

INT. BUD'S CAR - DAY

MIKE RUSSELL, 15, stares at Bud in the rearview mirror. Mike's a handsome kid, big for his age. [NOTE: Mike wears a long-sleeve football jersey.]

MIKE

I don't understand. If somebody broke in, where was my dad?

BUD

Your mom will fill you in. I'm just here to give you a ride.

(beat)

What position do you play?

MIKE

Bench warmer.

(off Bud's look)

Asthma. It hardly ever acts up but they still sit me most of the time.

BUD

I never made it off the practice squad. Big but slow.

MIKE

It sucks. I love to play though. I'm in a flag league on weekends. We got a game tomorrow.

BUD

Yeah? Your parents ever come to watch?

MIKE

Me? You kidding? Mom's too busy with work, and Dad's too busy with the baby.

BUD

But your mom does come home every day, right? To feed the baby?

MIKE

News to me.

OFF Bud. News to him too --

INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Megan continues to question Liz as Sam looks on.

(CONTINUED)

Street

1066

"Mike"

14 PM - Aug 6, 2010 1:14 PM - Aug 6, 2010 1:14 PM - Aug 6, 2010 1:14 PM - Aug 6, 2010 1:14 PM - Aug 6, 2010 1:14 PM

CONTINUED:

MEGAN

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

LIZ

206  
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 --

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)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - MORNING (DAY 2)

A "flag" football game in progress. It's rough -- more rugby than football. Mike sacks the opposing quarterback. Both go down. The other guy gets up, runs off. Mike lies there for a moment, trying to catch his breath.

Bud approaches. Mike sees him as he gets up. He makes his way to the sideline over --

BUD

You failed to mention you skipped school yesterday. Where were you, Mike?

Off Mike's silence --

BUD (CONT'D)

Your father was murdered yesterday. You don't seem all that broken up about it.

MIKE

I went to meet someone.

BUD

Who?

MIKE

A girl I met online.

BUD

She have a name?

MIKE

Carla. I don't know her last name.

BUD

Where'd you meet her?

MIKE

I didn't.

(off Bud's lock)

I chickened out. What if she wasn't like who she said she was? What if she thought I wasn't like who I said I was?

(CONTINUED)

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Bud notices Mike absentmindedly tug his long-sleeves over a few scratches on his hands.

BUD

You ever help your dad out in the garage?

MIKE

Not me. He hired guys under the table to help him with that stuff.

AS Bud considers this --

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - MEGAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Megan sits at her desk reviewing Ed's autopsy report. Peter walks in with a grocery bag in hand.

MEGAN

You hear anything from Bud on the son?

Peter sets the grocery bag on her desk. Megan stares at it.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

What is that?

PETER

The key to carpool is the snacks.  
(he shows her)  
Pretzels, Kit Kats, gum...

MEGAN

I want Lacey to like me, not have her teeth fall out.

PETER

You'll thank me later.  
(re: the time)  
Shouldn't you be going soon?

Megan checks the time. He's right. She rises. And conspicuously leaves the grocery bag behind. As she grabs her purse, her phone --

PETER (CONT'D)

Bud and Sam are at Home Depot, by the way. Looking for a day laborer who worked with Ed.

Megan stares at him, then heads for the door with urgency --

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CONTINUED:

Bud gestures to the door. Mike is just walking in. Sam peels off. Mike heads for the counter, then sees Bud. He turns on a dime for the door. But Sam is there to grab him.

SAM

Easy there, Mike. Slow down.

MIKE

What are you guys doing here?

BUD

Arresting you.

Bud and Sam lead Mike out of the cafe. OFF the Skinny Girl and the Man as they watch --

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A swab moves across an ARM. Bumps over dried, flaky skin. Ichthyosis. WIDEN TO Mike watching as Peter swabs his arm. Sam and a PUBLIC DEFENDER observe.

BUD (O.S.)

It's a shame.

PULL BACK through the two-way to find --

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bud and Megan. As Megan watches Mike through the glass.

BUD

You raise a kid, give him everything, and he turns on you.

MEGAN

Yes it is.

Bud turns to look at her.

BUD

You know, I got the feeling yesterday, maybe this one was a little personal for you?

Megan stares at him. Peter has by now finished inside the interrogation room. As he heads for the door --

MEGAN

I'll let you know when we confirm the DNA.

Megan and Peter leave. OFF Bud --

586

CONTINUED:

6086  
Tim's eyes settle on the Russell family photograph we noted in Act One -- Ed, Mike, Liz and baby Sophie. His eyes darken all the more --

Ed is starting to think he made a mistake letting Tim in -- when Tim's hand flies out and backhands the photograph to the ground.

Ed grabs Tim by the shoulder, turns him around, and comes face to face with an ex-con out for blood.

MEGAN (V.O.)

Ed never stood a chance.

A punch to the stomach. Ed doubles over. And drops the rasp. Tim picks it up, stares at it. As Ed straightens -- he sees the rasp now in Tim's hand -- cries out as Tim STABS him in the chest.

Ed collapses to the floor. Tim looms over, not satisfied. He stabs several more times, then walks away. Leaving his bloody footprints behind.

INT. RUSSELL HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Liz stands inside the open front door watching as a UNIFORM opens a patrol car door and out steps Mike. He approaches the house. And runs crying into his mother's arms.

MIKE

I'm so sorry.

LIZ

I'm the one who's sorry. I should never have doubted you. Oh Mike, I love you so much.

ON MEGAN

AS she takes this in, their tears, their embrace --

INT. MEGAN'S CHILDHOOD HOME - DAY - FLASHBACK

12-year-old Megan watches, tears running, as her father's bagged body is loaded into a MEDICAL EXAMINER VAN. She stands alone as if forgotten by the adults moving around her. The MAN wearing a MEDICAL EXAMINER'S JACKET passes by on his way to the van. He pauses, turns back to Megan, looks around as if wondering why this poor girl has been left alone. He approaches. What does a man say at such a time?

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