

TEASER

INT. BROADCAST BUILDING - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Welcome to K-SEA. Seattle local news. We're thirty minutes 'til air. The room is buzzing. Alive with organized chaos

Conducting the cacophony is Executive Producer - BETH CALLAHAN (30s, ambitious, uncompromising, the smartest person in most rooms). A cluster of PRODUCERS stand before her -

BETH

I love you all. Truly. You know that. But this

She grimaces as she gestures to the BIG BOARD listing tonight's segments - SINKHOLE, SCHOOL BOARD, DUI -

BETH (CONT'D)

We can't air this. Not like this. We need a lead story. A text-your-friend-call-your-spouse lead story.

PRODUCER

Beth, it's thirty minutes to air.

BETH

That's why they call it breaking news. Not broken news. Now, go -

As they scatter, Beth spots ANTHONY RUIZ (early 40s, the suave News Director) entering. She moves toward him -

**START →**  
**SC. 1**

BETH (CONT'D)

Hey? Where were you this morning?

ANTHONY

Sleeping. Like a normal, balanced adult. I don't need to run a 10k seven days a week.

BETH

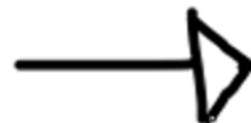
Ummm... Spoiler alert - we work in news. None of us is normal. And balance - way overrated.

ANTHONY

My therapist disagrees.

BETH

I'm sure she does. By the hour.



# Role: ANTHONY

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ANTHONY

You wanna keep getting on my case  
or hear why I came down here?

BETH

(anticipates, eager)  
You heard from legal. Can I run it?

ANTHONY

Half.

BETH

Bribery?

ANTHONY

Affair.

BETH

Okay. Great. I love affair.  
(announces to the room)  
Salvation is nigh! We're running the  
Mayor story. Affair only. I need  
graphics and copy -

ANTHONY

Should warn you, Tommy has concerns.

BETH

Of course he does. Tommy's a better  
human than all of us combined.

An EDITOR waves Beth over. Anthony follows. On the EDITOR'S  
COMPUTER are dueling graphics. "SCANDAL ROCKS CITY HALL" and  
"KANE IN CRISIS". Both feature pictures of MAYOR JASPER KANE  
(50s, handsome, intimidating). As Beth selects "Scandal" -

ANTHONY

If anyone can get Tommy on board  
it's the daughter-he-never-had.

BETH

Sure, except I'm pretty sure he  
still sometimes sees me as the  
awkward, braces girl sending him  
broadcasts from the RoHi cafeteria.

ANTHONY

Awkward? Doubt it. You haven't been  
awkward a day in your life.

BETH

You haven't seen the tapes.  
(quickly adds)  
That's not an invitation!

(MORE)

← END

EARLY EDITION

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

**Role: ANTHONY**

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**EARLY EDITION**

~~BANG! A deafening blast. And then – all sound drops out Stolen by the concussive energy of the gunfire.~~

~~ON BETH ears ringing she looks down at her hands and discovers – they are splattered in blood. It's not hers.~~

~~Mayor Kane is on his feet. Reeling. Backing away from – Tommy. On the floor. Crimson red blooms across his chest. Beth rushes to his side. Takes his hand.~~

~~MOS we watch her plead with him to hold on... We SLOWLY CRANE UP. And up... Frame expanding to match Beth's anguish. As she collapses, sobbing, onto Tommy's chest – FADE TO BLACK.~~

~~FROM BLACK. A violin pulsing like a heartbeat pulls us back in. NEEDLEDROP BEGINS: "91" by Bleachers. FADE IN ON:~~

EXT. SEATTLE - DAY

~~Early morning. Fog rolls across the expansive waters of Elliot Bay. Mount Rainer stands guard to the south.~~

SUPER: SIX MONTHS LATER

EXT. BETH'S LOFT - ROOF - DAY

Finally we find Beth. Working out on her roof. BEGIN MONTAGE as Beth does WIND SPRINTS. PUSH UPS. KRAV MAGA combos against a heavy bag. There is a punishing urgency to her movements.

Finally, she stops. Catches her breath and looks out over the city. But her expression is still tense. Seems some demons can't be outrun... or outpunched. As the NEEDLEDROP CONCLUDES –

INT. BETH'S LOFT - BACK DOOR - DAY

Beth steps out of her shoes, kicks them into a pile with two other pairs. Suddenly, she hears something. FOOTSTEPS. *Is someone in her apartment?*

Snapping into HIGH ALERT, Beth opens a closet. Steps behind the door. The footsteps draw near. Closer...

BAM! Beth SMASHES open the door. Unleashes a KRAV MAGA combo. But as her first hit lands, she realizes the intruder is –

**START →**  
**SC. 2**

BETH  
Anthony! What are you doing here?

ANTHONY  
You gave me a key.



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# Role: ANTHONY

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CONT. 

BETH  
For emergencies!

He wipes his nose, discovers it's bleeding. As Beth grimaces -

INT. BETH'S LOFT - BATHROOM - DAY

The toilet paper roll spins. Beth frees a handful and offers it to Anthony. He hesitates -

ANTHONY  
You don't have tissue?

BETH  
It's the same thing.

He reluctantly takes it. Begins to stop the bleed.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Can we back up to why you're here?

ANTHONY  
Well... it's a big day...

BETH  
So I might have forgotten that I'm testifying today? Let it slip my mind that without me Kane will literally get away with murder.

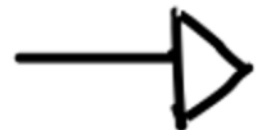
ANTHONY  
Have you been watching the news?

BETH  
I was being hyperbolic. I haven't watched - read anything. Is he getting away with it?

ANTHONY  
Kane's team is good. Their opening painted a picture. Bullied public servant. Blah, blah, blah. You'll set the record straight. Don't over think this. That's why I'm here. To take some of the pressure off.

(rips the bandaid)  
Station's paying for a bodyguard.

BETH  
Yeah. No. Nice try. I'm not some heiress. I don't want a bodyguard. Don't need a bodyguard.



EARLY EDITION

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# Role: ANTHONY

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ANTHONY

It's true. Your self-defense classes were money very well spent. But the press has been aggressive. I wanna make sure no one bothers you. On your way in. Or on your way home. His name is Derick. He's low-key. Retired cop. And - already here. He's downstairs doing a security sweep. I gave him my key - I mean, my, your key.

BETH

(last line of defense)  
Trina's on her way. She insisted.

ANTHONY

She can go, too. Easy.  
(checks his watch)  
I have to leave, my testimony is first up. But, there's something else. It's been six months. I want you to think about coming back to work. We need you. And... I think you need us.  
(a beat, then)  
Tommy would want you to come back.

BETH

No. Don't bring him into this.

ANTHONY

Beth. What happened with Tommy was -

BETH

- Anthony, seriously. I can not do this. Not today.

ANTHONY

Okay. Just... think about it...

BETH

All I've done is think about it. I **←END**  
am done with the news.

Beth motions him out of the bathroom. Closes the door. Lets out a deep, fraught sigh. Then: *BZZT!* We pre-lap a doorbell -

INT. BETH'S LOFT - MAIN ROOM - DAY

Now dressed for court, Beth hurries through her open concept living room and kitchen. The space is tidy but eclectic.

EARLY EDITION

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