

BONES  
"Ladies in the Lake"

by

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**'BONES'**

**TEASER**

**EXT. SERENITY SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY -- EARLY MORNING**

There's a nursing home, apartments, condos, a small lake, and a 'Welcome to Serenity' banner. Seniors power walk and sit on benches in the gazebo.

Booth leads Brennan toward the lake. He fixes his ties, dishelved. He's aware of all the SENIORS watching them.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

How come old people don't need to sleep? They couldn't have found the body after I'd had some coffee?

BRENNAN

People over the age of seventy need as much sleep as their thirty year old counterparts. But the composition of their sleep patterns change as they get older. As they age they spend less and less time in the deep, restorative stages of sleep because of chronic illness, pain, or discomfort. In all likelihood most of these people will be napping within a few hours.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I could use a nap.

BRENNAN

You didn't sleep well?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

It's nothing, just a stupid charley horse in my leg after playing basketball yesterday-

BRENNAN

Muscles spasms are often the result of dehydration or a deficiency of potassium or calcium. As you grow older you may find you need to supplement-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I'm fine, Bones. Not growing older. Just fine.

They stop at the crime scene tape set up on one side of the lake. Several uniformed POLICE mill about and a DETECTIVE, 40s, approaches Booth. Brennan heads toward the lake.

DETECTIVE

Well, well, well. Seeley Booth.  
The big guns. Didn't know you'd be  
coming. And with the pretty  
partner no less.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

When you call Donnie, the FBI  
sends its best. Whatcha got here?

Detective Donnie walks over to where Brennan stands. She's staring at a small bone. He points at an old MAN very close to the crime scene tape.

DETECTIVE

When Nosey Ned over there pulled  
up his golf ball net this morning  
he got the booby prize. Foot bone,  
right?

Brennan examines the bone.

BRENNAN

This is a fifth metatarsal which  
means-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

There's a body.

BRENNAN

(to Detective)  
And you, sir, know your anatomy.

She turns back to the bone. Booth eyes Detective Donnie.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Even I knew it was a foot bone,  
too small to be a leg bone, too  
big for a hand bone-

Booth turns away but Brennan, examining the bone, stops him.

BRENNAN

Booth, there are markings here-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

And?

BRENNAN

This bone looks like it was chewed  
by something with very sharp  
teeth.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

A person?

BRENNAN

No, possibly a piranha.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

You're pulling my leg, Bones.

She looks at his leg, then at him.

BRENNAN

I'm not touching you. But we need  
to find the other two hundred and  
five bones.

Booth starts YELLING to no one in particular.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Alright people, look alive! Call  
the divers and-

He looks at the small paddle boat sitting on the shore.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

We're gonna need a bigger boat.

**END OF TEASER**

ACT 1**EXT. SERENITY SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY -- DAY**

Bones and Booth are in a rowboat at the edge of the lake. More SENIORS mill around. Booth prepares to jump out.

BRENNAN

The crowd's getting bigger. Lots of potential suspects. Booth, just wait a minute. We'll be on dry land-

Booth jumps out of the boat a minute early. He trips into the lake, water covering his feet.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(to the gathering crowd)

FBI at work, folks. Nothing exciting, nothing to see.

(to himself)

Stupid charley horse.

He checks out his wet socks and shoes and storms off to the

GAZEBO

Where OLLIE SANDOVAL, 40s, over six foot tall, waits.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So Ollie, why'd you leave a career with DC Metro for security.

Booth takes off his shoes and socks.

OLLIE

Quieter out here.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Nothing to do with that excessive force charge?

OLLIE

I don't play politics. Never did.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So you were innocent?

OLLIE

I didn't say that.

Booth rings water out of his socks.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Tell me about the lake. Does Ned  
drag it every morning?

OLLIE  
About once a week, though he's  
never pulled a single ball out. He  
used to be the grounds keeper at a  
swanky course up north, guess old  
habits die hard. He's been asked  
repeatedly to stop.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
By who?

Booth hits his socks against the side of the gazebo.

OLLIE  
Miss Saint James, she owns  
Serenity. And Cleveland Jones, he  
feeds the ducks. He thinks Ned's  
disturbing their natural habitat.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Ever seen anything suspicious  
around the lake? Anyone who  
doesn't belong?

OLLIE  
Nope.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Complaints about door-to-door  
salesmen or anything that just  
didn't sit right?

Booth waves his socks around, trying to dry them.

OLLIE  
I try to mind my own business. I'm  
a private guy.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I'd think the security of the  
community was your business.

OLLIE  
I just mean in general. These  
folks can be kinda uppity. It's  
too bad something happened but you  
know, karma and all.

Booth puts his socks and shoes back on.

OLLIE  
They really don't like me.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Why do you say that?

OLLIE  
I don't say it, they do. All the  
time.

**INT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING -- DAY**

TRISHA SAINT JAMES, 30s, dressed in designer clothes with manicured fingernails, CLAPS her hands to get the attention of the CROWD. Booth and Brennan stand next to her.

TRISHA  
If you'd all turn your attention  
up here for a moment, Special  
Agent Seeley would like to tell  
you about what happened this  
morning.

BRENNAN  
(to Booth)  
Special Agent Seeley?

OLD WOMAN 1  
I left the city so I wouldn't have  
to deal with crime! Now it's right  
here in my backyard! What are you  
gonna do about it?

OLD WOMAN 2  
We need more security!

OLD WOMAN 3  
One of those home alarm systems  
for every condo!

Booth addresses the crowd. Hodgins hurries in and WHISPERS to Brennan.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I'm Special Agent Booth and this  
is my partner Doctor Temperance  
Brennan. I want to assure you that  
we're doing everything we can to  
figure out what's happened here.  
You probably know by now a human  
bone has been found-

Brennan interrupts, YELLING OUT as she leaves with Hodgins.

BRENNAN

They found the rest of the body.  
I'm going to go examine it now.

TRISHA

Oh my God.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(to Trisha)

Doctor Brennan doesn't jump to  
conclusions, she'll do a thorough  
autopsy and we'll-

The old people YELL.

OLD WOMAN 2

Why aren't you out there looking  
for the killer?

BOOTH

(to the old people)

As soon as we find out how the  
person died we'll determine if it  
was in fact a homicide and then  
we'll-

OLD WOMAN 4

No one swims in that lake. Someone  
killed somebody and shoved them in  
there to rot.

OLD WOMAN 5

This is why we need more security.  
There's a killer on the loose.

**EXT. SERENITY SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY - CONTINUOUS**

Hodgins holds up two fingers. Brennan heads toward him just as  
there's a commotion by the lake. Detective Donnie yells to  
Brennan.

DETECTIVE

And that makes three.

**INT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING - CONTINUOUS**

Trisha is at Booth's side and they are being surrounded.

NED

It's a mass murder.

OLD WOMAN 2

Oh my God. The Senior Stalker.



OLD WOMAN 3

Where's Betty? I haven't seen her since poker last night. Oh my God, Betty.

BETTY

I'm right here.

OLD WOMAN 5

We need a plan.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Ladies-

Ned CLEARS his throat.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

And gentlemen. Let's just take it easy, okay? So far we have two dead bodies. They may not be connected at all.

TRISHA

Agent Seeley is right.

OLD WOMAN

How much longer before it's me or Matilda or Diane?

Brennan and Hodgins join them, way too excited. Hodgins carries a tray of glass jars full of lake material.

BRENNAN

We have to get back to the lab and start working on all three bodies.

DR. JACK HODGINS

Come on, I've got sludge and fish, and some very cool water bugs to examine.

He shows Booth one of the jars and Booth pushes it away.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(to Brennan and Hodgins)

Three? Really? It was just a toe.

BRENNAN

A fifth metatarsal, yes. The divers pulled up the remains with the missing metatarsal, and two others. It looks like we've got a-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Don't say it, Bones. Please,  
they're already-

But Brennan's too excited.

BRENNAN  
A serial killer. Come on, let's  
go.

She addresses the crowd.

BRENNAN  
I'm sure we'll be back to  
interview everyone. A serial  
killer is a unique opportunity-

NED  
I knew it.

OLD WOMAN 4  
No one's safe, he's coming for us.

OLD WOMAN 5  
I bet he's a rapist too, dirty  
little son of a bitch.

NED  
Ladies, my casa es su casa,  
anytime. I've got room for all of  
you.

One old LADY swats at him. He grins. Trisha addresses them.

TRISHA  
The police and FBI are going to do  
all they can, I'm sure of it. We  
just need to calm down.  
(to Booth)  
Maybe you could stick around, it'd  
make me, I mean us, feel safer.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Well, I want you to feel safe.  
I'll have some officers stick  
around and we'll be back to  
interview everyone.

TRISHA  
I'm looking forward to it.

Booth follows Brennan, his walk a little stiff due to his wet  
socks and shoes.

BETTY

That's right young man, get to work!

She swats at him with her purse. Another old WOMAN takes his arm and pulls him toward the door.

OLD WOMAN 2

You've got a job to do, we all need protecting. Hurry on now.

NED

Stop walking like you missed your morning crap. Get a move on.

DR. JACK HODGINS

I love these people. They just say anything.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SERENITY SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY -- CONTINUOUS**

The seniors stand in a huddle near the crime scene tape. Booth and Brennan stand in front of a body bag on a gurney. Booth checks to make sure his weapon's secure.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

The way they were grabbing at me...I hate all the yelling and screaming, seriously, these old people, what's with them?

BRENNAN

The frontal lobe atrophies as humans age which results in a loss of ability to inhibit irrelevant or unwanted thoughts. They have to say everything that comes to their minds. They can't help it. And you are walking funny.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

It's the wet socks!

BRENNAN

Six more inches and you'd be dry as dirt.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I'm just lucky one of those man-eating fish didn't get me when I tripped.

Brennan snaps on latest gloves and unzips the bag to reveal a water-logged BODY. She examines the foot which is missing most of its' flesh.

BRENNAN

Four fish. That's all they found.  
And they're all less than ten  
inches long. You're afraid of some  
little fish?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Little fish who sucked the meat  
right off our victim.

BRENNAN

You know, you're right, they were  
very helpful.

The old people break apart from their huddle. Brennan zips the body bag and removes her gloves. Booth stands behind a large tree as Brennan talks to him.

BRENNAN

We have three sets of skeletal  
remains and-

Brennan watches Booth watch everyone else. She takes a cookie from a tin on a nearby bench and eats it.

BRENNAN

What's your problem?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I've been yelled at all morning  
and I don't need anymore. In  
English, Spanish, and what sounded  
like weird Russian.

BRENNAN

That was Trasianka, a dialect  
spoken in Belarus. Mary Caraway  
lived half her life there. She  
also makes these delicious butter  
cookies.

Booth eyes the tin of cookies. He takes one and eats it.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So, what'dya got?

BRENNAN

I've determined that all three  
victims are women, over the age of  
sixty.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Old ladies. So they probably were  
all residents.

BRENNAN  
You know I don't draw conclusions.  
There were no visible signs of  
trauma on the bodies, other than a  
possible ankle fracture. Once I  
examine the bones further-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Old people dying in an old folks  
community, Bones. Sometimes you  
just gotta play the odds.

**INT. SMITHSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB -- DAY**

Brennan and Angela surround Hodgins' workstation. He holds up a  
piranha jawbone.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Pygocentrus natter, the red  
bellied piranha. You'll note it's  
unique dentition, a single row of  
razor-sharp teeth-

BRENNAN  
They're sharper than a razor, they  
can cut through metal.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Very sharp teeth in both jaws that  
are interlocked and tightly  
packed. They'll tear apart a cow  
in-

ANGELA  
Why would a cow just be standing  
in a lake full of piranhas?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Maybe it's thirsty, or dirty, I  
don't know?

BRENNAN  
So the marks on the bones, they're  
from the piranhas?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Yes.

Brennan looks at a tank on his desk, which contains three  
living piranhas.

BRENNAN

We need to determine how piranhas  
got into that lake.

Hodgins goes back to work.

BRENNAN

Angela, I need you to start  
working on the facial  
reconstructions for the skeletal  
remains. We need to find out if  
these women were-

Booth swipes his card and walks into the lab, followed by a  
woman, ANNA, 30s, who is the spitting image of Angela. Angela  
stares. Hodgins and Brennan don't notice.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Murdered? Come on Bones, no one  
just goes for a swim in a piranha-  
filled lake.

BRENNAN

I know but we need to find out  
how.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Aren't you going to ask who this  
is?

BRENNAN

I assumed if you wanted me to  
know, you'd-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

This is Hodgins' friend Anna. We  
met at reception. Anna has spent  
the last three years studying  
ancient ruins or something in  
Greece.

Booth can barely contain himself. Hodgins sees Anna and grins.

DR. JACK HODGINS

Oh my God. Anna.

He sweeps her into a big hug as Sweets walks into the lab. He  
stands next to Booth.

SWEETS

(indicating Anna)  
Angela's sister?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Nope.

ANNA

It's been too long, Jackie. Too too long. Can you do lunch?

Anna kisses Hodgins on both cheeks.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I don't think she's talking about food.

BRENNAN

No he can't, he's working a multiple homicide.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Come on Bones, give the guy a break. She came all the way from Greece.

Sweets looks from Angela to Hodgins and back.

SWEETS

And I just thought it was going to be another serial killer case. This is so much better.

Angela clears her throat.

DR. JACK HODGINS

Anna, this is my wife. Angela Montenegro.

Anna smiles at Angela and hooks her arm through Hodgins. Brennan bristles. Angela shakes her head and leaves.

BRENNAN

We're working. Hodgins, take an hour. Booth, Sweets, come with me.

Booth and Sweets follow Brennan out of the lab but look back at Anna who flirts with Hodgins.

**INT. SMITHSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB -- DAY**

Brennan, Booth, and Sweets enter Angela's office. Cam and Angela stand in front of computer monitors.

CAM

We matched the dental records to Mabel Boudell, seventy-five.

BRENNAN

Was she a missing person?

Booth checks his phone.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Not officially though all the old folks mentioned that she'd gone missing. Local LEOs took a report but never made it official, didn't follow up.

ANGELA

Why would they do that?

BOOTH

They said they get a lot of these reports and it's usually just someone forgot to tell their neighbors they were going out of town, worrywarts, etcetera. I have a feeling they'll take them more seriously now.

ANGELA

(to Brennan)

She wasn't pretty, right? I mean, not above average.

BRENNAN

We're still working on the other two sets of remains, hopefully we'll have IDs soon.

(to Angela)

She was beautiful, perfect bone structure. Wide-set hips too. But you trust Hodgins, correct?

CAM

Mabel's right talus was fractured. She showed signs of severe osteoporosis as a result of mineral loss and her bones were brittle. It wouldn't have taken much more than tripping to snap her ankle.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So she tripped into the lake, drowned, and was eaten by piranhas.

Hodgins comes into the room, alone.

DR. JACK HODGINS

Sadly, our four little friends could only do so much.

(MORE)



DR. JACK HODGINS (CONT'D)  
 She decomposed mostly through  
 natural means.

Booth looks around Hodgins, out the door, obviously looking for  
 Anna. Hodgins CLEARS HIS THROAT.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 The piranhas seemed to enjoy other  
 fish and frogs more than human  
 remains.

ANGELA  
 Gross.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 (to Angela)  
 To do damage like we saw in that  
 YouTube clip you'd need way more  
 than four.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Cause of death?

BRENNAN  
 We're still working to determine  
 that.

SWEETS  
 Three elderly women all found in  
 the same area, dead, in a man-made  
 lake full of piranhas.

BRENNAN  
 Four piranhas.

SWEETS  
 It sounds like a-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Yeah, yeah, I know what it sounds  
 like.

**INT. MABEL'S HOUSE -- NIGHT**

Booth pokes around the kitchen. There's a plate in the dish  
 drainer, nothing else. He SNIFFS. He opens the trash can.

BRENNAN (O.S.)  
 There's not so much as a book out  
 of place.

Booth finds a whole raw chicken, covered by burnt cupcakes.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
It's weird she'd throw away a  
chicken, uncooked. Local PD should  
have looked around a little  
better.

Bones joins him in the kitchen carrying a date book.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
What'd you find?

BRENNAN  
The day Mabel went missing, the  
twelfth, was Eliza Tremell's  
birthday. There's a cupcake  
sticker next to her name.

He notices something else. He lifts the chicken out.

BRENNAN  
It's unsanitary to thaw poultry  
above twenty-nine degrees  
Fahrenheit. Salmonella multiplies  
at an alarming rate.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I doubt she was thawing it in the  
garbage.

A diamond bracelet falls from the chicken.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
And looky here.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. MABEL'S HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS**

Booth examines the diamond bracelet. Brennan pulls a bag containing other jewelry from the chicken.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I've heard of people freezing credit cards but never inside a chicken.

BRENNAN  
And why would she throw it away?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
She wouldn't.

Booth motions to the date book.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
The trash can is full of burnt cupcakes. And there's a cupcake sticker next to Eliza's birthday, the day Mabel disappeared. That hardly seems coincidental.

BRENNAN  
It's the exact definition of coincidental, Booth. The-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Yep, got it, Bones. Thanks.

**EXT. MABEL'S NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT**

Brennan knocks on the door. Ollie drives by in his golf cart. NELLY, 80, opens the door a crack and looks at Booth.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Special Agent Booth and Temperance Brennan from the FBI. We'd like to ask you a few questions, Miss--

NELLY  
Nelly. Hoffsinger. Let me see your badge.

Booth slides it through the crack in the door. The door slams shut. A few seconds go by and Nelly opens the door back up. Ten WOMEN crowd around her, dressed in robes and pajamas.

NELLY

Betty vouched for you from this morning.

Booth nods at Betty. Nelly hands him his badge.

BETTY

None of us wanted to stay alone.

WOMAN 1

Not with a serial killer on the loose.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So you're having a little pajama party? Right.

BRENNAN

Are one of you Eliza Tremell?

The women BRISTLE and WHISPER.

NELLY

Good God, no. She would never socialize with us.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Why's that?

BETTY

She thinks she's too young to be here. Runs around like she's forty-five. And I'm a year younger than her.

BRENNAN

Where might we find her?

NELLY

She lives directly across the way.

She points out the door.

NELLY

The condo with the bushes up to the windows? That's hers. Invoked a special ordinance just to get them planted, claims she can't have too much sunlight in her house or she'll get sick.

BETTY

She's sick alright. Sick in the head.

One of the women passes a tin of cookies. Brennan takes one.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Did Mabel socialize with Eliza?

WOMAN 1  
Mabel was nice to everyone.

NELLY  
Oh no.

BETTY  
It was Mabel in the lake, wasn't it?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Yes. We're so sorry-

WOMAN 2  
I knew she didn't go to her daughter's, she hadn't talked to her since Easter!

WOMAN 1  
When her porch light burned out and she didn't change it we called the police.

BRENNAN  
Who told you she went to her daughter's?

NELLY  
Trisha said we should respect her privacy and that it was probably a family matter. Family matter, my fanny!

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Ladies, you've been very helpful.

Brennan steals several more cookies from the tin.

NELLY  
You find the sicko, you let us have a crack at him!

There's a collective YEAH from the women. Booth pulls Brennan down the front walk. Ollie drives by going the opposite way.

BRENNAN  
These cookies are really good.

BETTY  
 (off Ollie)  
 Look into him! He's always peeking  
 around where he shouldn't be.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Ollie, the security guard?

WOMAN 4  
 And he disappears whenever there's  
 work to be done. Last week Lois'  
 cat got stuck in Ned's live trap  
 and do you think he'd answer his  
 cell phone?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Thank you for your help, we'll be  
 in touch.

They walk down the sidewalk.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 They've got nothing better to do  
 then stick their noses in everyone  
 else's business.

BRENNAN  
 And you're already good at that.  
 See, that's something to look  
 forward to in your golden years.

Booth takes her last cookie and shoves it in his mouth.

**INT. SMITHSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB -- DAY**

Hodgins leans over a table covered in bones on the platform.  
 Angela holds a sketch book. Brennan joins them.

BRENNAN  
 You've identified her?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 Barb Hickory, eighty-two.

ANGELA  
 I did a sketch.

She holds up the sketch book. It's an older woman drawn in  
 careful detail.

ANGELA  
 I can do a 3-D image but I'm  
 guessing it's not needed.

Booth joins them on the platform.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I just talked to her son, he's a contractor in Iraq. They hadn't spoken for over six months. Talk about guilt.

BRENNAN  
She's been dead at least that long. Hodgins found-

Hodgins looks at Brennan through a jar of water bugs.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Notonectidae, order of Hemiptera. These little guys are backswimmers, distinguished from others by their dorsal-ventral coloration and-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
English, Hodgins. And something I care about.

Hodgins puts a WATER BUG under the microscope. It wiggles. He slices it open and moves aside. Booth peers in at the bug.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Water bugs. I found larvae imbedded in some of the flesh we scraped off the bones. That means she's been in there a while, long enough for the body to decompose down to bone so these guys could-

Booth steps away from the microscope.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Okay. We're building a time line. What else you got Bones?

BRENNAN  
We're still working on cause of death.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Then it's interview time. Let's go.

He stops next to Hodgins.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Your friend, Anna. She still in town?

ANGELA  
 (to Brennan)  
 It's like they're fifteen.  
 (to Booth and Hodgins)  
 You're both disgusting.

**INT. ELIZA'S HOME -- DAY**

Brennan, Booth, and Trisha sit in the living room. Eliza moves about, straightening things.

TRISHA  
 We just want to make sure they  
 find the person responsible-

ELIZA  
 You think I like the thought of a  
 serial killer running loose? My  
 James was a prosecutor for over  
 forty years.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Did Mabel come to see you the day  
 she disappeared?

ELIZA  
 No. She called the night before  
 about cupcakes and bridge but I  
 never heard from her again.

BRENNAN  
 So you and Mabel were friends?

ELIZA  
 We chatted after Board meetings.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Board meetings?

ELIZA  
 I'm president of the Serenity  
 Governing Board. We meet every  
 other Thursday evening.

Booth gets up and walks the room.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 So you decide the rules of the  
 community, things like that?



ELIZA

We've recently instated a mandatory curfew, thank God or more people might have ended up like Mabel. And I'm working to get more streetlights down now.

BRENNAN

*Fewer* streetlights?

TRISHA

Don't get her started.

Eliza and Trisha lock eyes.

ELIZA

Each resident pays a community fee which includes a portion of the electric bill. And it's astronomical. We pay more for those stupid streetlights all over the place than-

TRISHA

They're safety precautions.

ELIZA

There's a light every six feet all the way around the lake. No one has any business walking around the lake at night.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Do most of the residents agree with you?

ELIZA

Yes.

TRISHA

No.

Booth slides a stack of magazines toward Brennan. He points to the label on the first one. It says, "Mabel Boudell".

ELIZA

Have you looked into the security guard? I filed charges against him this winter.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

According to the report he was investigating a noise your neighbor heard.

ELIZA

He was peeping! At old ladies!

Brennan flips through a folder. Trisha files her fingernails with a metal file.

BRENNAN

You also reported John Franks for extortion? Is he an employee here?

TRISHA

No.

BRENNAN

This says he's forty. Isn't that a little young to live here?

TRISHA

He was staying with Barb Hickory, his stepmother. He didn't live here.

ELIZA

He stayed with her over a year. I'd say that's living with somebody.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

What did Franks try to extort from you?

ELIZA

He threatened to sue me if I didn't pay him for putting in my bushes. And after I made him a toasted cheese sandwich!

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Those charges didn't stick either.

ELIZA

My James would be appalled at the state of our justice system now.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Where were you the evening of your birthday?

ELIZA

Dinner with my sons in the city. Then I went to the show, by myself.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Thank you for your time, Miss Tremell. We'll be in contact.

ELIZA

Just so you know, if I'd killed her you wouldn't have found the body. I'm not an imbecile.

**INT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING -- DAY**

Ollie, Booth, Brennan, and Trisha stand in Trisha's office.

OLLIE

Do I need a lawyer?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Not unless you have a reason to have a lawyer.

OLLIE

I'm not sayin' nothin' about anything. She'll fire me.

TRISHA

That's not true Ollie.  
(to Booth)  
He can be so dramatic.

BRENNAN

Were you working on the twelfth?

Ollie SIGHS and gives in.

OLLIE

No, I had a long weekend.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So where were you?

Trisha goes to her desk and opens a binder.

OLLIE

Not at work.

TRISHA

He was off for three days that weekend. First time he'd taken a day off in six months.

BRENNAN

Six months? That's how long-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So you were at home, Ollie. Anyone vouch for you? Why'd you take the day off?

OLLIE

You should talk to Franks. If something's going on, he knows about it.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

John Franks? Barb Hickory's stepson?

OLLIE

He moved out right before Mabel went missing. And he wasn't well liked around here. More than once I broke up arguments between him and-

TRISHA

You never told me that! I should have been informed-

OLLIE

All due respect, ma'am, you pay me not to inform you.

Trisha stares him down. He moves toward the door.

OLLIE

I have to get back on patrol. Talk to Franks.

**INT. BOOTH'S VEHICLE/TRAVELING -- DAY**

Booth drives, Brennan flips through a file.

BRENNAN

He's been arrested for various petty thefts but nothing violent.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

What I would give for Franks to be our guy. To be done with this case.

BRENNAN

They're not so bad. They're friendly and surprisingly helpful in the investigation. And their recall is surprisingly good, as far as witnesses go.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

They're old, that's enough.

Brennan's phone BUZZES. She clicks and the video conference application opens. Cam is on the screen.

CAM

We've got an ID on the third victim. France's Lane, ninety-eight.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Does the FBI have anything on her? Missing person report?

CAM

None filed. She had no family and hadn't stopped paying her bills, though she's been dead almost a year.

BRENNAN

How does that work?

CAM

The wonders of online banking and direct deposit.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Thanks, Cam.

Brennan puts down the phone.

BRENNAN

Someone that old might have been killed-

Booth's phone RINGS. He answers on speakerphone.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Cam?

CAM (V.O.)

Frances Lane lived in the same building that John Franks lived in.

BRENNAN

Why didn't she call me back?

CAM

Tell Doctor Brennan I can't call her back if she doesn't hang up the phone.

Brennan looks at her phone. Cam is still on the video conference application, muted. She waves. Brennan waves back.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
The off button Bones.

Brennan turns the application off. Booth ends his call.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
So if Franks and Frances lived in  
the same building, what are the  
odds they knew each other?

BRENNAN  
We'd have to take the number of  
people in the city and the number  
of people in the building and  
divide by-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Let's just go with the odds are  
pretty good.

**INT. JOHN FRANKS' APARTMENT -- DAY**

The apartment is expensively decorated. Franks is nervous and follows Booth around the living room as he picks things up and looks at them. Franks puts them back in their place.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
This is quite the step up from  
sleeping on mommy's couch.

FRANKS  
That was only temporary, and I had  
my own room.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
A year isn't what I'd call  
temporary. Would you, Bones?

Brennan looks through an adjacent room.

BRENNAN  
Technically the word describes  
something that lasts for a limited  
time so if he did leave I suppose  
the term is accurate.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Thanks, Bones. So Franks, why  
would Ollie the security guard  
tell us to look into you? You  
deflate the tires of his golf cart  
or something?

FRANKS

He's just a low-life rent-a-cop, I barely knew him.

Brennan walks into the room carrying a photograph.

BRENNAN

So you'd ask someone you barely knew to stand up for you at your wedding?

Brennan shows Booth the wedding photograph. A younger Franks has his arm around a younger Ollie.

FRANKS

That was a long time ago.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So it's just a coincidence that the man who fingers you for murder used to be your best friend?

Franks freezes.

FRANKS

Who's dead?

BRENNAN

Frances Lane, the woman who lived next door.

FRANKS

I've never met the woman who lives next-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

When was the last time you talked to your stepmother, Barb?

FRANKS

I don't know, I've been busy, maybe a few weeks ago.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

That's be difficult since she's been dead for six months.

Franks sits down. He looks shaken.

FRANKS

Barb? Yeah, I mean, no, we hadn't talked in a while.

(MORE)

FRANKS (CONT'D)

I owed her some money and I felt bad about how we left things but I didn't want her dead.

BRENNAN

(to Booth)

Do you think he's lying?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(to Brennan)

We're gonna find out.

(to Franks)

What was your relationship with Eliza Tremmell?

FRANKS

That crazy old lady tried to get me arrested. There's no love between us. But Barb, I liked her, always did.

**EXT. SERENITY SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY -- NIGHT**

Brennan and Booth walk through the neighborhood, looking down driveways and side streets.

BRENNAN

Walking's good for your charley horse. When you drive, you work your extensor digitorum and gastrocnemius creating tension all through your legs and lower back. The older we get the more the tension builds.

Four WOMEN jump out from behind a hedge. One hits Booth with a frying pan, another tries to tie Brennan's hands with rope.

WOMAN 1

Citizen's arrest!

Ned swings a small baseball bat at the empty air. Booth takes the frying pan and rubs the back of his head.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

For crying out loud-

WOMAN 2

The Neighborhood Watch pamphlet I got at The Safeway says we're allowed to perform-



SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
You cannot arrest an FBI agent!  
You all need to go back to your  
homes and-

NED  
You looking for Ollie? That's his  
cart right there.

Ned points behind a condo. The cart is there, barely visible.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Okay folks, thank you for your  
help but we'll take it from here.  
You really need to go home.

The seniors WHISPER among themselves then head off.

WOMAN 3  
We're going to do another walk  
around the circle and then make a  
decision.

WOMAN 4  
Can never be too cautious.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
(to Bones)  
Or too crotchety.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. TOOTSIE'S CONDO -- NIGHT**

Booth and Brennan stand just inside the door with TOOTSIE LYONS, 63, who is visibly agitated.

TOOTSIE  
Maybe he was working back there  
and just left it till tomorrow.  
That seems likely.

BRENNAN  
Does Ollie often abandon his cart  
behind homes?

TOOTSIE  
No, it's just maybe-

A SNORE comes from the next room.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Are you alone, Ms. Lyons?

TOOTSIE  
My cat Kitty sometimes jumps on  
things.

Brennan walks toward the next room.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Can we take a look around?

BRENNAN (O.S.)  
Booth.

Booth and Tootsie follow Brennan into the

**NEXT ROOM**

She stands in front of a recliner where Ollie sleeps. The television is on and abandoned dinner plates sit on TV trays.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Some security guard.

Tootsie rubs Ollie's arm.

TOOTSIE  
He has sleep apnea so he naps  
whenever he gets the chance. I've  
been trying to get him to go to  
the doctor.

(MORE)

TOOTSIE (CONT'D)  
 (to Ollie)  
 Honey, the police officers want to  
 talk to you.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 FBI. Come on Ollie, up and at 'em.

Ollie startles awake.

OLLIE  
 (to Tootsie)  
 I told you to wake me if someone  
 knocked-

TOOTSIE  
 I thought it was just Katherine,  
 she called about borrowing  
 batteries for her remote control.

BRENNAN  
 Do you usually take naps in  
 residents' homes?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 She called him honey, Bones.

BRENNAN  
 Oh, right, gotcha.

OLLIE  
 It's not what you think, it's,  
 we're-

TOOTSIE  
 We're in love. There's absolutely  
 nothing to be ashamed of, honey.  
 He thinks if people find out  
 Trisha'll fire him.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Do you have an alibi for the night  
 Mabel was killed?

OLLIE  
 We were in Atlantic City together,  
 three night at Harrah's. I've got  
 receipts.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Okay. So what's your take on Eliza  
 Tremell?

OLLIE  
She stirs the pot, no one ever  
likes that.

BRENNAN  
I don't understand, what pot is he  
talking about?

The doorbell RINGS. Ollie disappears into another room. Tootsie opens the door to reveal Trisha.

TRISHA  
I heard our guests were back so I  
thought I'd come offer a hand.

She sidles up to Booth.

TRISHA  
I'm free all night if you need  
help. With anything.

BRENNAN  
We have to get back to the  
Jeffersonian. But I'm sure Special  
Agent Seeley will let you know  
when your services are needed.

**INT. SMITHSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB -- NIGHT**

Hodgins, Cam, and Angela surround a table of bones on the platform. Booth and Brennan join them.

BRENNAN  
Hodgins said you have cause of  
death for Mabel.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
And don't say piranhas.

Hodgins examines a bone with a magnifying glass.

CAM  
Exsanguination, total hypovolemia.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Yep, she bled to death.

He holds the magnifying glass out to Brennan. She examines a tiny marking on the bone.

BRENNAN  
That's a relatively uncommon way  
for a person to die.

She passes the magnifying glass to Booth. He attempts to find the marking. Cam points him in the right direction.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

It's a teeny tiny wound, how does that work?

CAM

Hodgins discovered she had hepatolenticular degeneration-

BRENNAN

Wilson's disease-

DR. JACK HODGINS

An autosomal recessive genetic disorder in which copper accumulates in tissues, and in her case manifest itself through impaired liver function.

ANGELA

According to her medical records she was never diagnosed.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

For us non-squints?

BRENNAN

Copper poisoning. Her body was killing her.

CAM

It goes unrealized in about five percent of those affected until the liver fails completely.

DR. JACK HODGINS

Mabel experienced a reduction of clotting factors because of the impaired liver function. So when she was stabbed in the neck, even though it was a very small wound and didn't hit a major artery, she bled to death. It probably took some time.

Hodgins's phone BEEPS. He reads, grins, and types a message back.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

She was stabbed. Good, now we've got something to work with.

Sweets joins the group. He holds several files.

SWEETS

I've been research the elderly and serial criminal behavior patterns-

Angela pushes past him and leaves.

SWEETS

What'd I miss?

BRENNAN

Angela's obviously bothered by the fact that Hodgins's friend Anna is very attractive. Though we did discover that Mabel's murder might have been more accidental than intentional-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Or it involved an unskilled killer.

His phone BEEPS and he reads.

SWEETS

Angela's jealousy is an interesting development. She's attempting to hide her discomfort but not doing a very good job at it, her nonverbal cues are-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(off phone)

Eliza's not the only one who accused Franks of extortion, not by a long shot. Sweets, you're with us.

He leads Sweets and Brennan out of the lab.

BRENNAN

(to Hodgins and Cam)

Start looking for possible murder weapons. It's likely the killer used the same instrument on each victim.

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

Sweets and Brennan wait behind a two-way glass window. They watch Booth in the main interrogation room with Franks.

SWEETS

I'd probably react in a similar fashion. For instance, had I seen Daisy with someone else while we were on our break, chances are I would have been very jealous. Angela's only-

BRENNAN

It doesn't make sense. Franks has only lived in his apartment six months. He moved out right around the time his stepmother disappeared. Frances has been dead a year. How could he have met Frances when he didn't live there yet?

Brennan walks out of the room and into the

MAIN FBI INTERROGATION ROOM

where Booth and Franks are.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(to Brennan)

We just got the warrant, four counts of extortion. I was thinking we should add murder to the list.

BRENNAN

You claim to have never met Frances Lane, your neighbor.

FRANKS

That's because I didn't. Everyone minds their own business there. It's no Serenity.

BRENNAN

But you lived with Barb, at Serenity, when Frances died there.

She opens a file in front of Booth and pulls out a picture of Frances. She slides it in front of Franks.

BRENNAN

Do you know her?

Franks is silent.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Let's see, she probably came to look at an apartment and you found out she had a lot of money. You tried to blackmail her but it didn't work so you killed her.

FRANKS  
I swear I don't know this old lady. But ask Trisha, that ex-wife of mine always knows everything.

**INT. SMITHSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB -- DAY**

Hodgins, Cam, Angela, Booth, and Brennan are in Angela's office near a bank of computers. Booth squints at a monitor.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
How big are the stab wounds exactly?

BRENNAN  
On each victim they're nine-tenths of a centimeter. The markings on the bone are faint, and lack ridges so the instrument used was probably not a knife.

ANGELA  
What about an ice pick?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Too rounded.

CAM  
A tool of some sort? Like a screwdriver?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
They're not pointy. Right?

ANGELA  
A church key?

BRENNAN  
Are you referring to the small manual can opener? I doubt it though.

Angela works on one of the computers. Sweets joints them.



DR. JACK HODGINS

There were particulates in Mabel's wound. Skin most likely but not enough to get DNA from.

CAM

Frances had a broken coxal bone which occurred right around the time of death.

BRENNAN

She broke her hip, that usually means a fall of some sort. And she was stabbed.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Angela, do you have a nail file in your purse?

Angela walks to her desk, pulls out her purse, and digs around in it. She hands Booth a metal nail file.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Could the killer have used this?

ANGELA

The dimensions and lack of serration combined with the size of the wound and the indicators-

She clicks on the keyboard. A graphic of a weapon with the dimensions of the nail file appears on a monitor.

ANGELA

It's a match.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Franks could have picked one of those up with he lived with Barb.

Angela pulls an image of a body up on a large monitor. She continues to work the computer as they talk.

DR. JACK HODGINS

If we take the force it would require to get said nail file into the neck of a human being-

ANGELA

And the angle at which the file went in-

Booth stands over Brennan holding the file above her. Cam looks at the monitor and adjusts his aim.

BRENNAN

It's not possible that Franks was the killer. Franks is at least six foot tall, right Booth?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

He's got an inch or two on me so yeah.

CAM

The killer had to be between five five and five seven. And most likely a woman.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Why do you say that?

CAM

The murder weapon went into the neck slowly.

SWEETS

If I may, Doctor Saroyan-

CAM

Please.

SWEETS

Men have a tendency to kill violently, in fits of rage. This type of murder suggests the killer needed the victim dead but wasn't angry or upset.

ANGELA

You're saying getting stabbed in the neck and bleeding to death is non-violent?

SWEETS

The fact that a nail file was used indicates a crime of opportunity. And the only suspect you have left is a woman.

**INT. BOOTH'S VEHICLE/TRAVELING -- DAY**

Booth puts down his phone and looks at Brennan.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Fourteen voicemails from these crazies. And they've started calling my boss.

(MORE)

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH (CONT'D)  
Do old people have nothing else to do?

BRENNAN  
Most likely not. When you reach a certain age modern society deems you less valuable and takes away duties, responsibilities-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Aren't you full of cheery news.

BRENNAN  
You're afraid of growing older, it's understandable, though not rational. It's out of the realm of our control.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I'm not afraid of anything. I'm not looking forward to it is all.

BRENNAN  
Many people find the so-called twilight years peaceful, full of rest and quiet contemplation-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Full of aches and pains, people telling you to be quiet and get out of their way. I see how some of the old guys at the bureau are treated when they don't retire "on time".

BRENNAN  
It's natural to want to hang on to what we had before.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
I just thought I'd have a little more to hang on to by that time. A wife, a couple more kids maybe-

Hodgins pipes up from the back seat.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
I want kids. And a dog.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
See. That's all most people want.

BRENNAN  
 (to Booth)  
 You've got me.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Thanks, Bones.

BRENNAN  
 At least until I find a suitable  
 mate.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 Ouch.

**INT. ELIZA'S HOME -- DAY**

Booth, Brennan, and Hodgins wait in the foyer while Eliza reads the search warrant.

ELIZA  
 My James would know what all this  
 legal mumbo jumbo means.

BRENNAN  
 It means we get to look through  
 everything.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 (to Hodgins)  
 Find something.

Hodgins goes off, Brennan looks around in the  
 KITCHEN

She YELLS to Booth who's still in the foyer.

BRENNAN (O.S.)  
 Maybe we should check her chicken.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 (to Brennan)  
 The jewelry box might be a better  
 place to start.

DR. JACK HODGINS (O.S.)  
 Your wish is my command!

Booth finds Hodgins in the

LAUNDRY ROOM

Hodgins swabs mud off a pair of rubber garden boots.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 If the clay and silt match the  
 intrinsic soil morphology of that  
 near the lake and the physical  
 characteristics coincide with the  
 taxonomic characteristics-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 You can prove she was at the lake?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 And when. Rainfall affects soil  
 samples and it rained the night  
 before Mabel was killed.

Hodgins puts dirt from the sole of one boot in a vial.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 What size are they?

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 Seven.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Same as the footprints found near  
 the crime scene. Good work,  
 Hodgins.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
 King of the Lab! Or, King of the  
 Old Folks' Home!

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Yeah, doesn't have quite the same  
 ring.

**INT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING -- DAY**

Booth KNOCKS on Trisha's office door and lets himself in.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Miss Saint James, you called? How  
 can I help you?

TRISHA  
 Trisha. I have some information  
 for your case. Please, sit down.

She shuts the door. Booth sits, she sits close to him.

TRISHA

We've all been so terrified and  
I've been hoping that we'd get to  
see you again.

She slides her hand over Booth's leg.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Well, *Trisha*, we're both doing all  
we-

There's a KNOCK at the door. Booth jumps up. Ollie walks in  
with a log book.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Ollie, hey there. You got  
something for me?

TRISHA

(to Ollie)

Go ahead, since you're here now.

Trisha files a fingernail.

OLLIE

I checked my logs and found a  
notation on the night Mabel was  
murdered.

He opens the log book and hands it to Booth.

OLLIE

I found Eliza down by the lake  
that night. She said she was  
taking pictures of the  
streetlights for the Board  
meeting. I drove her home.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Did she have a camera?

OLLIE

Not that I recall. She did have a  
purse though. I remember because  
she dropped it getting into my  
cart and I picked it up for her.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Great, thanks Ollie. That's  
actually very helpful.

Trisha puts away the fingernail file.

TRISHA

Now that that's done, Ollie,  
you're fired. Clean out your desk  
and I'll mail you your last check.

Ollie looks at her, and speechless, leaves.

TRISHA

I'm so sorry for his behavior. A  
security professional in his  
position should have had that  
information at the ready for you  
and your team.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I'm not sure it warranted firing  
him, he's been a help to us.

TRISHA

Can you recommend any strong  
capable young men like yourself to  
fill the vacancy?

Brennan enters the office, eating something.

BRENNAN

The woman in the condo on the  
other side of Eliza's makes the  
best baklava.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Glad you caught up, Bones. So tell  
us Trisha, what do you know about  
John Franks? How'd he get the  
money to move into that new  
apartment?

TRISHA

I have no idea where Mister  
Franks-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

You mean your ex-husband?

They lock eyes.

TRISHA

He was a young girl's mistake. I'm  
all grown up now and know exactly  
what I want. It's not him. Now if  
you'll excuse me, I have work to  
do.

She escorts them out of her office and shuts the door behind  
them. They walk through the building.

BRENNAN

Hodgins found the pet store that sold the piranhas we found in the lake. The credit card receipt's in Eliza Tremell's name. Do you think Eliza and Trisha are in on it together?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I think something's fishy around here and it's not those piranhas.

**INT. SMITHSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB -- DAY**

Booth lies on the couch in Brennan's office, holding the piranha jawbone. She sits at her desk.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Eliza is disliked by everyone in the community but why did she go after these three women? And on the day Mabel was making her birthday cupcakes?

BRENNAN

Don't forget the chicken stuffed with jewelry. Why would a person do that?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Probably to hide it from burglars. I don't know, I have a gun to stop burglars.

BRENNAN

Frances had a broken hip and Mabel had a broken ankle but Barb had no broken bones. In fact, she had little indication of osteoporosis.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

It makes sense that Eliza would stab them first. She couldn't carry them into the lake, so she probably rolled them, looking at the mud on her boots. The stabbing could result in falls.

BRENNAN

Two of the streetlights were out the night Mabel was killed. The Board was considering turning off several others.



SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
And they were near the crime  
scene. Perfect reason to choose  
that area. But why?

BRENNAN  
Why what?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
She waits six months in between  
the first two murders and then  
only six weeks before she kills  
again? And the piranhas?

BRENNAN  
Maybe she saw that same YouTube  
video Hodgins and Angela saw.

He stares at the jawbone. Sweets stands at the office door.

SWEETS  
The killer had become more  
agitated. What started as a crime  
of opportunity might have turned  
into a crime of necessity. Most  
likely dealing with money or  
something equally tangible. She  
was feeling an outside pressure to  
commit these crimes.

Hodgins appears next to Sweets.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
The height and width of the nail  
file found at Eliza's house match  
all the wound specs. Of course  
that nail file is sold in fifteen  
hundred and twenty-one Safeways in  
the country. Including seventeen  
in the greater D.C. area.

BRENNAN  
So any woman with one is a  
suspect, including Angela.

DR. JACK HODGINS  
Angela's an inch too tall.

Booth's cell phone BUZZES.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Time to find out what Eliza was  
really up to.

He tosses the jawbone to Hodgins. Cam joins them and holds up an evidence bag.

CAM

You find a nail file without a tip  
and you find the murder weapon.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. MAIN FBI INTERROGATION ROOM -- DAY**

Both and Brennan stand across from Eliza at the table.

ELIZA

I knew I should have used cash.  
The boy on the phone said they'd  
cost twelve dollars a piece and  
then when I got there, he tripled  
the price. I had no choice.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So you bought the piranhas.

ELIZA

And put them in the lake. No one  
swims there, except Cleveland  
Jones' dog.

BRENNAN

Were you trying to kill  
Cleveland's dog?

ELIZA

He's a chihuahua but he sounds  
like the cast of that Disney movie  
a hundred and whatever outside of  
my window twenty-four hours a day.  
What do you think?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Cleveland lets his dog swim in the  
lake?

ELIZA

When he's down there feeding those  
dirty ducks.

Booth holds out a nail file.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Does this look familiar?

ELIZA

I have one just like it.

She reaches for her purse. She has a hard time with the clasp.

BRENNAN

(to Booth)  
Look at her hands.  
(MORE)

BRENNAN (CONT'D)

She's got severe arthritis in the metacarpophalangeal and interphalangeal joints of her fingers.

(to Eliza)

Your knuckles are very large.

ELIZA

Well thank you, madam detective. The doctor gives me these pills but they're not working.

BRENNAN

Booth, that means she couldn't have-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Yeah, Bones. I know.

**INT. BOOTH'S VEHICLE/TRAVELING -- NIGHT**

Brennan looks over a file as Booth drives.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

But why kill a bunch of old ladies?

BRENNAN

According to this, Serenity is deeply in debt. Trisha didn't pay her property taxes for three years and the place should have gone to auction this spring.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

But it didn't.

BRENNAN

Two days before the tax sale she paid all back taxes and all of this year's in advance.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

So where'd the money come from? What's is say about her personal finances?

BRENNAN

She's got over sixty thousand dollars in credit card debt and two mortgages on a condo just outside the city limits.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Frances had money, and no one to notice she was missing. Trisha would have known both those things if she'd applied to live in the community.

BRENNAN  
And Trisha could charge her for rent until the money ran out, if she'd gotten her banking information.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
She kills Frances for financial reasons. Serenity's not doing well, she's up to her eyeballs in debt. So why kill Barb?

BRENNAN  
If Trisha knew Franks then she probably knew that Barb had money.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Did Barb?

BRENNAN  
She was very comfortable. She'd written a children's book that's still in print.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
So she gets a taste of free money and wants more. Mabel's a crime of opportunity, like Sweets said.

BRENNAN  
Trisha was wearing very nice clothes. But you don't like it when Sweets is right.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Maybe I'm changing.

BRENNAN  
Growing older, more complacent.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Changing Bones, just changing.

BRENNAN  
Too bad Trisha didn't look in the chicken when she went to Mabel's to clean up

**EXT. SERENITY SENIOR CITIZEN COMMUNITY -- NIGHT**

Brennan and Booth walk toward the lake. All the streetlights are out. They see people. Brennan WHISPERS.

BRENNAN

Is that her? The serial killer?

Booth turns his flashlight and WHISPERS back.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I can't make out-

Brennan jogs ahead and YELLS.

BRENNAN

Stop! FBI! Put your hands up!

Booth joins her. Ned and Betty stand in front of them, close to the lake.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Subtle Bones, real subtle. Betty?  
Ned?

BRENNAN

Agent Booth, Ned was just explaining the streetlight issue to me. Eliza's bringing it up at the next Board meeting and-

Booth notices the pair are holding hands.

BRENNAN

You two shouldn't be out here, there's-

Booth hears a CAR DOOR SLAM and turns around. He runs toward the car. He stops, gun drawn, behind the car.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

FBI! Come out with your hands up!

Eliza pops up next to the trunk. She carries a bag.

ELIZA

Good lord! Put that thing away young man, you'll shoot someone!

Booth holsters his weapon.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Where are you going?

ELIZA

Alaskan cruise with my son Tommy  
and his wife. We've been planning  
it for eighteen months.

Brennan, Betty, and Ned join them. Ned motions toward the  
community building. Trisha hurries inside, on her cell phone.  
Booth heads toward the building. Brennan follows.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

Let me do the talking this time.

BRENNAN

My way is just as effective.

**INT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS**

Betty, Eliza, and Ned hurry to keep up with Booth and Brennan.  
They stop just outside Trisha's office. Booth shoos the others  
back and enters the office.

BETTY

(to Brennan)

He's somethin'. Definitely a  
keeper, honey.

Booth exits the office with Trisha in cuffs. Everyone gathers  
around them.

ELIZA

About time little miss here  
finally gets her due.

BETTY

(to Trisha)

What did they ever do to you?

Booth walks Trisha toward the exit.

TRISHA

Just once I'd like a 'thank you'  
for putting up with all the crap.  
For keeping a roof over your  
heads, for listening to you go on  
and on. Just once. From you. From  
my ex-husband. From anyone.

NED

We pay you!

TRISHA

It was never enough. Those old  
bags hoarded their money.

(MORE)

TRISHA (CONT'D)

What's the use of it if you don't spend it?

ELIZA

Bank accounts. That's all we are to you. It's disgusting.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

I think you all are going to have something bigger than streetlights to talk about at the next Board meeting.

**INT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING -- NIGHT**

Booth and Brennan stand with Ollie, who's in his security guard uniform again, in front of a large group of SENIORS.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

We've arrested a suspect in the murders of Frances Lane, Barb Hickory, and Mabel Boudell. So ladies, you can go back to your own homes tonight.

NED

Or mine.

An old WOMAN smacks Ned upside the head.

OLD WOMAN

Why'd Trisha do it?

BETTY

Will she get the chair?

OLD WOMAN 2

What's going to happen to Serenity?

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH

(to Brennan and Ollie)

Help me out here.

Brennan just smiles.

OLLIE

We need to get these FBI folks back to Washington. I'll do my best to answer any questions.

(MORE)



OLLIE (CONT'D)  
 Serenity's lawyer will hold a  
 meeting in the morning to talk  
 about everything.

An old WOMAN thrusts a tin of cookies into Brennan's hands.  
 Another tucks an embroidered handkerchief in her palm. Betty  
 kisses Booth on the cheek and hands him a grocery sack.

BETTY  
 Roast pork, yeast rolls, and  
 pineapple upside down cake.  
 (to Booth, off Brennan)  
 If she doesn't want to have dinner  
 with you, there are plenty of  
 takers here.

CUT TO:

**EXT. SERENITY COMMUNITY BUILDING -- NIGHT**

Ollie shakes Booth's and Brennan's hands.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 I'm gonna miss this place.

He holds up his grocery sack.

BRENNAN  
 You'll be back here soon enough.

He shoots Bones a look.

OLLIE  
 You'll make sure she gets what she  
 deserves? Barb and Tootsie were  
 best friends.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 We'll make sure of it.

He walks away. Booth and Brennan head for their vehicle.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 Betty said Mabel suspected Trisha  
 of something. She'd gone to visit  
 her the morning of her death.

Booth stops under a streetlight to tie his shoe.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
 At the time Betty thought it was  
 just about the streetlights.

Brennan smiles.

BRENNAN  
They're important to old people.

**INT. ROYAL DINER -- NIGHT**

Brennan, Booth, Cam, Angela, and Sweets eat.

CAM  
I bought this face cream with synthetic snake venom in it, it's supposed to make me look ten years younger.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
You look great already. A little crazy but great.

BRENNAN  
Growing older has become a cultural taboo. Before such constraints older people were revered.

SWEETS  
Doctor Brennan's right. If we buy into the hype that getting old is negative then we only perpetuate the misanthropes' desire to sabotage-

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Can we please talk about something else?

Hodgins arrives, alone. Booth looks behind him.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
Just you?

Hodgins sits down next to Angela and steals a fry off her plate. She moves away from him. He steals another fry, grabs her, and kisses her. Everyone smiles.

SWEETS  
Ten bucks says I can down this milk shake in ten seconds.

SPECIAL AGENT BOOTH  
You're on.

Sweets drinks the milk shake.

CAM

Twenty bucks says I can keep a  
spoon on my nose for twenty  
seconds.

She breathes on a spoon and sticks it to her nose. Booth  
follows suit. Brennan attempts and fails. They all LAUGH.

**END SHOW**