

THE BREACH  
PILOT EPISODE: "AUGUST 17, 1998"

Written by

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Based on the book, THE BREACH. INSIDE THE TRIAL OF WILLIAM  
JEFFERSON CLINTON, by Peter Baker

Cutler Productions  
July 20, 2017

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

(in order of appearance)

**Principal Characters**

HILLARY CLINTON (51) FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (52) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

PAUL BEGALA (LATE 30S) PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR

KEN STARR (52) INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

TOM DELAY (52) HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP

BOB LIVINGSTON (MID 50S) SPEAKER-DESIGNATE OF THE HOUSE

CHARLES 'CHUCK' RUFF (LATE 50S) WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL

ERSKINE BOWLES (EARLY 50S) WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

MONICA LEWINSKY (25) FORMER WHITE HOUSE INTERN

**Supporting Characters**

MELANNE VERVEER (54) AIDE TO HILLARY CLINTON

MATT LAUER (41) TODAY SHOW HOST

JOE LIEBERMAN (50) DEMOCRAT SENATOR FROM CT

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON (EARLY 50S) TELEVISION WRITER/PRODUCER  
AND CLOSE FRIEND OF THE CLINTONS

ROBERT BITTMAN (36)- PROSECUTOR FOR KEN STARR

SOLOMON WISENBERG (44)- PROSECUTOR FOR KEN STARR

JACKIE BENNETT (41) PROSECUTOR FOR KEN STARR

JAMES CARVILLE (54) FORMER CONSULTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

MIKE MCCURRY (EARLY 40S) WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

RAHM EMANUEL (LATE 30S) SENIOR ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT

DAVID KENDALL (MID 50S) PERSONAL COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SAMUEL 'SANDY' BERGER (EARLY 50S) NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

LINDA TRIPP (LATE 40S) PENTAGON COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND WHO TAPE-RECORDED MONICA S. LEWINSKY

AL GORE (50) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT (61) SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWT GINGRICH (MID 50S) SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

JOHN PODESTA (LATE 40S) WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS

MICKEY KANTOR (LATE 50S) FORMER COMMERCE SECRETARY AND ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT

JOHN KING (30s) CNN JOURNALIST

WOLF BLITZER (50) CNN SENIOR WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

JOE LOCKHART (LATE 30S) WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

BETTY CURRIE (60) PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON'S PERSONAL SECRETARY

NICOLE SELIGMAN (41) PERSONAL COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

DOUG SOSNIK (42) SENIOR ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT

HARRY THOMAS (LATE 50S) FILM/TELEVISION PRODUCER AND LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON'S HUSBAND

MICHAEL SCANLON (20) COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR TOM DELAY

MARK CORALLO (MID 20S) AIDE TO BOB LIVINGSTON

COLD OPEN

OVER BLACK WE SEE OPENING TITLES:

We hear TWO FEMALE VOICES speaking over the TELEPHONE. Soon we'll find out these are the voices of former White House Intern, MONICA LEWINSKY (25) and former colleague/friend of Lewinsky's, LINDA TRIPP (late 40s).

LINDA TRIPP

*What are you gonna wear when you go to - ummm - L.A.?*

MONICA LEWINSKY

*Well, I have my black uniform. I'll wear that ...*

LINDA TRIPP

*Okay.*

MONICA LEWINSKY

*And then I'm gonna wear the navy dress I wore to the radio address that still has the rum on it, for Thanksgiving.*

We very slowly FAN UP. Where we are is hard to tell. But little by little, as the camera comes more and more into focus, we begin to make out three figures sitting, listening to the same conversation we're listening too.

LINDA TRIPP

*Well, how - you're what, you're gonna get it cleaned?*

MONICA LEWINSKY

*Yeah.*

LINDA TRIPP

*Oh, God.*

MONICA LEWINSKY

*Well, I mean, like I haven't worn it for a year, you know?*

LINDA TRIPP

*Yeah.*

MONICA LEWINSKY

*It's about time. Out with the old, you know?*

LINDA TRIPP

Oh, that's too bad. (A pause.) This navy blue dress. Now all I would say to you is: I know how you feel today and I know why you feel the way you do today, but you have a very long life ahead of you. I would rather you had that in your possession if you need it years from now. That's all I'm gonna say.

MONICA LEWINSKY

You think that I can hold onto a dress for 10, 15 years with cum from--

LINDA TRIPP

Hey, listen. My cousin is a genetic whatchamacalit...

MONICA LEWINSKY

Uh...

LINDA TRIPP

...and during O.J. trial so, I questioned all the CIA and do you know what he told me?

MONICA LEWINSKY

Huh?

LINDA TRIPP

He said that on a rape victim now if she has preserved a pinprick size of crusted semen, 10 years from that time, if she takes a wet Q-Tip and blobs it on there they can match the DNA with absolutely with certainty.

MONICA LEWINSKY

So why can't I scratch that off and put it in a plastic bag?

LINDA TRIPP

You can't scratch it off. You would have to use a Q-Tip. And I feel like this is what I would tell my own daughter.

MONICA LEWINSKY

Well, I'll think about it.

LINDA TRIPP  
*It could be your only insurance  
 policy down the road. Maybe I'm  
 being paranoid....*

SUDDENLY one of the figures moves toward something and presses a button, snapping a TAPE RECORDER into perfect view.

We now see we are in...

INT. KEN STARR'S OFFICE - DAY

Title: January, 12, 1998

LINDA TRIPP sits in the office of Independent Counsel, KEN STARR (52), who has just pressed STOP on the tape recorder.

Seated with Starr is one of his Prosecutors, JACKIE BENNETT (41), who turns to Tripp.

JACKIE BENNETT  
 How many hours of these phone calls  
 did you record Ms. Tripp?

LINDA TRIPP  
 Oh, god. I don't know. Twenty-odd?

Starr lets this hang in the air, rises from behind his desk and moves to hover above Tripp. He stares intently at her for a beat. Then:

KEN STARR  
 And you recorded these  
 conversations with your friend, Ms.  
 Lewinsky, why?

LINDA TRIPP  
 Patriotic duty.

KEN STARR  
 Okay.

LINDA TRIPP  
 But... also, out of self-defense.  
 Monica told me she had told  
 President Clinton that I was the  
 only one who knew about their  
 affair. So that could make me a  
 target. You know, if I wasn't  
 willing to lie to protect the two  
 of them.

KEN STARR

I see.

(beat)

You realize that recording someone like this, in the state of Maryland, where you claim you made these, without the other party's permission, is a crime and you could face charges.

Tripp nods, yes.

JACKIE BENNETT

How do you know Ms. Lewinsky again?

LINDA TRIPP

We worked together in the Pentagon-

JACKIE BENNETT

-public affairs office... right, right.

Starr takes a beat as he thinks through his next move.

KEN STARR

So here's what I think I can offer you: full immunity from prosecution, for surreptitiously recording these phone calls of Ms. Lewinsky. And protection from retaliation by the President's administration. What do you think of that?

Tripp nods: that sounds great.

KEN STARR (CONT'D)

But... you're going to have to cooperate with us, with the FBI. Because we need these kinds of recordings of Ms. Lewinsky, but we need the legal versions.

LINDA TRIPP

So you want me to wear a wire, is that what you're getting at?

KEN STARR

Exactly.

LINDA TRIPP

Okay. And what do you need her... or, rather, what, ideally, would she be talking about.

KEN STARR

Well, you say that she's planning to file an affidavit in the Paula Jones case...

LINDA TRIPP

She already filed it and it's in the mail right now, on the way to Arkansas.

Starr considers this bit of news.

KEN STARR

And in that affidavit, you say that Miss Lewinsky denies that she has had any sort of a sexual relationship with the President.

LINDA TRIPP

Okay so get her talking about that?

KEN STARR

And whatever else she has to say about her relationship with the President, yes. You say she told you that the President asked her to lie under oath. That's a pretty serious allegation. Let's hear her talk about that. And if she's encouraging you to lie, to file a false affidavit, too, as you told us she was, it would be good to hear her talk to that, as well.

Tripp hesitates, but then nods, yes, she'll do it.

KEN STARR (CONT'D)

Thank you, Ms. Tripp. Mr. Bennett here will be in touch with you about where, when, next steps. Okay?

She rises to leave.

LINDA TRIPP

Thank you very much, Mr. Starr. I look forward to hearing from you.

As soon as she's gone, Starr begins writing feverishly in his notebook, rattling off a list as he speaks it to Bennett.

KEN STARR

The President's Paula Jones deposition is in what?



JACKIE BENNETT

Two weeks.

Starr contemplates.

KEN STARR

Okay, let's get an appointment with the Attorney General as soon as possible and request a jurisdictional grant to broaden out our investigation. Look at the possibility of subornation of perjury and obstruction of justice.

JACKIE BENNETT

Okay.

KEN STARR

Assuming Reno grants us that, we'll bring in the FBI to wire her up. Mm-hm. Let's use the Ritz-Carlton. Get a couple rooms on the 10th floor. Ms. Tripp will invite Lewinsky over to the room.

JACKIE BENNETT

How about the hotel bar instead? Little less obvious. More public.

Starr snaps his fingers at Bennett, yes.

JACKIE BENNETT (CONT'D)

What about the evidence Ms. Tripp claims she has that links the White House to Travelgate, Filegate...

KEN STARR

That ship has sailed. We'll get him on obstruction of justice and perjury.

JACKIE BENNETT

What if the White House finds out we now know about Lewinsky's false affidavit, even as it's en route to the Arkansas district court? Clinton will plead the fifth at his Jones deposition... or just postpone it.

KEN STARR

What affidavit? We don't have *proof* Lewinsky has done anything yet, now do we?

JACKIE BENNETT

If we did, we'd be obliged to--

But Starr cuts him off.

KEN STARR

Right now it's just she-said-she-said.

Bennett nods, fully understanding. Starr tries to conceal a tight, knowing smile.

TITLE CARD: THE BREACH

A title sequence shows images covering twenty years of Bill and Hillary Clinton's rise to power and the opponents who tried to take them down. The audio in the sequence ends with this clip from President Clinton's Second Inaugural Address from January 1997:

PRESIDENT CLINTON

*The American people returned to office a President of one party and a Congress of another. Surely they did not do this to advance the politics of petty bickering and extreme partisanship they plainly deplore. No, they call on us instead to be repairers of the breach... and to move on with America's mission.*

CUT TO BLACK.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC - EARLY MORNING

An aerial shot moving over the NATIONAL MALL and WASHINGTON MONUMENT toward the WHITE HOUSE.

Title: August, 17, 1998

Title: 6:30 AM

Off camera, we hear a NEWS ANCHOR talking about how later today, PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON will become the first U.S. President to testify as the subject of a grand jury investigation.

We push into:

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DRESSING ROOM -  
CONTINUOUS

We find PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON (!?) jotting notes down on a YELLOW LEGAL PAD as he's in the middle of getting dressed.

CNN is on the TV in the b.r. and the PUNDITS are discussing the implications. President Clinton admits during his Grand Jury testimony later today that he was, indeed, lying under oath during the Jones deposition earlier in the year.

PUNDIT #1 (ON TV)

When he was asked in January, seven months ago, during his Paula Jones testimony if he had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, he said no. That's it. That's all you need to understand to appreciate the magnitude of what we think he's going to say today.

PUNDIT #2

Because if he admits today he did have an affair or sexual relations or whatever he decides to call it, that's called perjury, lying under oath.

PUNDIT #3

Look, if you give me 40 million taxpayer dollars and three years, I'm sure I can unearth something on each one of you...

(MORE)

PUNDIT #3 (CONT'D)  
 something about your personal,  
 private life that you don't want  
 the public to know about... that  
 you're going to be forced to lie  
 about to protect-

PUNDIT #2  
 He's the President of the United  
 States, though. He's not you or me.

The CNN ANCHOR now has United States Senator JOE LIEBERMAN  
 (50) on the phone. On the TV screen we see a still image of  
 the prominent democrat.

This gets the President's attention, who stops jotting notes  
 down on his legal pad to listen to his fellow Democrat:

JOE LIEBERMAN (V.O.)  
 The President has assured me  
 personally, several times actually,  
 that he's been telling the truth  
 since this circus began in January.  
 He's an upstanding man of great  
 character, so we must take him at  
 his word. At least I do.

Off the President, frustrated yet determined.

INT. OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL - EARLY MORNING

Title: 7:00 AM

Elsewhere in D.C., Ken Starr and his team of prosecutors,  
 ROBERT BITTMAN (36), SOLOMON WISENBERG (44) and Jackie  
 Bennett are reviewing their playbook.

KEN STARR  
 At the end of the day, we have her  
 blue dress with his DNA all over  
 it.

SOLOMON WISENBERG  
 Wait she saved a dress with his...?

KEN STARR  
 Yep, that's our trump card. And  
 they know it. The truth is, we  
 shouldn't even need the full four  
 hours they've allotted us.

JACKIE BENNETT  
 So what about the love tie?

He holds up a photo of President Clinton dated AUGUST 6, 1998, captioned: *Zegna necktie, gift from Monica Lewinsky.*

KEN STARR

(off photo)

I don't know. What's he going to say? 'Yes, I was sending signals to Ms. Lewinsky on television by wearing a Zegna necktie she'd given me on the day she appeared in front of the grand jury?'

ROBERT BITTMAN

At least let's hear him refute it.

Starr considers this as a PHONE CALL comes in. He picks up.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

On the other end of the line, in the White House MAP ROOM, we find a TECHNICIAN overseeing the setup of closed-circuit mics and cameras.

TECHNICIAN

Mr. Starr, we've secured the link from the Map Room here at the White House to the Grand Jury room.

KEN STARR (O.C.)

Very good. I'm headed over there shortly.

EXT. SKY - EARLY MORNING

An establishing shot of an AIRPLANE winging its way through the morning sky.

INT. AIRPLANE - CONTINUOUS

Inside the plane, we find longtime Clinton ally and strategist JAMES CARVILLE (54), rubbing his temples, reading over the NY TIMES front page: ADVISER SAYS CLINTON MAY ADMIT RELATIONSHIP.

He opens a small bottle of bourbon and pours some into his COFFEE.

INT. TOM DELAY'S NORTHERN VIRGINIA HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

TITLE: 8:00 AM

Majority Whip TOM DELAY (52) is in the middle of breakfast, talking on the phone. FOX NEWS is on the b.g. discussing Lewinsky/Jones and Clinton.

TOM DELAY

(into phone)

He'll never confess. He'll never tell the truth. He lied about Gennifer Flowers, about the draft, about smoking pot. He lied when he gave that deposition and he's gonna lie again today. I don't know how he's gonna do it under oath but he's gonna do it. You mark my words. And then we got him.

INT. BOB LIVINGSTON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Standing behind his desk, looking out the window of his office, we find Republican Congressman BOB LIVINGSTON (mid-50s), talking on the phone.

BOB LIVINGSTON

(into phone)

Seems you're implying there'd be grounds for impeachment.

INTERCUT AS MELDEE

TOM DELAY

Better fucking believe it. We'll go after him, guns blazing.

BOB LIVINGSTON

Tom, we're talking about the President of the United States, for God's sake. Is this just bravado on your part? You want to risk breaking the government over this? It may never work again. I mean, remember how badly Newt came out looking after the shutdown. And that was just 27 days. Impeachment proceedings... well, that could be months, if not a year.

TOM DELAY

Gingrich recovered fine, Bob. And lying under oath, well, ask yourself this: what side of the constitution you on? Now, I know what side I'm on. And I know what side my constituents are on, government shutdown be damned.

DeLay hangs up the phone and turns up the volume via remote control on the TV: The PUNDITS are discussing Ken Starr's investigations over the years: Whitewater, Troopergate...

They cut to some B-ROLL of President Clinton.

TOM DELAY (CONT'D)  
(to the TV)  
Last time you piss on my leg and  
tell me it's raining.

He abruptly turns off the TV and forcefully tosses the remote control down on the counter.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - MORNING

Title: 8:30 AM

A TOWN CAR pulls up and a White House JUNIOR STAFFER (20s) comes over with a WHEELCHAIR. He helps White House Counsel CHARLES 'CHUCK' RUFF (late 50s), out of the car and into the chair.

JUNIOR STAFFER  
Good morning, Mr. Ruff.

Ruff ignores the staffer as he goes through the arduous choreography of getting into the wheelchair.

JUNIOR STAFFER (CONT'D)  
Big day, sir, eh?

It's not that he doesn't hear the kid, he just couldn't give a fig.

JUNIOR STAFFER (CONT'D)  
(Obsequious)  
Nicely done with Mickey Kantor  
yesterday.  
(a beat as he watches Ruff  
struggle)  
I mean, if he'd been successful in  
persuading President Clinton to go  
on TV before he testifies...

Ruff stares the kid down, who finally shuts up and begins to push Ruff in the wheelchair toward the White House.

CHARLES RUFF  
(throwing the kid a bone)  
I don't care how long the President  
has been friends with Kantor.  
Trying to preempt Ken Starr is just  
plain suicide.

JUNIOR STAFFER

That's for sure.

(beat of awkward silence)

Mr. Ruff, I've been meaning to ask your opinion... all these months... what with your close relationship to the President and all...

CHARLES RUFF

Yes?

JUNIOR STAFFER

Do you think the President told the truth about, y'know, about his relationship with Miss Lewinsky?

CHARLES RUFF

(incredulous)

What?

JUNIOR STAFFER

Well, y'know--

CHARLES RUFF

(interrupting)

Now listen here: I've known the President for a decade and have been his White House Counsel for over a year and a half and he's personally assured me he's been telling the truth. There's no other answer to that question worth entertaining.

JUNIOR STAFFER

Yes, sir.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON

(pre-lap)

Paul, it's Linda.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PAUL BEGALA'S OFFICE - DAY

Longtime-strategist and counselor to the President, PAUL BEGALA (late 30s) is on the phone, a pad of notes in front of him.

PAUL BEGALA

Hey, Linda.



INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

In the back of a Lincoln Town Car, LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON (early 50s), friend of the Clinton's, chats on her CAR-PHONE.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
Listen, I have some news you need  
to hear.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

PAUL BEGALA  
Oh, shit, I don't like the sound of  
that. Bad enough we've got this  
Grand Jury testimony...

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
The other day, Bill confessed to  
Hillary. He's been lying.

A long pause.

PAUL BEGALA  
Are you kidding? How do you know?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
He asked me to be the one to tell  
her. I said honey no sir, you've  
got to tell her yourself.

Another pause.

PAUL BEGALA  
I'm... I'm speechless. I mean...

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
It gets worse. The FBI confirmed  
they have his DNA on some clothing  
Lewinsky has saved.

PAUL BEGALA  
So what? Anyone can get some hair  
on a shirt, for Christ's sake.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
Actually it's from when they were  
together--

PAUL BEGALA  
You've got to be... I mean, she  
saved a dress with his...?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
Not as dumb as it sounds.

PAUL BEGALA  
How the fuck did the FBI get it?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
Last month, when Lewinsky signed  
her immunity deal. Part of the deal  
was she'd turn over the dress.

Begala is speechless.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: HILLARY'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We find First Lady HILLARY CLINTON (51) in her dressing room, staring into her vanity mirror, her face full of emotion as she takes a deep breath and then starts to put her makeup on.

In the b.g., the TV is on. Pundits are discussing President Clinton's Paula Jones deposition earlier in the year where he potentially lied under oath.

We watch the First Lady now, reacting as her husband, the day of the Paula Jones testimony, wags his finger on national TV:

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
(on TV)  
I want to say one thing to the  
American people. I want you to  
listen to me. I'm going to say this  
again. I did not have sexual  
relations with that woman, Miss  
Lewinsky. I never told anybody to  
lie, not a single time, never.  
These allegations are false. And I  
need to go back to work for the  
American people.

The First Lady shuts off the TV, anger on her face.

A beat later, her husband wanders in, yellow pad in hand.  
There's tension here.

HILLARY CLINTON  
Have you decided what you're going  
to say?

The President looks relieved that she's even speaking to him.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
I don't know... I don't even know  
if I'll feel like talking to anyone  
afterward, let alone the entire  
world.

The First Lady nods, keeping her emotions in check.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: HALLWAY - MORNING

White House Press Secretary MIKE MCCURRY (48) walks with Political Director DOUG SOSNIK (42), who is holding out a prepared statement for McCurry to read.

MIKE MCCURRY

(re: the piece of paper)  
No one in the press will be asking questions about the Workforce Investment Act, I guarantee you.

DOUG SOSNIK

Well, just in case--

MIKE MCCURRY

Doug. Trust me. These guys have one thing on their minds and one thing only. And she's called Monica Lewinsky.

DOUG SOSNIK

Well I guess that's not a bad thing, since everyone in the White House is focused on the matter at hand as well.

MIKE MCCURRY

(so to)  
You mean everyone except Berger and his gang.

DOUG SOSNIK

(sotto)  
They've been in the Situation Room since four-thirty this morning.

MIKE MCCURRY

(sotto)  
Jesus. Well, let's hope for the President's sake they don't ask him to join them. He's got enough on his plate today.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PRESS ROOM - MORNING

Dozens of REPORTERS try to get the attention of McCurry, who is fielding questions at the podium.

MIKE MCCURRY

After the President meets with his legal team, he'll be heading over to the Map Room where the Office of Independent Council, led by Ken Starr, will be questioning him in front of a Grand Jury, who will watch the President's testimony via video link.

FEMALE REPORTER #1

Will that video feed be broadcast on C-Span?

MIKE MCCURRY

Of course not.

FEMALE REPORTER #1

How much time is allotted for the questioning?

MIKE MCCURRY

Four hours, but they'll be stopping periodically for break. So it'll occupy him the entire day. When the testimony is over, we'll decide at that time if the President is going to address the nation this evening.

FEMALE REPORTER #2

If the President does make a speech tonight, will the First Lady and Chelsea be with him?

MIKE MCCURRY

I haven't heard any plans to that effect.

MALE REPORTER

Will they be sitting there if he's talking about oral sex, for instance? That would be embarrassing for them.

MIKE MCCURRY

I think it's embarrassing to hear the question posed here.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PAUL BEGALA'S OFFICE - MORNING

Paul Begala is nose-down in his computer, working frantically. As he types, he's listening to someone rattling on through the telephone, which he has wedged between his ear and shoulder.

PAUL BEGALA

Listen, I agree completely. First he lies to all of us, basically has us perpetuate the lie for him, and now we've got to come up with a draft of what he's going to say to cover his ass tonight? I mean give me a break, y'know?

Begala half-listens again to the voice on the other line as he continues to type, stopping only to look over notes he's made in the margins of a handwritten draft.

PAUL BEGALA (CONT'D)

Well, for starters he should take full responsibility for his actions... I mean, I don't know what Podesta or Rahm are drafting up, but if you ask me, that's what he's got to say.

(beat)

You know what, let me call you back. Rahm's calling on the other line... I'll call you back.

He hangs up and answers the other line, muting Senior Adviser to the President, AHM EMANUEL (30s) on SPEAKER.

RAHM EMANUEL

(not happy)

Hey Paul, it's me.

PAUL BEGALA

I'm going to assume by the dulcet tone of your voice that the uplifting news of the day has made it's way over to your office by a carrier pigeon who's just shat it all over your desk?

RAHM EMANUEL

He's unbelievable, this guy.

PAUL BEGALA

Assume he's got you working up a draft for tonight's address?

RAHM EMANUEL

Yeah.

PAUL BEGALA

Well we can dog-pile later, but I think it's got to be a serious mea-culpa.

RAHM EMANUEL

To some degree, but maybe also take the opportunity to strike back at Starr.

PAUL BEGALA

Absolutely the wrong approach. Every sentence has to come off as responsible, accountable, apologetic.

RAHM EMANUEL

Yeah, well that's not the direction I was given.

PAUL BEGALA

So what, you don't agree? Come on Rahm! I mean this is not the venue for self-pity or personal attacks on the Independent Council.

RAHM EMANUEL

Can we agree to disagree?

PAUL BEGALA

No, we absolutely cannot!

RAHM EMANUEL

Speaking of Starr... You see the Woodward piece in yesterday's Post with those quotes from Kendall about him?

Begala has the newspaper open to the story on his desk. He looks it over.

PAUL BEGALA

Yeah.

RAHM EMANUEL

Can you believe that shit?

PAUL BEGALA

The day Kendall calls Starr a...

He picks up the newspaper and looks for the quote...

PAUL BEGALA (CONT'D)

(reading)

"righteous man" is the day the reflecting pool freezes over.

They chuckle.

RAHM EMANUEL  
Now that we can agree on.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: ERSKINE BOWLES' OFFICE - MORNING

TITLE: 9:00 AM

Personal Counsel to the President, DAVID KENDALL (mid 50s) sits with President Clinton. Also present is White House Chief of Staff ERSKINE BOWLES (early 50s) along with other members of the LEGAL TEAM.

ERSKINE BOWLES  
Well, the problem with that is:  
Starr is insisting on videotaping  
your whole testimony.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
(pissed)  
Oh, come on!

DAVID KENDALL  
So we have to operate under the  
assumption that the tape will  
eventually be leaked

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
Of course it will be leaked! Come  
on, now. A live feed is one thing,  
but recording it should not be  
allowed. I mean this guy... for  
four years he's been trying to dig  
up something: from Whitewater, you  
know, to Vincent's suicide and  
everything in between. He's  
completely overstepped and, look,  
this is all a distraction, with the  
potential to shut congress down  
from carrying out their mandates  
and we're just sitting here letting  
him dictate the rules? He's  
hijacking the federal government.  
(yelling)  
No goddamn recording!

That hangs in the air for a moment as the President stands and paces. Kendall gets up and put his hand on the President's shoulder, trying to calm him.

DAVID KENDALL  
They are legally within bounds,  
here. If one of the Grand Jurors is  
absent, the videotape is necessary.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

And what if someone intercepts the video link to the Grand Jury room? Then what?

DAVID KENDALL

We've got encryption devices at both ends. The transmission is scrambled here at the White House, unscrambled at the courthouse and is virtually impossible to tap.

ERSKINE BOWLES

It would require a concerted effort of a number of scientists for a long period of time with a very smart computer, with some knowledge of the content of the signals to begin with, to be able to decode it and display it.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

(resigned)

I'll tell you one thing: Andrew Johnson never had to deal with his shi .

A beat as President Clinton and David Kendall sit back down.

DAVID KENDALL

Any clip of you saying anything explicit, like 'she performed oral sex on me,' will probably get out there one day. Maybe not tomorrow or the next week, but knowing the Independent Council's inclination toward the salacious, you can count on this testimony getting out there eventually.

ERSKINE BOWLES

And once it's out there, you know it's going to be played on TV again and again, until it becomes so instilled in people's minds that it will not only humiliate you, but become the single moment defining you in the history books.

Clinton looks despondent.

DAVID KENDALL

But we have a strategy.



One of the members of the LEGAL TEAM moves into action, distributing photocopies around the room. President Clinton puts his reading glasses on and glances over the pages.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
What's this?

DAVID KENDALL  
These are a series of statements we've prepared with very carefully chosen language that will make your confession as... well... as dignified as possible.

The President continues to look over the pages. Some parts are highlighted in bold.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
(reading, sotto, to himself)  
Inappropriate intimate contact...

DAVID KENDALL  
That's what you'll refer to as oral sex as.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
And inappropriate sexual banter...?

He looks up at Kendall.

DAVID KENDALL  
Phone sex.

President Clinton nods his understanding and approval.

ERSKINE BOWLES  
These prepared statements, which you can use and read from directly, are intentionally long.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
To chew up the clock.

Bowles nods.

ERSKINE BOWLES  
There's no judge, so you can read these as slowly as you'd like. Remember: they get four hours and not a second more.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
Well I like the sound of that.

Suddenly they are interrupted by National Security Adviser SANDY BERGER (early 50s).

SANDY BERGER

Mr. President, excuse me, but we need you immediately in the situation room. It's pressing.

ERSKINE BOWLES

What could be more pressing than this, for Christ's sake?!

EXT. STREET - DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, D.C. - LATE MORNING

We follow THREE TOWN CARS as they roll, motorcade-style, toward the White House.

INT. TOWNCAR - CONTINUOUS

In the backseat of one of the cars we find Starr and Jackie Bennett. They stare, agog, at the enormous CROWD OF PROTESTORS camped out along the paths leading up to the White House.

Some hold SIGNS that read: "Impeach Bill," "God Bless Starr," "Perjury is an impeachable offense," "MONICA SUCKS!" and "Jail the Chief." A smaller minority of anti-protestors hold others like: "Starr's zealous indiscretion, like Joe McCarthy's tyranny, is political terrorism."

JACKIE BENNETT

I hope I get to see my name on a protest sign one day.

As the car gets closer to the White House, we see a crew of television correspondents lined up inside the gates.

Starr's motorcade comes in through the gates and dozens of REPORTERS and CAMERAMEN swarm around, shouting questions at Starr.

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SITUATION ROOM - LATE MORNING

President Clinton follows Sandy Berger into the Situation Room, where the NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL STAFF, Vice President AL GORE and Secretary of State MADELEINE ALBRIGHT are already waiting.

SANDY BERGER  
Mr. President... sir...

But the President is suddenly preoccupied jotting down a thought he's having on his YELLOW LEGAL PAD.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
One moment, Sandy.

He rips the page off, folds it, and grabs an AIDE.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)  
(to the Aide)  
Make sure Mickey Kanto gets this,  
ASAP.

AIDE  
Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
(to Sandy and the room)  
Okay, what do we have?

SANDY BERGER  
We are set to counter-strike.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
So we're talking about the Al Qaeda bombings?

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT  
That's right, against our embassies  
10 days ago in Tanzania and Kenya.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
What are the targets?

SANDY BERGER  
A training camp in Afghanistan and  
a chemical-weapons facility in  
Sudan, sir. The most valuable  
targets we've had in our marks so  
far.

He points to a large PROJECTION SCREEN on the wall where two maps outline the proposed targets.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

How soon?

SANDY BERGER

Once you give the go-ahead, 24 hours give or take... so we can assure minimal civilian casualties.

We slowly push in on President Clinton, weighing all this despite the stress of the day.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I'm going to need more time to decide.

SANDY BERGER

With every passing day, Al-Qaeda grows in strength and numbers.

MADELINE ALBRIGHT

We've got to stop bin Laden before things get out of control. A confirmed training camp is a big target for us.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

(hedging)

Just think this through a second though... if I say bomb 'em, you know what they'll accuse me of.

AL GORE

Let's not forget how much they've already accused you of not going harder against bin Laden.

SANDY BERGER

Mr. President... I understand there's a lot going on out there today... but this deserves our full attention.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

It's not that, Sandy. If we drop bombs, they'll be all up on their high horses that I did it to divert attention from all this testimony nonsense. That's the issue here.

(beat)

Are we one hundred percent sure of these targets?

MADELINE ALBRIGHT

Yes.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

And we're sure Al-Qaeda was behind those embassy bombings and not the Egyptian Jihad like in '95?

SANDY BERGER

We're sure. Bin Laden's group *is* the new Egyptian Islamic Jihad.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Jesus Christ, every time you turn around there's a new one.

AL GORE

Bin Laden has better recruiting teams in place. He's got friends in high places.

MADELINE ALBRIGHT

And money pouring in from all over.

AL GORE

To say nothing of his own funds, bankrolling the operation, too.

SANDY BERGER

Which is why we've got to act now. You can't let months go by before a retaliation strike. He'll be that much stronger.

A beat as the President lets that hang in the air.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Should we retaliate now? Of course we should.

(pointing out toward the Map Room)

But they're making it damn-near impossible for us to do our jobs. They'll twist this to their advantage and the media will lap it up. They'll have a fucking field day... You know they will.

And there they sit, in quite a pickle.

INT. TOM DELAY/NEWT GINGRICH OFFICES - LATE MORNING

Title: 11:00 AM

Tom DeLay and NEWT GINGRICH (mid-50s) are in their respective offices chatting on the phone.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

TOM DELAY  
He'll never confess.

NEWT GINGRICH  
But he has to! They have evidence... a dress.

TOM DELAY  
She saved a dress with his...?

NEWT GINGRICH  
Yep.

TOM DELAY  
Jesus...That'd be 20 seats right there. You'll be on your way to a permanent majority.

A beat as Gingrich takes this in

NEWT GINGRICH  
(more to himself)  
Are we really talking about impeaching the President of the United States?  
(to DeLay)  
But if the President has subverted the system, which he was sworn to uphold, any President in this situation is susceptible to impeachment. So unless he resigns, what choice do we have?

TOM DELAY  
If he's violating his constitutional duty, we have no choice at all, Newt. No choice at all.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SOLARIUM - LATE MORNING

The First Lady is by herself, pensive. Her hair is pulled back, her eyes ringed red and puffy.

She begins to get lost in a memory...

INT. NBC TODAY SHOW STAGE - MORNING

The First Lady sits on the brightly-lit stage, exuding confidence with a ring of pearls around her neck, her hair majestically coiffed. She's seated across from TODAY SHOW host MATT LAUER (41) who is mid-question as we come in.

MATT LAUER

Mrs. Clinton, what is the exact nature of the relationship between your husband and Monica Lewinsky? Has he described the nature of that relationship to you?

The First Lady nods along, like she's eager to set the record straight.

HILLARY CLINTON

Well, we've talked at great length, Matt. And the president has denied these allegations on all counts, unequivocally. Bill and I have been accused of everything, including murder, by some of the very same people who are behind these allegations. Think of what we've been through for the last six years and think of everything we've been accused of. This started out as an investigation of a failed land deal. We get a politically motivated prosecutor--

MATT LAUER

You're referring to Ken Starr so let's use his name, because he's the independent counsel.

HILLARY CLINTON

Yes, Matt, but this independent counsel is allied with the right-wing opponents of my husband, and has literally spent four years looking at every telephone...

MATT LAUER

And 30 million dollars.

HILLARY CLINTON

More than that now. But looking at every telephone call we've made, every check we've ever written,

(MORE)

HILLARY CLINTON (CONT'D)  
 scratching for dirt, intimidating  
 witnesses, doing everything  
 possible to try to make some kind  
 of accusation against my husband.

MATT LAUER  
 Mr. Starr has, personally?

HILLARY CLINTON  
 Well it's not just one person. It's  
 an entire operation. This is the  
 great story here for anybody  
 willing to find it and write about  
 it and explain it is this vast  
 right-wing conspiracy that has been  
 conspiring against my husband since  
 the day he announced for president.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SOLARIUM - BACK TO PRESENT

The First Lady is snapped out of her memory as James Carville  
 comes dashing into the room. He throws his bag down and his  
 arms around Hillary.

JAMES CARVILLE  
 We're going to get through this.

HILLARY CLINTON  
 I'm sorry to have brought you back.  
 I know you were--

JAMES CARVILLE  
 Are you kidding? Come on.

HILLARY CLINTON  
 You understand how hard this is.

He nods.

HILLARY CLINTON (CONT'D)  
 I mean, he really sold the story.  
 And what did I do? I took those  
 lies and amplified them. I'm such a  
 fool.

James comforts her. Let's her settle down.

JAMES CARVILLE  
 I have some information you might  
 be interested in.

She looks at him, questioning.



JAMES CARVILLE (CONT'D)  
I thought I'd tell you first,  
before bringing this up to anyone  
else. Because, well...

HILLARY CLINTON  
Okay. What?

JAMES CARVILLE  
Our friend down in Arkansas gave me  
a call the other day.

HILLARY CLINTON  
And?

JAMES CARVILLE  
He says that he can prove Ken Starr  
knew Lewinsky was going to file an  
affidavit, stating that she and the  
President never... y'know...

HILLARY CLINTON  
The affidavit for the Paula Jones  
case? Who told Starr about it?

JAMES CARVILLE  
Lincoln. Part of her immunity  
deal.

HILLARY CLINTON  
Okay. But so what if Starr knew?

JAMES CARVILLE  
He'd be legally bound to disclose  
that to the Attorney General. So  
his hands aren't clean in this  
either.

HILLARY CLINTON  
(glib)  
Were they ever?

JAMES CARVILLE

Imagine if he tells Reno, "Uh, Ms. Attorney General, before I ask to broaden out this investigation, you should know that I've met with Linda Tripp who says Monica Lewinsky has just mailed what is likely a false affidavit to Arkansas." Janet Reno, at that point, certainly lets our team know, doesn't let Starr broaden out his investigation right away...which means the President never perjures himself when he testifies... because, well, the story is out there. He postpones the deposition. Doesn't say anything. Certainly nothing they can use against him.

The First Lady takes this in.

HILLARY CLINTON

So Starr set a trap, knowing Bill would lie under oath.

Carville no's.

JAMES CARVILLE

Manufactured the crime.

A long beat.

HILLARY CLINTON

I don't know James. I'm... I'm just... I'm not there.

JAMES CARVILLE

I understand. It doesn't take the pain away. But they should be launching an investigation into the conduct of Starr's office. The President shouldn't be above the law, but Starr shouldn't be below it, either. I mean this goes back to your right wing conspiracy-

HILLARY CLINTON

I'm sorry.

JAMES CARVILLE

No, no. I'm sorry. This isn't the right time. I'm sorry.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - LATE MORNING

Flanked by his TEAM, Ken Starr approaches the White House MAP ROOM (where he'll be questioning President Clinton) just as David Kendall and his STAFF are approaching from the opposite side.

Starr and Kendall shake hands.

DAVID KENDALL

Ken.

KEN STARR

David.

KENDALL STAFFER

(to Starr's team)

If you'll follow me, I'll show you to the Map Room where everything is already set up.

Starr starts to follow his team into the Map Room, but Kendall grabs him by the arm and leads him aside.

DAVID KENDALL

About that Woodward piece in the Post over the weekend...

KEN STARR

What about it?

DAVID KENDALL

You know all those nice things I was quoted saying about you?

Starr nods.

DAVID KENDALL (CONT'D)

I didn't say them.

KEN STARR

I didn't think so.

Starr turns to go but Kendall stops him.

DAVID KENDALL

Another thing: The President is going to make an exceedingly difficult and personal admission to the Grand Jury.

KEN STARR

I think that's what we're all here for.

DAVID KENDALL

I'm warning you now: Do. Not. Push.  
No intrusive questions, you hear  
 me? If you get into detail, I will  
 fight you to the knife, both here  
 and publicly.

Off Starr, who doesn't look intimidated one bit.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PAUL BEGALA'S OFFICE - LATE MORNING

Seated in Begala's office now: White House Press Secretary  
 MIKE MCCURRY (early 40s), Emanuel, Thomason and White House  
 Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations JOHN PODESTA (late 40s).

They huddle around Begala who is holding the last page of the  
 remarks the President might give later in the evening.

JOHN PODESTA

(reading aloud)

"I am proud of what we have  
 accomplished together. But in this  
 case, I have fallen short of what  
 you should expect from a president.  
 I have failed my own religious  
 faith and values. I have let too  
 many people down. I take full  
 responsibility for my actions, for  
 hurting my wife and daughter, for  
 hurting Monica Lewinsky and her  
 family, for hurting friends and  
 staff, and for hurting the country  
 I love. None of this ever should  
 have happened. I never should have  
 had any sexual contact with Monica  
 Lewinsky. But I did."

PAUL BEGALA

That's the best intro graph we've  
 got so far and I think it's pretty  
 damn pitch-perfect.

McCurry is the first to finish reading and nods his approval.  
 Thomason and Podesta concur. Emanuel looks unsure.

Then, suddenly, MICKEY KANTOR (late 50s), former United  
 States Secretary of Commerce, but still close friend of the  
 President, barges into the room waving the yellow legal pages  
 in Clinton's scrawl.

MICKEY KANTOR

I've got what he wants to say!

Begala rips the pages from Kantor's hand and the group huddles around, flabbergasted.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
(reading)  
"It is time to stop the pursuit of personal destruction and the prying into private lives..."

JOHN PODESTA  
He's going on the offensive?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
No, no. Way, way too strident.

RAHM EMANUEL  
I told you that's what he wanted.

PAUL BEGALA  
People are gonna hate this. They'll go crazy. We're not going to use this crap. It's got to be an apology, first and foremost.

And there they all start, at - scale rate.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - AFTERNOON

Title: 1:00 PM

Waiting in the Map Room, we find the Two Technicians, a COURT REPORTER and a SECRET SERVICE AGENT.

Starr, Bittman, Wisenberg and Bennett come into the Map Room along with THREE other LAWYERS from their team and take their places.

INT. GRAND JURY ROOM - AFTERNOON

The GRAND JURY take their seats as the MONITORS where they'll be watching the live link to the White House are turned on.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Charles Ruff wheels into the Map Room in his wheelchair, followed by the Junior Staffer, David Kendall and another lawyer from their team, NICOLE SELIGMAN (41).

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

President Clinton comes in last and takes his seat at a desk. At promptly 1:03 P.M., the CAMERAS are turned on.

ROBERT BITTMAN

Good afternoon, Mr. President. My name is Robert Bittman. I'm an attorney with the Office of Independent Counsel.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Good afternoon, Mr. Bittman.

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. WHITE HOUSE: BEGALA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Podesta, McCurry, Thomason, Emanuel, Deputy Press Secretary JOE LOCKHART (late 30s) are all huddled in Paul Begala's office watching CNN.

Because the testimony isn't televised, in the corner of the TV screen there's a surreal "game clock" displaying the time elapsed during the Grand Jury session.

JOHN KING (ON TV)

Of course, Wolf, we don't know what's going on in the Map Room, inside the White House. We don't know if the President will admit to having had a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. We don't know what the angle of Ken Starr's questioning will be...

WOLF BLITZEF (ON TV)

That's right, John. We certainly don't.

JOHN KING

Oh, to be a fly on the wall of the Map Room today...

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

President Clinton's Grand Jury testimony continues:

ROBERT BITTMAN

Mr. President, we are first going to turn to some of the details of your relationship with Monica Lewinsky. The questions are uncomfortable, and I apologize for that in advance. I will try to be as brief and direct as possible. Mr. President: were you physically intimate with Monica Lewinsky?

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Mr. Bittman, I think maybe I can save you and the grand jurors a lot of time if I read a statement which I think will make it clear what the nature of my relationship with Ms. Lewinsky was, how it related to the testimony I gave, what I was trying to do in that testimony. With your permission, I'd like to read that statement.

Ken Starr nods his permission.

President Clinton pulls out some paper from his pocket, and puts on his reading glasses.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)

When I was alone with Ms. Lewinsky on certain occasions in early 1996 and once in early 1997, I engaged in conduct that was wrong. These encounters did not consist of sexual intercourse. They did not constitute sexual relations as understood that term to be defined at my January 17, 1998, deposition. But they did involve inappropriate intimate contact.

Ruff winces as he only now learns that he's been lied to all these months, and has, himself, perpetuated the lie.

From a new angle we watch the Jr. Staffer watching Ruff's reaction, a look of sympathy on the young man's face.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)

These inappropriate encounters ended, at my insistence, in early 1997. I also had occasional telephone conversations with Ms. Lewinsky that included inappropriate sexual banter. I regret that what began as a friendship came to include this conduct, and I take full responsibility for my actions.

(MORE)



PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)

While I will provide the Grand Jury whatever other information I can, because of privacy considerations affecting my family, myself, and others, and in an effort to preserve the dignity of the office I hold, this is all I will say about the specifics of these particular matters. That, Mr. Bittman, is my statement.

Bittman and Starr are confused. Wisenberg leans toward Bennett and says, sotto voce:

SOLOMON WISENBERG

He's not going to answer any more questions? What the fuck are we supposed to do for the next four hours?

INT. WHITE HOUSE: BEGALA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

We're back with Podesta, McCurry, Thomas, Emanuel, and Lockhart huddled in Paul Begala's office watching CNN.

On the TV, CNN is now showing a pre-produced, animated timeline with graphics and B-ROLL. We hear voice-over from a JOURNALIST:

JOURNALIST (V.O.)

Then came the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. Ken Starr had recently announced he was moving on to be the Dean of the Pepperdine Law School, giving up his investigation of the Clintons, when suddenly the D.C. rumor mill surfaced the name Monica Lewinsky, who had turned up on the subpoena list in the Jones case.

PAUL BEGALA

What the hell is going on with that "game clock" there?

JOHN PODESTA

Like it were goddamned Monday Night Football.

Lockhart becomes so angry, he throws a water bottle at the TV and then starts to look through his ROLODEX.

JOE LOCKHART

I've had it.

Back on the TV, the animated timeline continues...

JOURNALIST (V.O.)

When Starr got the news, he approached Attorney General Janet Reno and requested that he be allowed to broaden his inquiry...

Meanwhile, Lockhart has connected with CNN.

JOE LOCKHART

John King? It's Joe Lockhart here over at the White House. Listen, how about taking that inane clock off the screen?

(beat)

Why? Because it's completely inaccurate, that's why. How do you know how much time they've spent in breaks, going to the bathroom, having a bite to eat? This isn't a fucking game show John. Have some dignity.

(beat)

Get it down, now!

He SLAMS the phone down just as Mickey Kantor pokes his head into the room.

MICKEY KANTOR

I just want you to know that the President appreciates everything you have done for him.

The group looks on in stunned disbelief.

MICKEY KANTOR (CONT'D)

Nobody should worry that the President has committed perjury, okay?

He closes the door and the room erupts:

PAUL BEGALA

What the hell was that?

JOHN PODESTA

Who the fuck does he think he is?

The others join in.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON  
 (blurting over the din)  
 Hey. CNN has removed that asinine  
 clock!

RAHM EMANUEL  
 Alright, Joe.

PAUL BEGALA  
 Yeah.

Lockhart gets a high-five from Begala.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - AFTERNOON

TITLE: 2:30 PM

Back in the Map Room, Solomon Wisenberg is now asking the  
 questions.

SOLOMON WISENBERG  
 Mr. President, let's talk about a  
 statement of your attorney, Mr.  
 Bennett, at the Paula Jones  
 deposition. "Counsel is fully aware  
 that Ms. Lewinsky is filing an  
 affidavit, which they were in  
 possession of, saying that there  
 was absolutely no sex of any kind  
 in any manner, shape or form with  
 President Clinton." That statement  
 was made by your attorney in front  
 of Judge Susan Webber Wright.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
 That's correct.

SOLOMON WISENBERG  
 Your -- that statement is a  
 completely false statement. Whether  
 or not Mr. Bennett knew of your  
 relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, the  
 statement that there was no sex of  
 any kind in any manner, shape or  
 form with President Clinton was an  
 utterly false statement. Is that  
 correct?

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
 Well, it depends upon what the  
 meaning of the word *is* means. If *is*  
 means *is*, and never has been,  
 that's one thing. If it means,  
 there is none, that was a  
 completely true statement.

Starr and Bittman look at each other. They cannot believe what they've just heard.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MIKE MCCURRY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

TITLE: 2:45 PM

Sosnik sits with Carville, Bowles, McCurry and the First Lady.

MIKE MCCURRY

Right after that, Marine One is due to land on the South Lawn, at which point, the President, Chelsea and the First Lady should be ready to go.

JAMES CARVILLE

(to Hillary)

What if you stay behind for a day, take your own flight out?

HILLARY CLINTON

Are you kidding? I'd rather endure a 10-mile walk across the lawn with him than stay in this god-forsaken town yet another day. You forget we were supposed to be in Martha's Vineyard three days ago... before all this... before any of this... We're leaving tomorrow and that's it.

Finally, she starts to crack a bit from the weight she's been forced to carry until now. Carville gets it, puts a calming hand over her shoulder and walks her out of the room.

Bowles turns to McCurry and Sosnik.

ERSKINE BOWLES

It's easy to be there for someone when they're up, but it's the good ones who are there when you're down. Let's not forget that.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - AFTERNOON

Title: 4:30 PM

Back in the Map Room, Ken Starr shakes the President out of his memory...

KEN STARR  
 Mr. President, I'll ask you  
 again... were you alone with Monica  
 Lewinsky in the White House on  
 December 28th, 1997?

President Clinton shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
 Yes. Yes, sir, I was.

KEN STARR  
 Okay. We're making progress. Thank  
 you. And when you were alone with  
 Ms. Lewinsky, do you remember  
 talking with her about her subpoena  
 to appear in the Paula Jones case  
 on that day?

President Clinton gets lost in another memory...

INT. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE - FLASHBACK - DECEMBER 28, 1997

A small CHRISTMAS TREE stands in the corner of the office.

President Clinton seems anxious as he sits in his office. He  
 tries to calm his nerves by getting up and playing with a  
 little PUPPY who is padding around the carpet when suddenly  
 the phone BEEPS.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
 (into phone)  
 Yes?

INT. WHITE HOUSE: BETTY CURRIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The President's Secretary, BETTY CURRIE (African-American,  
 50s) has the phone in her hand.

BETTY CURRIE  
 Ms. Lewinsky is here.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (O.C.)  
 Thanks, Betty. You can send her in.

Currie nods the go-ahead to MONICA LEWINSKY (24). The two  
 women exchange a knowing-glance.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lewinsky enters and makes big eyes at the puppy.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
Meet Buddy.

MONICA LEWINSKY  
Oh my god. He's so cute. Even cuter  
than you described.

Lewinsky fawns all over the little dog, taking out a small  
present she's brought for him.

She then tries to cozy up to the President, who doesn't  
reciprocate.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
Come on. Back here.

The two move into:

INT. WHITE HOUSE: PRESIDENT CLINTON'S PRIVATE OFFICE -  
CONTINUOUS

Monica spots a CANVAS BAG with presents piled high inside.  
Her eyes widen with excitement, but before the President  
takes out the presents, he has questions:

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
(whispering)  
About this subpoena in the Paula  
Jones case... Who do you think was  
cooperating with her lawyers?

MONICA LEWINSKY  
I don't know.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
Well how do you think your name got  
on the list?

MONICA LEWINSKY  
Really, I don't know.

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
I bet it was that woman from the  
summer, with Kathleen Willey. The  
one who claimed I accosted Kathleen  
once, remember? What's-her-name?

MONICA LEWINSKY  
You mean Linda Tripp? No, I never  
told her anything.

President Clinton looks pensive.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Well, you could avoid testifying if you swore out an affidavit. You could use one of our cover stories.

MONICA LEWINSKY

You mean say I was here delivering papers?

The President doesn't say yes or no but the look on his face asks her to consider this.

MONICA LEWINSKY (CONT'D)

I don't know. But what about your gifts? The lawyers called for them in the subpoena.

President Clinton considers the question.

MONICA LEWINSKY (CONT'D)

I could move them out of my apartment.

Again, he considers this.

MONICA LEWINSKY (CONT'D)

I could give them to Betty. What do you think of that?

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I don't know.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRAND JURY ROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

On the MONITORS inside the Grand Jury Room, the President looks tired, but not as utterly exhausted as the Grand Jury look, watching the live link.

KEN STARR

I want to go back briefly to the December 28th conversation with Ms. Lewinsky. I believe you testified to the effect that she asked you, what if they ask me about gifts you gave me. My question to you is, after that statement by her, did you ever have a conversation with your secretary, Betty Currie, about gifts, or picking something up from Monica Lewinsky?

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
I don't believe I did, sir. No.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

KEN STARR  
And so you have no knowledge that, or you had no knowledge at the time, that Betty Currie went and picked up, your secretary went and picked up from Monica Lewinsky items that were called for by the Jones subpoena and hid them under her bed? You had no knowledge that anything remotely like that was going to happen?

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
I did not. I did not know she had those items, I believe, until that was made public.

KEN STARR  
And you agree with me now that you'd be a very wrong thing to do, to hide evidence in a civil case, or any case? Isn't that true?

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
Yes, sir.

KEN STARR  
Do you recall telling her that she was on the witness list, and that it broke your heart that she was on the witness list?

PRESIDENT CLINTON  
No, sir, I don't, but it would - it, it would - it is quite possible that that happened. I don't have any memory of it, but I certainly wouldn't dispute that I might have said that.

KEN STARR  
And in that conversation, or in any conversation in which you informed her she was on the witness list, did you tell her, you know, you can always say that you were coming to see Betty or bringing me letters? Did you tell her anything like that?



PRESIDENT CLINTON

I don't remember. She was coming to see Betty. I can tell you this: I absolutely never asked her to lie.

KEN STARR

Sir, every time she came to see Betty and you were in the Oval Office, she was coming to see you, too, wasn't she?

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I think just about every time. I don't think every time. I think there was a time or two where she came to see Betty when she didn't see me. But I also will tell you that I felt quite comfortable that she could have executed a truthful affidavit, which would not have disclosed the embarrassing details of the relationship that we had had, which had been over for many, many months by the time this incident occurred.

KEN STARR

You would agree with me, if you did say something like that to her, to urge her to say that to the Jones people, that that would be part of an effort to mislead the Jones people, no matter how evil they are and corrupt?

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I didn't say they were evil. I said what they were doing here was wrong, and it was. I can tell you this: I never asked Ms. Lewinsky to lie.

KEN STARR

Did you ever say anything like that, you can always say that you were coming to see Betty or bringing me letters? Was that part of any kind of a, anything you said to her or a cover story, before you had any idea she was going to be part of Paula Jones?

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I might well have said that.

KEN STARR

Okay.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Because I certainly didn't want  
this to come out, if I could help  
it.

Starr lets this hang in the air, to give weight to what the  
President just said to the Grand Jury.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SITUATION ROOM - LATE MORNING

Back in the Situation Room, Sandy Berger, Al Gore, Madeleine  
Albright and National Security Council Staff are still  
hunkered down, thinking through next steps.

AL GORE

The media will have a field day,  
he's right on that, especially  
given that movie that came out  
earlier this year.

SANDY BERGER

Jes s Christ, we're talking about  
Al-Qaeda here, potentially the most  
dangerous terrorist organization in  
the world, and you're talking about  
a movie?

MADELINE ALBRIGHT

*Wag the Dog.*

SANDY BERGER

What?!

MADELINE ALBRIGHT

That's the movie he's referring to.  
A few days before an election,  
Robert DeNiro, who plays this spin-  
doctor, distracts the whole country  
from a political sex scandal by  
hiring a Hollywood film producer to  
concoct a fake war with Albania.

AL GORE

It's just bad timing. Bad luck.

SANDY BERGER

To hell with that. Are you kidding  
me? He can't cave to the media, to  
the right, to anyone.

(MORE)

SANDY BERGER (CONT'D)

The longer he waits to act on bin Laden, the more he puts our national security at risk. You remember the World Trade bombing in '93?

AL GORE

Listen, Sandy--

SANDY BERGER

No, you all listen to me: a thousand people were injured and half a dozen people lost their lives in that attack, orchestrated by terrorists who trained with bin Laden in the very same training camps we've got in our cross-hairs this morning.

(beat)

In '93, it was a truck bomb, in the underground parking lot, beneath the North Tower. Now imagine for a second if they were able to get 10 or 12 coordinated truck bombs under the towers. Just imagine the loss of life... it would make Oklahoma City look like a fucking fender-bender. You want that kind of blood on your hands? I sure as hell do not!

Berger storms out leaving the others to contemplate the future.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

We open with newsreel footage of various ANCHORS and the "Breaking News" -- President Clinton's Grand Jury testimony has wrapped up at 6:20 PM. They bait viewers to stay tuned for the latest updates, including reactions from Congressmen and a potential address to the nation by the President himself.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - EARLY EVENING

Title: 6:25 PM

The questioning over, we watch Starr and his team packing up their briefcases.

ROBERT BITTMAN  
(sotto to team)  
He abso-fucking-lutely told  
Lewinsky to lie.

KEN STARR  
(sotto, proud)  
We've got him. On obstruction of  
justice... tampering with  
witnesses ...

JACKIE BENNETT  
And oh-yes-he-did have sex with  
that woman!

KEN STARR  
We've got him on perjury...

SOLOMON WISENBERG  
This is bigger than Watergate.

KEN STARR  
Abusing his power... I mean: We've  
got him. We've finally got him.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

President Clinton makes his way out of the Map Room with Ruff, Kendall and Seligman. They appear to be in good moods, despite the long, tiring day.

DAVID KENDALL  
Well I think it went well.

NICOLE SELIGMAN  
You burned through all their time.

CHUCK RUFF

Made it clear that this is your private life.

NICOLE SELIGMAN

Which has nothing to do with Whitewater or anything they've been digging at all these years.

DAVID KENDALL

Insanity.

Standing there to greet Clinton is James Carville, who gives the President a big hug.

JAMES CARVILLE

You okay?

But before he can answer, Sosnik steps in with McCurry.

DOUG SOSNIK

Sorry to interrupt you guys, but we need to make a decision about whether the President should go on national television.

MIKE MCCURRY

If you wait to speak until tomorrow, it could be seen as a sign that the testimony went badly. We've got five minutes to alert the Evening News, who will want to announce that you'll be going on the air later tonight and get the word out.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Well I feel fine. What do you guys think?

DOUG SOSNIK

If you feel okay, then we'd probably prefer you go on.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Okay. Going to take a shower and have a fresh look at the various drafts we've got in the mix.

President Clinton heads off with his legal team but we stay with Sosnik and McCurry.

DOUG SOSNIK

(counting off on his fingers)

(MORE)

DOUG SOSNIK (CONT'D)  
 Rahm's... Paul's... his own... Did  
 Mickey write one? How many cooks  
 are in this kitchen?

MIKE MCCURRY  
 You don't have enough fingers.

DOUG SOSNIK  
 Well is he going to go on the  
 offensive or will it strictly be an  
 apology?

MIKE MCCURRY  
 That's the \$64,000-question now,  
 isn't it?

INT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - EVENING

Bob Livingston is being interviewed on camera by a NEWS  
 NETWORK REPORTER.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1  
 What do you think the President  
 said or did not say today during  
 his four-hour testimony before the  
 grand jury?

BOB LIVINGSTON  
 It's not for me to speculate. We  
 don't want a witch-hunt. But if the  
 President of the United States  
 confessed that he lied under oath,  
 well that's a huge deal... it's the  
 responsibility of Congress to take  
 that seriously.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1  
 So you're saying you'd try to  
 impeach a very popular President  
 because he had a fling with an  
 intern?

INT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - EVENING

Elsewhere, Tom DeLay is being interviewed with similar  
 questions.

TOM DELAY  
 Well we wouldn't treat him  
 differently just because he's the  
 President. If he lied under oath,  
 that's perjury. Perjury with a  
 capital P.

INT. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - EVENING

Still elsewhere, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN (50) is taking similar questions from a MEDIA SCRUM.

JOE LIEBERMAN

Look, this whole circus is three things plain and simple: First, it's the GOP's last-ditch effort to get at a very popular, two-term president... Second: they think this is going to affect the mid-terms, which it won't. And third, it sells newspapers and advertising spots on networks like yours. That's all this is. You all have turned it into something much larger than it actually is. And the sad truth is: all of this (indicating all the cameramen and crews everywhere) is preventing us from doing our jobs... the very work that the American people hired us to do.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: POLARON - EVENING

Title: 8:30 PM

There are a few groups huddled in the large room arguing back and forth about what the President should say in his television address. In one corner, we find Begala, Emanuel, Ruff, Sosnik and Kendall. Begala is looking over Sosnik's shoulder and pointing at some copy on a printout.

In the other corner, we see the President, Kantor, Bowles, and Linda Thomason, who is joined now by her husband, another film and television producer, HARRY THOMASON (late 50s). CNN is on the TV as PUNDITS go back and forth: What will we learn? What will the implications be? James Carville enters the room with a cup of coffee and passes by the TV just as one of the Pundits says:

PUNDIT #1

Everyone in the country has one thing and one thing only on their minds: What will President Clinton say?

JAMES CARVILLE

(to the TV)

If you guys have any good ideas, can you fax them on over here?

He then heads over and joins Begala's camp.

PAUL BEGALA

(pissed)

I said it this morning, I said it this afternoon: if you don't strike these sentences here, his presidency is over, Doug.

DOUG SOSNIK

He specifically told me to keep that in. He's right over there. Ask him.

PAUL BEGALA

If he uses this draft...I just don't know how I can continue to work here. I mean we just tried doing things his way for eight months and it landed us in the shitter.

From a new angle, we find President Clinton as he's being taken aside by Linda and Harry Thomason

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON

(to President Clinton)

Mr. President... come on. We get that you want to take back the narrative.

HARRY THOMASON

One-hundred percent.

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON

We know you're fighting for Hillary with these digs at Starr, not just fighting for yourself.

HARRY THOMASON

And that's commendable, we get that, but Mr. President -

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I don't think you do, Harry. Hillary aside, he can't be allowed to just--

Bowles, who has been reading Clinton's notes in the margins of a fresh draft, suddenly interrupts. The conversation grows increasingly intense.

ERSKINE BOWLES

(over the din at the President)

(MORE)



ERSKINE BOWLES (CONT'D)

Are you kidding me? We've been over this. Mr. President, you just cannot attack Starr like this. It will backfire and you'll lose your own supporters. The Democrats will turn on us.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

Listen, Erskine, I was wrong. I have to apologize to the American people. But what Starr has done-- it's outrageous! If I don't say that, no one else will.

RAHM EMANUEL

People aren't going to hang with you because you're opposed to Starr. They're going to hang with you because of what you're doing *for* them.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I'm not so sure.

RAHM EMANUEL

Mr. President, you remember the New Hampshire primary. The comeback kid. That worked because you went on *Sixty Minutes* after the whole Jennifer Flowers thing and told the entire nation you'd caused pain in your marriage.

PAUL BEGALA

It boosted your numbers because you apologized, you were sincere and you told the truth:

(stings)

That you hurt Hillary and a helluva lot of other people, too.

A beat as the President lets this sink in. For a moment it looks like he's going to acquiesce, but then:

PRESIDENT CLINTON

I can't just let this go. Damn it! Somebody has to say these things. *I don't care if I'm impeached.* It's the right thing to do.

A beat of silence. Into this awkwardness walks Hillary Clinton. Carville has the good sense to quickly turn off the TV, as the Pundits are, at that very moment, questioning how the First Lady might be handling all this.

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)

(to his wife)

Paul, Linda, Harry and Erskine are trying to convince me not to call out Mr. Starr. But I say he's gone too far. Seems like Mickey and David are the only ones who agree with me, that this son of a bitch needs to be put in his place.

She nods, but doesn't otherwise respond and the room picks the argument back up.

MICKY KANTOR

The President knows what he's doing here.

DAVID KENDALL

Agreed.

ERSKINE BOWLES

David, have you lost your mind?

LINDA BLOODWORTH-THOMASON

He's got to be more conciliatory, I'm telling you.

HARRY THOMASON

Linda is right. Remember-

HILLARY CLINTON

(cutting in)

That's right. We need to remember.

The room falls into a hush.

HILLARY CLINTON (CONT'D)

Remember.

(beat)

Remember Whitewater. Travelgate. Filegate. Chinagate. Our dear friend, Vincent Foster's, suicide. You all know as well as I that this has been a goddamn partisan witch-hunt from the very beginning.

(beat)

We're making crooked land deals. We're funding the radical feminist agenda. We belong to a satanic cult. We've committed murder. It's just one absurd allegation after the next, fueled by the right, and bankrolled by the American people.

(beat)

Remember.

(MORE)

HILLARY CLINTON (CONT'D)

(beat)

The American people, who we all work for. They deserve to hear the truth. Now let's put aside our differences and whatever else we might be feeling...

(a beat for weight)

...and unite on this. There's a time for apologizing on *Sixty Minutes*, but this isn't it.

She looks around. No one argues with her. Some people avoid her gaze. Then, after a long silence:

ERSKINE BOWLES

I'm sorry Mrs. Clinton, but I just cannot support this. Going after Starr now, after the truth has now come out, with all due respect, is just not... smart. This is crazy... I'm sorry, but it's just stupid and wrong.

Everyone is taken aback.

ERSKINE BOWLES (CONT'D)

When you screw up, you admit it and apologize. You don't take the opportunity to blame it on somebody else.

The room stays silent. Finally, the First Lady walks right up to her husband (the closest we have seen them all episode.)

HILLARY CLINTON

You're the president of the United States of America. It's your speech. You should say what you want to say.

And with that, she walks out.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Standing by himself, President Clinton prepares to address the nation from the Map Room, where hours ago he gave his grand jury testimony.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

With minutes to go, Paul Begala starts loading the speech into a Teleprompter.

TWO CAMERAMEN sit at the ready.

Finally, the President walks in, now accompanied by Harry Thomason and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason standing on either side of him. Linda takes a seat in a chair out of camera range and Harry sits cross-legged on the floor.

President Clinton sits down soberly, placing his palms on his knees, steeling himself.

TECHNICIAN

The map needs to be higher on the President's level.

PAUL BEGALA

I've got it.

Paul walks over to move it.

Seconds later, the cameras are turned on.

Title: 9:00 pm

President Clinton speaks directly to camera... the entire nation, if not the world, staring back at him.

PRESIDENT CLINTON

As you know, in a deposition in January, I was asked questions about my relationship with Monica Lewinsky. While my answers were legally accurate, I did not volunteer information. Indeed, I did have a relationship with Miss Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong. It constituted a critical lapse in judgment and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)

But I told the Grand Jury today and I say to you now that at no time did I ask anyone to lie, to hide or destroy evidence, or to take any other unlawful action. I know that my public comments and my silence about this matter gave a false impression. I misled people, including even my wife. I deeply regret that.

INT. TOM DELAY'S OFFICE - EVENING

Tom DeLay is watching the address live on TV with his communications director MICHAEL SCANLON (20).

TOM DELAY

(screaming at TV)

Holy mother of god. He perjured himself. We got him.

(to Scanlon)

Send an e-mail to the leadership. Everyone in my office first thing tomorrow morning.

MICHAEL SCANLON

(effusive)

Here we go!

Scanlon, who is in front of his computer, opens a new e-mail window.

As he types, we cut CLOSE ON his computer SCREEN... punching words, dramatically.

*We got him!...*

*He looked into America's eyes and lied...*

The above (and subsequent scenes) play out over the continuation of the President's address:

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT CLINTON

(on TV)

This has gone on too long, cost too much, and hurt too many innocent people. Now, this matter is between me, the two people I love most: my wife and our daughter and our God.

(MORE)

PRESIDENT CLINTON (CONT'D)

I must put it right, and I am prepared to do whatever it takes to do so. Nothing is more important to me personally. But it is private, and I intend to reclaim my family life for my family.

INT. NEWT GINGRICH'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Newt Gingrich is watching the address with ambition in his eyes as his STAFFER receives Scanlon's e-mail. We read as he reads:

*This whole thing about not kicking someone when they are down is BS.*

*Not only do you kick him, you kick him until he passes out...*

GINGRICH STAFFER

You're gonna want to read this, sir. It's from Congressman DeLay's office.

INT. BOB LIVINGSTON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bob Livingston's face is harder to read. President Clinton's remarks seem to take him by surprise as he watches on a TV in his office. Simultaneously, MARK CORALLO (MID 20S) an aide to Livingston, receives the e-mail.

We read as he reads:

*...then beat him over the head with a baseball bat, then roll him up in an old rug, and throw him off a cliff into the pounding surf below!!!*

INT. WHITE HOUSE: SOLARIUM - CONTINUOUS

Begala and Linda Thomason watch in disbelief.

PAUL BEGALA

(sotto to Linda)

He's fucked it up so badly now...  
Jesus, I can't watch this.

He walks out, avoiding eye contact with the First Lady.

INT. WHITE HOUSE: MAP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PRESIDENT CLINTON

It's nobody's business but ours.  
Even presidents have private lives.  
It is time to stop the pursuit of  
personal destruction and the prying  
into private lives and get on with  
our national life.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - MOMENTS LATE

Dozens of CAMERA CREWS situated outside the WHITE HOUSE as  
NEWSCASTERS react to what the President just said.

We find Wolf Blitzer in the throng.

WOLF BLITZER

(to cameraman)

President Clinton delivering  
remarks to the nation, now saying  
that he did indeed have a  
relationship with Monica  
Lewinsky...

INT. CHAMBER OF DELEGATES; HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - HALLWAY - CONT

Inside the Chamber, various CONGRESSMEN are being interviewed  
by SCRUMS of REPORTERS for their reaction.

We find Joe Lieberman, who looks stunned.

JOE LIEBERMAN

Well, you know, uh, I don't think  
he handled it well at all. Quite a  
disaster, actually. I think the  
President, with his admissions  
tonight, jeopardized this  
administration's historic record of  
accomplishment, much of which has  
grown out of the principles and  
programs that he and I and many  
others have worked on together in  
the new Democratic movement... so  
it's... well, disappointing, to say  
the least.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #2

Do you think you speak for a lot of  
democrats right now?

JOE LIEBERMAN  
Well, I haven't polled the entire  
caucus...

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1  
Were you surprised he admitted to  
an affair?

JOE LIEBERMAN  
Sure. Yeah. Of course. You know  
he's been saying nothing happened  
for all these months. So...

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #2  
How do you think the American  
people are going to feel?

JOE LIEBERMAN  
Betrayed.

NEWS NETWORK REPORTER #1  
Is it time for the President to  
resign?

Lieberman doesn't have an answer to that but his PRESS  
SECRETARY does:

LIEBERMAN'S PRESS SECRETARY  
No more questions. Thank you very  
much.

The Reporters shout out question over question, but Lieberman  
and his Press Secretary just walk away.

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC - EVENING

An aerial shot moving over the NATIONAL MALL and WASHINGTON  
MONUMENT toward the WHITE HOUSE, much like the beginning of  
the episode.

Title: 11:30 PM

Over this we hear a cacophony of NEWS REPORTS about the  
President's speech, what a disaster it was...

INT. WHITE HOUSE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

In the Clinton's private bedroom, the First Lady stares  
stonily out the window.



INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALLWAY OUTSIDE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Out in the hallway, President Clinton approaches their closed bedroom door.

The President takes a deep breath before opening the bedroom door and stepping in... The door closes behind him.

CUT TO BLACK.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

End Credits

END PILOT