's what people want; no more criminals running the streets, and -- James!

Comey's eyes go wide. He's been spotted. Now he freezes.

TRUMP (CONT'D)

Jim Comey! FBI Director! Let's take some pictures and say hello to each other, okay? Where's a good spot? Right here?

Oh fuck. Comey starts a Green Mile walk across the Blue Room. Every CAMERA in the place now focused on him. CLICK-CLICK.

TRUMP (CONT'D)

He's more famous than me!

Everyone laughs. Nightmare. Comey looks impossibly tight.

65 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - SAME - INTERCUT 65

Patrice and Abby are watching this LIVE, with POPCORN.

PATRICE

That's your father's "oh, shit"
face.

66 INT. WHITE HOUSE - BLUE ROOM - RESUMING 66

Comey's death walk continues. Cameras rolling. Trump and the
GLARE of all those lights waiting.

Comey reaches Trump, and sticks out his hand as if to say
"There is no way in Hell I'm going to hug you on television."

But Trump grabs Comey's hand and pulls him in.

Comey exerts all the core-strength in his body to resist...
resulting in an impossibly-awkward moment in which Trump is
leaning in and his face nears Comey's...

...as if they were about to *kiss*. Good Christ.

67 INT. COMEY HOME - DEN - RESUMING 67

Patrice cringes. Abby too.

68 INT. WHITE HOUSE - BLUE ROOM - RESUMING 68

Trump whispers:

TRUMP

I'm really looking forward to
working with you.

(Comey cringes)

Let's take a picture.

Comey puts up an "I'm not worthy" hand and backs away. So:

TRUMP (CONT'D)

Joe? Joe Clancy of the Secret
Service? Get up here!

69 INSERT - TELEVISION COVERAGE -- 69

A SEAN SPICER PRESS CONFERENCE:

SPICER (ON TV)

I discussed this with General Flynn
just last night. There was just ONE
phone call between him and
Ambassador Kislyak prior to our
taking office, and it covered four

(MORE)

SPICER (ON TV) (CONT'D)
subjects: a plane crash that
claimed the lives of a Russian
military choir; Christmas
greetings; Russian-led talks over
the Syrian civil war; and the
logistics of setting up a call
between Putin and Trump. That was
the extent of the conversation.

70, 71 OMIT

70, 71

72 INT. WHITE HOUSE - UNNAMED ROOM - DAY

72

Strzok and an UNNAMED FEMALE AGENT sit, waiting. Flynn, now
the NAT'L SECURITY ADVISER, enters.

FLYNN
Morning!

STRZOK
Thanks for your time, General.

FLYNN
Not at all. I was just in the Oval.
Have you seen it since we got in?

STRZOK
Haven't, no.

FLYNN
Oh you should. Looks really
different now. The President has
quite a knack for interior design.

73 INT. DOJ - RECEPTION/CORRIDOR - SAME

73

Yates heads out for a meeting - then slows because Comey is
approaching. They meet beside a lovely mural. No one around.

YATES
Hi, Jim.

COMEY
I wanted you to hear it from me
personally - we just sent two
agents over to the White House to
interview Mike Flynn.

Bang. And Yates is livid--

YATES
You what?

COMEY

They're in with him now.

YATES

WITHOUT notifying me first?! How could you do that?

They head into:

73A INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (YATES) - CONTINUING

73A

Yates shutting the door, as:

COMEY

Sally, I don't know where this is headed, but it could be a place where Flynn or others at the White House are in big trouble.

YATES

Exactly why chain of command is so important here.

Neither sits. They're standing--

COMEY

If you signed off on the interview it could be framed as a final partisan attack by an Obama appointee on the new president. If I do it it's not.

YATES

I want you to stop doing this. I want you to stop deciding what I do and don't need to know! You don't get to make those calls for the rest of us!

COMEY

I'm trying to get to the truth with as little political interference as possible.

YATES

You worry about the truth part. I'll handle the rest, okay?

They study one another...

YATES (CONT'D)

I want to be briefed as soon as they return.

COMEY

Of course. Thanks, Sally.

He turns to go. This is said to his back:

YATES

And by the way, you're an Obama appointee too.

COMEY

I'm a lot of things now.

74

INT. WHITE HOUSE - UNNAMED ROOM - RESUMING

74

Flynn looks casual, untroubled (coffee and donuts!) Unnamed Agent takes notes as Flynn talks:

FLYNN

What happened was, on Christmas Day a Russian plane went down, killing all the members of a choir I'd seen perform when I was in Moscow, so I wanted to pass along my condolences to Ambassador Kislyak.

STRZOK

Did you discuss any matters of substance with the Ambassador?

FLYNN

Not many. I was in the Dominican Republic at the time, and the cell reception wasn't great.

STRZOK

Did you ask him at all about the upcoming UN vote on the Israeli settlements?

FLYNN

I might've asked in a very general way, "What's your position on this?" That kind of thing. I'm sure you guys know all this; you were probably listening in!

STRZOK

Did you ask him to have Russia abstain from the UN vote?

Quickly, we SLAM TO THE VERY CONVERSATION IN QUESTION:

75 EXT. BEACH HOTEL - DOMIN. REPUB. - (FLASHBACK - 2016) 75

Flynn, standing in the shadowy *ALCOVE*, *talking to Kislyak*:

FLYNN (INTO CELL)

While I have you: the upcoming UN vote on the Israeli settlements. Any chance I could talk you into abstaining? Or maybe delaying the vote by a few days?

76 INT. WHITE HOUSE - UNNAMED ROOM - RESUMING (2017) 76

Flynn looks Strzok right in the eye, and:

FLYNN

No I did not.

STRZOK

Did you ask for his help in delaying the vote?

FLYNN

No.

STRZOK

Did you discuss with him any of the new sanctions that the Obama Administration had levied upon Russia as punishment for Russia's interference in our election?

FLYNN

No. I didn't even know about them at that time. I didn't have access to television news in the Dominican, and my government-issued BlackBerry wasn't working.

STRZOK

Did Ambassador Kislyak register any complaints with you about the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats from the US?

FLYNN

No.

STRZOK

Did he complain about the closing of two Russian properties on US soil?

FLYNN

No he didn't.

STRZOK

Were you concerned at all that the Russian Government might *retaliate* for the sanctions, and perhaps escalate tensions between the two countries?

FLYNN

In a general way, sure. But as I said I was just learning about all this in real time.

STRZOK

And did you ask of Ambassador Kislyak that the Russian government not retaliate in any way to these measures?

FLYNN

No.

STRZOK

Did you say anything along the lines of "Let us get in there and fix this"? "Please don't play tit-for-tat"?

FLYNN

Not really. I don't remember. If the subject came up at all, it certainly wasn't "Hey, don't do anything."

STRZOK

I see.

77

INT. FBI DC - ELEVATOR BANK/BULLPEN - DAY (2017)

77

Comey emerges from an elevator. McCabe is waiting for him.

MCCABE

Boss, the interview team is back from the White House. And General Flynn denied the whole thing.

INSTANT response - Comey starts walking for his office, grabs his CELL, dials, as we TRACK WITH THEM:

MCCABE (CONT'D)

Nearly all his answers were in direct conflict with the truth.

COMEY

Did they tell him we have it all on tape?

MCCABE

The questions made that clear. They used *whole sentences* from the conversations. Unless he's recently had a stroke, he'd have to know the agents were working off a transcript.

COMEY

Why would he do that? He's got to know he just lit himself on fire. Who else was in the room?

MCCABE

Just our two guys and him. He'd opted against having White House Counsel there.

COMEY

How fast can I get a draft 302?

MCCABE

Within the hour. I--

COMEY (INTO CELL)

Hi Sally.

Expecting an explosion, we CUT TO:

78

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DON MCGAHN'S OFFICE - DAY (2017)

78

Yates sits opposite White House Counsel DON MCGAHN. To Yates' right is MARY MCCORD of the DOJ.

SUPER: "January 26, 2017 - Day 7 of the Trump Presidency."

YATES

Thank you for your time, Don. I asked Mary to join us because she's career DOJ, and I felt it would be prudent to establish some institutional memory here.

Yates pulls out a NOTEBOOK to refer to some notes, as:

YATES (CONT'D)

How's everyone settling in?

MCGAHN

We're re-making the place! Even the Oval; have you seen it? You should. The President's really got an eye for interior design.

(Yates smiles thinly)

What can I do for you?

YATES

In the last few days, several members of this administration - including the Vice President - have made public comments concerning General Flynn and his calls with the Russian Ambassador that we now know to be materially untrue. We believe that this is a result of General Flynn's having misled the White House about the nature and content of those calls.

MCGAHN

I see. Are you permitted to tell me how you know what you know?

NOT the response Yates was looking for, but she stays steady:

YATES

We electronically surveil Ambassador Kislyak as a matter of routine. So we were on all the calls between him and General Flynn. They discussed sanctions, diplomatic expulsions, the UN Vote on Israeli settlements. If General Flynn has told the Vice-President or anyone else in the Administration that those calls did not touch upon those topics then he has told an untruth. And the Vice-President has a right to know that he has been propagating that untruth in the public square.

MCGAHN

What're you planning to do with this? Are you going to notify Congress?

REALLY not the response Yates was looking for...

YATES

It's not our intention to embarrass the White House. It's our intention
(MORE)

YATES (CONT'D)

to protect the American people. So this is close-hold. But we believe General Flynn is now *compromised* with respect to the Russians.

MCGAHN

You'll have to explain that to me.

YATES

He has lied. And the Russians know that he has lied. They undoubtedly have their own recordings of the conversations. That gives them leverage over him. The term of art is *kompromat* - meaning, they could now blackmail him. And every time another member of this administration goes on television to say that Flynn and the Ambassador did not discuss the sanctions, the level of *kompromat* increases. General Flynn was interviewed this week by two FBI Agents, here at the White House. Were you aware of that?

MCGAHN

No. How did he do?

YATES

I'm sorry. I'm not at liberty to tell you. But an investigation is ongoing.

MCGAHN

Do you think we should fire him?

YATES

That's really not our call. Obviously, you don't want the highest-ranking National Security officer in the US Government to be blackmailable by a foreign adversary. Especially Russia.

McGahn considers that... Then:

MCGAHN

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. We appreciate it.

Meaning, MEETING OVER. Yates is dismayed. We MATCH TO:

79 INT. WHITE HOUSE - DON MCGAHN'S OFFICE - DAY (2017) 79

The NEXT DAY. Those same two chairs are now EMPTY until--
Yates and Mary McCord sit into them again, having returned.

MCGAHN

Thanks for coming back on such short notice.

YATES

Of course.

MCGAHN

I reported back to the President after our meeting yesterday, and there was one thing we were unclear on: why does it matter if one administration official lies to another administration official?

Yates is too stunned to reply.

81, 82 OMIT 81, 82

83 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY (2017) 83

Comey stands at the end of the long table, looking over CONSTRUCTION PLANS for an "FBI OUTDOOR GYM."

He's pleased. Signs off on it. Then Althea leans in:

ALTHEA

Director Comey, the President is calling for you.

Comey pauses, doesn't turn.

COMEY

Thank you, Althea.

Althea backs out. Comey crosses the room, taps a button on the SPEAKERPHONE mid-table, and:

COMEY (CONT'D)

This is Jim Comey.

WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY (THRU PHONE)

Please hold for the President.

Comey holds. Bracing without meaning to. Then:

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)
Hi, Jim. Would you like to come
over for dinner tonight?

Dinner? With Trump? Sounds awful. And inappropriate.
Meanwhile, Trump's VOICE is now filling this huge room.

COMEY
Of course, Sir.

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)
Six-thirty. Looking forward to it.

CLICK. End of call. Comey stands, uneasy. Dials a number.

84 INT. PATRICE'S OFC. - SAME (2017) - INTERCUT

84

Patrice answers.

PATRICE (INTO PHONE)
Hi.

COMEY
Hi. I can't meet you for dinner
tonight. Sorry.

PATRICE (INTO PHONE)
Better offer?

COMEY
No. But definitely a bigger name.
The President.

PATRICE (INTO PHONE)
Oh. Just the two of you?

COMEY
I hope not.

85 INT. WHITE HOUSE - STAIRCASE/CORRIDOR - EVENING (2017)

85

*We're in SLOW-MOTION as a female WHITE HOUSE AIDE leads us up
a beautiful staircase. All around us, American grandeur.*

*At the top of the stairs, the Aide guides us down a hall.
Still in SLOW-MOTION. Two NAVY STEWARDS greet us at a door.
The female Aide exits--*

REVERSE TO Comey, who notices something:

He's looking at a Dining Table, set for two. END SLO-MO:

COMEY
Just the two of us?

NAVY STEWARD #1

Yes, Sir.

86 INT. WHITE HOUSE - GREEN ROOM - CONTINUING

86

Ugh. Comey drifts toward the table, where a card before a place-setting reads "Director Comey." Then--

TRUMP (O.S.)

I like that.

Comey turns. Trump is in the doorway: blue suit, too-long red tie. He blows past the stewards.

TRUMP (CONT'D)

People who are on time. I think a leader should always be on time.

COMEY

Good to see you, Mister President.

TRUMP

(heads for the table)

I hear things are going very well at the Bureau. You're going to love Jeff Sessions. He's very smart. First Senator to endorse me. Sit.

COMEY

I look forward to working with him.

TRUMP

He doesn't know I called you. I wanted this to be private, just between us. Reince Priebus doesn't even know you're here.

At the table, Trump holds up a fancy MENU CARD--

TRUMP (CONT'D)

They write these things one at a time, by hand.

COMEY

Calligraphy.

TRUMP

They write them by hand.

They sit. We TIME-CUT TO:

87 INT. WHITE HOUSE - GREEN ROOM - MINUTES LATER

87

Shrimp Scampi sits on the plates. Trump eyes Comey:

TRUMP

So. What do you want to do?

COMEY

Sir?

TRUMP

Lots of people wanna be Director of the FBI. But I tell everybody how highly I think of you. I have a lot of friends there. Nobody has better relationships with the FBI than I do. So people would tell me if there was a problem, but I know you're respected which is what I tell people that say I could make a change if I wanted to. The press has been very unfair to you. I know about that. Nobody gets treated as unfairly as I do. It's disgraceful. So I would understand if you wanted to walk away and go back to the private sector. I know that's attractive. But I don't think it would be good for you personally. It would make you look like you'd done something wrong. And who needs that? It doesn't matter to me that I can make a change. I get along with everybody. But I wanna know what you're thinking about it.

A lot to take in and sift through. Comey tries--

COMEY

It's true, Mister President, you can fire the FBI Director at any time. But I want to stay because I love the Bureau and I love the job and I believe I am doing it well.

TRUMP

One thing I never had to think about in the Trump Organization because I did so much myself -- people think we were so big, but the truth is, I did everything. But now I have to rely on people. I've got all these idiot advisers around me who think they got me elected. Ya know who I actually listen to? TV people. Because they have to get ratings every day. A White House advisor can guess wrong and still

(MORE)

TRUMP (CONT'D)
keep his job. But not the tv guys.
Lotta smart people in that
business.

COMEY
Well, you can rely on me, Sir. To
tell you the--

TRUMP
--I need *loyalty*.

BANG. Just like that. Words that will chase these men into
History, hanging there. Comey replays them in his head, as:

TRUMP (CONT'D)
I expect *loyalty*.

Comey doesn't move. Or speak. Or blink. An instinct tells him
to stare right through Trump. A FOREVER kind of pause, then--

It works. Trump looks down at his plate.

TRUMP (CONT'D)
You'd think, being a New Yorker,
I'd be prepared for how nasty this
town is. I mean, I'm a tough guy.
But this town -- they lie about the
size of my Inauguration, biggest
crowd ever, and they can't give it
to me. They lie about me making fun
of some disabled reporter, which I
never did. Like I'm gonna grope
some unattractive woman on an
airplane or pay some porn star to
come to my room. It's all Fake
News. And people - a lot of people -
are saying that. Hillary didn't
understand how good I was at
getting free media, which I call
earned media because you have to
work to get it. But it was just
such a nasty campaign.

COMEY
There's a very fine book about the
political battles between John
Adams and Thomas Jefferson that--

TRUMP
Yeah, somebody gave me that book.
It's upstairs, I'm gonna read it.
They make these jokes about me -
Alec Baldwin, it's so terrible -
like I can't read. Who do they

(MORE)

TRUMP (CONT'D)

think writes my bestselling books?
As I see it, you had three phases
of the Hillary email thing. Phase
One, you SAVED her by announcing
you weren't gonna prosecute her,
which a lot of lawyers have told me
was NOT the right conclusion.

COMEY

Our investigators spent a year on
it before deciding that there was
no prosecutable case there.

TRUMP

Well a lot of smart people, very
educated people, disagree. Alan
Dershowitz. Anyway, then comes
Comey-Two, where you did what you
had to do by telling Congress you
were reopening the investigation.
Absolutely the right move. Then
Comey-Three, where you saved her
again, which she totally misplayed.
And then you get attacked, I think
very unfairly, by the liberal main-
stream media. Partisan CNN. How do
you hold up under the strain?

COMEY

Same way you do, I imagine. Family.

Trump says nothing, just admires the silverware.

TRUMP

This is luxury. And I know luxury.
I'm pretty great at interior
design. Nicer than Mar-a-Lago.

88

INT. WHITE HOUSE - GREEN ROOM - MINUTES LATER

88

We're on to dessert now. And:

TRUMP

Does your guy McCabe have a problem
with me?

COMEY

No, Sir. Of course not.

TRUMP

I was pretty rough on him during
the campaign.

COMEY

Andy, like everyone else at the Bureau, is a professional who puts country first. Ours is an apolitical culture.

TRUMP

'Cause I'm still very upset about this golden showers thing. It would bother me if there was even one percent chance Melania would think it was true. I told you I'm a germophobe, I didn't even stay over that night; people saw that. You should investigate the allegation to prove what a lie it is.

COMEY

Mister President, we can do that - but you should know that if we did it would create a narrative that we were investigating you personally. Also, it's very difficult to prove that something didn't happen.

TRUMP

Well, think about it. Because it would be very hurtful to my family.

COMEY

Of course.

TRUMP

Would you ever like to have *your* family here for dinner? You can.

COMEY

Mister President, I think it's in your best interest that we not socialize too much. The country needs to know that the FBI is completely divorced from politics.

TRUMP

Obama was very close with Holder when Holder was Attorney General.

COMEY

I thought that was a mistake.

TRUMP

He made a lot of them. We're just *starting* to dig out from some of his mistakes. It's unbelievable how

(MORE)

TRUMP (CONT'D)
much we're accomplishing. You can
make Reince Priebus your contact.
He knows we're meeting here
tonight. Point is, I need loyalty.

BANG. Again. Those three damn words. Comey has to answer:

COMEY
You will always get honesty from
me.

TRUMP
That's what I want, honest loyalty.

Comey's making a million calculations, tap-dancing...

COMEY
You will get that from me.

Trump nods, mollified. On Comey, we CUT TO:

89 INT. WHITE HOUSE - GROUND FLOOR - NIGHT (2017) 89

Our narrative has caught up to itself now. Comey leaves the
White House, fast.

90 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - PORTICO - CONTINUING 90

A black SUBURBAN and his SECURITY DETAIL await. Comey's look
says "Let's go." Again, tension. He climbs in the back.

91, 92 INT. COMEY'S SUV - MOVING - SAME (2017) 91, 92

Comey pulls out his I-PHONE and begins to type, fast, as if
desperate to memorialize something, right now. The White
House looms large as we pull away. On his I-PHONE SCREEN:

*-President said he'd 'heard great things' about me.
-He asked again if I wanted to stay on.
-Asked if he could relt on me*

COMEY
Dammit!

93 INT. COMEY HOME - BASEMENT SCIF - CONTINUING 93

Another moment we've seen before. We see JUMP-CUTS, as:

*-Comey types into a LAPTOP, hits PRINT.
-Pages spit out of a PRINTER.
-Another COMBO-LOCK is dialed, this one on a SAFE.
-The pages are placed inside the safe. The safe SHUTS.*

And Comey finally PAUSES. Allows himself a second to breathe.

94 INT. COMEY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER 94

Patrice is sound asleep. Comey, *still dressed*, his tie loosened, climbs on the bed, wraps his arms around her, pulls her tight. She awakens.

PATRICE

You okay?

No. He's not. She feels that, turns toward him - sees that he's still dressed...

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Jim?

COMEY

I don't... I don't think I can protect us from this man.

What can she say? He kisses her, desperate to connect. She gives in to it. And it builds quickly, surprising them both.

They will make love. We DROP BACK... and CUT TO:

95, 96 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING (2017) 95, 96

Strzok, Page, Rybicki, Priestap, McCabe - reading Comey's typed notes from the Loyalty Dinner... Every expression says "Holy Shit." Baker pours two coffees. Comey enters.

COMEY

Am I overreacting?

PRIESTAP

No. This is how a Mob Boss talks.

Baker hands Priestap a coffee, then sits.

COMEY

A few takeaways: the independence of the FBI doesn't mean anything to him. He sees everything in terms of personal loyalty. He's fixated on the hookers thing.

(at McCabe)

And he thinks you have a problem with him. I told him you don't.

MCCABE

Boss, you have to be so careful here. Memorialize any more conversations with him.

BAKER

There aren't supposed to be any conversations with him.

MCCABE

Did he ask about Mike Flynn at all? Or acknowledge that we'd been to the White House to *interview* Flynn?

COMEY

No.

MCCABE

Is it possible he was respecting a boundary there?

COMEY

Hard to say. He moves so fast from one subject to another and so much of what he says is factually and legally incorrect, it's possible he thinks the conversation went *well* and that I'm solidly on board.

BAKER

This cannot happen again. It is completely inappropriate for the two of you to engage like this.

COMEY

He's the PRESIDENT. Am I supposed to refuse his call?

BAKER

He just asked you to put loyalty to HIM over your duty to investigate the threat posed by Russia--

BAKER (CONT'D)

You--

TRISHA ANDERSON

--Uh, Boss?

Trisha just entered, semi-shocked.

TRISHA ANDERSON (CONT'D)

He just fired Sally Yates.

Comey reacts. They all do. We CUT TO:

97

INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (YATES) - DAY (2017)

97

Yates places some of her belongings into a BANKER'S BOX. Axelrod watches silently.

Justin, the intern, leans in. Sad as hell.

JUSTIN
Ma'am... Can I get you anything?

Yates pauses, smiles.

YATES
Are you asking me if this is a two-
Diet-Coke day, Justin?

JUSTIN
I guess I am.

She eyes the kid. So earnest. And she considers it, but:

YATES
I'll be fine, but thank you.

He nods -- heads out... until:

YATES (CONT'D)
Justin.
(he turns)
Y'ever start to feel shaky, go
outside and *look* at the buildings
up and down Pennsylvania Avenue.
They've been here a long time - and
they're gonna be here a long time,
because what they represent is
eternal. Institutions, the Rule of
Law, no matter who's in power.

Wait. Her voice just cracked - a sadness hitting her without
warning or permission. And *everyone heard it*. Justin gulps.

Yates has to, has to, regain her footing. So:

YATES (CONT'D)
Understand?

Somehow, that sounded resolved and shaky, at once.

JUSTIN
Yes, Ma'am.

She nods. Silence hangs. Then he nods to her... and leaves.

Yates eyes the door, then continues packing, as...

CNN REPORTER (ON TV, O.S.)
The President is now rumored to be
considering Rod Rosenstein to serve
as *Deputy Attorney General*.
Rosenstein is currently the US
(MORE)

CNN REPORTER (ON TV, O.S.) (CONT'D)
Attorney for the District of
Maryland...

Finally, Yates' head just drops. The Bad Guys are winning...

98, 99 OMIT 98, 99

100 INT. WHITE HOUSE - PRIEBUS' OFFICE - DAY (2017) 100

Comey sits opposite Reince Priebus. A desk between them.
Priebus has an UNNAMED STAFFER here (white, 20's.)

PRIEBUS

I understand your dinner with the
President went very well. And that
you're interested in staying on.

COMEY

Yes.

PRIEBUS

How does that work? Do we make an
announcement?

COMEY

That's really not necessary. As I
explained to the President, I
already have a ten-year term.
There's nothing to announce.

PRIEBUS

I think he wanted to.

(no reply)

Let's talk about how you and I are
going to be working together, the
rules for an FBI Director and a
White House Chief of Staff. Did you
talk to Denis McDunough often?

COMEY

We talked about policy and
operational issues - specific
terror threats. As I explained to
the President, there is a bright
line between DOJ and the White
House.

PRIEBUS

Ever talk to him about the Hillary
email thing?

COMEY

Never. And he wouldn't ask.

PRIEBUS

We all thought it was so unfair how that landed on you. It wasn't *your* fault she set up her email system illegally! Or that she decided not to campaign in Michigan! Listen, are we confidential here?

COMEY

If you like.

PRIEBUS

Thank you. Do you have a FISA order on Mike Flynn?

Christ. Comey pauses for a few seconds. How to respond?

COMEY

Reince, *that's the bright-line I'm talking about.* Question like that should go to the White House Counsel, then to DOJ leadership, then to me.

PRIEBUS

Sorry. Rookie mistake. *Do you have a FISA on him?*

COMEY

No.

PRIEBUS

Thank you. Would you like to see the President?

COMEY

(fuck no)
I'm sure he's very busy--

PRIEBUS

Actually, he likes impromptu meetings.

COMEY

DOJ has a no-contact policy with the White House. It's really in his best inter--

PRIEBUS

I'm sure he'd love to see you. Let me see if he's in the Oval.

That fast, Priebus is out of his chair and out of the office. The STAFFER, sitting here, seizes on the privacy:

UNNAMED STAFFER
Can I ask you a question, Sir?
(Comey shrugs)
What'd you guys actually have on
Hillary?

Comey pauses. The kid is maybe 24, so sure of himself.

COMEY
(whispered)
Can you keep a secret?

UNNAMED STAFFER
(thrilled)
Yes.

COMEY
(whispered)
So can I.

Staffer sags - just as:

FLYNN (O.S.)
Hello, Director!

Michael Flynn, breezing by, "coincidentally." Comey smiles warmly, eyeing a man *he might incarcerate someday*.

COMEY
General. How're you settling in?

FLYNN
All fine, except for my workout routine! Haven't found time for that lately.

COMEY
This place has plenty of stairs...

FLYNN
Might just come to that.

NO mention of the investigation. Just then, Priebus returns.

PRIEBUS
He'd love to see you!

COMEY
Great.

101

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

101

Trump sits behind his desk, Comey opposite him, at Trump's 2 o'clock. The curtains, blue during Obama, are now gold.

SUPER: "February 8, 2017"

COMEY

I see you changed the curtains.

TRUMP

Obama's were horrible.

COMEY

These are the same ones Bill Clinton used.

Trump, hating that, now eyes them with a sudden distaste.

TRUMP

I wonder how I would've done against Bernie if you'd charged Hillary like you should have. How do you think I would've done against Bernie?

COMEY

We try to stay out of the political realm, Mister President.

TRUMP

So how come Andy McCabe's wife ran for office? Number Two guy at FBI, taking a million dollars from the Clintons. A lot of people, very educated people, think I wasn't *rough enough* on him. Does he have a problem with me?

Yes, he asked that same question already at the dinner. Priebus enters, gives Trump a file, sits to Trump's left.

COMEY

Mister President, as I told you, Andy is a pro. I know you'll come to value him, as I do.

TRUMP

Have you done any more thinking about the golden showers thing?
(Comey tightens)
It would really bother me if Melania gave that any credibility. The hookers thing is nonsense, although Putin once told me they had the most beautiful hookers in the world there. But I didn't even stay overnight in Moscow. I was there long enough to be nice. I'm
(MORE)

TRUMP (CONT'D)

nice to everyone when it's business. No one here gets that because no one here ever had to make a business deal. I sat down for an interview with Bill O'Reilly. Did you see it?

COMEY

Yes Sir.

TRUMP

He insults the Russians - and now he owes them an apology because why is he calling them killers? And why's he trying to get me to say it when I'm trying to repair all the damage Obama did and get along with people again? So I should say I don't respect the leader of a major country I'm trying to get along with? Putin is a strong thinker; he speaks very powerfully. And he never sent anyone with a briefcase and a billion dollars for Iran like Obama did. That nuclear deal is a disgrace - another thing we have to fix. If Russia can help us in the region - and a lot of my military people say Russia's going to be very key for us there - why would I want to insult them? You know, everyone's crying for Ukraine; the Ukrainians aren't so terrific. They've tried to invalidate my election and they're not nice people. So I gave a good answer. Really, it was a great answer. I gave a really great answer. You think it was a great answer, right?

COMEY

The first part of your answer was fine, Mister President. But not the second part. We aren't the kind of killers that Putin is.

Trump goes SILENT. A shadow crosses his face. Meeting over.

TRUMP

Can't believe they'd give me curtains Bill Clinton used.

103 INT. FBI DC - SUBTERRANEAN HALLWAY - LATER MORNING

103

Comey, McCabe, and Baker, edgy and tense, walk toward us in the world's longest, most Kubrickian HALLWAY:

BAKER

Boss, you cannot keep having conversations with this man.

COMEY

I'll say it again. He's the President. Our boss.

(some edge there)

He won't invite me over again. I really offended him this time.

MCCABE

Did he bring up Mike Flynn?

COMEY

No. But he brought up you again. And the Russian hookers. And Hillary.

BAKER

This is not tenable. ANY of it.

COMEY

Let's assume good faith for a second, that he just doesn't know how a President is supposed to act with DOJ, and no one around him does either. It's our job to help him. How can we do that?

BAKER

You've explained it to him clearly?

COMEY

Yes.

BAKER

Can we set up a briefing for him? Someone *else* to explain it?

COMEY

I'm not sure he's interested.

BAKER

Have you seen ANY evidence that he values the Rule of Law?

COMEY

None.

BAKER

Then *why* are we assuming good faith?

COMEY

What should I do? Arrest him?

TEMPER - not a common sight from Comey. It gets a reaction.

BAKER

You've had worse ideas.

104 INT. UNNAMED HOTEL ROOM - DAY

104

Strzok and Lisa Page in a tight hug, overwhelmed by stress.

LISA PAGE

He's gonna get his head chopped off, isn't he.

STRZOK

We all are.

Meaning, this affair is doomed. They both know it. Then *Both of their CELL-PHONES light up, simultaneously.* And:

105 INSERT - TELEVISION COVERAGE --

105

SEVERAL REPORTS AT ONCE - each telling us that Michael Flynn has just resigned from his post as national security adviser.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)

In his White House statement, Flynn said: "I inadvertently briefed the VP-elect and others with incomplete information regarding my phone calls with the Russian Ambassador."

106-107 OMIT

106-107

108 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - MORNING (2017)

108

Trump at his desk. 12 PEOPLE in two semi-circles facing him.

JARED KUSHNER, STEVE BANNON, Priebus, JEFF SESSIONS, Tom Bossert, several other INTEL BIGWIGS.

SUPER: "**February 14, 2017.**"

Trump looks *bored*. Elbows on the desk... as Comey briefs him:

COMEY

Mr. President, as you know,
tracking ISIS and its penetration
(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)

levels on American soil is a big part of the FBI's mission. But there are *other* threats we don't talk about as much that are equally dangerous long-term, requiring an entirely different level of vigilance and attention.

Pretty scary. But Trump is barely listening...

COMEY (CONT'D)

There is a sophisticated eastern European terror group - they call themselves the Chechen Islamic Brotherhood - that has embedded sleeper operatives in the United States. These are people who have been here, legally, for years. They speak fluent English and look Caucasian. They have families and jobs. And they are time-bombs. We are devoting enormous resources to monitoring these people. We try to jam them up where we can on local charges, in ways that don't show our hand. We've even tried to flip some, but they are hard guys - and they are, at this moment, quietly preparing with extraordinary patience and disciplined tradecraft for something *big*. Sir, our partners overseas have picked up chatter about an attack on an East Coast American city, this summer.

Whoa. Silence. Time for the Commander in Chief to reply...
But Trump is silent, and *someone* has to react, so:

PRIEBUS

Weren't the Tsarnaevs Chechen? The Boston Marathon guys?

COMEY

Yes. But we don't know that they were connected to The Brotherhood. The Tsarnaevs lacked the discipline this group typically demands.

KUSHNER

And we don't yet know the city?

COMEY

No. We are watching now to see where they're allocating resources.

TRUMP

Okay. Thanks, everybody. I'd like to talk to Jim. Thanks, everybody.

Huh? Now? Comey's shocked. They all are.

But everyone rises dutifully, trying not to make eye contact. Trump waits. Comey feels like the floor is spinning, as--

TRUMP (CONT'D)

I wrote a book, a really successful book, a year before the World Trade Center, said there's someone named Osama bin Laden, you oughtta take him out, he's big trouble. I think I wrote 12 books. Nobody listened to me.

Everyone has filed out now except for Sessions and Jared Kushner, who remain. Comey's unsure why. Trump eyes Sessions:

TRUMP (CONT'D)

Thanks, Jeff. I wanna talk to Jim.

Damn. Comey eyes Sessions: "Don't you DARE leave this room."

SESSIONS

Yes, Sir.

Comey tries not to sag. Sessions goes. Just Kushner left now.

KUSHNER

That email investigation looked pretty tricky.

COMEY

It was.

TRUMP

Okay, Jared. Thank you.

So Kushner's getting the boot too. He shrugs, smiles, goes.

The door closes. The grandfather clock ticks. Comey waits. Does Trump wish to discuss that *terror warning*???

TRUMP (CONT'D)

Did you see my tweet this morning?

COMEY

I didn't, Sir.

TRUMP

I make calls on this beautiful phone, to leaders in Australia or Mexico or wherever, and I expect those calls to be confidential. Then I see leaks in the Fake News and they're quoting me saying things I don't even remember saying and don't think I even actually said. And people say I have one of the world's greatest memories. It's LEAKS that cost Mike Flynn his job, which is very sad.

(Comey tightens)

Making calls was his JOB. I want that, especially with Russia. But he lied to the Vice President so I let him go. But he really is a good guy. The leaks got him fired and I think that's very unfair to him, very unfair. I have a great guy coming in to replace him, who enjoys a lot of respect from very smart people. But you know better than anybody how unfair the press can be.

COMEY

Sir, leaks are terrible. On our side of the street, leaks can jeopardize FBI operations and put lives at risk.

TRUMP

We can start by going after the reporters who get people to leak. Ten or fifteen years ago we would put reporters in jail to find out what they knew and it worked. It worked on Judy Miller.

COMEY

I am a fan of pursuing leakers aggressively, but going after reporters is tricky for legal reasons, constitutional reasons.

TRUMP

Talk to Sessions about it, see if we can be more aggressive. Ya know, they spend a couple days in jail and suddenly they're ready to talk!

Comey smiles thinly. The DOOR BEHIND HIM opens. It's Priebus, leaning in pleasantly in an attempt to stop Trump from doing something criminally stupid. Trump is in no mood:

TRUMP (CONT'D)
We'll see ya, Reince. Another
minute or two.

Priebus nods, closes the door. Just Comey and Trump again.

TRUMP (CONT'D)
Mike Flynn is a good guy and he's
been through a lot. He lied to
Pence but he didn't do anything
wrong on the calls. I hope you can
see your way clear to letting this
go, to letting Flynn go.

Wait. *What?* Comey tries to digest what's just been asked.

TRUMP (CONT'D)
He's a good guy. Maybe he has some
judgment issues, I don't know. I
hope you can let this go.

Silence. How to respond? Comey hesitates... then decides he has to placate Trump and thread the needle:

COMEY
I agree he's been through a lot.

TRUMP
It's just these leaks. They're
really disgraceful.

109 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER 109

Comey emerges, dazed... to find Priebus, Sessions, Bannon, Kushner - waiting - in awkward, stilted silence.

COMEY
General Sessions, could I have a
word with you?

SESSIONS
'Course, Jim.

Comey leads him away, around a corner, to:

110 INT. WHITE HOUSE - CORRIDOR - CONTINUING 110

Once they're out of everyone's earshot, Comey launches:

COMEY

That can't happen again! You're my boss. You can't be kicked out of the room so he can talk to me alone. You *have to* be between me and the President - for the sake of the Bureau.

Sessions looks away, as if he were here alone...

COMEY (CONT'D)

General?

SESSIONS

That was a fine briefing you gave, Jim. You know, you really are a good guy.

Sessions leaves. And Comey now knows: this man can't help me.

111-112 INT. DOJ - MEZZANINE - DAY (2017)

111-112

Baker reads Comey's notes, reacting in real time - so it's a slow walk, with Shaun a few feet back.

BAKER

That's fucking obstruction of justice. The President just committed a crime in your presence. And he asked you to break the law.

COMEY

I know.

BAKER

Did you tell the A.G.?

COMEY

No. Pretty sure he's about to recuse himself on all this.

BAKER

That'll go over well.

(no reply)

Boss, I'm uncomfortable with this. It looks too much like you're being pulled into a *conspiracy* by the President of the United States.

COMEY

Yes, that is his intention. Now what?

(Baker's silent, reading)

Things will settle down once Rod is

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)
in place as DAG. He'll normalize
our relations across the street and
restrict our contact with the White
House.

BAKER
You sound like a Power Point. Rod's
not going to save you. He's going
to cover his own ass, as he always
has. *Do you really not know how
screwed you are?*

COMEY
Of course I do.

Baker STOPS Comey - wants this to land:

BAKER
Then STOP walking into the Oval
thinking you can outwit this guy!
He's gonna FIRE you!

COMEY
He *can't* fire me... I'm running the
Russia investigation. It'd look
horrible.

BAKER
That's ego.

COMEY
That's *fact*.

BAKER
Jim. Jesus. Fact is dead now.

113-117 OMIT

113-117

118 INT. WHITE HOUSE - BLUE ROOM - DAY (2017)

118

Trump conducts a Press Conference:

TRUMP
I'm here to tell you, this Russia
thing is a ruse. It's a ruse. I
don't have any deals in Russia, or
any dealings with Russia. I *could*
have, very easily, but I didn't
want to carry any debt. As a
businessman I always had very
little debt. No debt. Because I--

So now we're hearing Trump's tirade AND his press conference--

119 INT. FBI DC - 7TH FLOOR CORRIDOR - MORNING (2017) 119

Comey walks, Trump's VOICES blaring in his head, blocking out the sounds around him. He badges into:

120 INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - CONTINUING 120

Comey enters a BRIEFING, (McCabe et al). As soon as the door shuts, *the OVERLAPPING VOICES in Comey's head go away.* Poof.

Peace. He sits at the table, a big smile for one and all, facing a WHITE BOARD with a huge EVIDENCE TREE on it...

And he just watches as these people work.

Here they are: Civil Servants. Patriots. The "Deep State." Trying to make their country a little safer.

Comey sees that; he *feels* it. It touches him. A True North...

But the moment is *broken*, as Rybicki enters:

RYBICKI

Boss, the President is calling for you.

Record-scratch. Every head turns. Comey nods, We SMASH TO:

121 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 121

Comey just jotted down the time, "8:13 AM" - then:

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)

Do you have a publicist? Because you're becoming more famous than me!

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

It's not by choice, I assure you. I hate it.

Comey grabs a pen to make notes, as--

122 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - SAME - INTERCUT 122

Trump at his desk. A STAFFER closing the drapes, as:

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

Listen, I'm trying to run the country and the cloud of this Russia business is making that very difficult, very tough. If I didn't have the cloud we would've won the Health Care vote and a lot of

(MORE)

TRUMP (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
people are very upset about that because that should've gone through. You know I have nothing to do with Russia. I have a letter here from the biggest law firm in DC saying I have NO INCOME from Russia and I'm going to be filing a personal lawsuit against the author of this horrible dossier; I'm not even sure Steele is his real name, it sounds like a made-up name to me - but it's going to be a huge suit because the things he said were very unfair and very painful. I have a beautiful wife and she's been very hurt by this, and no one can imagine me needing hookers. I've always told my people "Whenever you're in Russia, assume you're being recorded, because you probably are." And everyone who was traveling with me will confirm I did nothing on that trip. Nothing. So I want to know what you can do to lift this Russia cloud.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)
(writing furiously)
Mister President, we are running it down as quickly as we can. For now it's in your best interest to let us do that work.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
Ya know, nobody knows how many problems I create for Russia. I'm actually very BAD for Russia. *Much* tougher on them than Obama. I'm going to be commissioning more nukes, newer nukes - ours are forty years old, some of them. I'm also making sure we're doing more oil drilling, which Russia hates. But all I get is "Trump-Russia, Trump-Russia." The same cloud. And it's very unfair, and very bad for the country. If some satellite of mine had done something, it'd be good to find that out. But I didn't do anything, and I think there should be a way for you to get out there that you're not investigating me.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Sir, just last week on the Hill, I told Congressional Leadership that we are not investigating you.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

I'm trying to make smart deals, tough deals, and it's incredible how well we're doing, no one can believe it, probably the best first month any President ever had, and that's because I hire all the best people, only the best, but I've got this cloud hanging over everything - and now I'm supposed to go to the G-7 and I just hope you can get out the fact that I'm not being investigated. I haven't brought up the McCabe thing because you say he's an honorable guy, but he's very close with Terry McAuliffe and the Clintons and they gave him money but you say he's an honorable guy so I'm trusting you.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Yes, Andy is an honorable person.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

Okay, Jim. Thank you.

CLICK. Comey drops the phone, keeps writing. Rybicki enters:

RYBICKI

Boss, do you wanna go to a Diversity Recruiting Event at the LA Field Office on May nine?

Comey is writing so fast, all he can do is an eye-flick toward the door. CUT TO:

123 OMITTED

123

124 INT. FBI DC - DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (COMEY) - MORNING (2017) 124

A new day. Comey with a phone to his ear again. Noting the time again: "8:26 AM" - TAKING NOTES - as we hear:

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)

I want to know if you did what I asked you to do before - to get out the fact that I'm not being investigated.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Sir, I passed that request along to Dana Boente but I haven't yet heard back from him.

125 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - SAME - INTERCUT

125

Trump, at his desk - his tone *surlier* now:

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

Who's that?

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

Sir, with General Sessions recused, Dana Boente is now Acting A.G. with respect to this issue.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

Well Jeff shouldn't've recused himself. It was a dumb thing to do because every time I sit down with a foreign leader it's this cloud. The Democrats keep bringing it up and it's just an excuse for losing the election when maybe I just ran a great campaign.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

The most effective way for you to handle this is to have your White House Counsel, Don McGahn, call the Acting A.G. to make all requests.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

I have been very loyal to you, very loyal. We had that *thing*, you know.

Wait. What? Comey replays that in his head. Can barely reply:

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

McGahn should talk to Dana.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

They just had the bombings, the Coptic Church, three Americans killed by an Egyptian soldier and a lot of people are very upset. So I spoke to the Egyptian President, even though I know Obama never-

COMEY (INTO PHONE)

--Sir, I think you mean the *Jordanian* President. The bombing incident occurred in Jordan.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
Just bring the killer to justice.
You're doing a great job, Jim.

COMEY (INTO PHONE)
Thank you, Sir.

CLICK. The call ends. Comey sets the phone down hard, swivels in his chair, stands at the window. Dizzied by the torrent.

That family of PIGEONS out there flies away, fast.

COMEY (CONT'D)
Smart birds.

He's seething. And there's nowhere to put it.

McCabe enters - sees Comey staring out the window.

MCCABE
Ya write it all down, Boss?

COMEY
I just noticed - ya can't see the
White House from here. That never
bothered me before.

McCabe joins him at the window.

MCCABE
No. I guess ya can't.

126 INT. COMEY HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT (2017)

126

Comey writes on a yellow legal pad. At the table, Patrice and Abby are mending some kind of COSTUME. He looks to Abby:

COMEY
What's that?

ABBY
The Drama Department randomly
decided to do "Guys and Dolls." I'm
trying out for Adelaide.

Something about that touches him deeply. His little girl's world, so much cleaner than his own. He rises, walks over...

...and pulls Abby & Patrice into a tight hug, his eyes shut.

Abby doesn't know where it came from - but Patrice does. She hangs on. Comey too.

127 INT. DOJ - AG'S OFFICE (SESSIONS) - DAY (2017) 127

Rosenstein, hand on a Bible, is sworn in by Sessions.
Rosenstein's WIFE and TWO DAUGHTERS flank him.

ROSENSTEIN

I, Rod Rosenstein, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

He and Sessions shake hands. Shutters click. CUT TO:

127A INT. DOJ - AG'S OFFICE (SESSIONS) - 5 MINS LATER (2017) 127A

Rosenstein's family drifts off. He waves goodbye to them. The PHOTOGRAPHERS pack up their gear.

...as Sessions approaches Rosenstein.

SESSIONS

Looking forward to diving in, Rod.
Discussing Department priorities.

ROSENSTEIN

I've prepared a list, General.

SESSIONS

Good. Where on that list would you put firing Jim Comey?

BANG. That fast. Rosenstein gathers himself.

ROSENSTEIN

It's certainly something we should discuss.

Sessions nods. We CUT TO:

128 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - (2017) 128

This used to be Yates' office. Now it's Rosenstein's. He looks out his window. Then:

EXEC. ASST. (O.S.)

Sir?

Rosenstein turns. His EXEC. ASST. is in the doorway. And guess who Rosenstein has invited over?

EXEC. ASST. (CONT'D)

Director Comey is here.

ROSENSTEIN

Thank you. Send him in.

Asst. backs out. Rosenstein exhales hard, as...

Comey enters. A big moment for Rosenstein, in ways Comey can't yet know.

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

Jim! Thanks for coming.

COMEY

Of course. You settling in okay?

ROSENSTEIN

Reasonably. A few landmines strewn about.

COMEY

That's surprising, I thought I'd stepped on all of them already. What can I do for you?

ROSENSTEIN

Thought you might give me a tutorial.

Comey wasn't expecting that - the humility of it.

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

How to do this job as well as it can be done. Also wanted to know who you thought I should pick for the Manhattan Office.

COMEY

I'll answer the second question first. I know the White House is pushing Bob McRaven for that position, and I think he'd be a disaster. I have serious questions about his integrity - would urge you to talk to Clark Derry about him. Clark thinks Bob committed

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)
perjury on a case the Chicago
Office prosecuted.

ROSENSTEIN
That makes things easy.

COMEY
As to running this office, tell me:
what was your favorite kind of
candy as a kid?

ROSENSTEIN
Huh?

COMEY
Someone comes into my office to
brief me, they're often scared by
the myth of the place. That limits
their effectiveness. One personal
connection and they relax. So what
was yours?

ROSENSTEIN
Reese's?

COMEY
Mine too. Almond Joy was a close
second.

ROSENSTEIN
Not sure I can imagine *asking*
someone that question though.

COMEY
Why not?

ROSENSTEIN
I'm not you.

And there it is. The moment hovers, sad as hell. So:

COMEY
The job is about protecting people.
Every decision comes back to that -
and everything the *entire*
Department does will run through
this office. So you need to be your
best. You need to eat well,
exercise, get enough sleep. You
need to be with your family to
recharge yourself. That goes for
all of your STAFF as well. Try to
get out of the office by six or six
thirty every night, because NO ONE
(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)
will leave before you do, and you
want them spending time with their
loved ones. Workaholics make
soulless choices.

ROSENSTEIN
Must be why your staff likes you so
much!

COMEY
I just treat them like people.

ROSENSTEIN
--And the *President*? How do you
treat him?

Comey pauses. Has to put this carefully:

COMEY
Leaders like that throw you back to
First Principles. You just have to
keep remembering what they are.

EXEC. ASST. (O.S.)
Sir?

Rosenstein's Exec. Asst., in the door again.

EXEC. ASST. (CONT'D)
I have the A.G. calling.

Oh. Comey and Rosenstein lock eyes...

ROSENSTEIN
Should I ask *him* what his favorite
candy was?

Comey smiles. We CUT TO:

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

129

Rosenstein looks at the door, *as if Comey had just exited it* -
then looks to Justin:

ROSENSTEIN
The next day, unbeknownst to me,
the President went to his hotel in
New Jersey with Stephen Miller - to
write a memo designed to justify
the firing of Jim Comey.

130 EXT. BEDMINSTER GROUNDS - PATIO - NIGHT (2017) 130

The stillness of the 18th GREEN at night is pierced by the muffled sounds of TRUMP SHOUTING in a hotel suite, as:

ROSENSTEIN (V.O.)

It was called the Bedminster Memo,
a four-page screed excoriating Jim.
The President gave it to Don
McGahn, who gave it to General
Sessions, who gave it to me.

131 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - RESUMING (NOW) 131

Rosenstein sighs...

ROSENSTEIN

And then I was summoned to the
White House.

132 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE RECEPTION - NIGHT (2017) 132

Rosenstein waits to go in, anxious. WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY, at her desk, grabs a CANDY from a jar, pops it in her mouth. So:

ROSENSTEIN

What was your favorite? As a kid?

WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY

I'm sorry?

ROSENSTEIN

Nothing.

He eyes his shoe-tops. Then the door to the Oval opens.

MCGAHN

Rod?

133 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 133

Trump, McGahn, STEPHEN MILLER... and the Bedminster Memo.
We've entered mid-discussion:

ROSENSTEIN

Mister President, I don't think you
can send this memo out in its
current state.

TRUMP

Why not? It's all true.

ROSENSTEIN

It reads like personal animus,
instead of a reasoned executive
decision.

TRUMP

He lied to me! He told me he would
tell people I wasn't under
investigation. And I was very
specific about that, very strong
and powerful there. Then he goes to
the Senate and doesn't say it. A
lot of people told me to fire him -
but I kept him around. And he's not
a good guy. He's a dirty guy, a bad
cop. And he lied to me.

ROSENSTEIN

Nevertheless, the language in this
memo is fairly incendiary and very
easy to misconstrue. I think it
would be bad for the Presidency and
bad for you legally to have this
out there.

TRUMP

What parts?

ROSENSTEIN

For one, you do not need to mention
- and should NOT - the Russia
Investigation as grounds for firing
Director Comey. His mishandling of
the Hillary emails is enough.

TRUMP

He and I had an understanding about
what he was going to tell people -
and he didn't do it. The Trump-
Russia cloud. He told me he'd lift
it, and then DIDN'T! People should
know he broke that deal.

ROSENSTEIN

Sir, you'd be exposing yourself to
unnecessary risk here...

TRUMP

Then you write it.

Whoa. A defining moment. Rosenstein pauses... Then:

ROSENSTEIN

I can do that.

TRUMP

Would you keep the part about him telling me three times I wasn't under investigation? It's very important people understand that.

ROSENSTEIN

Again, that would be conflating your decision to fire him with the Russia investigation, which is what we're seeking to avoid.

TRUMP

He's got people thinking I like golden showers! Are you gonna keep *anything* about it?

Rosenstein swallows a reply. Miller seething now.

MILLER

Jim Comey takes his fucking initials too seriously.

TRUMP

Stephen keeps me tied to my base, which a lot of people forget and then they don't get re-elected. I don't want your version to go too easy on Comey. He's a bad guy, a dishonest guy.

ROSENSTEIN

I understand how you feel, Sir.

TRUMP

Fine. Start writing. But I want Russia in there.

134-137 OMIT

134-137

138 EXT. FBI LAFO - LOS ANGELES - DAY (2017)

138

Establishing...

139-140 INT. FBI LAFO - LOBBY - SAME

139-140

Beside Comey is DIERDRE FIKE. She runs this office - has assembled her JANITORIAL CREW, and the Field Office's SECURITY GUARDS. Comey shakes each hand.

COMEY

Thank you for your work. Thank you. Thank you for being a part of what we do. President Kennedy was

(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)

touring a NASA facility once, when he came upon a guy pushing a broom. This was 1962. The President asked, "What do you do here?" And the guy replied "I'm putting a man on the moon." Exactly. Exactly.

He stops short -- just saw something on THREE DIFFERENT TV SCREENS lining the back wall of this floor.

At the bottom of each screen, the words "COMEY RESIGNS."

He smiles. Loves a good practical joke.

COMEY (CONT'D)

That's pretty funny. Somebody put a lot of work into that one.

Everyone turns, sees what he's seeing, and laughs. Then--

COMEY (CONT'D)

I'm here in L.A. for a Diversity Recruiting Event where I'll try to convince -- is it 500, Dierdre?

DIERDRE FIKE

506, Boss.

COMEY

506 lawyers and engineers and business-school graduates that they ought to take a cut in pay to become Special Agents in the FBI. Oddly enough, it's not a tough sell, because people fundamentally believe in the mission of this Bureau, a mission every one of you is--

Then he STOPS AGAIN. But *this time he's not smiling*, because:

The words on those three screens just changed. Now, they read: "COMEY FIRED."

And the world STOPS.

Comey's insides congeal. Everyone sees his face drop, and they turn... and read the same words he's seeing.

And no one knows what to say. COMEY FIRED.

Maybe it's a mistake. A typo. No, Comey intuitively senses that it's real. Horrible, but real. He gathers himself...

COMEY (CONT'D)

Um... I'm going to go figure out what's happening. But whether that's true or not, my message to you won't change. So let me finish it now and then shake your hands.

Silence in here. Stunned faces. And Comey now has to address them while his heart is literally breaking...

COMEY (CONT'D)

Everyone of you is personally responsible for protecting the American people and upholding the Constitution of the United States. We all have different roles, but the same mission. Thank you for doing it so well.

With that, he plunges into the silent crowd, shaking hands, thanking people. No one knows what to say to him.

We DROP BACK, way back, as he drifts through the room. Then--

141-145 OMIT

141-145

146 INT. FBI LAFO - ROOM OFF THE LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

146

He enters. His Comms Team awaits.

COMMS TEAM #1

Director Comey, I have the Deputy on the line.

Comey takes a cell from the Comms Guy:

COMEY (INTO CELL)

(kidding)

Finally rid of me, I see!

147 EXT. DC - CLINTON BLDG. COLONNADE - INTERCUT - 5 PM

147

McCabe, walking between buildings, laughs grimly.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)

A letter was delivered from the White House, Boss. You've been fired, effective immediately.

Fired. Officially. Done. Comey absorbs that...

COMEY (INTO CELL)

I see. Can you read it to me?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
You sure, Boss?

COMEY (INTO CELL)
Yeah.

McCabe looks to the single-page letter...

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
"Dear Director Comey, I have received the attached letters from the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General of the United States recommending your dismissal as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have accepted their recommendation and you are hereby terminated and removed from office, effective immediately."

We PUSH IN on Comey, slowly. The words registering...

MCCABE (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
"While I greatly appreciate you informing me on three separate occasions that I am not under investigation, I nevertheless concur with the judgment of the Department of Justice that you are not able to effectively lead the Bureau. It is essential that we--"

COMEY (INTO CELL)
What do the attachments say? From the A.G. and DAG?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
The A.G.'s is pretty standard.

COMEY (INTO CELL)
And the one from Rod?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Two and a half pages.

COMEY (INTO CELL)
Read it to me, will ya?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Boss?

COMEY (INTO CELL)
Andy. I can't order you to. I'm just asking.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)

'Kay.

McCabe STOPS, reads an ATTACHMENT, written by Rosenstein:

MCCABE (CONT'D)

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation has long been regarded as our nation's pre--

COMEY (INTO CELL)

Skip to the gruesome parts.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)

This whole thing is gruesome, Boss. "The current FBI Director is an articulate and persuasive speaker about leadership and the immutable principles of the Department of Justice. He deserves our appreciation for his public service. As you and I have discussed, however, I cannot defend the Director's handling of the conclusion of the investigation of Secretary Clinton's emails, and I do not understand his refusal to accept the nearly universal judgment that he was mistaken."

It all plays across Comey's face...

148-149 INT. FBI LAFO - LOBBY - DAY

148-149

Comey emerges from that private office... to find:

200 FBI EMPLOYEES now await him. Many crying. All shaken. What can he say? His knees feel weak.

COMEY

Dierdre, if you would, I'd like you to conduct the Recruiting Event for me. I suspect I'd be a distraction.

DIERDRE FIKE

(barely audible)

Sure, Boss. Of course.

He looks out over these faces, people utterly dedicated to him and his leadership. Has to keep them encouraged, so:

COMEY

Um, what you've heard is true. The President has fired me, effective
(MORE)

COMEY (CONT'D)

immediately. Andy McCabe will now be your Acting Director, which means you are in very good hands.

(a beat... then)

The FBI's values are bigger than any single person. Its mission is the same no matter who's running it. So I have no fear for its future. What saddens me is leaving you.

Uh-oh. *He just choked up.* Better finish this fast.

COMEY (CONT'D)

The kind of people you are: honest, fearless, independent, patriotic. That, I will miss. I wish you all the best.

And he goes, the employees making a path for him.

We STAY TIGHT ON HIM: accepting handshakes, pats on the back, a hug or two - and it's all on his face, as:

150 INT. DOJ - LOBBY/MEZZANINE - SAME 150

Rosenstein walks, a pariah here now. He passes Justin at a desk, who pretends to be getting a TEXT to avoid Rosenstein's eye. Even Rosenstein's Exec Asst. won't look at him.

151-152 OMIT 151-152

153 INT. FBI DC - BULLPEN - NIGHT 153

DEVASTATION. Like a death. McCabe, Rybicki, Priestap - all floored. Page and Strzok sitting apart, stunned. Trisha crying. Everyone else is gone.

Baker emerges from the elevator in JEANS and a T-SHIRT. Has a travel-bag. He finds the team, and:

MCCABE

And?

BAKER

It is the determination of my team that it would *absolutely* be a lawful use of taxpayer funds. He was traveling on FBI business. The government is obligated to bring him home. And the plane has to return to DC regardless. So do his protective and comms teams.

MCCABE

The Director-- *Jim* --says he might just rent a car and drive back.

TRISHA ANDERSON

3,000 miles? There are *security* issues here. What if some nut decides to shoot him?

MCCABE

Okay. Get him on the plane.

154

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - SAME

154

Trump chuckles with TWO RUSSIAN OPERATIVES in the Oval: Kislyak and SERGEI LAVROV. A WHITE HOUSE TRANSLATOR translating--

TRUMP

I just fired the head of the FBI. He was crazy, a real nut-job. I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off now.

(they chuckle)

Fake News keeps talking about "Election Interference! Election Interference! *The Russians meddled in our election! Oh No!*" And I think, "First, who cares? We got the right result. And Second, what do they think WE do to other peoples' elections? We *invented* meddling! How do you know Putin wasn't our idea?!"

They share a warm laugh. CLICK - we go out on a STILL PHOTO of Trump and the Russian operatives, having a ball. CUT TO:

155

INT. FBI JET - FLYING - NIGHT (2017)

155

Comey stares out the window, sipping red wine from a paper cup. His SECURITY Detail Team a few rows back. The job of a lifetime, gone. It's heartbreaking...

SHAUN

Boss?

(Comey looks up)

What happens now?

COMEY

To me?

SHAUN

To us. To the country.

Comey thinks about that... a long beat... Then:

COMEY

What happens is the President will win for a while. But he'll keep lying anyway, because it's in his nature to lie; he'll lie about everything that he doesn't want to be true... until the day he tells one lie too many - could be about *anything* - and the American people will decide they've had enough. And on that day, America will become America again.

Shaun nods... The plane flies on. We SLAM TO:

156 OMIT 156

157 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - NIGHT (2017) 157

On TV, muted, PUNDITS are pounding Rosenstein.

Rosenstein is at the window - his back is to the tv and to McCabe, who is here to brief him, file in hand.

MCCABE

In short, our investigation is beginning to overlap with Senate Intel's investigation, and it's creating some issues. It's our feeling that - with public confidence in both the Bureau and the Senate now compromised - the best option, the only option, is the appointment of a Special Counsel.

Rosenstein doesn't reply, or even turn...

MCCABE (CONT'D)

Rod?

... which is when McCabe realizes: *Rosenstein is crying*.

What to do? McCabe weighs his options, then--

MCCABE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Rosenstein turns. Yes, those are tears in his eyes. Pure despair, humiliation, anguish.

ROSENSTEIN

I can't believe they used me like this! I was-- They asked me narrow questions and I answered them narrowly. I didn't know they'd use me this way! I didn't!

MCCABE

Is your family okay? Are you sleeping at all?

ROSENSTEIN

The President wants me to say that firing Jim was my idea. But that's a lie! And there's no one here I can talk to about this. There's no one here I *trust*.

(McCabe absorbs that)

I wish I could talk to Jim. He'd understand what I'm dealing with. Pretty funny, huh?

McCabe is silent. What can he say? Rosenstein drowning...

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

I think he's unwell. The President. I think if someone invoked the 25th Amendment there would be support from a lot of the Cabinet. Sessions would support it. Kelly would too. Others. But you'd need evidence to convince the public.

(just hit him:)

I should wear a wire next time I'm with him - then everyone would know.

McCabe's at a loss...

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)

I could. I never get searched when I go in there. No one searches me. I could record him.

(McCabe is silent...)

It is so crazy in there. Would it be helpful to you if I wore a wire next time I went?

Holy Hell. McCabe gulps, then--

MCCABE

Rod, can I... Can I get back to you on that?

Rosenstein nods, sniffs back a tear...

158 EXT. COMEY HOME - DRIVEWAY/FRONT PORCH - MCLEAN - 2 AM 158

Comey's BLACK SUV pulls into the driveway. He gets out.

Shaun gets out too, for the last time. They eye one another. Shaun fighting back tears.

COMEY

Thank you for your service, Shaun.
And your friendship.

SHAUN

You deserved better, Boss.

They hug.

COMEY

Get home to your family.

Shaun nods. Comey opens the gate, climbs the steps, to find:

Patrice is waiting out here on the FRONT PORCH, under a blanket. 2 AM. Crying.

That makes Comey's knees go weak too.

COMEY (CONT'D)

What's new?

PATRICE

Jimmy.

COMEY

We had so much more left to do.

That breaks her heart. She puts her arms around him--

For the first time, Comey allows the pain to hit. And it hits hard. They pull each other close. His eyes close. We hang in TIGHT on their faces, and DISSOLVE TO a very *different* face:

159 INSERT - TELEVISION COVERAGE -- 159

SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, giving a PRESS CONFERENCE to justify the firing of Comey. Her words ECHO as we CUT TO:

160 INT. FBI DC - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT (2017) 160

McCabe, in charge now, looks over the people we know well: Baker, Rybicki, Priestap, Trisha Anderson, Lisa Page, Strzok.

MCCABE

Here is what I see. I see a President launching an attack on this Bureau, to *weaken* it. I am not yet ready to ascribe motives for this. But when viewed in conjunction with his inviting two Russian Intel operatives into the Oval, and the firing of Director Comey which was designed to slow or stop an ongoing investigation into Russia's malign activities concerning our election and our democracy more broadly, I am forced to make a very disconcerting call:
(they wait...)

We have to expand the Crossfire Hurricane investigation to include the President himself. We have to ask: is he, wittingly or unwittingly, acting on behalf of the Russian government?

Holy Hell. They've all been thinking it. But...

MCCABE (CONT'D)

When the world learns that we've done this, the blowback will be immense: "HOW DARE THEY INVESTIGATE A SITTING PRESIDENT?" So let me be clear: this investigation is about Russia. Period. Full stop. It has *always* been about Russia's attempts to undermine our democracy. Flynn, Manafort, Papadopoulos, Carter Page - all put themselves within our line of inquiry. So has he. We have adequate predication to be investigating all of them. Is every-

Just then, MCCABE'S AIDE enters:

MCCABE'S AIDE

--Boss? The President is calling.

Now. At this moment. The team can't believe it.

MCCABE

Secured line?

MCCABE'S AIDE

No, Sir.

McCabe's Aide nods to a BLINKING LINE on the phone in here.

Christ. McCabe eyes his team, then grabs it.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
This is McCabe.

161

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CORRIDOR - SAME - INTERCUT

161

Trump, in a TUXEDO, on his CELL, passing through:

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
This is Don Trump. How are you?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Fine, Sir. How are you?

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
Ya know, boy, it's incredible, it's such a great thing, people are really happy about the fact that he's gone, and it's just remarkable what people are saying. I received hundreds of messages from FBI people, how happy they are that I fired him. People saying things on the media, have you seen that? I didn't actually know how hated he was. What's it like there in the building? Have you seen that?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
People here are very surprised. But we're trying to get back to work.

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)
I really want to come over there, to the FBI. I want to show all my FBI people how much I love them. So I think it would be good for me to come over and speak to everybody, tomorrow or the next day. Do you think that would be a good idea?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
You're always welcome here, Sir.

Everyone on the team just blanched. McCabe among them.

TRUMP (THRU PHONE)
But I wanna know how he was allowed to fly home on the FBI jet. I watched that and I want an investigation opened into how that happened and who allowed that!

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Mister President, I can look into that for you, but it's really unnecessary. I authorized it.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
WHAT?!

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
We had an obligation to return him and his staff home safely, as well as the Flight Crew and the plane.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
That's not right! I don't approve that! I don't want that!

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Nevertheless, Sir, I ordered it.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
Well I want it looked into. And he is NOT to be allowed back on FBI property again. EVER. He doesn't enter that building again. You can send him his stuff in boxes. Is that clear?

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Yes Sir.

161A INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUING - INTERCUT 161A

Trump arrives. Just one lamp on...

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
I'm surprised at you. I'd heard you were part of the Resistance.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
Sir?

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
That you didn't agree with Comey on the Hillary emails. You didn't like his decisions.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)
No, sir. I was a part of those decisions.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)
Oh.

With that, Trump has turned. And McCabe knows it.

TRUMP (CONT'D)

You just make sure that courtyard is full when I get there. FBI people love me. Same feeling I get in North Carolina, which I won so big. Ninety percent of the Bureau voted for me. Who'd you vote for?

The question almost knocks McCabe over. Gut-check time.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)

Sir, I've been a Republican all my life, and have voted for every Republican Presidential candidate. But, given the circumstances present at the time, I did not think it was appropriate for me to vote in 2016.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

Ya know, your problem is your wife.

That almost knocked him over too...

TRUMP (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

She lost her election in Virginia, didn't she? Despite all that Clinton money she got.

MCCABE (INTO PHONE)

(summoning calm)
Yes, she did.

TRUMP (INTO PHONE)

Ask her how it feels to be a loser.

CLICK. END OF CALL. McCabe just stares.

His team waits... He continues:

MCCABE

We will need to be meticulous here. I want a documentary record of everything we find, in indelible fashion - so that if I am *removed* from office or otherwise marginalized, our work will go on unabated. That's vital. We must protect the process. And the Bureau. The President clearly believes that we answer to *him* and not the American people.

(MORE)

MCCABE (CONT'D)
(they nod soberly)
So let's begin. He can fire me but
he cannot fire the FBI. I'll want
to be briefed on this every day.

162-168 OMIT

162-168

169 INT. COMEY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING (2017) 169

Comey and Patrice lie in bed, awake. The ALARM goes off unnecessarily. Another BIG day.

170 INT. COMEY HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - CLOSET - MINUTES LATER 170

Comey stares at his suits, uneasy.

COMEY
Not sure I can do this.

PATRICE
You have to.

171 EXT. US CAPITOL - SIDE ENTRANCE - MORNING (2017) 171

Comey emerges from another black armored SUV....

SUPER: "June 8, 2017."

172 INT. SENATE BLDG. - LOBBY - LATER MORNING 172

Comey's about to enter a HEARING ROOM. Nervous as hell.

He's silently rehearsing, committing something to memory. Then two DOORS open before him - a HEARING ROOM awaiting. His heart begins to pound. Just about to enter when--

He sees someone approaching. It's Giuliano.

GIULIANO
Hey, Boss.

Whoa. Comey pauses for a moment, deeply touched.

COMEY
You drove all the way from Atlanta
just to say hello?

GIULIANO
Heck no. I'm private sector now. I
flew all the way from Atlanta just
to say hello. First Class.
(Comey smiles)
It stinks, what the White House is
saying - that you weren't loved and
(MORE)

GIULIANO (CONT'D)
respected inside the Bureau. I
wanted you to hear it from me --
you were. You still are.

If Comey takes that in, he'll cry, so--

COMEY
Really wanted to have my opening
memorized on this one. For some
reason I'm having trouble this
morning.

GIULIANO
You'll be fine.

Their eyes lock.

COMEY
Thanks, Mark. I appreciate it.

Giuliano smiles. Comey steels himself, opens the door--

173-179 INT. SENATE HEARING ROOM - CONTINUING

173-179

Comey enters. A MILLION CAMERAS clicking at once. The density
of sound is astonishing. He aims for the table where
witnesses always sit. The cameras continue.

As he walks, we crank into SLOW-MOTION again. Then:

180 INT. SENATE HEARING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

180

Comey, with a million cameras clicking at once, makes his
opening statement. No notes.

COMEY
In conclusion, Senators, I want the
American people to know this truth:
the FBI is honest. The FBI is
strong. And the FBI is and always
will be independent.
(a beat...)
And now, I'd like to take this
opportunity to say something to my
former colleagues if I may...

He pauses, as:

181 INT. FBI DC - BULLPEN - SAME

181

McCabe and the entire team are watching Comey on TV...

182 INT. FBI DC - CAFETERIA - SAME 182

This whole room is watching the testimony as well.

183 INT. FBI NYFO - 5TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - SAME 183

Even the grumps at NYO: Sweeney, Pellegrino, Vota...

184 INT. SENATE HEARING ROOM - RESUMING 184

Comey goes on:

COMEY

I am so sorry that I didn't get the chance to say goodbye properly. It was the honor of my life to serve beside you, to be part of the FBI family. And I will miss it for the rest of my life. Thank you for standing watch. Thank you for doing so much good for this country.

In the FBI Conference Room, the FBI Cafeteria, at NYO - the men and women of the FBI take that in. Acknowledged.

Comey collects himself. Then--

COMEY (CONT'D)

Do that good as long as ever you can.

(collects himself)

Senators, I look forward to your questions.

Our story is told, finally. We RETURN TO:

185 INT. DOJ - DAG'S OFFICE (ROSENSTEIN) - (NOW) - NIGHT 185

Day has turned to night. Rosenstein and Justin both wiped.

ROSENSTEIN

He does speak beautifully, I'll give him that. And he shakes hands with all the janitors. But for all his theatrics, Jim Comey got himself fired - while I stuck around to keep the ship afloat. Ever think of that? Me. Those people out there may not love me. But they respect me. That oughtta be *enough* for a public servant.

JUSTIN

Sir, I really should get started.

Started? At what? That's when we reveal:

30 CARDBOARD BOXES (still unbuilt, and flat) leaning against the side of Rosenstein's desk.

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Have to have the place ready for the Incoming--

ROSENSTEIN

Of course.

Wait, Justin came in here hours ago just to pack Rosenstein up? The kid shrugs, begins to build the boxes.

Then... he just has to say it:

JUSTIN

Ya know, everyday, before I come in, I spend some time *outside*, looking at all the buildings on this street. You should do that.

ROSENSTEIN

What for?

JUSTIN

'Cause they've been here for so long. Doesn't matter who the President is, or which party is in power, the institutions, the rule of law - nothing ever knocks them down. That always comforts me.

ROSENSTEIN

Good for you.

JUSTIN

And it's Three Musketeers.
(Rosenstein's a blank)
My favorite candy bar.

Silence. Justin goes back to his boxes.

Rosenstein nods, rises... and heads slowly to the door...

But Rosenstein STOPS there. Turns. Regards Justin... and something occurs to him:

ROSENSTEIN

I suppose this is where Jim Comey would turn around and help you build those boxes and ask you for your life story.

Justin shrugs, smiles thinly. Rosenstein shakes his head:

ROSENSTEIN (CONT'D)
Goddamn showboat.

With that, he leaves. Justin continues his work. CUT TO:

186 EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - CAPITAL GRILLE - DUSK 186

Comey and Patrice emerge and stop at a corner.

The DOJ is to their right. Beyond that, other institutions - all of them grand and eternal.

Across the street from them is the FBI BUILDING, flags flying. We CUT TO:

186A INT. FBI DC - MIDYEAR ROOM - (FANTASY)- DAY 186A

We're inside the circular table, looking out... at the MIDYEAR TEAM, hard at work, months ago.

We do a 360, stopping briefly before each member of the team... to learn the following, SUPERED UNDER THEM:

"Andrew McCabe - Fired by Donald Trump"
"Trisha Anderson - Resigned"
"Peter Strzok - Fired"
"James Rybicki - Resigned"
"James Baker - Re-assigned by DOJ, then resigned"
"Bill Priestap - Retired"
"Lisa Page - Resigned"

Our 360 ends. We pop back to a WIDE SHOT of the room:

It's empty. We RETURN TO:

186B EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - RESUMING - (NOW) - DUSK 186B

Comey eyes the building wistfully. *Cannot enter it anymore.* Patrice takes his hand. He breathes out a grateful smile.

Patrice leads him away. They cross the street, leaving our frame.

...and we land on the Capitol, jewel of our democracy. That feels eternal too. We CUT TO:

187 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - SAME 187

Donald Trump stands at the window, his back to his desk. An AMERICAN FLAG hangs limply in bg.

We're just behind him, over his right shoulder. He turns, looking just past us - we know not where.

And the light hitting him, slowly, begins to dim.

It's gradual, painstaking, but unmistakable. The lights are going out on this man, bit by bit. Until...

He is in darkness. And we...

FADE OUT.

-THE END