

NCIS

"Insomnia"

Written by

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NCIS

TITLE

COLD OPEN

FROM BLACK:

FLASH - BLACK-AND-WHITE OF KNIGHT ON HER PHONE APPEARING
PANICKED...

PHOOF TO BLACK:

FROM BLACK:

INT. KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

SPECIAL AGENT JESSICA KNIGHT paces in her kitchen before sitting down and taking apart her gun again. She cleans it meticulously.

The clock ticks away in the background. It's past midnight. She looks at a stack of dishes in the sink and then cleans them.

Another look at the clock as she dries the final one. She sighs before heading to...

INT. KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Knight runs the shower before slipping in. She completes the shower. Gets out, checks her phone.

Does her nightly bedtime routine. It seems like a lot but there are specific things she does. One of them is a "Lavender nighttime go to sleep help"

INT. KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Knight lays her gun and phone down on her nightstand and then falls down into her bed. She takes a last look at the clock, quarter to three, and falls into a sleep.

BANG! BANG! Knight shoots up in her bed and immediately grabs her service weapon, sweeping it across the room.

She cracks open her bedroom door, before heading into the...

INT. KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Knight clears the hallway slowly.

BANG! BANG!

Knight rounds the corner into...

INT. KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Knight clears the living room and pauses.

Finally, it comes...

Bang! Bang!

Knight's attention is on the door now.

KNIGHT

Federal Agent! Identify yourself!

Silence and then a final bang. Knight doesn't give them a chance to knock twice. A woman falls through the door.

Knight checks the hallway first and then checks the brunette laying on the floor.

When Knight flips her over, blood is pooled on the floor. Panicking, she grabs her phone to call 911.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

FROM BLACK:

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - DAY

SPECIAL AGENT NICK TORRES sits at his desk, playing a ping-pong game on his computer. He quickly switches to his email when SENIOR SPECIAL AGENT TIMOTHY MCGEE walks in with coffee.

MCGEE

Have you heard from Parker?

TORRES

No, have you heard from Knight?

MCGEE

Should I have?

TORRES

Well, neither are here yet.

MCGEE

We have five minutes until...

SUPERVISORY FIELD AGENT ALDEN PARKER struts in.

PARKER

We've got a case.

TORRES

Knight isn't here yet.

MCGEE

We can text her to meet us at the scene on the way there.

PARKER

No need.

Confused looks from the team.

PARKER (CONT'D)

It's her apartment we're heading to.

McGee and Torres hurriedly grab their gear, following behind Parker into the elevator. Both look extremely confused behind him.

PARKER (CONT'D)

It's Knight's apartment.

The elevator doors close.

EXT. JESSICA KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - DAY

Knight, wrapped in a blanket, is giving her statement to an officer while the team pulls up in the b.g. She looks down to avoid their concerned looks.

PARKER
Torres, photos and evidence
gathering.

TORRES
On it.

Torres retrieves a camera bag along with some evidence bags.

PARKER
McGee, pull the video feeds, and
get some ID on the victim. See if
you can retrace her steps until she
gets to Knights.

Knight appears beside them, without the shock blanket given by the officers.

KNIGHT
I can save you some time on the ID
process and possibly retracing her
steps.

PARKER
You should have waited to start
investigation before we arrived.

MCGEE
Are you okay?

KNIGHT
She's a friend. And yes, I'm fine.

TORRES
A friend?

A beat passes.

KNIGHT
Yes, a friend from my neighborhood.
She relocated to the area after -

Knight is interrupted by paramedics rolling CLAIRE ROGERS on a gurney. Claire is strapped in with a air bag attached to her and an IV started.

The team watches as Claire is loaded into the ambulance, the doors close, and it pulls off.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)

She got a new job. We went out last week to celebrate. She wanted to go out again last night.

MCGEE

Maybe you should head to the hospital, to be with her.

KNIGHT

I can do more out here than in the room with her at the hospital.

PARKER

Walk us through what happened.

INT. JESSICA KNIGHT'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

CLICK-FLASH! Bloody handprints smeared on the front door.

CLICK-FLASH! Blood on the floor where Claire collapsed.

CLICK-FLASH! Knight side-eying Torres as she gives her recount of last night.

KNIGHT

I was asleep when I heard the banging on the door. I grabbed my SIG, cleared the apartment from my bedroom, before I identified myself and opened the door.

PARKER

She was banging on the door?

TORRES

Bedroom down here? I can grab some photos there.

Torres makes a move toward the bedroom but Knight steps in front of him.

KNIGHT

That won't be necessary, thanks.

TORRES

Oh, you know, for evidence.

KNIGHT

She didn't make it that far,
there's no need.

PARKER

Torres, finish photographing and
help McGee canvas the neighbors and
gather some security footage.

KNIGHT

I'm gonna grab some clothes to
change, then head to the hospital.

PARKER

Great, we can question Claire
together.

Knight goes to her bedroom to change.

The rest of team turns to each other.

MCGEE

What are we thinking? Targeted
attack?

PARKER

Was Knight meant to be the target
or the friend?

TORRES

Maybe it was both?

MCGEE

She did mention Claire went out
again but not her so maybe just
opportunity and

KNIGHT

I was the only one she knew in the
city.

PARKER

So how did she get here?

KNIGHT

Well, let's go ask her.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Claire lays in the hospital bed, hooked up to multiple
machines. Knight waits at the door as Parker goes in to check
the room out.

KNIGHT

She got a new teaching job at a special STEM school in the area.

Knight sits down in the chair next to the hospital bed and strokes Claire's hand.

PARKER

Don't beat yourself up for not going. Any reason you didn't go?

KNIGHT

I've been having some trouble sleeping. My doctor suggested I start developing a night time routine.

PARKER

Insomnia?

KNIGHT

Yeah. I'm literally trying everything I can that's worked for others.

PARKER

When's the last time you changed your mattress?

Before Knight can respond, DR. TANNER OLSON comes in.

DR. OLSON

Hey there, Dr. Olson. I'm Ms. Roger's doctor.

KNIGHT

How is she? Is she stable?

DR. OLSON

The knife missed a lot of essential organs but she's stable for now. We should know more soon.

PARKER

What can you tell me about the stab wound?

DR. OLSON

It was a long blade, not serrated.

KNIGHT

We'll need to send some photos and gather evidence for our forensic lab.

DR. OLSON
Absolutely, my staff is available
to assist in what you need.

PARKER
Thank you, Dr.

Dr. Olson is paged for another medical emergency in the b.g.

DR. OLSON
Oh, please excuse me.

Dr. Olson leaves the room and Parker's phone rings.

PARKER
What do you got, McGee?

INT. NCIS SQUAD ROOM - DAY

McGee and Torres are at their desks. Parker steps off the elevator and is greeted with their findings as he enters the bullpen.

MCGEE
I finished getting Claire's
background. Newly employed at the
Center for STEM Future for 9th
grade.

TORRES
She just graduated with her
Master's in Education from the
University of Pennsylvania.

The plasma alternates with different photos of Claire from social media networks, college website, new house address, and recent employment verification.

PARKER
Security footage from the bar?

McGee types away on his computer some more.

MCGEE
Just received it, thanks to local
PD coordination.

The plasma pulls up video feed from the bar, interior and exterior. The three watch the video alternate as McGee goes over what we see.

MCGEE (CONT'D)

So, here we have Clair arriving at the bar. She's on her phone.

TORRES

Working on getting the call log from Knight and Claire's phone companies.

The video changes to Claire in the bar. She sits down at the bar and orders a drink, still on her phone. The video fast forwards and we see Claire still on her phone, three drinks later.

TORRES (CONT'D)

Guess she's shy.

MCGEE

Well, sometimes it's not so easy to meet new people.

PARKER

There.

Parker points to a guy on the screen.

PARKER (CONT'D)

Looks like he had a drink sent to her.

More movement, fast-forwarding, and zooming in on the plasma screen. Claire is still at the bar for another 30 minutes before she gets up to go to the bathroom.

More movement on the screen. The team follows the one guy across the bar. He goes to sit beside her drink and orders another for himself.

Claire comes back from the bathroom and tries to sit a few seats down when she realizes that the guy is sitting close to her chair.

The guy notices and closes the gap, leaning in to Claire. Fast-forward to Claire talking to the bartender and getting up to leave. The guy follows behind after he talks to the bartender.

The plasma shows Claire hailing a cab and opening the door.

Suddenly, she turns around and walks a few steps back to the bar. Off-screen, something happens and Claire is stumbling back to the cab.

She falls in and the door slams shut. A dark blur goes past the bottom of the security footage and the cab drives off.

TORRES

So I guess we need to head to the bar.

MCGEE

And the cab company.

TORRES

Should we check on Knight?

PARKER

I think she's going to stay at the hospital with Claire until her parents get there.

The team heads to their desks to grab their gear.

PARKER (CONT'D)

McGee, check out the cab company.
Torres, with me at the bar.

INT. CAB COMPANY - DAY

McGee waves his badge at the desk and gets pointed in another direction by the receptionist. McGee approaches a middle aged man with the name tag, CARLO, who has clearly seen better days.

MCGEE

Hi, Special Agent Tim McGee with NCIS. You're the manager?

CARLO

Yeah. You got a complaint, you can call the 1-800 number for that.

MCGEE

I'm here to inquire about one of your cab driver pickups last night around 2 am?

CARLO

(bored)
You're going to have to be more specific. That's the witching hour for cab companies.

McGee pulls a photo of Claire Rogers out and tosses it onto Carlo's desk, getting his attention.

MCGEE

Claire Rogers, picked up from the Side Door Lounge of 5th. Your driver may have reported, I don't know, a pool of BLOOD left in the back seat by his fare?

McGee turns around after finishing his loud and sees some cabbies looking at him but not moving. No guilt from them.

Until McGee sees one guy looking over the car door of his cab, avoiding eye contact.

CARLO

PORTER! Get over here.

Porter, late 20's, greasy hair, awkwardly shuffles over to Carlo's desk, avoiding eye contact with McGee. There's an awkward silence while McGee and Carlo stare down Porter.

CARLO (CONT'D)

Oh, I couldn't get him to shut up last night about it. Thought he would call out today.

MCGEE

Did you see who stabbed her?

Porter keeps his eyes to the floor.

MCGEE (CONT'D)

We can do this here or do it at NCIS.

McGee pulls out his handcuffs.

PORTER

I promise I offered to take her to the hospital.

CARLO

Yeah, he even forgot to get her fare. It's coming out of your check, by the way.

PORTER

Hey! Not fair. I can't control that.

MCGEE

Why didn't you call it in?

CARLO
I figured you guys would be by
soon? Why tie up the phone line.

McGee looks frustrated.

CARLO (CONT'D)
Car's over there. Porter, show him.

McGee and Porter make their way to the cab sitting off to the
side with orange cones around it.

CARLO (CONT'D)
Do you think you could hurry it up
with the photos and stuff, I need
to get that car back on the road.

MCGEE
I'm actually going to have it towed
downtown for forensic processing.
Standard procedure.

Carlo throws his hands up.