INT. SOCIETY HILL MAGAZINE - DAPHNE'S OFFICE - DAY

Megan and Peter are gone. Bud faces Stephen. Stephen twirls his hair.

BUD
You told the interns to say Daphne was in a meeting?

STEPHEN
It's the standard blow-off when we didn't know where she was.

BUD
So she was in the habit of going missing?

STEPHEN
For days at a time. It's my job to cover for her.

BUD
And you don't know where she went?

STEPHEN
She was paranoid about anyone knowing her schedule.

(CONTINUED)
BUD
When was the last time you spoke to her?

STEPHEN
Five days ago Friday. She wanted me to make dinner reservations.

BUD
Where?

STEPHEN
I booked her at Paulo's, the Rittenhouse and Mistral Restaurant.

BUD
All for one night?

STEPHEN
Daphne liked options. You had to learn what she wanted without asking. That's why I've lasted longer than any other assistant.

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY
Megan and Peter return.

MEGAN
I'm kind, aren't I?

PETER
Kind of what?

She makes a face —

MEGAN
I expect results. But that doesn't make me a bad boss.

PETER
Well, technically, you're not my boss at all. You're not anybody's boss, except Ethan's maybe.

MEGAN
But I can get you fired.

PETER
Ask me about being kind again?

(CONTINUED)
ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON the VIDEO footage we just saw of Stephen, sweeping off the papers in Daphne's office. FREEZE FRAME.

Reveal Bud, holding the remote. He turns to face Stephen, who sits nervously at the desk.

STEPHEN
I kind of lost it.

BUD
Kind of?

STEPHEN
I had plans to go to the shore. Instead, Daphne tells me to get a scarf for the Mayor's wife's birthday. I spent my whole weekend in Chicago.

BUD
You went to Chicago to buy a scarf... and it took two days?

STEPHEN
Daphne has a favorite designer there. Carol Ramsey. It took her two days. You can ask her.

BUD
I have to say, that's a stupendously ridiculous errand. I'd snap too. I might even ask myself how to get back at the person who sent me on it.

Stephen takes a long moment.

STEPHEN
I want to write, okay? So does everybody at the magazine. Last month Daphne announced a competition for a new column. Open to everyone. Forget sacrifice. Forget running her stupendously ridiculous errands.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BUD
And that pissed you off?

STEPHEN
I'm not the only one.

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

Megan sits at her desk. In her hand is a DOCUMENT with a
handwritten note attached. It's a "Society Hill Magazine"
article. The title reads: "The Fall of a Power Player." The
NOTE is on Daphne Zimmer letterhead.

As Megan reads, she does not notice Peter appear in her
doorway.

PETER
Daphne sent your hair twirler to
Chicago for a scarf. Sounds like
that magazine was a hotbed of
discontent.

Megan slides the article into a BLUE FOLDER and sticks it in
a drawer.

MEGAN
When did this happen?

PETER
This past weekend.

MEGAN
Then my hair twirler didn't kill
her.

Peter enters, curious to hear more.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
As the body's cells break down
after death, potassium levels
increase. Daphne's levels are
beyond someone who's been dead two
days, even with her kidney
condition.

PETER
So she was killed over the weekend?

MEGAN
Curtis' maggot will help nail that
down. Meanwhile --

(CONTINUED)
FADE IN:

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

Bud and Megan.

BUD

Two days. You're positive now.

MEGAN

Yes.

BUD

So the aspirin killed her?

MEGAN

Maybe.

(off Bud)

You're dealing with an extremely sensitive system here. The assault caused kidney damage leading to a disruption of her parathyroid hormone balance leading to hypercalcemia -- mood swings and paranoia. But, kidney damage also caused elevated potassium.

BUD

You've completely lost me.

MEGAN

Adding aspirin was like throwing gasoline on a fire. Excessive potassium can cause your heart to stop like that --

She punctuates with a SNAP of her fingers.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Stephen twirls his hair nervously as Bud puts the screws to him.

STEPHEN

Daphne complained of headaches all the time. She wanted the aspirin.

BUD

Yeah. Like she wanted a heart attack. You screened every call she took, including doctors.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BUD (CONT'D)
You telling me you didn't know what aspirin would do to her?

Stephen knows this isn't going well. Time for truth:

STEPHEN
You gotta understand. Every pill I slipped her got me a day of freedom from Daphne hell. She'd stay home and I could do some writing. Which is the only reason I put up with her in the first place.

BUD
Well, you've taken care of that problem, haven't you.

STEPHEN
Wait a second. I wasn't trying to hurt her. It was only aspirin.

BUD
What it's called is involuntary manslaughter.

EXT. M.E.'S OFFICE - ROOFTOP TERRACE - DAY

Megan looks out at the city, alone. Peter comes through the door behind her. He steps to her side.

PETER
Congratulations.

MEGAN
Killed for a day off. Can you believe it?

PETER
I wonder if she saw it coming.

Megan gives him a look.

PETER (CONT'D)
Not the murder, but the fall.

MEGAN
What are you talking about?

PETER
Just that she'd seen it before. Watched another high-powered woman crash and burn. She even wrote about it.

(CONTINUED)