

RAY

#109 "Point of Origin" NETWORK Draft 9/28/10
CONTINUED:

3.

BUD
Units were here just last week on a domestic disturbance call. Sounds like this marriage was on the ropes.

MEGAN
His body still in the house? *

SAM
Yeah. We haven't gone inside yet. *

MEGAN
Good. Fire scenes are always the hardest. So many firefighters have already been in and out of the structure. I don't want any more disturbance.

BUD
Tell that to the Arson Investigators.

Megan looks around.

MEGAN
Where are they?

Bud nods to the building.

MEGAN (CONT'D)
(not)
Fantastic.

AS they head inside --

INT. JILL'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

The inside of the house is a smoldering, charred mess. Megan, Bud and Sam enter to find RAY EASTON, late 40's, smart, confident, Megan with a PFD badge, instructing SKIP RAMIREZ, 20's, like a puppy dog with a PFD badge, both sifting through the debris.

RAY
Let's get behind the fridge. See who or what started this thing.
(looks up)
You must be the M.E. I'm Ray Easton. This is my partner Skip Ramirez.

START

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN
Doctor Megan Hunt.
(they shake)
Where's the body?

RAY
I kept tripping over it, so I had
Skip here put it in the pickup.

Megan stares daggers at Ray.

SKIP
It's behind you. ~~Wear what's left~~
~~of the front closet.~~
(then)
We haven't touched it.

Megan turns around and sees the BODY.

~~MEGAN~~
~~That's why Peter didn't see him.~~

Megan heads over. She gloves up and takes a knee at Mike's BODY. It's unrecognizable. The head and upper torso are badly burned. But the lower body even more so. Sam joins Megan. Mike is curled up in a defensive posture like a boxer.

SAM
Looks like he died fighting.

MEGAN
It's called --

RAY
Pugilistic pose. Fire causes
muscles in the body to contract.
(to Sam)
Skip made the same mistake at his
first scene.

SKIP
The hell I did.

RAY
You didn't say it. But I could see
you thinking it.

SKIP
I can tell you the fire originated
from the kitchen.

CONTINUED: (2)

He points to a scorch MARK on the wall that ends behind the fridge.

~~SKIP (CONT'D)~~

~~Scorch marks form a V, like an arrow, showing where a fire started.~~

*
*

Ray is about to explain, but --

~~MEGAN~~

~~Point of origin. I know.~~

~~SKIP~~

~~We also found evidence of forced entry.~~

*

MEGAN

My partner said he kicked down the door to get inside.

RAY

Then he gave the fire all the oxygen it needed to consume the living room.

MEGAN

He saved a woman's life.

RAY

If he had waited for PFD to arrive, we might have been able to save two lives.

MEGAN

Or you might have lost both.

Megan focuses on Mike's body. She opens his mouth.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

I see soot in Mike's nostrils and throat. He was alive while the fire was burning.

RAY

There's more pronounced burning at his pelvis. Someone may have poured accelerant on him.

~~MEGAN~~

~~Why don't you concentrate on what started the fire. Let me worry about Mike Applebee.~~

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

(to Bud)

With the extensive burn damage, I'm going to need some extra time. So let's meet in autopsy in an hour.

Megan stands, de-gloves.

RAY

You'll be in there alone.

MEGAN

Excuse me?

~~CRIP~~

(apologetic)

~~We haven't finished our initial assessment. Nothing leaves the scene until we're done.~~

MEGAN

~~How long will that be?~~

~~CRIP~~

~~As long as it takes.~~

Megan looks at Bud and Sam, exasperated. Bud shrugs.

BUD

Structure's secure. It's Ray's call when to release the body.

Megan can't believe this.

MEGAN

I'm going to get some coffee.

As she heads for the front door, Ray smiles.

RAY

If you wouldn't mind, I take mine black.

Bud smirks, truly enjoying this. Megan, however, keeps on walking.

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - AUTOPSY ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

Mike's body is finally on the table.

MEGAN

Three hours. That's how much time I lost to Ray Easton.

(CONTINUED)

RAY
II

CONTINUED:

SAM (CONT'D)

She was well-liked. Even had a few regular customers. We also heard an interesting story about how you came by drunk, demanding Jill take you back.

*

MIKE

It's true. But that doesn't mean I had anything to do with the fire.

*

BUD

Where were you last night?

MIKE

At the motel. Reading.

BUD

Reading, huh? What does a guy like you have on his night stand?

Mike gets quiet.

BUD (CONT'D)

C'mon, Mike. You can read, right?

MIKE

"The Girl Who Played With Fire."

Bud and Sam share a look.

BUD

Seriously?

SAM

Can anyone vouch for your whereabouts last night?

MIKE

No. I was alone.

START

*

INT. JILL'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

Megan walks the living room, sobered by the devastation. She sees Ray and Skip collecting evidence in the kitchen.

*

*

RAY

You know this is an active fire scene.

MEGAN

Active? It's been over ten hours. And you still haven't made it out of the kitchen.

*

*

*

*

(CONTINUED)

RAY

Collecting fire evidence is a little like being on a first date. Move too fast, and you're liable to get slapped in the face.

SKIP

Ray just wants it done right, so he can fire Geraldine.

MEGAN

Fire who?

RAY

Geraldine. My cannon. After I close a case, I light her up to celebrate. She's only the size of a bread box. But she packs a wallop.

MEGAN

Well, they do say size doesn't matter.

Megan shows them a PICTURE of John Doe's head wound.

~~MEGAN (CONT'D)~~

~~Our John Doe was hit in the head pre-mortem. Have you collected anything that could be a weapon?~~

~~SKIP~~

~~Nothing so far. But we haven't gotten to the living room yet.~~

~~MEGAN~~

~~Take your time. It's not like we're looking for a murderer or anything.~~

Ray doesn't appreciate the dig. He takes another look at the picture of John Doe's skull.

RAY

I know I'm no M.E., but John Doe looks like he suffered a heat fissure, not blunt force trauma. You've seen heat fissure before, right?

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN

Yeah. I think I've come across it
some time in my fifteen years of
medical training.

RAY

Fifteen years? That's a lot of
knowledge. Maybe that's why your
head is so big.

Ray smiles. He's enjoying this. Megan leans in...

MEGAN

I'd rather have a big head than a
small cannon.

Touché.

RAY

We'll get to the living room, I
promise.

(off Megan's look)

Look. I've got six open cases.
Including a serial arsonist who's
been targeting toy stores.

MEGAN

Is there anything you can tell me
about what happened here?

RAY

Here's what we know. The fire
started in the kitchen. And it was
arson. But someone wanted it to
look like an accident.

SKIP

~~We found a puddle configuration
here behind the fridge which
indicates use of an accelerant.~~
Further sifting recovered the
remains of a hair spray bottle.

MEGAN

In the kitchen?

RAY

Exactly. Hair spray is mostly
ethanol which is extremely
flammable. I sent the bottle
fragment to forensics for testing.
Happy?

Ray III

RAY

I heard about your little investigation. The idea that I'm responsible is absurd.

MEGAN

We recovered cannon fuse at a failed toy store fire.

RAY

So now you're investigating arsons? Did they teach you that in medical school too?

MEGAN

The toy store is only a block away from where Daniel Robinson lives. ~~Usually, your cannon fuse gives you plenty of time to escape. But the sprinkler system wasn't properly installed and went off while you were still in the vicinity. That's when Jill saw you.~~

*
*
*

Ray gets a little too close. Megan raises Bud's sap.

RAY

Easy there, slugger...

MEGAN

Saps can cause some real damage close range. ~~But of course you know that, don't you? Detective Morris spoke to your father, who confirmed he gave you his sap.~~

Ray takes a step back. His face pale.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You used it to subdue both Jill Applebee and Ben Dupres. You set Jill's house on fire to cover your tracks. But when Jill survived, you had to poison her at the hospital to finish the job.

*
*

Megan scrutinizes Ray. But the fury in his eyes has been replaced by pain.

RAY

Are you sure a sap was used in the attack?

Megan nods. Ray's face falls.

RAY (CONT'D)

Getting that sap was a big deal. When my dad retired and gave it to me, it was a long overdue acknowledgement that what I do matters.

(then)

I don't have any kids, and I don't plan on having any. So when Skip passed his level two exams, I gave him the sap. He was proud. But I was even prouder.

MEGAN

You gave your sap to Skip?

RAY

And he knows I keep cannon fuse at the office.

Megan looks worried.

RAY (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

MEGAN

Peter's in trouble.

INT. TOY STORE - NIGHT

Peter quietly unbuckles his HOLSTER.

PETER

How did you know about Jill's stuffed turtle?

SKIP

I logged it in as evidence at the house.

PETER

I know it's not in there. Because I saw it burn in the fire. I saw it.

SKIP

What are you saying?

(CONTINUED)