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THE DEAD ZONE

"FORBIDDEN FRUIT"

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THE DEAD ZONE

"FORBIDDEN FRUIT"

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH

MALCOLM JANUS

BRUCE LEWIS

MIRANDA ELLIS

REVEREND GENE PURDY

SENATOR HARLAN ELLIS

GREG STILLSON

PAT KELLY

MICHAEL SCANNELL

JEREMY TOMLIN

KAREN TOMLIN

MAID OF HONOR/KATHLEEN

SNAKE MAN

SECURITY MAN/BIG MAN

BOUTIQUE SALESWOMAN

WEDDING PLANNER

STERN TV NEWSCASTER

REPORTER & REPORTER #2

YOUNG WOMAN WORKER (1 LINE)

NON-SPEAKING

COPY BOY FERREL (1 LINE)

CUTE YOUNG FLORIST

PARAMEDIC (1 LINE)

UNIDENTIFIED MAN

NOT-SO-BUSY OFFICE WORKERS (JANUS)

BUSY OFFICE WORKERS (BOSTON GLOBE STRINGER OFFICE), LAWYER, TV
CAMERA CREWS & REPORTERS

WEDDING GUESTS, WAITERS, STRING MUSICIANS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, REPORTERS,
SECURITY MEN & EMT CREW

THE DEAD ZONE

"FORBIDDEN FRUIT"

SETS

INTERIORS

SMITH HOUSE
 BASEMENT (ARMAGEDDON WALL)
 KITCHEN
 FOYER

BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

ELLIS MANSION
 MIRANDA'S BEDROOM

PURDY'S OFFICE

MAINE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE

OFFICE COMPLEX
 HEAD OFFICE
 MAIN AREA (BUSY & EMPTY)

BOSTON GLOBE (BANGOR OFFICE)

JEREMY'S HOUSE
 HOME OFFICE

ND LOCATION/SNAKE CAGES

EXTERIORS

SMITH HOUSE

BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

MAINE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE

OFFICE COMPLEX

ELLIS MANSION

JEREMY'S HOUSE
 BACKYARD/GARDEN

BANGOR STREETS
 SIDEWALKS

VEHICLES

JOHNNY'S RANGE ROVER

STILLSON'S/JANUS' TOWN CAR

ND VEHICLE

MIRANDA'S MERCEDES SEDAN

DARK SEDAN

THE DEAD ZONE

"FORBIDDEN FRUIT"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. SMITH HOUSE - DAY

1

Johnny's eating breakfast, glancing through the morning paper, the TV on in the background.

STERN NEWSCASTER (ON TV)

Local law enforcement remains on high alert after an article in today's Boston Telegraph published an internal White House list of the U.S. locations most vulnerable to a terrorist attack. Maine's Durgham Point oil refinery is among the sites listed --

Sick of bad news, he punches the remote.

JOHNNY

Not for breakfast.

A few WEATHER STATIONS, an INFO-MERCIAL and then GREG STILLSON being interviewed leaving a meeting somewhere...

REPORTER (ON TV)

Congressman, what do you think of the article in today's paper concerning Homeland Security?

STILLSON (ON TV)

It's obvious that this country needs to refocus its attention and resources inward in respect to Global terrorism, but this isn't the way to do it. Whoever leaked this report should be brought to face federal charges.

REPORTER (ON TV)

What kind of charges?

STILLSON (ON TV)

Treason would be a good place to start.

REPORTER (ON TV)

Switching gears just a bit, how are your wedding plans coming?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 1

STILLSON (ON TV)
Well, I'm a politician, so I know
how to delegate authority. I've
left the important decisions to
my better half. It's safe to
say, it's going to be the happiest
day of my life.

Stillson smiles into the camera and moves on, as the
television is shut off.

JOHNNY
(to himself)
This is really going to happen.

He tosses the cereal bowl into the sink and hurries out...

2 EXT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY 2

A dark Mercedes sedan pulls to the curb. The Driver gets
out and opens the back door, as MIRANDA ELLIS emerges
wearing dark sunglasses, looking very Jackie Kennedy.
She looks around, clearly feeling like she's being watched.

3 INT. ND VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS 3

Parked across the street. An UNIDENTIFIED MAN watches
Miranda from a distance, as he clicks SURVEILLANCE
PHOTOGRAPHS...

4 TIGHT ON MIRANDA - SERIES OF CANDID PHOTOS - FREEZE
FRAMES 4

Of Miranda as she exits the car, looks around and then
enters the dress shop.

5 INT. ND VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS 5

Janus' SECURITY MAN (established in "SAVED") sets the
camera down on the seat beside him as we see he's also
carrying a gun.

6 INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - MINUTES LATER 6

In the PRIVATE DRESSING AREA in back of the store. A
SALESWOMAN hovers nearby as the shop PHONE RINGS. The
saleswoman disappears into the shop as Miranda steps out.
She looks stunning in the traditional white dress as she
looks at herself in a large 3-way mirror.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

MIRANDA

Francesca, I think we need to take it in another inch, don't you?

JOHNNY (O.C.)

I think it looks perfect.

Three reflections of Johnny Smith appear in the mirror as he steps up behind her. She's both surprised and concerned to see him.

MIRANDA

Johnny? What are you doing here?

Johnny closes the dressing room door and locks it.

JOHNNY

I came to see you.

She seems torn, happy to see him, but frightened.

MIRANDA

You shouldn't have come here. I'm getting married in less than 36 hours.

JOHNNY

Yeah, I saw your future husband on television. He's almost as good an actor as you are.

SALESWOMAN (O.C. THROUGH DOOR)

Miss Ellis? Is everything alright?

MIRANDA

Just a minute!
(to Johnny)
You have to go.

JOHNNY

Say it.

MIRANDA

What?

JOHNNY

Tell me that you love Greg Stillson. Say the words and I'll walk away.

MIRANDA

Johnny, please...

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

JOHNNY

What are afraid of? It's just
the two us. You can be honest.

Her eyes fill with tears, then...

MIRANDA

I love Greg Stillson.

JOHNNY

(beat)

I was wrong. You're a much better
actor.

MIRANDA

You don't understand...

JOHNNY

I saw you make the deal to protect
me.

She seems surprised to hear it.

MIRANDA

Then you know why I have to do
this. It's not just for you.
It's for me, for my father.

JOHNNY

So, you go along with the charade,
pretending that you're happy about
marrying a man you don't love?

Johnny can see from her look that she's determined to
keep him safe, no matter what.

JOHNNY

Do you think Stillson knows about
the deal?

MIRANDA

I don't know. He's never mentioned
it. But I know one thing, these
people aren't playing games.

JOHNNY

What if I could figure a way out
of this.

MIRANDA

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

JOHNNY

The man that offered you the deal,
do you know who he is?

MIRANDA

I never saw his face. Why?

JOHNNY

He broke into my house the same
day you came back. He left me a
message.

MIRANDA

What kind of message?

JOHNNY

I haven't figured that out yet.
But I'm pretty sure he's Stillson's
new top advisor. I also think
he's connected to Reverend Purdy
in some way.

MIRANDA

I don't see how this changes
anything.

JOHNNY

Whoever this guy is, he operates
in the shadows. In the dark. If
I can find out who he is, maybe I
can I draw him into the light.
Then, maybe, we make a deal of
our own.

MIRANDA

I don't know.

JOHNNY

You can't give up without a fight.

As he touches her arm, WHOOSH!

7 INT. ELLIS MANSION - MIRANDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - VISION 7

*SENATOR HARLAN ELLIS sits down on the edge of the bed,
where we see Miranda's wedding dress laid out across the
mattress. He picks it up in his hands and begins to weep,
WHOOSH!*

8 RESUME INT. BRIDAL BOUTIQUE - DAY 8

Johnny flashes out of the vision. The KNOCKING on the
door becomes more desperate.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

SALESWOMAN (O.C. THROUGH DOOR)
Miss Ellis?! I'll get my key!

JOHNNY
I'll figure this out, I promise.

He takes off out the back of the shop, as the Saleswoman suddenly opens the door.

SALESWOMAN
Are you alright? Miss Ellis?

MIRANDA
Yes, I'm fine.

OFF Miranda, thinking about Johnny's promise...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 INT. SMITH HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY 9

Johnny is on the computer, as Bruce thumbs through a Bible.

BRUCE

He was just holding her wedding dress and crying?

JOHNNY

That's what I saw.

BRUCE

That could mean anything. Maybe she called it off and the old man lost his ticket to the White House.

JOHNNY

Maybe. I don't intend to leave it to chance. I'm telling you, it's all connected to this mystery man. I can feel it in my bones.

Johnny waits as some pages are being printed.

BRUCE

I've been going over the Bible passage he left for you. It's from the book of Daniel. "*The third ruler of the kingdom.*" It sounds to me like he considers you an equal. Like he's reaching out, trying to make a deal.

JOHNNY

A deal? He has to know that I'd never do anything to help him or Stillson.

BRUCE

Maybe he's trying to scare you.

Johnny retrieves the printed pages, then slips on his jacket.

JOHNNY

Listen, Sarah's out of town and I'm supposed to pick up J.J. from school and drive him home. Would you mind?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

BRUCE

No problem. Where are you going?

JOHNNY

To put my own scare into somebody.

Johnny exits, as Bruce continues to look at the Bible.

10 INT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY

10

Miranda studies the seating chart with the WEDDING PLANNER, an officious, woman in a headset. A cute young female FLORIST arranges blooms, including lilies, in a sample centerpiece.

WEDDING PLANNER

This is a sample table setting, this china is nearly a hundred years old.

MIRANDA

(scans list)

Is this the official guest list?

WEDDING PLANNER

Is there a problem?

MIRANDA

I don't recognize half of these names.

WEDDING PLANNER

The list came from Congressman Stillson's Chief of Staff.

MIRANDA

Why is there a camera crew listed?

SENATOR ELLIS (O.C.)

Because the ceremony is going to be televised.

Senator Harlan Ellis enters the room.

MIRANDA

Televised?

SENATOR ELLIS

On the Faith Heritage Network. Greg and I thought it would be a good idea to reach out to the people, make them feel like part of the family.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

MIRANDA

Daddy, I don't want this turned into a media circus. I mean, is this a wedding or a political fundraiser?

SENATOR ELLIS

Both, if you we do it right.
(off her look)

Honey, people have a vested interest in Greg Stillson. When they look at him, they see the future of this country.

STILLSON (O.C.)

And the future looks fantastic!

Miranda turns to SEE Stillson step up beside the very cute, very young Florist and helps her arrange a vase of lilies. It's obvious he's flirting with her.

STILLSON

(re: lilies)

These are my absolute favorites.
So delicate and unspoiled.

The young woman seems embarrassed as she quickly moves away. Stillson turns his attention towards Miranda.

STILLSON

There's my girl!
(kiss on the cheek)
We're really going to do this,
aren't we?

SENATOR ELLIS

It's turning in to the social event of the season. The guest list reads like a Who's Who of beltway power brokers.

MIRANDA

(sarcastic)

I hope we can leave some standing room for family and friends.

Stillson picks up the guest list.

STILLSON

(catches his eye)

You invited Congressman Kelly?

Stillson shoots Ellis a hard look.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

SENATOR ELLIS

It's tradition for a Junior
Congressman to invite his Senior
counterpart.

STILLSON

(irritated)

Tradition? This sonofabitch has
traditionally blocked every piece
of legislation I've created.
He's my biggest political
roadblock. Now I have to feed
the fat bastard?

Stillson unwittingly let's his dark side out in public.
He glances around, as the others look away.

SENATOR ELLIS

If you don't invite him, people
will think...

STILLSON

I'm afraid.

Then, like a true sociopath, his mood swings from anger
to buoyant goodwill.

STILLSON

(calming)

What the hell. Daddy used to
say, *keep your friends close and
your enemies closer*. Let's put
Congressman Kelly and his lovely
wife at table one. How's that
sound, darlin'?

He slips his arm around Miranda's shoulder.

MIRANDA

I'm not feeling very well. I
think I'll lie down for a few
minutes.

STILLSON

Want some company?

Now it's Senator Ellis' turn to look away.

MIRANDA

No. I just need to rest, that's
all.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

SENATOR ELLIS
You do look a little pale. Did
you see Dr. Knox?

MIRANDA
It's nothing, daddy. Excuse me.

Miranda walks quickly away.

STILLSON
Doctor Knox?

SENATOR ELLIS
Miranda's doctor. He's treated
her since she was a child. Saved
her life.

STILLSON
Is that right?

SENATOR ELLIS
Miranda suffered rheumatic fever
when she was a little girl. The
illness damaged her heart.

STILLSON
She never mentioned it.

SENATOR ELLIS
She wouldn't.

We see Stillson's look of concern, but over what?

11 INT. PURDY'S OFFICE - DAY

11

Johnny ENTERS, catching Purdy off guard.

PURDY
Johnny, to what do I owe this
unexpected pleasure?

JOHNNY
I was wondering if I might talk
to you about something?

PURDY
My office is always open to a
friend.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

JOHNNY

We are friends, aren't we, Gene?
I mean, if you were in trouble,
you'd confide in me, wouldn't
you?

PURDY

Of course. What's on your mind?

JOHNNY

I understand your ministry
subscriptions have tripled since
you started broadcasting on
satellite?

PURDY

We're extremely blessed to be
able to get our message out to
those in need.

JOHNNY

(pulls folded
transcript)

I logged onto the ministry's
website and downloaded the
transcript of a chat room
conversation.

PURDY

(uneasy)

I wasn't aware you were a computer
enthusiast?

JOHNNY

I'm not. But the subject of this
particular conversation caught my
attention. Apparently, the weekend
that Miranda Ellis disappeared,
you led a mass prayer service on-
line.

PURDY

I've conducted many such services.

JOHNNY

After she was found, the chat
room was buzzing with people
claiming that you'd performed a
miracle. There were even some
saying you'd willed her rescue
through divine intervention.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

PURDY

(taken aback)

Well, you know that the Internet is populated by some rather dubious characters.

JOHNNY

I suppose. The interesting thing to me was that you never publicly denied the claims. Never attempted to set the record straight. Why is that?

Purdy's normally calm exterior begins to wilt.

PURDY

I'm not sure where this is going?

JOHNNY

You've made some remarkable strides in the past ten months. And it all seemed to begin with your jump to satellite.

(takes out photocopy)

This picture was also on the website. It was taken the day you dedicated the ministry's new broadcast facility. Everybody in the picture is identified, except one person.

INSERT PICTURE

We see Purdy, a few local dignitaries and assorted officials and, standing in the back just about to turn away, we see Mister Janus.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Can you tell me his name?

RESUME PURDY AND JOHNNY

Purdy seems slightly unnerved.

PURDY

(beat)

His name is Janus. Malcolm Janus.

JOHNNY

What's his connection to Faith Heritage?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

PURDY

He's a supporter. Actually, he's the one who first approached me with the idea of taking the ministry global.

JOHNNY

Where would I find this Mister Janus?

PURDY

We usually meet here. Or at my home.

JOHNNY

He doesn't have an office?

PURDY

I'm sure he does, I've just never been there.

JOHNNY

What do you know about Janus personally?

PURDY

He's a businessman. He owns, or runs several International companies.

JOHNNY

Owns or runs?

PURDY

I'm not sure.

JOHNNY

What kind of companies?

PURDY

I'm not sure.

JOHNNY

You don't know very much about this man, do you?

PURDY

I know he offered me the opportunity to spread God's word. To carry His message and His teachings to places and people who'd otherwise be forgotten. In many ways, he's made my dreams for Faith Heritage come true.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (4) 11

JOHNNY

And what did he ask in return?

PURDY

Nothing. He's asked for nothing.

JOHNNY

It must be true what they say.
You truly must be touched by God.

Johnny exits and we see the look of conflict on Purdy's face.

12 INT. MAINE CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - DAY 12

Senior Maine Congressman PAT KELLY, a larger-than-life, red-faced Irishman in the Tip O'Neill/Teddy Kennedy mold, and his Chief Assistant, MICHAEL SCANNELL, go over an upcoming press release.

KELLY

It's important that we get out in front of this thing.

SCANNELL

It might be smart to restate our commitment to Homeland Security.

STILLSON (O.C.)

I don't know about Homeland Security...

Both men TURN, to REVEAL

GREG STILLSON

Standing in the open office doorway.

STILLSON

But these offices could definitely use some tightening up.

(big smile)

Apparently, they'll let anybody in.

Kelly greets his young rival with the smiling insincerity of a career baby kisser.

KELLY

Greg, my boy. You know my door's always open to an eager student of the game.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

Stillson smiles through the obvious shot at his inexperience.

KELLY

You know Mike Scannell, my chief aide.

STILLSON

Of course. I hear you're considering a run for Mayor?

SCANNELL

I'm weighing my options. My congratulations on your upcoming wedding.

STILLSON

Thank you. I figured it was about time I moved onto the national scene.

KELLY

How's that?

STILLSON

Polls seem to indicate that a wife and family is all I need to swing the Southern states.

KELLY

We talking about Pennsylvania Avenue?

STILLSON

If we are, you didn't hear it from me.

SCANNELL

I'll make sure we incorporate these notes into the text.

(to Stillson)

Congressman.

Scannell exits, as Kelly fixes himself a drink.

KELLY

Can I fix you a drink?

STILLSON

No. But you probably need one.

KELLY

How's that?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

STILLSON

The press must be barkin' at your heels over this newspaper article. Seeing how you're committee chairman for Homeland Security. Any idea where the leak came from?

It's obvious Stillson is enjoying Kelly's trouble.

KELLY

My people are looking into it.

STILLSON

It must be embarrassing, considering how hard you fought for that appointment?

KELLY

You know, Greg, your arrogance is one of the big reasons you're not further along in your career.

STILLSON

Is that right?

KELLY

People will put up with an unlikable leader as long as they don't feel like they're being sold down the river. Your desperate ambition for higher office scares the average voter. Makes them feel like you don't respect their needs. I, on the other hand, have no ambition beyond the office I currently represent.

STILLSON

Let's cut to the chase. You've blocked every move I've made and I'm tired of it. I want it to stop.

KELLY

Or else?

STILLSON

I can either help you through this messy situation, or I can step aside and let you get run over. The choice is yours.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

KELLY

(dead serious)

You don't scare me, son. Neither does that cold-blooded phantom that's pulling your strings. People around here don't like outsiders. Especially ones they don't know. So you go back and tell your master that I said to go straight to Hell.

Stillson swallows his anger and heads for the door,

KELLY

(raising his glass)

Donna and I look forward to the wedding!

Stillson blows out the door, as Kelly slugs down the rest of his whiskey. His face reads more concern than he's willing to admit.

13 INT. TOWN CAR - CONTINUOUS

13

Stillson slips into the back and slams the car door shut.

STILLSON

(flares)

Sanctimonious sonofabitch! He wouldn't even consider a deal.

REVEALING Janus seated beside him.

JANUS

That's unfortunate. Now we'll have to do it the hard way.

STILLSON

I don't care how you get it done, just get that old man out of my way.

JANUS

It's already in the works.

As Stillson slugs down his own shot of liquid courage, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

14 INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT 14

Johnny's staring at the Armageddon board, while Bruce is on the computer.

BRUCE

I've run Janus backwards and forwards and I get nothing. Either that's not his real name, or he really is a ghost.

Johnny lingers on a photo of Miranda on the board,

JOHNNY

He's real. And from the way Purdy reacted, dangerous.

Johnny grabs the phone and dials.

JOHNNY

(on the phone)
Miranda Ellis. -- When do you expect her back? -- I realize she's getting married tomorrow. -- No, there's no message.

He hangs up.

BRUCE

Maybe Walt can help?

JOHNNY

The White House raised the terrorist alert because of the article in the paper. He's out at the oil refinery, helping with security.

The phone RINGS. Johnny picks up.

JOHNNY

Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

15 INT. PURDY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 15

Purdy stands looking out the window, his back to the door.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: 15

PURDY
I've been thinking about our
previous conversation.

JOHNNY
Gene?

PURDY
I made a few inquiries and came
up with an address. Perhaps it
might help clear things up for
you. Do you have a pen?

Johnny scribbles down the information.

JOHNNY
I've got it. Listen, Gene, I
want you to know how much... Hello?

16 INT. PURDY'S OFFICE - DAY 16

Purdy hangs up, then HEARS...

JANUS (O.S.)
It appears someone has their hand
in the cookie jar.

Purdy looks up to REVEAL...

JANUS

Seemingly materialized out of thin air. Purdy's sure he
just heard him on the phone with Johnny.

PURDY
I can explain.

JANUS
The situation is crystal clear
from where I'm standing.

He picks up the empty cookie jar off Purdy's desk.

JANUS
You're out of those shortbread
cookies I enjoy so much.

We see the look of relief wash across Purdy's face.

PURDY
Cookies? Of course. I'll have
Mrs. Champion bake you a batch.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

JANUS

I need your assistance on a matter of great importance.

PURDY

You need my help?

JANUS

As you may know, Congressman Stillson and I have grown quite close since the unexpected death of his father.

PURDY

I wasn't aware.

JANUS

In many ways he looks upon me as a surrogate parent. An advisor in matters of both professional and personal regard.

PURDY

I see.

JANUS

The Congressman is, at his core, a simple man. From humble beginnings. Therefore, he feels himself inadequate in expressing certain communications. Matters of the heart, for example.

PURDY

Matters of the heart?

JANUS

The Congressman has approached me, in extreme confidence, and asked that I put into words some unexpressed feelings relating to his bride-to-be. Expressions he'd have you recite at the appropriate time.

PURDY

Are we talking about wedding vows?

JANUS

Vows? God, no. A testimonial. A public attestation of emotion.

Janus takes out a sealed envelope and slides it across

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

the desk in front of Purdy.

JANUS

At the Congressman's request, the envelope should remain sealed until the appropriate time.

PURDY

I understand.

JANUS

It's crucial that we each understand our roles during these turbulent days ahead. And that we weigh the consequence of our actions. Don't you agree?

PURDY

I do.

JANUS

I do indeed.

He turns and heads towards the door.

TIGHT ON JANUS' FACE

With what appears to be the hint of a smile.

JANUS

*'Til death do us part, Reverend.
Words we can all live by.*

And he's gone, as Purdy regards the mysterious envelope.

17 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

17

Johnny and Bruce ENTER. The place is empty. No furniture, no desks, no computers, nothing. Just phone wires.

BRUCE

You sure this is the address Purdy gave you?

JOHNNY

This is it.

BRUCE

Looks like another Janus dead end.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 17

JOHNNY

Like the hotel room where Stillson
killed his father.

Johnny feels around, then leans down and touches a PHONE
WIRE protruding from the wall. WHOOSH!

18 INT. OFFICE - DAY - VISION 18

*The place MORPHS into a functioning office. Cubicles,
computer stations with people working. Or are they?
Observer Johnny walks down the line checking out each
station and getting the weird feeling that there's actually
nothing going on here.*

OBSERVER JOHNNY'S POV - WORK STATIONS

*SERIES OF CUBICLES. One YOUNG MAN has his feet propped
up and is asleep. Another GUY plays computer poker, while
a YOUNG WOMAN does her nails and talks to a friend over
her head-set phone...*

YOUNG WOMAN

(on head-set)

*I swear to God. It's twelve
dollars an hour and we just sit
here doing nothing. It's actually
pretty boring.*

WHOOSH!

19 RESUME JOHNNY AND BRUCE 19

As Johnny flashes out of the vision.

JOHNNY

It was a front.

BRUCE

A front?

JOHNNY

This office. There wasn't any
business here, it was just supposed
to look that way.

BRUCE

What about Janus?

Johnny notices an office door at the far end of the space.

HEAD OFFICE DOOR

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 19

Johnny reaches for the door handle, *WHOOSH!*

20 INT. HEAD OFFICE - VISION 20

As the room MORPHS into a furnished space. The chair behind the desk turns around, we see Janus.

JANUS

*(on a headset phone)
I believe the public has a
fundamental right to know if
they're being adequately protected
from terrorism. I don't need to
remind you what's at stake here
for you personally? How this
could affect your career?*

Janus circles the writer's byline from a Boston Telegraph newspaper article. The writer's name is JEREMY TOMLIN.

JANUS

*I appreciate your concern for
national security, but if I were
you, I'd worry more about your
own. Your career. The safety of
your family. These are very
fragile things. -- That's a wise
decision. I'll expect to see the
story in Tuesday's edition.*

As Janus hangs up, WHOOSH!

21 INT. HEAD OFFICE - RESUME 21

Johnny flashes out of the vision.

JOHNNY

*It's Janus. He's the one who
leaked the security information
to the newspaper.*

BRUCE

Are you sure?

JOHNNY

*He was talking on the phone about
it. He'd circled the name of a
Boston Telegraph reporter. The
same reporter that broke the story
in today's paper.*

21 CONTINUED:

21

BRUCE

That's it, then. If you can prove Janus was the source of the leak, you can bring him down.

JOHNNY

And save Miranda.

BRUCE

You'll have to convince the reporter to go public with his name.

JOHNNY

Yeah, and we don't have much time.

They take off, as...

22 INT. BOSTON TELEGRAPH STRINGER OFFICE - BANGOR - DAY

22

5 OR 6 people talking on phones or working on computers. JEREMY TOMLIN is on the phone. He's casual, confident, a 12-year veteran reporter.

JEREMY

(on the phone)

Roger, I can't do it. -- Because I can't reveal a source. -- That's nice. Do you kiss your mother with that mouth?

He abruptly hangs up, as Johnny steps up.

JOHNNY

Excuse me...

Jeremy holds up a finger, draws a bottle of Mallox from his desk drawer and guzzles it down.

JEREMY

Ok. Go.

JOHNNY

I was wondering if I might speak to you about the article you wrote?

JEREMY

My three-part expose' on last season's blueberry crop?

(off Johnny's look)

I'm kidding.

A copy boy, FERREL, steps up...

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

FERREL

Jeremy, there's like a thousand
phone messages here from all over
the country. Everybody wants...

JEREMY

Me to name my source. I know.
Tell them it isn't going to happen.
Tell them if Bob Woodward can
keep *Deep Throat* a secret for
thirty years, I can protect mine
for at least the weekend. Go!

The kid shuffles away.

JOHNNY

My name is John.

JEREMY

Hello, John. Good-bye John.

He heads for the door.

23 EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

23

Johnny follows Jeremy out of the building and up the
sidewalk.

JOHNNY

If I could just have a minute?

JEREMY

I'd love to, but I've got a lot
to do before I go to jail.

JOHNNY

So, you're not going to reveal
your source to the Grand Jury?

Jeremy STOPS.

JEREMY

I know you. You're...

JOHNNY

Johnny Smith.

JEREMY

The psychic!

He starts walking again, as Johnny follows...

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

JEREMY

I spent three months tryin' to get an exclusive interview with you. You never returned my calls.

JOHNNY

I've been busy.
(off Jeremy's look)
Okay, I'm a jerk.

JEREMY

What are you doing here? Somebody hire you to figure out the identity of my source?

JOHNNY

Actually, I already know who it is.

JEREMY

(amused)
Do you?
(beat, serious)
You do?

JOHNNY

Unfortunately, it doesn't do me any good unless the name goes public.
(off Jeremy's look)
It's a long story.

JEREMY

People have a right to know the truth, John. And people have the same right to their privacy.

JOHNNY

And you'd rather go to jail?

JEREMY

It's a complicated world.

Jeremy takes out a business card and writes something on the back of it.

JEREMY

Here's my business card. My home number. In case you change your mind about that interview.

He gives Johnny the card and is about to get in his car,

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2) 23

JOHNNY

How about we do it right now?

Jeremy hesitates, as...

24 INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - OFFICE - DAY 24

A cluttered home office. Photos from his many assignments.

JOHNNY

You've had an exciting career.

JEREMY

If you like lousy food and crappy hotel rooms.

Johnny notices a framed photo of Jeremy and his wife.

JOHNNY

Your wife?

JEREMY

Karen.

Johnny picks up the picture. WHOOSH!

JOHNNY

When's the baby due?

JEREMY

How could you?

(realizes)

Right. So, you okay with me taking a couple pictures first?

JOHNNY

I didn't actually come here to do the interview.

JEREMY

You've wasted my time.

JOHNNY

You're angry, I understand, but there are things you don't know. Lives are at stake. Events in motion that need to be stopped.

JEREMY

What kind of events?

24

CONTINUED:

24

Before Johnny can answer, KAREN TOMLIN, comes in with an arm load of freshly cut flowers.

KAREN

Jer, we're out of topsoil. Can you...

(stops, seeing Johnny)

I'm sorry. I didn't realize you had company.

JEREMY

John Smith, this is my wife, Karen. John was just leaving.

Jeremy opens the door. Johnny steps out, then turns...

JOHNNY

Time is running out. I beg you to reconsider.

JEREMY

I can't. I'm sorry.

He closes the door on Johnny.

25

INT. ELLIS MANSION - BEDROOM - NIGHT

25

Miranda is getting ready for bed, closing the French doors to the outside. She pauses to look at her wedding dress lying across the sofa. This should be the happiest time of her life, but it's anything but. Suddenly, Stillson wraps his arms around her from behind, startling her.

MIRANDA

(startled)

God. You scared me.

She realize he's wearing just pajama bottoms and a T-shirt.

MIRANDA

What are you doing?

STILLSON

What's it look like?

He goes to kiss her, but Miranda pushes him away.

MIRANDA

I can't. I mean, we can't sleep together the night before the wedding. It's bad luck.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

STILLSON

Are you serious?

She doesn't respond to his affection, as he steps back.

STILLSON

What's wrong?

MIRANDA

I saw the way you looked at that girl today. The way you look at other women.

STILLSON

You're angry because I looked at a girl? Darlin', men look at pretty girls, it's what we do.

MIRANDA

You do more than just look.

STILLSON

What are you talking about?

MIRANDA

Don't treat me like I'm stupid.

She pushes him away again, as tempers flare...

STILLSON

What do want from me?!

MIRANDA

The truth!

STILLSON

I'm telling you the truth!

MIRANDA

I don't believe you!

STILLSON

Then why'd you agree to marry me!

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

MIRANDA

(flares)

Because I was afraid...

She stops short of saying Johnny's name.

STILLSON

What? Talk to me.

MIRANDA

(beat)

I grew up surrounded by powerful men. My grandfather, my uncles... My father. Even as a little girl, I knew there were other women. My mother knew it, too. There was an unspoken agreement. Whatever happened outside the house, stayed outside. I can deal with certain things, but I won't be made a fool of in public. That I can't accept. Not even for you.

She holds Stillson's stare, he seems oddly touched by her honesty.

STILLSON

(beat)

When I told you about my father.

MIRANDA

I don't want to talk about this.

She tries to pull away, but he holds her tight.

STILLSON

Wait.

(softer)

Please.

She relents.

STILLSON

(beat)

There's so much about me that you don't know. And I know I'm not what you're used to. I'm not from a rich family with an important name. I grew up dirt poor. Everything I have, I had to scratch and claw for it. I never knew my mother.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

STILLSON (CONT'D)

And my father, well, he blamed me
for everything bad that ever
happened to him. I guess all
that fightin' and scratchin'
scarred me in places the eyes
can't see. But I'm determined to
make a new life for myself. For
us. I would never hurt you, I
swear.

*
*
*
*
*

He gently touches her face, then heads for the door.

*

STILLSON

If I knew love was going to be so
lonely, I would have bought a
dog.

He exits. Miranda starts for the bed, then notices his
clothes scattered on the floor. She crosses to pick them
up and something drops of his pants pocket. She picks it
up,

CLOSE ON: a diamond earring. One.

Miranda absorbs the moment, believing it belongs to one
of the other women that Stillson so desperately denied.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (4) 25

MIRANDA
Sonofabitch.

Tears well up in her eyes, as she throws on her coat and exits the room.

26 INT. SMITH HOUSE - NIGHT 26

The DOORBELL RINGS. Johnny crosses to the door and opens it, as we see Miranda.

JOHNNY
Miranda.

MIRANDA
I had to see you.

She falls into his arms, crying, as we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

27 INT. SMITH HOUSE - NIGHT 27

Johnny can see she's upset.

JOHNNY

Are you okay?

MIRANDA

I can't do this. I thought I could, but I can't. I feel like I'm dying one minute at a time.

JOHNNY

It's okay. We'll figure it out.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, she kisses him. Johnny breaks away from her.

MIRANDA

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have done that.

JOHNNY

It's okay.
(awkward beat)
I'll fix us some coffee.

He steps away towards the kitchen, as Miranda regains her composure.

28 OMITTED 28
AND AND
29 29

30 INT. SMITH HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER 30

Johnny and Miranda sit at the breakfast table drinking coffee.

JOHNNY

His name is Janus. Malcolm Janus.

MIRANDA

What else did you find out about him?

JOHNNY

Not much I'm afraid, but I'm sure he's the source behind the article in the newspaper. I tried to convince the reporter to reveal his name, but he refused.

MIRANDA

That means we don't have any leverage. No way to force Janus to back off from his threat.

Johnny can see the look of hopelessness creep back into her eyes.

JOHNNY

I haven't given up yet.

Miranda gets up and moves to the window.

MIRANDA

Maybe it's just as well. What would I tell everyone?

Johnny joins her.

JOHNNY

Tell them the truth. Tell them that you don't love Stillson and this was all a big mistake.

30 CONTINUED:

30

MIRANDA

(beat)

It's strange, but I almost felt
sorry for Greg tonight. He seemed
so... damaged.

JOHNNY

He killed his own father. Don't
you ever forget that. No matter
what happens, you have to remember
what he's capable of.

She considers the warning, then looks out the window.

MIRANDA

(beat)

The sun will be up soon. I have
to go.

JOHNNY

Miranda, we still have a chance...

MIRANDA

No. You have to let this go,
John. For me. I can't keep going
back and forth like this. Promise
me you won't try to find me again.
Please.

Reluctantly, Johnny nods, as she gently kisses his cheek,

MIRANDA

Good-bye.

She walks away, as Johnny hesitates, then notices something
sitting on the counter. He picks it up.

INSERT - JEREMY TOMLIN'S BUSINESS CARD

His HOME NUMBER scribbled on the back,

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

JOHNNY

As he holds the card, WHOOSH--

31 OMITTED 31

32 EXT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - GARDEN - EARLY MORNING - VISION 32

Jeremy's wife Karen is in the garden. Jeremy appears...

JEREMY

*A little early for gardening,
isn't it?*

KAREN

*It's cooler before the sun gets
too high. Go back to bed.*

JEREMY

*I can't sleep. I'm gonna walk up
to the bakery and get some bagels.
If the phone rings, let it go,
it's just people wanting comments
on the hearing today.*

We HEAR the phone begin RINGING inside the house.

JEREMY

See?

He seems bothered,

KAREN

What?

JEREMY

*You ever have the feeling you
were doing the wrong thing for
all the right reasons?*

*Jeremy gives her a kiss as he pats her stomach and then
walks away. The PHONE CONTINUES TO RING inside the house.*

Karen continues working deeper into the garden.

KAREN

*Let's check the strawberries.
What? You don't know about
strawberries? Oh, you're going
to love them. And raspberries,
and blueberries and...*

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

She pulls off her gloves, kneels down and lifts the foliage, but instead of berries, she FINDS...

A DEADLY VIPER...

Exposed suddenly, the SNAKE HISSSES then STRIKES.

SLO-MO - CLOSE ON: a serpent's fangs strike Karen's exposed hand...

She falls back, clutching her hand as the deadly snake slithers away.. .WHOOSH!

33 INT. SMITH HOUSE - DAWN 33

Flashing out of the vision, Johnny recoils as if bitten himself. He grabs for his phone and dials the number off the business card.

JEREMY'S VOICE MAIL

This is Jeremy. Can't talk now, leave a message... BEEP!

JOHNNY

(leaves urgent message)

Jeremy, this is John Smith. If you get this message, keep your wife out of the garden. There's danger in the garden. I hope I can get there before it's too late.

Johnny grabs his car keys and takes off.

34 INT/EXT. RANGE ROVER - MORNING 34

We have an ACTION-TYPE DRIVING SEQUENCE. Our rescue version of THE FRENCH CONNECTION. Johnny trying to get to Karen Tomlin before the snake bites her.

35 INT. ELLIS MANSION - MORNING 35

Miranda slips quietly through the French doors into the house, thinking she's arrived undetected, she moves silently up the staircase, as the SHOT REVEALS...

JANUS

Watching silently in the darkness. He takes out his phone and hits the SEND button...

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

JANUS

(on phone)

She just got home. Do you have
what I asked for? -- Excellent.

(PUSHING TIGHT)

Congressman Stillson is going to
be very interested to know exactly
how his bride-to-be spent the
night before her wedding.

36 EXT/INT. RANGE ROVER - MORNING

36

Johnny steers the Rover towards a street corner, as he
continues to try and contact Tomlin at home.

JOHNNY

Come on, answer the damn...

He stops as he suddenly notices,

JOHNNY'S POV - JEREMY TOMLIN

Tomlin is walking down the sidewalk towards the bakery.
They BOTH make EYE CONTACT as Johnny squeals the car around
the corner and tears up the quiet residential street
towards the Tomlin house.

37 EXT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

37

Karen Tomlin is working in her garden. The real-life
replay from Johnny's previous vision. In the B.G. we
continue to HEAR the PHONE RING.

KAREN

Let's check the strawberries.
What? You don't know about
strawberries? Oh, you're going
to love them. And raspberries,
and blueberries and...

She pulls off her gloves, kneels down and reaches for the
foliage...

JOHNNY (O.C.)

DON'T!

Karen looks up REVEALING...

JOHNNY

He stands over her, holding a shovel blade high above his
head, which he swings down hard directly into FRAME.

38 EXT. ELLIS ESTATE - MORNING

38

Stillson, dressed in jogging attire, finishes his morning run. He's bent over trying to catch his breath, as Janus appears.

STILLSON
(breathing hard)
Mister Janus. I missed you on
the road this morning.

JANUS
I've never grasped the notion of
running until one's lungs explode
as an endorsement for healthy
living.

Stillson smiles, then realizes this visit is all business.

STILLSON
What's on your mind?

JANUS
The future. More to the point,
yours, both personal and
professional.

STILLSON
(firm)
If this is about Miranda, she and
I had a heart-to-heart last night.
I can assure you she's not going
to be a problem.

JANUS
That's excellent news. I'm
curious, did this heart-to-heart
take place before or after she
went to Johnny Smith's house?

STILLSON
What are you talking about?

Janus hands him a manila envelope, as Stillson slides out
a series of 5x7 b/w digital photographs.

INSERT PHOTOS

Johnny and Miranda at his front door. Then kissing at
the kitchen window.

STILLSON

Clearly crushed and enraged by these images.

(CONTINUED)

38

CONTINUED:

38

JANUS

They spent several hours inside the house. She was back in the house just before daylight.

Stillson takes a few steps away to gather himself.

STILLSON

I don't understand, I told her...
I mean, I promised...

JANUS

Perhaps, if you spoke to her again?

Stillson spins, his pain suddenly replaced with rage.

STILLSON

Speak to her? What would you suggest we talk about? Johnny Smith? It seems to be the only thing we have in common!

He violently kicks a garbage can in anger.

STILLSON

She's never going to give him up. This is just going to go on and on...

Janus continues to play him like a violin.

JANUS

How would you suggest I handle the situation?

Stillson considers the question as we see a cold resolve wash over him.

STILLSON

(cold)
I'll leave that decision to you.

He starts away, then hesitates, but never turns to look at Janus...

STILLSON

This is a turning point for us, Malcolm. Don't disappoint me.

He walks away, leaving Janus to clean up the mess.

39 INT. ELLIS MANSION - LATER

39

Miranda is in her wedding dress. KATHLEEN, a young woman her own age, her MAID OF HONOR, fusses over her make-up.

KATHLEEN
2 hours and counting.

MIRANDA
Is that all? I didn't realize it was so late.

KATHLEEN
You okay, sweetie?

She doesn't look like a blushing bride, that's for sure.

MIRANDA
Fine. Just overexcited.

KATHLEEN
I could pull the car around back. We'd be in Canada before they cut the cake.

MIRANDA
(lost in thought)
Canada?

KATHLEEN
It was a joke, honey.

There's a knock at the door, as Kathleen answers, we see Stillson dressed in his wedding suit.

STILLSON
I'd like to speak with Miranda.

KATHLEEN
Now?

Stillson's eyes narrow, as he's about to unload.

MIRANDA
It's okay, Katy. Can you get me some water?

KATHLEEN
Sure. I'll be right back.

She cuts Stillson a hard look and leaves. Stillson steps in and closes the door.

STILLSON
I don't think she likes me very much.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

MIRANDA

She doesn't know you.

STILLSON

Do any of us really know each other?

She doesn't like the energy he's giving off. Stillson steps up behind her, staring at her in the mirror. It's creepy, as if he's trying to memorize her face.

STILLSON

I just wanted to see you one last time.

MIRANDA

Last time?

STILLSON

Before everything happens.

He sets his hand on the side of her neck, as if he might strangle her right here.

STILLSON

I want you to know that I meant everything I said last night. I don't think I ever bared my soul to another human being the way I have with you.

*

His eyes burn through the reflection of the mirror.

STILLSON

I love you, Miranda. Always remember that.

*

*

He kisses her on the neck, then walks out, passing Kathleen as she returns with a bottle of water.

KATHLEEN

What was that all about?

SHOT PUSHES TIGHT on Miranda's face,

MIRANDA

I'm not sure.

As we see the uncertain fear in her eyes.

40 EXT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - GARDEN - DAY

40

Johnny tosses the shovel aside.

(CONTINUED)

40

CONTINUED:

40

JOHNNY

Are you okay?

KAREN

I didn't see it. How did you know it was there?

JOHNNY

I've had some recent experience with snakes in the grass.

CLOSE ON: Johnny picks the snake up by the tail. WHOOSH!

MATCH MOVE MORPH

41

INT. ND LOCATION - DAY

41

There are small cages with different types of deadly snakes in them. There's a bigger cage, where there are about a dozen poisonous snakes slithering around.

SMALL CAGE

A slick black snake identical to the one in Karen's garden, is grabbed behind the head by a LEATHER GLOVE.

SNAKE MAN

A rough-looking guy "milks" the snake of its venom, holding its fangs against the edge a small glass vial, as the bottom pools with deadly venom.

Observer Johnny watches as a BIG MAN (we remember him as one of Stillson's/Janus' Security Men) watches from a few feet away.

SECURITY MAN

So, it can't kill anyone now?

SNAKE MAN

Not for a few hours. Not until it has a chance to produce more venom. It'll make you sick as a dog though. This particular venom affects the heart.

He slips the snake into a heavy canvas bag and hands it to Security Man, who hands the man a wad of cash. We notice that he's wearing black leather gloves.

SNAKE MAN

Mind if I ask what you need it for?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

SECURITY MAN

*Somebody wants to send a message.
How much for the venom?*

SNAKE MAN

*The venom? I can't sell that to
you. I mean, just a pin prick of
this stuff can kill a person.*

SECURITY MAN

I guess I'll have to take it then.

*Before the Snake Man can react, the Security Man hits him
with a powerful forearm blow to the jaw, knocking him
unconscious. He grabs the guy by the back of his jacket
and drags him to the door of the large cage, opens it and
shoves the guy into the cage full of deadly snakes. He
locks the cage with a padlock (with gloved hands, thus
leaving no fingerprints). Then he takes the bagged snake
and the vial of venom and leaves.*

42 RESUME - JEREMY'S HOUSE - GARDEN - MORNING

42

Johnny flashes out of the vision, as he realizes the snake
was bought by Janus...

JEREMY (O.C.)

Karen!

Jeremy runs to his wife and hugs her.

JEREMY

(to Johnny)

What happened?

43 INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - HOME OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

43

Johnny and Jeremy are talking.

JOHNNY

I think it was meant as a warning.

JEREMY

Warning?

JOHNNY

Somebody wanted to scare you.
Somebody whose afraid you might
talk.

JEREMY

You think my source did this?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

JOHNNY

He knows there's pressure on you
to reveal his name.

JEREMY

That thing could have killed my
wife... my child.

We see the anger swell inside him.

JOHNNY

People get nervous. Lives are on
the line. The question now is,
what will you do to protect
yourself?

Jeremy hesitates, then reaches for the phone and dials...

JEREMY

(on phone)

Andy, it's Jerry. How quick can
you put together a press
conference?

Johnny sighs as it appears he's finally going to take
Janus down. But will it be in time...

44 EXT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY

44

GUESTS arriving. PHOTOGRAPHERS are snapping pictures and
WAITERS holding trays of drinks. A LIMO pulls up as
Congressman Kelly and his wife get out. As we notice
that the event is being broadcast live on the Faith
Heritage Network, a REPORTER interviews him.

REPORTER

Congressman, can we ask you a few
questions?

KELLY

Is this being broadcast live?

REPORTER

On the Faith Heritage Network.

KELLY

(aside to his wife)

Stillson loves the camera time.

REPORTER

Congressman, given your stormy
history with Greg Stillson, are
you surprised to be here today?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

KELLY

Congressman Stillson and I disagree about how best to lead this State. But today is about family. On that subject I think we're in agreement. Excuse me.

He moves on, greeting other guests.

45 INT. BOSTON TELEGRAPH STRINGER OFFICE - DAY

45

Jeremy is there in a sport coat and tie, his LAWYER, his wife and several reporters with TV cameras. Johnny and Bruce stand in the back.

BRUCE

It's a good thing you kept that business card.

JOHNNY

The important thing is we get Janus' name on the record as the source of the security leak.

(checks his watch)

Miranda's scheduled to walk down the aisle in less than an hour.

BRUCE

Here we go.

PODIUM

Jeremy steps up to the makeshift podium.

JEREMY

Thank you for coming on such short notice. I believe in the power of the press. I've dedicated my life to it. But my family hasn't.

(looks over at his wife)

There's a threat to our liberty, but it's not from foreign aggressors. It comes from within. It saddens me to reveal a source I've sworn to protect, but whom I feel has betrayed that trust. My source's name is -- Michael Scannell, Congressman Pat Kelly's chief of staff.

There's a flurry of excitement. Johnny is shocked.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

BRUCE
Did he say Scannell?

JOHNNY
What have I done?

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

46 INT. BOSTON TELEGRAPH STRINGER OFFICE - BANGOR - 46
CONTINUOUS

Johnny and Bruce absorb the blow of Tomlin's public announcement.

JEREMY

I don't know whether Congressman Kelly knew or approved the leak. I assume an independent investigation will determine his culpability. I'll take a few questions now.

B.G. CHATTER TO BE WRITTEN.

The REPORTER standing next to Johnny shakes his head.

REPORTER #2

This officially makes Greg Stillson the luckiest man on earth.

JOHNNY

Stillson?

REPORTER #2

He's marrying a stone fox and his number one political rival is wiped out, all in the same day. This guy is unstoppable.

He walks away, as Johnny realizes just how badly he's been duped.

47 INT. RANGE ROVER - DAY 47

Johnny is driving with Bruce.

JOHNNY

Janus wasn't blackmailing Jeremy Tomlin. It was Scannell.

BRUCE

How?

JOHNNY

He must have set him up or dug up some dirt on him, something to get him to go along with the idea.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I'm sure Scannell never knew who he was dealing with, just a voice on the phone.

BRUCE

Janus used the snake to put the fear of God into Tomlin, knowing he'd name Scannell and bring down Stillson's biggest political obstacle in the process. It's actually brilliant.

JOHNNY

And I helped him every step of the way.

Johnny suddenly realizes,

47A FLASHBACK - SNAKE MAN VISION

47A

SNAKE MAN

Mind if I ask what you need it for?

SECURITY MAN

Somebody wants to send a message. How much for the venom?

47B RESUME JOHNNY

47B

As his mind races to connect the missing dots.

JOHNNY

(aside)

The venom.

BRUCE

The what?

JOHNNY

In my vision, Janus' security man took the snake and a vial of venom.

BRUCE

What would you need snake venom for?

47C FLASHBACK - SNAKE MAN 47C

SNAKE MAN
*Just a pin prick of this stuff
can kill a person.*

47D RESUME JOHNNY 47D

As it suddenly hits him.

JOHNNY
Miranda. It has to be Miranda.
(beat)
Hang on!

Johnny whips a U-turn and tears up the street.

48 INT. ELLIS MANSION - BEDROOM - DAY 48

Miranda, in her wedding dress, stands at the window,
looking out.

JANUS (O.C.)
I hope you're not contemplating a
jump?

Miranda turns to REVEAL...

JANUS

Dressed neatly in a classic black tuxedo.

MIRANDA
(slight panic)
Where's Katy?

JANUS
I believe she had an emergency
phone call. A family matter.

It's obvious he's set up this moment for them to be alone.

JANUS
I don't believe we've formally
been introduced.

He offers his hand, but Miranda ignores the gesture.

MIRANDA
I know who you are. I'd appreciate
it if you'd leave.

She turns again to stare out the window. Janus steps up
behind her.

(CONTINUED)

48

CONTINUED:

48

JANUS

Weddings are one of those ancient rituals I've never understood. Did you know that very few members of the animal kingdom actually mate for life?

MIRANDA

You'd be the expert on animal behavior.

JANUS

There's a tribe in Africa where the bride's entire family enters the sleeping hut the morning after the wedding. If there's no sign of blood in the marriage bed, the woman is dragged to the center of the village and stoned to death. It's considered a sign of betrayal. It's fortunate civilization has come so far, wouldn't you agree?

She turns to face him.

MIRANDA

Why are you here?

JANUS

I bring a peace offering from the groom.

Janus draws a small box from his coat pocket and opens it. We see TWO diamond earrings. They are identical to the one that fell out of Stillson's pants pocket. Miranda seems taken aback.

JANUS

The Congressman had planned to present them to you sooner, but as fortune would have it, he misplaced one of them.

She suddenly realizes Stillson didn't lie to her. That the earring she found was meant for her all along. Now she's unwittingly become the betrayer.

JANUS

I know how much it would mean to him to have you wear them today.

She takes them, as Janus steps to the door, then looks back at her.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

JANUS
Stunning. Truly, stunning.

He exits. Miranda steps to the mirror, takes one of the earrings and removes the backing,

CLOSE ON: the sharp silver post of the earring, shining like a deadly weapon as she slips it into the hole in her ear lobe.

OVER *this* we HEAR,

SNAKE MAN (V.O.)
*Just a pin prick of this stuff
can kill a person.
(then)
This particular venom affects the
heart.*

Miranda INSERTS the post into the hole in her lobe, as...

49 EXT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY

49

Guests are being seated for the ceremony, STRING MUSIC PLAYING. Senator Ellis is standing at the rear greeting guests as they head for their seats, together with Reverend Purdy as Congressman Kelly and his wife step forward.

A REPORTER and his camera crew rush up to Kelly.

REPORTER
Congressman Kelly, what's your reaction to Jeremy Tomlin's statement indicating your office as the source of leaked information concerning Homeland Security?

KELLY
What are you talking about?

REPORTER
Tomlin just finished a press conference in which he claimed to have documentation and recordings of your top aide passing security documents.

KELLY
(under his breath)
Christ almighty.
(to the press)
No comment!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

KELLY (CONT'D)
(grabs his wife)
Let's go!

As Kelly fights his way back towards the cars.

Purdy turns to see Janus standing from across the lawn. Their eyes meet, as Janus raises his glass of champagne, then walks away. Purdy has a sinking feeling, as the STRING QUARTET strikes up the WEDDING MARCH...

50 EXT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY

50

Everyone is now seated. Stillson stands at the front near Purdy, who is to conduct the ceremony.

Senator Ellis waits to accompany Miranda, who is not there yet.

The STRING QUARTET finishes the wedding march. A hush of anticipation falls over the crowd.

Stillson waits in silence, stony-faced.

Purdy waits.

Ellis waits.

Stillson glances at Purdy. Purdy smiles patiently.

Stillson glances back at Senator Ellis.

A child cries, breaking the silence. Is shushed.

SUDDENLY someone does appear. But it's not Miranda. It's Kathleen.

KATHLEEN
It's Miranda! She's not breathing!

The frozen tableau suddenly bursts into motion and sound. Senator Ellis bolts for the house.

Stillson and Purdy exchange a knowing look, as Stillson heads quickly for the main house.

Crowd chatter: *"What's going on?" "What happened?" "Where is she?" "I hope she's all right."*

51 EXT. ELLIS MANSION - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

51

PARAMEDIC (O.C.)

Make way, make way!

As an EMT CREW rolls out of the mansion with a GURNEY.
Miranda, one paramedic giving her artificial respiration.

Johnny and Bruce fight through the crowd,

JOHNNY

Miranda!? Let me through!

As she's rolled past him, surrounded by paramedics, Johnny
can just see her face as she passes...

SLO-MOTION

As he sees she's unconscious, but just as beautiful as
he'd imagined. He notices the one diamond earring.

As he watches her being taken away, he hesitates, then
comes face to face with,

STILLSON

They stand a few feet apart.

JOHNNY

What did you do to her?

STILLSON

(to several Security
Men)

This man is trespassing!

JOHNNY

You sonofabitch!

Johnny tries to get to him, but he's wrestled away by the
Security Men as Stillson climbs into the ambulance with
Miranda. As it screams away with lights flashing and
siren wailing,

JOHNNY

Wrestles free from the Men's control.

BRUCE

He's cool! We're leaving, just
back off!

The guys move away, leaving Johnny and Bruce in the sea
of stunned guests.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

BRUCE

You okay?

JOHNNY

Yeah.

BRUCE

You sure?

JOHNNY

I'm fine! Just give me a second!

Johnny steps a few feet away to gather himself, then almost intuitively glances up,

JOHNNY'S POV - UPPER WINDOW

Janus stands in the window looking down. Their eyes meet for one second, then the curtain draws shut.

AS we CRANE UP on the scene, Johnny standing in the middle of the chaos staring up at a window with no one there.

STERN NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Almost 2 days after the news of Miranda Ellis' tragic death, and still her friends and family remain numb...

52 INT. JOHNNY'S HOUSE - 2 DAYS LATER

52

TIGHT ON SCREEN... Images of Miranda Ellis, things we've shot and things we need to shoot.

STERN NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

It seems unfathomable that such a young, energetic woman could be gone so suddenly. As her family, including grieving fiancé Congressman Greg Stillson, honored her last wish to have her ashes spread on the ocean she loved so much.

INSERT SHOT OF TV: Greg Stillson walks alone on a beach, a couple of Dark-Suited Guys a few paces behind him.

FLASH: Another shot of Stillson on the beach, looking out to sea.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

STERN NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Miss Ellis suffered from a heart condition as the result of a childhood illness. Unfortunately, that heart proved too weak to realize what should have been the happiest day of her young life. Miranda Ellis was 24 years old.

As a FULL SCREEN PHOTO OF MIRANDA SMILING FILLS THE SCREEN... then it goes BLACK.

REVEAL JOHNNY

Sitting on the sofa holding the remote. Bruce is here, too.

BRUCE

Come on, dude. You can't just sit here all day.

Johnny shows Bruce the front page of the BOSTON TELEGRAPH.

JOHNNY

See this? Congressman Kelly resigned today. They did it, Bruce. They did it all.

BRUCE

Television says Miranda had a heart condition. Her father confirmed it in the paper.

JOHNNY

She was poisoned. Why do you think they had her body cremated so fast?

BRUCE

You should have gone to the police.

JOHNNY

With what? Visions? These people don't leave loose ends.

(he grabs the paper)

Did you see this article? It's about how Stillson is seen as the grieving fiancé. About how that translates into votes. You think they didn't know that?!

He throws the paper across the room, as the DOORBELL RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

JOHNNY

I'm not here.

Bruce moves to the front door, then returns with Reverend Purdy...

BRUCE

He's not here. But if he comes back, see if you can get him to eat something.

Bruce exits. Purdy steps over and sits next to Johnny.

PURDY

(beat)

I owe you an apology. I was blinded by my own ambition. I never in my wildest imagination thought it would come to this.

JOHNNY

What are you talking about?

Purdy takes out a familiar-looking envelope with a broken wax seal and sets it on the table.

JOHNNY

What is that?

PURDY

(emotionally distraught)

Janus came to see me a few days ago. He gave me this envelope and told me I wasn't to open it until the proper time. He said it was something he'd written for Greg Stillson. Something concerning Miranda.

This gets Johnny's attention.

JOHNNY

Janus wrote something about Miranda?

Johnny goes for the envelope, but Purdy stops him.

PURDY

(becoming upset and agitated)

It's not even his handwriting, I checked.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (3)

52

JOHNNY

What...

PURDY

He'd just deny it. There's no way to prove it came from him. I've been over it a thousand times in my head...

Johnny grabs Purdy by the arm to settle him down.

JOHNNY

Gene.

PURDY

I assumed it was something to do with the marriage ceremony. Then, after Miranda... after she collapsed, I opened it.

Purdy is clearly on the verge of tears.

JOHNNY

What is it? What's in the envelope?

PURDY

(beat)

It's her eulogy.

(hushed rage)

The sonofabitch wrote Miranda's eulogy two days before she died.

As they sit in stunned silence, we go the TITLE CARD.

STERN NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Miranda Ellis was 24 years old.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR