#106 "Talking Heads" STUDIO Draft 8/27/10

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

Peter and Curtis find Megan heading to autopsy.

MEGAN

You track down that serial number?

PETER

That particular ball and joint went into one Callum Shane McKinney, widowed, age fifty-nine.

He hands Megan the file to peruse. Megan smiles.

MEGAN

We have a name.

PETER

We have a name.

MEGAN

(frowning)

But no address? How can he have major knee surgery and not leave an address?

CURTIS

The answer's on the billing page. The procedure was paid by a Mr. Drew Avery. Who's he?

PETER

Son-in-law. Married to Cal's daughter Jenny.

MEGAN

They local?

PETER

Waiting in the conference room

<u>Start</u>

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Megan, Peter and Sam sit across from Cal's grief-stricken daughter JENNY AVERY, 20's, and her less-than-grief-stricken husband DREW AVERY, 25. Jenny, a lovely woman with striking BLUE EYES, cries openly over PHOTOS of her father's remains.

**JENNY** 

That's him.

MEGAN

I know this is difficult. But are you sure?

**JENNY** 

Those welt marks? From the Penn Edison Building. A bucket of red hot rivets fell in his lap. His broken toes? The Rouse Tower. A cement mixer fell on his foot.

MEGAN

It sounds like he had a hard life.

JENNY

Not so. He loved it. He loved building things. He loved sitting on a steel girder a thousand feet in the air eating his lunch over the city he loved. He used to take me up there with him. He violated a hundred safety rules to do it. I loved it too.

(pushes the photos away)
Why would someone do this to him?

PETER

When was the last time you saw him?

Jenny hesitates. Looks to her husband, who just looks away.

JENNY

I haven't seen him in over a year. We spoke on the phone every once in a while... He and Drew didn't get along very well.

SAM

That right, Mr. Avery?

DREW

He was a mooch. Ever since he went on disability.

**JENNY** 

He needed us, and we weren't there!

Jenny tears up. Megan observes a marriage that should never have been.

SAM

Your father won big at Canyon Casino last week.
(MORE)

STUP

JENNY
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MEGAN

Curtis?

CURTIS

(he knows)

Yeah, I got it.

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

Peter and Sam watch through the window as Jenny Avery sits alone in interrogation.

I'm going to have a crack at her. Got the husband down the hall.

PETER

Mind if I have a crack at him?



INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

First up, Sam with Jenny Avery, who sits across from her tearful, scared.

**JENNY** 

Yes, I saw my Dad last week. I couldn't let Drew know I'd been to see him.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM #2 - INTERCUT

Peter talks to Drew.

DREW

Hell ha. I didn't know she'd been to see him. I told her to make a choice. Her crazy old man, or me.

On Jenny and Sam --

**JENNY** 

My dad called to tell me he had some money he wanted to give me. I thought it was money to pay us back for his knee surgery but when I got there... it was twenty-five grand.

SAM

He just gave you the money?

On Peter and Drew --

DREW

Cal never gave us a dime.

PETER

What about the rive hundred bucks a week?

DREW

What five hundred bucks a week? I never saw five hundred bucks from him period. If I'd known he was staching it away, I woulda --

Drew stops himself. Seething.

PETER

You woulda what?

CONT

On Sam and Jenny --

**JENNY** 

Drew isn't the easiest man to live with. There were some things I had to give up when I married him.

SAM

Like what?

**JENNY** 

Art school. That's what the money was for.

On Beter and Duce \_\_

DREW

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On Sam and Jenny --

**JENNY** 

I draw buildings. Cityscapes. I see them in my mind. Just like my dad.

SAM

(putting it together)
Those drawings in your dad's
apartment. You did them?

Jenny nods.

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**JENNY** 

Dad always wanted me to go to drafting school. I knew it would end things with Drew. That's what I was wrestling with when you called and said Dad was dead. I didn't know what to do. Then Drew found the money.

SAM

Do you think your husband could have killed your father?

On Peter and Drew --



DREW

Why would I kill Cal? I didn't know about that money until that cop told me about it.

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

Peter and Sam, back together, watch as Jenny sobs, very sympathetic and sincere.

SAM

So she has opportunity but no motive.

PETER

And he has motive, but says he didn't know about the money until after Cal was dead.

SAM

We've got her DNA in the house. Not his.

PETER

He's the one with the Tarzan temper. Not her.

ŞAM

(sighs)

Either way, they alibi each other out.

PETER

Or they're both lying.

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Jenny 50.3

INT. CAL'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Cal opens the door. Mike Walsh walks in, toolbox in hand.

MEGAN (V.O.)

He let you in to fix his leaking faucet. He went into the bathroom, and you followed.

We watch it play out. Mike Walsh crashes the hammer into Cal's skull. Cal falls back and bashes his head against the tub on his way down. The end result is exactly the scene Irina described. To all appearances, Cal tripped and fell.

MEGAN (V.O.)

You grabbed your things and left, and waited for someone to find the body.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

MEGAN

I'm sure you were surprised his body wasn't there, Mr. Walsh. Because only the person who killed him would know his body was there in the first place.

OFF Mike Walsh -- hoisted on his own petard -

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

Megan and Sam sit with a tearful Jenny Avery.

MEGAN

I'm releasing your father's body for burial.

**JENNY** 

He wanted to be cremated. There's a hill in the park that overlooks the city.

MEGAN

I think he'll like that.

Jenny gets up to leave. Then --

**JENNY** 

I was stupid. I missed out on the last year of my father's life.

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51.

SAM

So don't be stupid any more. Go to school.

Jenny nods. What more is there to say?

**JENNY** 

Thank you both.

STOP

INT. MEGAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

Megan sits in front of her laptop staring at the screen, nursing a glass of wine. CHIRP! Her cell phone rings. Megan answers. It's Peter. On speakerphone --

MEGAN

Hey.

PETER (V.O.)

You'll be happy to know the DA's decided to deport Irina instead of file charges. She's going back to her son.

MEGAN

Thank you for that.

PETER (V.O.)

Lacey send you her video yet?

We finally see what Megan has been staring at on her laptop screen -- her email INBOX. A new email from Lacey. Subject line: WATCH NOW, MOMI

MEGAN

No.

PETER (V.O.)

See you tomorrow.

Megan hangs up her phone. She takes another sip of wine. Then finally opens the email and clicks on the video attachment. The VIDEO ROLLS --

ON SCREEN

Lacey appears INTERCUT with VARIOUS SHOTS we saw her take -- or didn't see her take -- while she was in the office.

LACEY

My name is Lacey Fleming. My mom is Doctor Megan Hunt and she works as a Medical Examiner.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)