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CONTINUED:

MEGAN

The motion of pulling out the murder weapon brought it to the surface.

Megan opens Ed's mouth. Examines his gums.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

His gums are ulcerated. I see bruising marks. This man was worried about something.

Megan closes Ed's mouth. Notices a bumpy pattern on Ed's cheek.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Hmm. Ethan, hand me the manganese.

Ethan hands her a small SQUIRT BOTTLE. Megan squirts the solution on the edge of Ed's cheek. It bubbles --

PETER

What's that?

MEGAN

Hydrogen peroxide interacting with the blood's catalase enzyme. I saw the same reaction on the floor of the crime scene.

Peter asks the obvious --

PETER

What's it doing on his face?

Good question. Megan heads for the door. This comes as a surprise to Ethan and Peter.

ETHAN

You're leaving? Now?

MEGAN

Don't do anything until I get back.

INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Sam is at her desk. Liz across from her. Sophie in her arms. None of them notice Megan as she approaches --

SAM

Did your husband have any enemies?

(CONTINUED)

SS

"LIZ"

START

2/9

CONTINUED:

LIZ

Not that I know of. Everyone loved Ed. We were doing so good. And then this...

(overwhelmed)

Where's my son? Why isn't he here yet?

Sam looks up to see Megan.

SAM

My partner went to get him. They'll be back soon. Excuse me.

Sam approaches Megan.

SAM (CONT'D)

Doctor Hunt? Something wrong?

MEGAN

Yeah.

(re: Liz)

She's lying.

OFF Megan --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Cont...

3/9

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Megan questions Liz as Sam looks on.

MEGAN

You told the police you checked
your husband to see if he was
alive, then grabbed your baby and
called 911.

LIZ

Yes.

Sophie squirms in Liz's arms. Liz shifts her position, and
Megan gets a clear look at her fingernails -- the polish
uniformly worn away at the tips.

MEGAN

Did you clean up anything?

LIZ

What?

MEGAN

There were traces of hydrogen
peroxide on your husband's face and
in the blood on the kitchen floor.

Liz looks uncomprehendingly from Megan to Sam.

SAM

Whoever stabbed your husband,
cleaned up after they murdered him.

LIZ

And you think I did it?

SAM

Your neighbors didn't see anyone
enter the house but you.

MEGAN

And I can pretty much guarantee
everything was not fine with your
husband.

HOLD ON Liz -- she stares at Sophie. Wipes a tear. There's
real anguish here. Something's tearing her apart.

4/9

CONTINUED:

MEGAN

Your husband had a bleeding ulcer and ulcerated gums. What was he so stressed about?

LIZ

Money. The future. A new baby. Take your pick. Do you have any idea what it's like to work and raise a family at the same time? But we were making it work. Together.

On Megan as this lands. Then Liz sees Bud arrive with Mike in tow. Liz rises to her feet and goes to him.

LIZ (CONT'D)

Mike?

MIKE

What's going on, Mom? Where's Dad?

Bud joins Sam and Megan. They all watch this moment unfold. Liz, Sophie still in her arms, hesitates. She can't look her son in the eye as she steps forward to embrace him.

LIZ

Oh Mike. Your father's dead.

It's awkward, heart-wrenching. They clock Mike's reaction. Shocked. Numb. As the moment plays --

STOP

SAM

You get anything from the kid?

BUD

Yeah. His mother doesn't come home for lunch.

They exchange a look.

SAM

So what was she doing there?

Where's Megan during this conversation? She's staring intently at Mike.

INT. MEGAN'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY - FLASHBACK

A POLICE OFFICER stands before 12-year-old MEGAN HUNT inside the front door. Beyond him, other UNIS and a MAN wearing a MEDICAL EXAMINER'S JACKET move inside the house.

(CONTINUED)

5/9

CONTINUED:

BUD (CONT'D)

Have a nice day.

Jake follows a UNI out. Bud looks at Peter.

BUD (CONT'D)

The scratches you talked about, any other symptoms come with this condition?

PETER

People with Ichthyosis tend to sweat a lot. It's the body's way of cooling itself off. Some have breathing problems as well -- congestion, asthma. Why?

OFF Bud's look --

INT. MEGAN'S CAR DAY

Lacey, Sarah and Betsy are gone. Megan drives alone. This time it's just Peter on speakerphone --

PETER (V.O.)

The kid's got asthma and according to Bud he's a fan of long-sleeved shirts. We're heading to the house now. Sorry, Megan.

MEGAN

(so is she)

I'll meet you there.

INT. RUSSELL HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Megan, Peter, Bud and Sam address Liz.

LIZ

I don't know where Mike is.

BUD

He have a computer?

LIZ

In his room. Upstairs.

BUD

You mind if we take a look? Maybe he told somebody where he was going.

Sheet

(sc 2)

6/9

INT. RUSSELL HOME - MIKE'S ROOM - INTERCUT

Bud and Sam enter a cluttered mess. Typical teenage stuff: clothes, posters. No Mike. No weapon.

In the living room --

MEGAN

Mike has Ichthyosis, doesn't he.

LIZ

I don't know what that is.

MEGAN

Yes you do, Liz. You're his mother.

Bud addresses Mike's computer. He looks at the keyboard. A few WHITE FLAKES of SKIN. Shows them to Sam.

Resume Megan and Peter --

PETER

We've subpoenaed Mike's medical records. We'll find out soon enough.

MEGAN

You cleaned Mike's footprints off the kitchen floor. Yesterday at the station you couldn't look him in the eye. Because you were looking at his shoes. To see if there was still blood on them.

LIZ

Please -- just stop.

MEGAN

This must be impossible for you, Liz. Ed was a good father --

Liz breaks. Overwhelmed by the burden she's carried. The idea that Mike killed Ed.

Sam looks over Bud's shoulder at a blinking SYMBOL on Mike's computer monitor. Bud clicks a few keys. A message from a social networking website FLASHES on the screen.

Megan and Peter with Liz --

(CONTINUED)

7/9

CONTINUED:

MEGAN (CONT'D)

-- and Mike's a good kid. What happened, Liz? What made him snap?

Bud clicks on RECENT POSTS. Reveal a message to "CARLA." He trades a look with Sam. Bud OPENS a message.

Resume Megan --

LIZ

I can't. I just can't.

STOP

ANGLE ON the COMPUTER SCREEN -- a message from Mike to Carla. "I WISH MY DAD WAS DEAD."

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

8/9

ETHAN

I ran Mike's DNA against the flakes
we found on Ed. It's a match, but
only a fifty percent one.

Megan grabs the results.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

So either the test failed, or the
flakes came from Ed... somehow...
except Ed didn't have Ichthyosis...
so how did his son get it?

Megan ponders this, then turns for the door.

MEGAN

Find Peter. Tell him what you just
told me.

ETHAN

Sure.
(beat)
What did I just tell you?

MEGAN

Ed wasn't Mike's father.

PRE-LAP. A baby CRYING --

EXT. RUSSELL HOME - AFTERNOON

Megan knocks on the door. She can hear baby Sophie crying on
the other side.

MEGAN

Liz? It's Doctor Hunt.

LIZ (O.S.)

Go away!

MEGAN

I tried calling. I have to talk to
you!

Liz opens the door a crack. The baby cries in the b.g.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Ed wasn't Mike's biological father,
was he.

LIZ

Please leave me alone!

SC 3

(CONTINUED)

10/9

CONTINUED:

MEGAN

I think Mike's real father killed
your husband.

Liz tries to shut the door. Megan stops her.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Do you hear what I'm saying?
Mike's innocent. All you have to
do is tell me I'm right and the
police will release him.

LIZ

You're wrong. And I don't have
anything more to say!

Liz slams the door shut. Megan stands there, stunned. How
could she be wrong? She turns and slowly walks back to her
car as --

INT. RUSSELL HOME - SAME TIME

Liz turns from the door. REVERSE to see TIM SCANLAN (the man
from the Internet café). He's got Sophie in his arms.

TIM

She gone?

Liz nods, terrified.

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

STOP