

*CBS Mornings*

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2 minutes and 16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Jill Biden “Scared” By Joe’s Debate Performance]

GAYLE KING: For the first time, former First Lady Joe Biden is talking about how she felt, watching the 2024 debate that we all watched at forced then President Joe Biden to abandon his re-election campaign. In an explosive interview with *CBS Sunday Morning*, she says she thought her husband was having a stroke. Weijia Jiang has more from the White House.

JILL BIDEN: I was frightened because I had never, ever seen Joe like that before or since. Never.

RITA BRAVER: Or since?

JILL BIDEN: Yes, or since.

BRAVER: You have never —

WEIJIA JIANG: In a new interview with Rita Braver on *CBS Sunday Morning*, former First Lady Joe Biden revealed what was going through her mind as she watched this:

[JOE BIDEN MUMBLING]

JIANG: — former President Biden stumbled through an answer while debating then-candidate Donald Trump.

JOE BIDEN [on 06/27/24]: Dealing with everything — we have to do with — look — if — we finally beat Medicare.

BRAVER: Why —

JILL BIDEN: I don’t know what happened. I mean, as I watched it, I thought, oh, my god. He’s having a stroke, and it scared me to death.

JIANG: But shortly after the debate, she had a very different reaction.

JILL BIDEN [on 06/27/24]: Joe, you did such a great job. You answered every question. You knew all —

JIANG: Former President Biden blamed a cold and jet lag, insisting the episode was a one-off, but pressed if he would prove it with a cognitive test, Biden said:

JOE BIDEN [on ABC, 07/05/24]: I have a cognitive test every single day. Every day, I have that

test.

JIANG: The shaky debate performance only amplified concerns about the 81-year-old's mental fitness, and just 24 days later, Biden bowed out of the race. That left only a little more than three months for his Vice President Kamala Harris to take on President Trump. A long-awaited new report from the Democratic National Committee does not address Biden's decision to run at his age while there were questions about his health. A spokesman for the former President says he has nothing to add to his wife's new comments, Gayle.

KING: Alright, Weijia, thank you very much. You can see more of that interview with former First Lady Joe Biden this weekend on *Sunday Morning*.