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NUMB3RS

"Democracy"
#318/Ep.55

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#318/Ep.55
"Democracy"
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2/21/2007

CAST LIST

DON EPPES
CHARLIE EPPES
ALAN EPPES
DAVID SINCLAIR
MEGAN REEVES
COLBY GRANGER
MILLIE FINCH

OSWALD KITTNER
MEDICAL EXAMINER RIDENHOUR
J. EVERETT TUTTLE
HOWARD MEEKS
AUSTIN PARKER
RACHEL LAWTON
JASON BRASHER
CLIFF DAWKINS
CORONER
LAWYER
STACY ALIANO
JANE ALIANO
PARAMEDIC
SECURITY GUARD (NON SPEAKING)
MAINTENANCE MEN (NON SPEAKING)
AGENT*

"Democracy"

TEASER

58 - counties

53 - districts

25,090 - precincts

1 - candidate

1 EXT. CALSCI - NIGHT

1

POV -- the door of the Math Building. CHARLIE walks out with students, answers a question, heads off alone on a dark path.

The POV follows Charlie into a dark, unseen area...

WOMAN (O.S.)

Charlie--

Charlie turns, startled. Face to face with RACHEL LAWTON (28-33). Pretty in an unadorned way, face strained.

RACHEL

Sorry, didn't mean to startle you--

Charlie sees who it is --

CHARLIE

Rachel?

RACHEL

Hi Charlie--

CHARLIE

What are you doing here? You still working on the Geospatial project at Stanford?

RACHEL

No, I -- listen, Charlie -- I'm sorry to come to you like this, but I need your help. You and your brother's.

CHARLIE

Why, what's going on?

She hands him an envelope. Her speech rushed, emotional.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

This is a list of people I know,
that I've worked with recently.
Three of them are now dead.

CHARLIE

Dead? What--

RACHEL

I think they found out something
they weren't supposed to know.

Charlie takes the list out, looking at it.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

They were killed, even though it
doesn't look like it. And I think
they're going to kill me as well.

CHARLIE

(gently)

Rachel, calm down. Look, you know
if you take a group of random
people who've died in say the past
year, you'll find connections --

Rachel breaks in, her voice betrays rising fear.

RACHEL

Don't you think I know that?
That's not what I'm talking about.
These aren't random people, they
had certain jobs--

CHARLIE

All right -- I'm listening --

RACHEL

Charlie -- these people didn't die
over a year's time. They died over
a two week period. Two weeks.

CHARLIE

Okay, but Rachel, how did they die?
What's this all about?

RACHEL

I don't know. I only worked on a
part of it.

CHARLIE

A part of what?

RACHEL

It's complicated. I can't explain it all right now. Not here.

CHARLIE

You realize this sounds pretty wild Have you gone to the police?

RACHEL

I can't trust them.

CHARLIE

But you can trust me?

RACHEL

I know you. I know you're who you say you are. If you take me to your brother, I'll believe it's your brother.

She's crazy. Trying to calm her, Charlie goes on --

CHARLIE

Okay, Rachel, I'll take you to Don tomorrow. At the FBI. All right?

RACHEL

Yes. Thank you. I'll meet you here tomorrow morning. And I'll bring documentation. Just please, look at those names. They shouldn't be dead. But they are.

Rachel turns to go.

CHARLIE

Rachel, take care.

She vanishes into the gloom. And we pre-lap--

ALAN (V.O.)

A conspiracy?

INT. EPPES HOUSE - NIGHT

ALAN works a crossword as he and Charlie talk.

CHARLIE

I guess so. With Rachel Lawton, it's always something--

ALAN

She a little wacky, is she?

CHARLIE

Maybe a little. In grad school, she was into odd ideas. Like, she said certain top scientists might be aliens sent to help mankind.

ALAN

She must've known Larry --

CHARLIE

Very funny. She actually wrote a paper that said the Mars Rover has been running longer than predicted because Martians keep repairing it.

ALAN

She was serious?

CHARLIE

She claimed it was a joke, but it was well reasoned. That's the thing about Rachel -- she's actually a brilliant thinker. And fun to hang out with, usually.

ALAN

What's her field?

CHARLIE

She's a statistician -- specializes in demography.

ALAN

There's been some crazy conspiracies. Maybe it takes a brilliant, nutty thinker to spot them. Trouble is -- that's just the kind of person nobody believes.

Charlie thinks about that, then looks at Rachel's list.

CLOSE ON THE LIST: Four names, three checked off.

CORONER (V.O.)

Subject suffered a cardiac arrest--

RACHEL LAWTON. Dead. Face up on a stainless steel table. A CORONER pulls a sheet from her face.

CORONER

--the result of a massive
absorption of acetaminophen,
hydrocodone and alcohol.

PULL BACK, REVEAL CHARLIE and DON.

CORONER (CONT'D)

My preliminary finding is Rachel
Lawton died from a non-accidental
overdose of prescription
medication.

The Coroner exits. Charlie's thoughtful, his emotions
contained.

CHARLIE

Don, she was scared and upset,
maybe erratic. But she didn't seem
suicidal.

DON

I did a quick background before
coming down here. She's been
seeing a therapist for two years.

CHARLIE

For what?

DON

Depression. Employment records
include comments about emotional
outbursts, questionable stability.

CHARLIE

So -- is this the end of it?

DON

We'll do a basic followup. Doubt
it'll go anywhere.

Charlie looks down at Rachel.

Charlie reads an FBI REPORT on the THREE DEAD PEOPLE on
Rachel's list. On a chalkboard, he's written the names and
causes of death: heart attack, asthma, accident. He adds
Rachel's name and *possible suicide*. Jots a fast calculation.

INSERT: He's written: 10 million **to 1**

OSWALD (O.S.)

Hey there, Charlie.

Charlie looks up to find OSWALD KITTNER.

CHARLIE
Oswald. Thanks for coming by.

OSWALD
I wouldn't thank me yet. 'Cause I'm guessing you want to talk to me again about enrolling or whatever.

CHARLIE
Yes, in a special program. For people like yourself.

OSWALD
High school drop-outs who play fantasy baseball?

CHARLIE
Gifted people who lack traditional educations.

OSWALD
Nice way of putting it. But -- I'm just not the CalSci type. I'm terrible at tests. The worst. And I can't talk to college professors.

CHARLIE
You talk to me.

OSWALD
We met over baseball stats. That's the one thing I know.

CHARLIE
With training, you could work in any field you want.

Oswald's noticed Charlie's scribbled calculations.

OSWALD
What's this? Ten million to one?

CHARLIE
The odds of a woman and three people she worked with dying in a two week period.
(points to Rachel's name)
I knew her. I identified her body at the morgue this morning.

OSWALD

That's terrible. I'm so sorry.

CHARLIE

She claimed these people had been killed over something they knew.

OSWALD

What about this one that's not checked off?

CHARLIE

Still alive, I guess.

But Charlie frowns, goes to his laptop, Googles the name. An entry for a political scientist comes up. Charlie grabs his cell. As he makes the call, Oswald goes to the laptop.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm trying to reach Dr. Reynolds.

Oswald pulls Charlie's arm, turns him toward the computer --

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)

I'm sorry, Dr. Reynolds is no longer with us. Are you a friend -- or family member?

ON SCREEN:

A headline on the front of town newspaper web site:

"Local Researcher Dies in Crash". PHOTO -- overturned car.

CHARLIE

That's okay. Thanks for your help.

He hangs up. Picks up a pencil, calculates quickly--

OSWALD

What're the odds that these *five* people died in a two week period?

CHARLIE

About 700 million to one. Rachel was telling the truth.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

5 **INT. GARAGE. EPPES HOUSE - DAY**

5

Don comes in to see Charlie at the chalk board -- same calculations here as he had done with Oswald.

DON

Charlie, you sure about this?

CHARLIE

More than sure. It's 700 million to one, the odds these five people would be dead. No one of the deaths seem suspicious, but do the math and it becomes very suspicious.

DON

You said "five?" There were four.

CHARLIE

Dr. Robert Reynolds. Political scientist at Berkeley. Car accident two days ago.

Charlie hands him a print out of the article.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The FBI needs to look into this.

DON

You're sure this isn't one of those situations you warn about -- random events linked without cause?

CHARLIE

Don, I know how busy you are. The math here is solid -- investigating Rachel Lawton's death will not be a waste of time.

Don looks at his brother -- sees what this means to him.

6 **INT. FBI. WAR ROOM - DAY**

6

Same ACCIDENT PHOTO on the big screen. PHOTO of Rachel and FOUR OTHERS. Don, MEGAN, COLBY and DAVID.

DON

Five people in good health, mid-20s to 40s. Dead within two weeks.

DAVID

(at the photo board)
Teresa King, computer scientist.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAVID (CONT'D)

Sam Chambers and Rebecca Ortega, statisticians. And Robert Reynolds, political scientist. No known connections.

COLBY

Heart attack, asthma -- conditions that can be mimicked by drugs.

DAVID

Got the classics here, too. A fall in the bathroom, car accident. Self-administered drug overdose.

MEGAN

What about doing a second autopsy on Rachel Lawton?

DON

I've already requested one from the county medical examiner.

MEGAN

And she told Charlie she had documentation?

DON

If it exists, we need to find it.

COLBY

But what if Charlie's wrong, and these are five random deaths?

DON

That's why we need to find something solid. Otherwise we can't waste too much time on this.

As Colby and David leave -- Megan turns toward her computer -- *

DON (CONT'D) *

So Megan... am I losing you? *

MEGAN *

Pardon? *

DON *

Memo came in from DC today... some special detachment to the D.O.J.? *

MEGAN *

No... they asked, but I told them it probably isn't for me. *

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED:

6

DON
Probably...

*
*

MEGAN
Isn't.

*
*

Megan firm, clearly not wanting to talk about it --

*

DON
Okay --

*
*

Don moves off.

*

7

OMITTED

7

8

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

8

Charlie reading; surrounded by periodicals and print-outs.
MILLIE comes in carrying some math journals.

MILLIE
I found a couple more journals with
articles by Rachel Lawton. Any idea
what she was currently working on?

CHARLIE
Not yet -- she published a lot, on
a variety of topics.

MILLIE

You know I taught a seminar in San Diego she attended. I found her a bright, creative thinker. What a shame.

CHARLIE

Who kills a statistician?

MILLIE

One of our stats guys got a death threat for giving expert testimony in a water rights case. And wasn't that what got your special admissions candidate into trouble -- baseball stats?

CHARLIE

Yeah, well he might not be applying. He's scared he can't handle it.

MILLIE

We've all been there -- well, maybe not you. But when students lack confidence, one approach is to interest them in a good problem. Get them obsessed, and they forget to be afraid. What's he into?

CHARLIE

Girls. Skateboards. Baseball.

He thinks a minute ... looking down at Rachel's work.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And statistics.

EXT. SKATEBOARD HANGOUT - DAY

Current day dogtown boys. Ollies, powerslides, McTwists. Down a set of steps, Oswald pulls off a simple, classic 180.

CHARLIE

You know you just broke the law with that little trick.

Kittner looks up, surprised to see Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The law of conservation of angular momentum.

(CONTINUED)

OSWALD

Sir Isaac Newton going to come and bust me? Hey, you're not gonna hard sell me on this college thing again, are ya?

CHARLIE

Actually -- I need your help.

OSWALD

I've only got a couple things I'm good at, so I hope for your sake it's about fantasy baseball.

10 INT. FBI MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - DAY 10

Colby and David with M.E. RIDENHOUR as she opens a plastic bag containing Rachel's clothes and personal items.

COLBY

We tore apart Rachel Lawton's apartment and the hotel room where she died. Looked everywhere. Didn't find the documentation she told Charlie about.

DAVID

Now we're down to what she had on her when she died.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Well, this is everything.

With gloves, David and Colby eye clothes, shoes and handbag.

DAVID

Check the bag for pens.

COLBY

What for?

DAVID

Didn't you get that memo on corporate espionage? They make pens now with flash drives inside.

Colby finds a couple pens -- quickly takes them apart.

COLBY

Nothing. What else do they put flash drives in?

DAVID

Keychains, rubber duckies--

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Rubber ducky flash drive? I want one of those.

David and Ridenhour exchange a smile.

COLBY

What about watches?

DAVID

Rubber duckie watches?

COLBY

No. Watches with flash drives.

Colby holds up Rachel's watch. Flips open a cover that hides a port for a USB cable.

11 **OMITTED** 11

12 **INT. HALLWAY / CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY** 12

Charlie and Oswald walk.

OSWALD

This is about those five people who died, right?

CHARLIE

I think they knew something -- and were killed to keep it secret.

OSWALD

This problem sounds kind of dangerous. But then, I've already been shot at once.

They turn the corner and enter Charlie's office--
--where they find David and Colby.

COLBY

Professor, good timing.

DAVID

Hello, Oswald.

OSWALD

Hey, guys.
(to Charlie)
Maybe I should step out.

CHARLIE

If it's okay with the FBI, I'd like to utilize Mr. Kittner's skills in statistical analysis on this case.

Oswald gives him a look.

OSWALD

Mr. Kittner?

COLBY

We've already used his expertise in investigating steroids.

CHARLIE

So, what've you got?

Colby holds up Rachel's watch.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You've got a watch.

OSWALD

Flash drive. My buddy, Chris, had one of these.

Oswald takes the watch, flips open the little cover.

OSWALD (CONT'D)

You just need the cable...

David holds up a USB cable. Oswald takes it, plugs one end into the watch, hands the other end to Charlie.

OSWALD (CONT'D)

Goes straight into your computer.

CHARLIE

That part I do know.

Charlie navigates to the contents of the flash drive.

CLOSE ON: COMPUTER SCREEN, filling with columns of numbers, topped by numbered headings. The rows, abbreviated labels.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Some sort of statistical raw data. Pertaining to what, I don't know.

OSWALD

Don't know what the headings stand for. Wow, this is gonna be tough.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

CHARLIE
The best problems always are.

13 INT. FBI BULLPEN - NIGHT 13

Megan works at her computer, David rolls his chair over.

DAVID
One connection between Rachel Lawton and the other dead people -- all worked in statistical analysis.

MEGAN
Statisticians often work as freelancers -- they move from project to project.

DAVID
Hired by the government, corporations, political campaigns.

MEGAN
But I've found a more specific connection for three of them.

Megan calls up a web site. PHOTO of J. EVERETT TUTTLE

DAVID
J. Everett Tuttle, the billionaire?

MEGAN
Used to be a hedge fund manager, now into philanthropy and politics. Three people on Rachel's list worked for one of his companies.

DAVID
Not much. Financial wizard hiring statisticians.

MEGAN
Not much, but it's all we got.

Medical Examiner Ridenhour enters -- intent.

MEDICAL EXAMINER
I've finished the forensic autopsy of Rachel Lawton. It was smart to request a second one.

MEGAN
Why, what do ya got?

Ridenhour hands over the report.

(CONTINUED)

MEDICAL EXAMINER

Apparently her killer didn't have a lot of patience. Though she had a potentially lethal dose of alcohol and painkillers in her, Rachel Lawton died of asphyxiation.

DAVID

How?

MEDICAL EXAMINER

She has traces of cotton fiber in her lungs, likely suffocated with a pillow or towel after she was unconscious. Sort of thing that, in the absence of suspicious circumstances, might be missed.

MEGAN

So this isn't five random deaths -- we've got at least one murder.

DAVID

(to Ridenhour)

We'll need forensic autopsies on the other victims.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

I'll get that started.

Ridenhour leaves. David turns to Megan.

DAVID

We might end up with five murders.

MEGAN

And no idea what it's all about.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

14 INT. FBI COFFEE ROOM -- DAY

14

HOWARD MEEKS stirs a coffee. He's with Don and Charlie.

MEEKS

Five deaths -- but so far you can prove only one was murdered.

CHARLIE

It's mathematically improbable these deaths are coincidence.

MEEKS

To make a case, we need a motive. And live witnesses. You say three of the dead did consulting work for J. Everett Tuttle --

CHARLIE

What do you know about him?

MEEKS

He got a rep for playing dirty on Wall Street. The SEC made a run at him, got nowhere. The New York AG indicted him on fraud but two witnesses disappeared, they couldn't make a case.

DON

Witnesses disappeared?

MEEKS

One was later found in Greece. The other one never turned up.

CHARLIE

You think he's capable of murder?

MEEKS

They think so in New York, but they had no evidence.

DON

David and Colby are talking to Tuttle, see what he has to say about his employees dying.

15 EXT. BIG HOUSE -- DAY

15

A SECURITY MAN, a large guy in a business suit, walks David and Colby through the grounds of a magnificent home.

(CONTINUED)

They approach a MAN in a workshirt and jeans chopping wood with a log splitter. A sizable stack of chopped wood already done. J. EVERETT TUTTLE pauses, looks over to them.

TUTTLE
(off their expressions)
My cardio workout.

COLBY
Splitting wood's good for that.

The Security Man stands off to the side.

TUTTLE
And you wind up with something you can use. With exercise machines, you're left with nothing. Anyway, how can I help the FBI?

DAVID
We're here about three people who worked for you.

David hands Tuttle three papers, each with a driver's license photo and info. Tuttle glances at them.

TUTTLE
Sam Chambers did research for me. Not sure about the other two.

DAVID
They're also researchers.

TUTTLE
I hire a lot of consultants, don't meet all of them in person.

COLBY
These three died within the past few weeks.

TUTTLE
Sorry to hear that.

Not the slightest bit nervous or defensive.

COLBY
What were they hired to do for you?

Tuttle speaks to the Security Man.

TUTTLE
Check into it.

The Man takes the papers, walks away.

TUTTLE (CONT'D)
I'll get back to you on that.

DAVID
Do you know a Rachel Lawton?

TUTTLE
Doesn't sound familiar.

COLBY
What kind of business do you do?

Tuttle stretches his back.

TUTTLE
I retired last year.
(off Colby's look)
I still manage a hedge fund, serve
on corporate boards. I'm trying to
put more time into public service.

COLBY
Why do you employ statisticians and
computer scientists?

TUTTLE
To test stock market systems. I
dream about finding that magic
formula for striking it rich.

DAVID
Some might say you found it.

COLBY
Quite a lot of it, in fact.

Tuttle eyes them oddly.

TUTTLE
Take it from a guy with more than
enough. It's never enough.

Charlie walks with Millie.

MILLIE
Sounds like this Oswald kid bit
pretty hard on the FBI hook-

CHARLIE

But he still won't apply to CalSci. He doesn't grasp what he could accomplish here. I don't know how to get that across to him.

MILLIE

Your whole life has been math and science, same for your students. You were raised in the church and you preach to the converted. But now it's time to convert a heathen.

CHARLIE

He's one resistant kid.

MILLIE

You work with the FBI. I gotta think that no-neck cops are a tougher audience than a bright skateboarder.

CHARLIE

Hey, my brother's one of those no-neck cops, and he's got a neck.

MILLIE

Of course he does -- I'm exaggerating to make a point. You can reach a non-math audience. What's Oswald's main objection?

CHARLIE

He thinks he's not good enough, that all he can do here is fail.

MILLIE

So find a way to show him his potential.

Oswald comes up behind them --

OSWALD

Hey Charlie -?

MILLIE

And if I'm not mistaken --

Oswald joins them --

OSWALD

Charlie, hey, there's something off about Rachel's numbers.

(CONTINUED)

He hands Charlie a printout -- smiles at Millie --

OSWALD (CONT'D)
Hey, how ya doing.

MILLIE
I'm good. Please, go ahead.

OSWALD
(to Charlie)
I did what you said -- printed them out without the headings to look for patterns. Didn't find any -- but her numbers -- there's still something funny about them, I can't quite put my finger on it.

Charlie's staring at the numbers --

CHARLIE
You're right -- there's too many 7s. And -- 3s.

OSWALD
Too many? Too many for what?

CHARLIE
For this list to be random.

OSWALD
You can tell that just by looking?

CHARLIE
I know what to look for, from financial fraud and tax cases.

MILLIE
For some reason, when most people make up numerical reports, they use too many 3s and 7s. And they don't use enough 1s and 2s.

OSWALD
Really? Me, I'd use too many 4's.

MILLIE
Even if you don't know what the numbers describe, you can know somebody's lying about it. And on that note, I have to run.

CHARLIE
Bye, Millie. And thanks.

(CONTINUED)

Millie smiles and heads off --

OSWALD

Who's that? She seems nice.

CHARLIE

Dr. Finch, chair of the math,
physics and astronomy division.

OSWALD

Really. But she was, you know --

CHARLIE

-- easy to talk to?

OSWALD

Okay, maybe. But anyway--
(off the data)
How do we find what this is?

CHARLIE

We've got math applications that
help analyze unlabeled sets of
numbers. Items tend to come in
groups. In a grocery store, a
dozen might mean a dozen eggs, a
half dozen would be bagels --

OSWALD

--24 would be a case of beer --

CHARLIE

It's called metadata -- information
about data. For instance, the
numbers 1-2-3-4-5 are data.

ENTER AUDIENCE VISION:

**Handwritten numerals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 appear individually and
come together against a non-descript background.**

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

**They could refer to anything. But
if you find out they're a zip code--**

**PULL BACK to reveal it's on a STAMPED ENVELOPE -- in the area
one would find a zip code -- with no sending address.**

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

**They mean something specific. In
this case, Schenectady, New York.**

ON THE ENVELOPE, a Schenectady, NY address burns in.

(CONTINUED)

BACK TO SCENE:

OSWALD

So we use that to figure out what Rachel's numbers are talking about--

CHARLIE

And maybe we'll know why she died.

INT. FBI TECH ROOM -- DAY

Colby and David walk up to Megan, working computer databases. (Stacked windows of political web sites.)

DAVID

If you want a spooky guy to mastermind a conspiracy -- J. Everett Tuttle's your first pick.

MEGAN

What makes you say that?

COLBY

We told him three former employees died within two weeks -- he didn't care, didn't ask how they died.

MEGAN

Did he express concern for them or their families?

DAVID

Not at all.

COLBY

The only time he expressed the slightest interest was when --

MEGAN

-- don't tell me. When you asked him about himself.

DAVID

You got that right.

MEGAN

Could be a self-absorbed Type-A personality. Or -- a sociopath.

DAVID

You got anything new?

17

CONTINUED:

17

MEGAN

Yes, I do. Not sure what it means.
Four of the five dead people have
consulted for political campaigns.
Mostly high-end polling analysis.

18

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE -- DAY

18

Oswald at a board, listed on it: Stocks, Drugs, Contraband,
Tax Fraud, Lottery. Charlie comes in.

OSWALD

Hey, Charlie. How 'bout the
lottery? Could we be looking at
lottery numbers?

Charlie slides the board up to reveal a blank board--

CHARLIE

New category.

OSWALD

(resigned)
Oh, sure.

Charlie writes, "**Politics.**"

CHARLIE

Megan says four of the dead
researchers consulted for political
campaigns.

OSWALD

Ah -- so are we looking at polling
data? Campaign contributions?

CHARLIE

Or maybe -- votes. Lets see what
happens when we compare Rachel's
numbers to election returns.

19

INT. EPPES HOUSE -- NIGHT

19

Alan reads "Life of Pi" in the living room. Don comes down
the stairs, drying his hair from a shower.

ALAN

Ever think about moving back home?
You're here all the time. We've
got plenty of room.

DON

I like having my own space.

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

You're always coming over to hang out with Charlie and me.

DON

Yeah, and when I want privacy, I've got somewhere to go.

ALAN

Having your cake and eating it too. But not saving on rent money.

Charlie comes in the front door, satchel over his shoulder.

DON

Anything yet?

CHARLIE

Rachel's data might be election results. We're comparing it to local and state returns.

ALAN

So it wasn't suicide, it was murder. Didn't you have a case like that before?

DON

An ATF agent, Nikki Davis. It was a staged suicide. Charlie proved she was shot by someone else.

ALAN

Charlie, this Rachel -- you knew her in grad school. Were you close?

CHARLIE

A bunch of us used to hang. She had this big van, we'd all pile in and go to movies and concerts. Rachel said we could spend the rest of our lives studying, but we'd only be young for a while.

He looks up to see his brother and father studying him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You're worried about how I'm handling this. Aren't you.

ALAN

Well, yeah. How are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Actually, I'm kinda concerned that it's not bothering me more.

DON

You do seem kind of -- distanced.

CHARLIE

I'm getting used to this FBI stuff. After a couple dozen murder cases -- I don't know, it doesn't hit me the same as it used to. Even when I know the victim. And that's an unsettling realization.

DON

(world weary)

Tell me about it.

ALAN

So now I have two world-weary, jaded sons.

DON

(continuing to Charlie)

You think you get used to it. Then one day you find yourself sitting on a couch talking to a shrink.

20 **OMITTED** 20

21 **INT. FBI WAR ROOM -- DAY** 21

Don and Meeks work with David. Meeks has a laptop. Lots of files around. Charlie enters.

CHARLIE

Don. We ran Rachel's figures against election returns. A brute-force data search found a match.

MEEKS

To an election here in LA?

CHARLIE

The most recent County Supervisor election -- Sixth District.

MEEKS

Jason Brasher won, beating a three-term incumbent. Big upset.

Meeks starts typing on his laptop --

(CONTINUED)

DON

Brasher stole the election?

CHARLIE

I can tell you this: Vote totals should be random. These aren't.

Meeks finds something -- official LA County campaign records.

MEEKS

This is starting to make sense. J. Everett Tuttle was Brasher's largest contributor. He's the driving force behind the campaign.

David open Rachel's file, points at something.

DAVID

Look -- Rachel Lawton consulted for Brasher's campaign. Says she did demographic analysis.

David opens another file --

DAVID (CONT'D)

Teresa King free-lanced for a computer company --

Shows the entry to Meeks -- who points at his laptop --

MEEKS

--and that same company had a contract with Brasher's campaign.

He steps back to face them --

MEEKS (CONT'D)

That's all five victims.

Everyone looks to Charlie --

CHARLIE

You have to ask? The odds that this is random -- there's a better chance all four of us will be hit by lightning on the way home.

DAVID

And it's not even raining.

DON

Tuttle's got to be behind this.

MEEKS

(on his computer)

I'm with you. Now, California Elections Code requires an audit of 5 percent of touchscreen voting machines.

He finds something --

MEEKS (CONT'D)

Here it is. In the Brasher race, a preliminary audit indicated discrepancies. But the final report said the race was clean.

DAVID

The auditor changed his mind?

MEEKS

Talk to him, find out why.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET -- DAY

FBI sedan pulls up to a curb. David and Colby get out.

DAVID

That the house?

COLBY

Yeah, that's it.

PARAMEDIC VAN in front of a home. Emergency personnel working, but not rushing.

David and Colby go up to a Paramedic, David holds up his ID.

DAVID

FBI. What happened?

PARAMEDIC

Guy who lives here, looks like he slipped by the pool. Hit his head, fell in and drowned.

David and Colby exchange a look of grim realization -- then start striding up the driveway --

DAVID

Get everybody out, this is a crime scene.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

23 INT. WAR ROOM -- DAY 23

David briefs Meeks, pinning up a photo of a man's body by a pool. Victim six joins the other five.

DAVID
Arman Cuthbert, auditor with the county registrar.

COLBY *
No evidence of foul play -- but what would Charlie say about these odds.

DAVID
Why kill over a county supervisor's seat?

MEEKS
LA County Supervisors are powerful. Each reps over 2 million people -- more than many U.S. Senators. They control a budget worth billions.

DAVID
And you think Tuttle rigged the election for Brasher --

MEEKS
Looking that way. The county's using new electronic voting machines -- we'd better find out how secure they are.

COLBY *
A political conspiracy, complete with dead witnesses.

MEEKS
We need a live witness. If there's any left.

24 INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE -- DAY 24

Charlie and Oswald enter, find David and Colby playing darts.

CHARLIE
Doubt you're here for the darts.

COLBY
No, though I am winning--

(CONTINUED)

DAVID

Charlie, we need to find witnesses they haven't gotten to yet.

CHARLIE

I can try. Every organization can be analyzed mathematically. In this case there's the added parameter of secrecy, which is at risk if the number of people involved exceeds the number who can be controlled.

COLBY

You could mathematically analyze the JFK assassination?

CHARLIE

Sure. JFK conspiracy theories require the cooperation of the CIA, FBI -- a number of people involved that, mathematically, would make keeping the secret impractical.

OSWALD

Which is why we all know about it.

CHARLIE

You see what I'm getting at. A small conspiracy is far more likely to be successful than a larger one.

DAVID

But can this analysis pinpoint the role of any remaining witnesses?

CHARLIE

Yes -- we'll look at employees from Brasher's campaign and Tuttle's firm -- and match them against who you'd need for an election fraud.

COLBY

I guess the FBI could do that --

CHARLIE

But I can do it faster.

They start out.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Before you go -- I've got a problem
I want to present in class. Tell
me if this wording is clear --

COLBY

Uh, okay -- if we can.

CHARLIE

Five couples at a party. People
shake hands, but no one shakes
hands with the person they came
with. One man asks the nine others
how many hands they shook, and gets
nine different answers. How many
hands did the man himself shake?

DAVID

Uh, let's see, there's like 10
people, shaking hands -- uhm...

COLBY

I got nothing.

OSWALD

Four. The answer's four.

They all look at him. Oswald goes to the board, starts
writing -- 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 --

OSWALD (CONT'D)

These are the possible answers. We
know the host got nine *different*
answers, so he has to be part of
the couple that both shook four
hands.

DAVID

Sounds easy if you put it that way.

CHARLIE

But it's not -- it's a very tough
problem. One that might be asked
by a special admissions board.

OSWALD

No way -- it wasn't that hard.

DAVID

Maybe not for a genius.

Off Charlie's look to Oswald, and Oswald's reaction --

A25 **INT. FBI INTERVIEW ROOM -- DAY**

A25

CLIFF DAWKINS, head of TRU-POLL SYSTEMS, with Don and Meeks.
Confident, nothing to hide. A binder of info.

DAWKINS

My company has met or surpassed every security requirement. Our machines create a paper trail that can be audited. They're actually more secure and easier to use than any paper-ballot system.

DON

How is the software protected?

Dawkins slides over a binder of voting machine specs.

DAWKINS

All machines are kept in a guarded facility until an election. Access to the unit's hard drive is locked.

MEEKS

But poll workers can open it.

DAWKINS

Even if one machine was hacked, they don't link up, and there's no way to dial into them.

MEEKS

You're confident that these machines performed as intended in the recent election cycle.

DON

What if we showed you proof that election results were fraudulent.

Dawkins answers without hesitation.

DAWKINS

Whatever the problem was, it wasn't in these machines.

25 **EXT. FBI BRIDGE -- DAY**

25

Don and Meeks confer.

MEEKS

I'm sure Tuttle's our guy, but I still don't know how he did it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

MEEKS (CONT'D)

And we have no evidence I can put in front of a judge. It's like prosecuting the Mafia -- everybody knows something's going on, but nobody will talk about it.

DON

We need time. Maybe if we put pressure on Brasher and Tuttle --

MEEKS

They might lay low, give us time to find witnesses. Worth a try.

26 INT. COUNTY SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE -- NIGHT 26

BRASHER

Election irregularities? Thought that got looked into.

BRASHER'S a big man who'd be at home on a used car lot. Talking to Don and Colby. A STAFFER nearby.

BRASHER (CONT'D)

The county conducted an audit of the election, am I right?

He looks to the Staffer, who nods.

BRASHER (CONT'D)

Well, there you go.

DON

Sir, what is your connection with J. Everett Tuttle?

BRASHER

Everett's my good friend, we go way back. He's the one that talked me into running for public office, told me I'd make a great supervisor. Everybody else said no way I could win, impossible. They sure look like idiots now.

COLBY

Sir, do you know this woman?

He shows him a photo of Rachel Lawton.

BRASHER

Nope, never seen her. Cute girl.

(CONTINUED)

DON

She worked for your campaign. She was murdered.

BRASHER

Uh, I, uh -- I don't even know what her job was -- never met the woman.

Getting scared, suspicious --

BRASHER (CONT'D)

What's this about? Are you saying that this woman's death has something to do with my campaign?

DON

Does it?

BRASHER

What the hell -- this can't be happening to me --

COLBY

What can't be happening?

BRASHER

On no, you're not putting words in my mouth. I'll talk to you -- after I've got a lawyer. And before that happens, I'm gonna make some phone calls, find out what the hell you people think you're doing.

He hurries from the room, the staffer with him.

COLBY

Wonder how much Tuttle's told him.

DON

My guess -- nothing.

INT. CALSCI. CHARLIE'S OFFICE -- NIGHT

Charlie in front of his board, talking on the his cell phone.

CHARLIE

I've identified two job profiles necessary to the conspiracy -- that don't match the dead people.

We INTERCUT with--

28 **INT. FBI BULLPEN -- NIGHT** 28

Megan on the other end of the call.

MEGAN

What are we looking for?

CHARLIE (O.S.)

One would be a demographer specializing in statistical analysis of LA elections. Somebody experienced with precinct data.

MEGAN

And the other?

CHARLIE

A computer programmer, somebody exceptionally innovative and smart. Probably makes a lot of money, consults extensively.

29 **OMITTED** 29

30 **INT. FBI INTERVIEW ROOM -- DAY** 30

J. Everett Tuttle sits, flanked by two lawyers. A security man behind him. Unconcerned, only mildly annoyed.

Meeks and Don across from him.

LAWYER

You have no evidence of any wrongdoing on my client's part.

MEEKS

Your client's at the center of an intensive federal investigation.

TUTTLE

I've been investigated dozens of times.

LAWYER

Resulting in no convictions--

DON

This time it's not stock fraud.

MEEKS

We'll look into your businesses, your contacts, your involvement in politics, particularly the Brasher campaign.

(CONTINUED)

DON

We're gonna know everything there is to know about you. You won't have any secrets.

Tuttle locks eyes with him for a beat. Then --

TUTTLE

I own two dozen companies with numerous subsidiaries, I serve on 15 boards of directors and I employ four major law firms. Even a cursory investigation of my holdings would put quite a strain on the FBI's limited resources.

He stands.

TUTTLE (CONT'D)

But good luck with it.

He walks out, attorneys and security man following.

MEEKS

(sarcasm)

Oh yeah, he's scared.

31

INT. FBI WAR ROOM -- DAY

31

Charlie and Oswald find Colby and David. *

CHARLIE

You found people who match the profiles we came up with?

David punches the computer, two photos appear on the big screen. A MAN and a YOUNG WOMAN. *

DAVID *

Megan identified these two: Austin Parker and Jane Aliano. He's the former head researcher for Brasher's campaign. She did software security work for one of Tuttle's stock management firms. *

COLBY

Kicker is, they're both missing.

OSWALD

Why am I not surprised.

DAVID

Rachel Lawton's phone records show she called both of them the day before she disappeared.

*

CHARLIE

She tried to warn them.

COLBY

Parker's alive. We got four hits in two days on his credit card. Probably moving around, hiding out.

OSWALD

I tried that -- you found me.

DAVID

He left his car at home. I think he's borrowed one, maybe even living out of it. If he'd rented, we'd have found a record.

*

COLBY

We'll try to find what car he's using.

CHARLIE

I'll chart rough ideas on where he might be, based on those four credit card hits--

OSWALD

--and the theory he's avoiding his usual hangouts.

Charlie goes up to study Jane Aliano's picture.

CHARLIE

She's the computer scientist?

COLBY

She told her sister she was going out of town. She was due back Monday, didn't show. No calls, no credit card use. Might be dead.

OSWALD

Then this Austin Parker guy? He's your last hope.

*

*

*

32

EXT. CITY STREET -- DAY

32

A MAN pulls a newspaper out of a vending machine, looks around as he hurries up the street. Nervous, watchful.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

Walks to a sedan, opens the driver's door. Inside, clutter -- clothing, food containers.

He gets in -- puts the key in the ignition.

33 **INT. CAR -- CONTINUOUS** 33

And suddenly David and Colby slide into the car with him. He almost jumps out of his skin. Colby in the back seat.

COLBY

It's okay. We're FBI.

David shows him a badge --

DAVID

We're here to protect you.

PARKER

Get out of my car.

He goes to turn the starter, David stops him.

DAVID

We know Rachel Lawson called you.
She told you what's going on.

Parker nervously pulls out a cigarette and lighter --

COLBY

Do not light that.

Parker pops the cigarette in his mouth, doesn't light it.

DAVID

We also know that this is about the
Brasher election.

Parker laughs darkly.

PARKER

Whatever life I have left has
become about that election.

COLBY

What was your involvement?

PARKER

I was asked to make up a list of
precincts where the vote would be
closest. And that's what I did.

DAVID

Is that unusual?

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

Winning precincts doesn't count --
all that matters is the overall
vote total. But guess what?

DAVID

Brasher won all precincts on your
list.

PARKER

Outside the bounds of statistical
probability. Somebody used my list
to decide where to hack the vote.

COLBY

Figuring it'd look less suspicious
in precincts where the votes were
closer.

PARKER

Yep. There was a mandatory audit,
due to the use of electronic voting
machines. Now the auditor's dead.

DAVID

Mr. Parker, we want you to come
with us, give a statement --

PARKER

You can't make a case yet. Until
you can, I'm not cooperating.

COLBY

We've got witness protection--

PARKER

These people rigged an election, I
think they can hack witness
protection. Get some indictments,
then maybe I'll testify.

COLBY

Who do you think's behind this?

PARKER

Brasher's an idiot. But his old
friend Tuttle -- he had a hand in
everything. Okay? That's what I
know. Now get out of my car.

DAVID

You're safer with us--

(CONTINUED)

PARKER
None of us is safe.

David opens the door--

DAVID
We'll find you again.

PARKER
If I'm around to find.

David and Colby walk away, Colby getting on his cell.

Parker lights the cigarette, watching them in the rearview.
He starts the engine.

COLBY
We need unmarked units for
surveillance on a vehicle --
license plate 4-D-Q-5-

The car EXPLODES violently -- coming off the ground. The
shock wave hits David and Colby, knocks them off their feet.

The car consumed in flames. David and Colby on their hands
and knees, staring in shock--

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

34 **EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY** 34

Colby and David have picked themselves off the street. They approach the burning wreck -- barely anything left.

DAVID
Detonated remotely? Or a timer?

COLBY
Could have been one of half a dozen fuzing techniques.

DAVID
You okay?

COLBY
Didn't think I'd be that close to a car bomb again after Afghanistan.

David has his cell, dialing. Sirens in the distance.

35 **INT. FBI BULLPEN - DAY** 35

Don's cell phone. On his desk. VIBRATING. Don grabs it.

DON
Eppes.

He listens. Shuts his eyes at the bad news. Megan sees.

DON (CONT'D)
You and Colby okay? Good, coordinate evidence recovery.

Don flips his phone shut.

MEGAN
What happened?

DON
They found Austin Parker. But so did someone else.

36 **INT. WAR ROOM - DAY** 36

On the big screen: News footage of the bomb's aftermath.

MEGAN
Change in tactics. Obvious murder, not a staged accident. We confronted Tuttle, he put it right back in our faces.

(CONTINUED)

Don goes to Jane's photo on the board.

DON
We're down to Jane Aliano.

*

An FBI AGENT enters --

*

AGENT
Agent Reeves, the Director's Office
is on line two --

*

*

*

MEGAN
I'll call him back.

*

*

The Agent nods, leaves -- Don gives Megan a curious look --

*

DON
Dodging calls from the Director?

*

*

MEGAN
Only when I have to tell him
something he doesn't want to
hear...

*

*

*

*

(beat)
I'll take the interview.

*

*

INT. JANE ALIANO'S HOUSE - DAY

CLOSE ON -- a BEAGLE. Staring up at --

Megan, at a dining table with STACY ALIANO, Jane's sister.

STACY
I take care of Pico, Jane's dog,
when she's out of town. Please, do
you know what's happened to my
sister?

MEGAN
No, we're trying to locate her.

STACY
She does a lot of consulting --
travels all the time. But she's
never just not shown up like this--

MEGAN
How was she when you last spoke?

STACY
Distracted, but that's Jane. One
of those brilliant people always
processing four things at once.

MEGAN

Anything else you can tell me?

STACY

She wanted to be sure I'd have time for Pico -- feed him, walk him in his favorite park. I told her of course. I know what he means to her.

She shows Megan a photo of Jane hugging the dog.

STACY (CONT'D)

She even made him a Christmas stocking -- this dog's like a child to her.

MEGAN

Has she spoken to anyone else that you've heard from? Friends, other family members?

(CONTINUED)

STACY

No, not that I've heard. And that's what's really scaring me -- she's never gone this long without calling Mom and Dad.

Megan looks down at Pico -- who's watching her.

INT. EPPES GARAGE - NIGHT

Don scans boards of organization theory. Charlie watches. Oswald plays air hockey with Alan.

DON

Can't be that many possibilities.

CHARLIE

In general, no. There's power/control and power/wealth.

OSWALD

Comes down to money. People want money to get power and people want power to get money.

ALAN

There are fanatical idealists.

Oswald scores on Alan.

OSWALD

Mercy rule?

ALAN

Must be a Canadian hockey table.

Alan quits in disgust.

DON

If they can rig a county election, why not a larger one?

CHARLIE

Bigger election, bigger conspiracy. Too big, it can't sustain secrecy. Like Watergate. Or Iran-Contra.

OSWALD

Unless there's a self-perpetuating element -- like nano technology.

Don and Alan turn to Oswald -- what is he talking about?

OSWALD (CONT'D)

Wait, this is better. You know how they stack champagne glasses and fill them with champagne?

ENTER AUDIENCE VISION:

The classic pyramid of champagne glasses.

OSWALD (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You only pour the champagne into the top glass but it overflows into all the other glasses.

The champagne pours over the top and into the glasses below.

BACK TO SCENE

OSWALD (CONT'D)

Requires resources applied in only one location, but it spreads.

ALAN

(sotto voice)

Good God, another one.

CHARLIE

You mean the conspiracy starts from a single source but can spread.

Alan goes to the board with Jason Brasher's name.

ALAN

That's right, because the Supervisors oversee the county budget. They approve everything. Including voting equipment the county buys.

DON

Brasher could make sure the county keeps buying rigged machines.

CHARLIE

And with LA County's huge population, rigged machines here could make the difference in a statewide election.

The four look at each other, realizing the implications.

DON

He's not just after a Supervisor's seat--

(CONTINUED)

ALAN

They say, as California goes, so goes the country. This Tuttle -- he wants to be a kingmaker.

39 **INT. FBI ELEVATOR -- NIGHT** 39

Don exits the elevator, David meets him, fills him in on the walk to the bullpen.

DAVID

Megan just got a report back on Tru-Poll Systems, the company that made the electronic voting machines.

DON

Yeah, what do we got?

David hands him a printout.

DAVID

Tru-Poll recently upgraded the motherboards in all machines in California. Those motherboards are manufactured in Taiwan by a company based here in the states. A company called SDKG Electronics.

They arrive at Megan's desk.

MEGAN

The interesting part of this -- SDKG was founded by an entrepreneur named Paul Prescott. Two years ago, Tuttle tried to buy out the company. Prescott said no.

DAVID

Then, Prescott died in a rock climbing accident.

DON

Really. An accident.

DAVID

People who get in Tuttle's way tend to have them.

DON

Who owns the electronics firm now?

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

A holding company that Tuttle sold
just a year ago.

40 **EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT** 40

Pico sniffs the ground, walking along with Stacy.

A hooded FIGURE, shadowed by darkness, watches from the shadows of trees. As Stacy and the dog walk by, the hooded figure starts to trail them. Barely visible.

Stacy looks around, as though sensing something, then walks on more quickly. Nervous.

The hooded Figure follows -- peering after her.

Suddenly -- two MEN step into the Figure's path.

DAVID AND COLBY -- Colby holding up his badge.

COLBY

FBI.

REVERSE ANGLE

As David pulls back the hood. Light catches the face--

It's JANE ALIANO. Scared to death.

DAVID

(into radio)

We've got her.

David and Colby move her off.

COLBY

Jane, it's okay. We're the good
guys.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

41 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM -- DAY

41

Jane, in the hooded sweatshirt. Megan, Colby standing.

JANE

I got a call from Rachel Lawton -- what she said scared me. But even before that, I knew something was hinky about the whole thing.

MEGAN

What you know could help us.

JANE

Yeah, but then what happens to me?

COLBY

If we found you, it was only a matter of time until they did. But we will protect you -- every step of the way.

Jane's getting angry at her predicament.

JANE

Who's doing this? Who the hell do they think they are?

Megan smiles -- Jane's a fighter.

COLBY

They think they're above the law.

MEGAN

We need a witness who's willing to help us take them down.

JANE

I am so damn scared.

MEGAN

I know you are. But you're also damn angry.

Jane stares at her a beat -- then smiles bitterly.

JANE

Screw them. They picked the wrong computer geek to mess with.

Megan and Colby share a look of surprised respect.

42 **EXT. FBI. SIDEWALK UNDER BRIDGE -- DAY** 42

Colby walks with Don.

COLBY

Aliano was hired to design a stock analysis program, but she was told it should also be able to alter prices. She didn't see the point, but Tuttle was paying her a lot.

DON

Her program could change vote counts?

COLBY

Apparently to a computer, stocks and votes are the same -- just a bunch of numbers --

Don sees something --

DON

What the hell--

A black Mercedes rolls by. The back passenger window down.

Tuttle inside, staring at Don. Arrogant, challenging.

He and Don lock eyes. Then, the window powers up, the car pulls away.

COLBY

That was Tuttle.

DON

Yeah.

COLBY

He's gonna try to get to Jane Aliano. That's a problem.

DON

For us, and for him.

43 **INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE. CALSCI -- DAY** 43

Charlie's studying a printout on a board. Long lines of complex computer code. Oswald hovers behind him.

CHARLIE

Aliano studied at UCSD, they say she's brilliant.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

She told the FBI "they picked the wrong computer geek to mess with."

OSWALD

Not the -- most threatening statement I've ever heard.

CHARLIE

Her code could be hidden in the machine's legitimate coding, probably in the operating system.

Oswald goes up to the printout on the board --

OSWALD

So you look for the computer code that -- looks like Jane's.

(looks at the code)

This all looks exactly alike.

CHARLIE

I'll write an algorithm to isolate her code from the rest. You find Dr. Finch, tell her we need a priority run on the supercomputer. And be convincing --

OSWALD

Yeah, well, I'll tell her -- the fate of democracy is at stake.

44

OMITTED

44

45

INT. FBI WAR ROOM -- DAY

45

Charlie with Don, David, Colby. He shows them a motherboard.

CHARLIE

Jane's code is embedded in the operating system on the motherboard of the Tru-Poll machines--

DAVID

And you can prove that?

CHARLIE

Mathematically incontrovertible.

COLBY

How could rigged machines pass all the testing they went through?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Think of these voting machines, or any computer for that matter, like a man reading instructions to assemble a model car.

Charlie picks up a piece of paper.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Say these are the instructions -- if you wanted the man to build something that was different than a car, the easiest way is to simply rewrite the directions. But--

Charlie slaps the paper down on the table --

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

--these changed instructions are evidence of tampering. However--

ENTER AUDIENCE VISION:

Instructions to a classic car model. Pieces of plastic, glue.

EYES read the instructions.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

--if you can alter the operating system -- that is -- *if you can alter how the man thinks* -- how he interprets the instructions--

EYES read original, correct instructions. But the materials are assembled strangely. It does not look like a car.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Left can become right, red is green, up is down--

BACK TO SCENE:

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The voting machine makes illegal alterations, but since it happened in the operating system, not the software, there's no evidence.

DAVID

Mess with the operating system, you can make the machine do anything?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

In this case, it was designed so the machines only execute the bad program on election day. After that, it erases itself.

COLBY

Jane Aliano can testify to this -- long as Tuttle doesn't get to her.

DON

We need to move her somewhere safe.

46 **EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE -- DAY** 46

Jane in her hooded sweatshirt, with David and Colby, walking quickly toward a car. Jane holding her head down.

They pass THREE MAINTENANCE MEN in work cloths, one working a JACKHAMMER. Another glances up as they pass.

With David, Colby and Jane as they walk --

A POV COMING UP ON THEM FROM BEHIND

The "Maintenance Men" following, closing the distance --

Suddenly, DARK FIGURES rush from all sides --

Colby and David turn, weapons up --

DAVID

Get on the ground, now!

COLBY

Do it!

FBI SWAT -- assault rifles trained on the "Maintenance Men." Each now seen holding a SILENCED GUN.

David and Colby looking to "Jane." Not Jane. It's Megan.

47 **INT. FBI INTERROGATION ROOM -- DAY** 47

Cliff Dawkins across from Don and Meeks. His confidence gone. He's pale, distracted.

MEEKS

Mr. Dawkins, we just arrested three men trying to assassinate Jane Aliano. They're Tru-Poll Security. On your company payroll.

(CONTINUED)

DON

We found the fraudulent coding on your machines.

MEEKS

You conspired with J. Everett Tuttle to tamper with the voting machines and fix the election.

DON

And kill six people.

MEEKS

You will cooperate with our investigation. Or you're looking at the death penalty.

Dawkins looks up at them --

DON

Maybe you don't know what you're up against --

DAWKINS

No, I do. I know exactly what I'm up against. I intend to fully cooperate.

MEEKS

You'll give us Tuttle?

DAWKINS

No. Tuttle wasn't part of this. This was my plan. My people. My machines. Tuttle had absolutely nothing to do with any of it.

Off Don and Meeks' stunned reactions --

Meeks fuming to Don and Colby.

MEEKS

He won't change his story.

COLBY

And his goons back it. They took orders only from him, never even heard of an Everett Tuttle.

DON

What's Tuttle got on him?

MEEKS

Whatever it is, it's scarier than
multiple murder charges.

DON

Tuttle played this perfectly.

(CONTINUED)

MEEKS

Aliano dies and we have no case.
Or this guy takes the fall.

They look in at Dawkins. Who's shrunken into himself.

49 **EXT. DRIVEWAY. TUTTLE'S HOUSE -- DAY** 49

Tuttle and TWO SECURITY MEN emerge from the house, walk to a large sedan. Don's SUV screeches to a stop, blocking the sedan. He jumps out. The two security men step into Don's path. Don has one hand on his gun -- points with the other.

DON

Don't.

He pushes past them on his way to Tuttle.

TUTTLE

Agent Eppes. I may be retired, but I do have appointments to keep.

DON

We know what you did. Election fraud, conspiracy, murder.

TUTTLE

You are constrained by limited funds and inadequate manpower. Plus you've got a suspect who's made a full confession.

DON

He's lying. We'll prove it.

TUTTLE

You plan to spend the bureau's resources pursuing a case that's already been solved? Your superiors will see that as selective prosecution. Especially when members of Congress complain to them about you.

He meets Don's eyes.

TUTTLE (CONT'D)

You're just one man.

DON

(matter of fact)
So are you.

Tuttle walks off. Don watches after him.

50 **EXT. BELOW BRIDGE -- DAY**

50

Don, dour from his encounter. Meeks comes to meet him, holding a printout.

MEEKS

Don -- the LA Times has the story.

He hands Don the printout.

MEEKS (CONT'D)

The Brasher campaign, Tru-Poll, Tuttle. All of it. The governor wants an investigation, there's demand for a special grand jury.

DON

How did the Times get the story?

MEEKS

That's what I'm wondering.

DON

No. It wasn't me.

51 **INT. EPPES HOUSE -- NIGHT**

51

Alan and Don, who's sipping a beer while trying to explain --

DON

I can't talk to the press about an open investigation. And I wouldn't, not without proof.

ALAN

So how did the paper get the story?

Charlie comes down the stairs --

CHARLIE

They saw an advance copy of an article that will run in the Journal of Political Science.

ALAN

Charlie, you did this?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

I submitted an article detailing my recent research.

DON

You can get into a lot of trouble --

CHARLIE

Possible, but unlikely. I used information in the public record. And the organizational analysis we performed linking Tuttle's firm, Brasher's campaign and Tru-Poll. All of it mathematically solid.

DON

The journal leaked it to the Times?

CHARLIE

They sent a summary to the general press. Did you know it's extremely difficult to prevent a scientist from publishing research? Academic freedom's big in this country.

DON

Apparently so.

CHARLIE

It cost Tuttle time and money to devise this scheme. Now it's useless -- voting officials know what to look for.

DON

You did good on this, Charlie.

CHARLIE

But Tuttle's not going to jail --

DON

Oh, I'm not through with him yet. Not for a long time.

The doorbell. Charlie goes to the door. Oswald comes in.

OSWALD

Hey, hello, Don. Mr. Eppes.

ALAN

You see the news?

OSWALD

Wild. It's on CNN and everything.
(to Charlie)
You got a minute?

CHARLIE

What's up?

OSWALD

That wasn't like anything I've ever
done. That felt -- I dunno -- big.

CHARLIE

It was. It was important work.

OSWALD

Was that your plan? Show me the
power of math to "fight evil?"
Because you got me, it worked.
I'm gonna apply to CalSci.

CHARLIE

Oswald, that's great. Hey guys,
Oswald's going to apply to CalSci.

DON

What, another mathematician?

ALAN

Hey, we can always use more.

END OF SHOW