

"Obsessed With Murder" January 6, 1997 Treatment By Lee Goldberg & William Rabkin  
TEASE INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – ER – DAY As TOD GRIMES, 30s, a confident, well-dressed man winds his way through the ER. He's looking for Dr. Sloan. He's pointed in the direction of pathology, when he passes the ER doors... just as a beautiful, but frantic woman (STEPHANIE HITCHER), 20s, comes in with DAVE CRANSTON, 30s, who has been hit by a car while crossing the street. Dave is in serious shape. Tod jumps on the case, heroically performing some sort of emergency procedure, before anyone can stop him. Jesse shoves Tod off the man, and is about to call security, when Mark intervenes....Tod is a doctor. In fact, he's our new Chief of Staff. And on Jesse's surprise, and Stephanie's awe, we FADE OUT. END OF TEASE ACT ONE INT.  
COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAY An informal cocktail party is being held to welcome Tod and his wife, KIM, to Community General. All our regulars are here. We learn that Tod served his residency here, under Mark's tutelage, and that Mark was instrumental in luring this rising star back from Boston to the hospital, much to Kim's displeasure. Her career as a lawyer was flourishing in Boston, and she's very ambivalent about having to uproot. In fact, she's late for a plane... she still has things to tie up back east. She leaves, insisting that Tod stay and enjoy the party while she takes a taxi to the airport. Mark assures Tod that Kim will adjust...moving is never easy. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAVE'S ROOM – NEXT DAY Jesse is handling Dave's case. We learn that Dave needed an emergency splenectomy (or something like that) and suffered some serious bruises and contusions – but otherwise he was very lucky. We learn that Dave and Stephanie are pharmaceutical salespeople and were having lunch at downtown hotel before the accident. He wasn't paying much attention as he was leaving the restaurant, stepped off the curb right in front of a car. Jesse asks if there are any family members Dave would like him to contact. Dave says no, I don't have anyone. All he's really interested in knowing is if Stephanie has been by to visit. A nurse comes in with a bag containing Dave's clothing, belongings, which were stripped off of him for the operation...Jesse notices some family photos have slipped out of his wallet...showing Dave with what appears to be a wife and kids. And on Jesse's concern, we go to: INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAY Norman is showing Tod around, letting the new Chief know what's ahead on his calendar. First up is a meeting with the rep from Jennings Pharmaceuticals... the rep turns out to be Stephanie. She really admires the way Tod handled the emergency yesterday...she'd

like to take him to lunch to show her appreciation. Tod agrees. Her attraction to him is undeniable, and we get a sense that he's not immune to her interest. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – LOUNGE – DAY Jesse tells Mark and Amanda that he's concerned about Dave... who is behaving suspiciously. Dave told Jesse he had no loved ones to notify of his injury – but Jesse saw family photos in his wallet. Jesse's youthful curiosity is piqued, so he did a routine check with Dave's insurance company, and discovered Dave is married with two kids, and they live here in town. So why not let them know he's in the hospital? Mark says Dave is here for a few days, maybe he'll open up to you. But beyond that, if it doesn't impact on his medical condition, it's none of our business. Amanda has to run, she's having lunch with an old friend at Le Guerre. Mark tells her not to be late for Tod's first staff meeting...the man is a stickler for punctuality. INT. LE GUERRE RESTAURANT – DAY Tod and Stephanie have lunch. The sparks are really flying between them...which isn't lost on Amanda, who happens to be eating at the same place. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAY The staff is gathered for Tod's meeting, but Tod is a no-show. Amanda tells Mark she saw Tod at lunch, and there was some real heat between Tod and the rep. Mark dismisses any hint that Tod might be unfaithful, chalks it up to Tod's aggressiveness and charisma. Tod was probably working his charm to get the hospital a better rate on drugs. INT. STEPHANIE'S APARTMENT – DAY Tod and Stephanie are making love. He realizes he's late for the staff meeting, but his efforts to leave are no match for her sensual charms. As he melts back into her arms, we FADE OUT. END OF ACT ONE ACT TWO INT. TOM'S HOUSE – DAY Tod is showing Mark the new home he and Kim have bought. It's a fixer-upper, and smaller than they'd like, but the price was right and it was near the hospital. As they enter the house, they are shocked to find Stephanie inside, unpacking the boxes and decorating. Tod, shocked, tells her to leave. She says she can't leave...Tod has no eye for decorating. Tod all but throws her out...then has to face Mark, who's harsh look betrays his disapproval of what he's seen. Mark asks Tod if he'd like to talk...not as co-workers, but as friends. Tod admits his tryst and shares his tremendous guilt. Tod tells Mark that his marriage has been rocky lately – but he doesn't want to lose Kim. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAVE'S ROOM – DAY Jesse comes in to find Dave on the phone with his company... apparently, Dave has just been fired. Dave is shaken by the news... and again asks Jesse why the nurses won't let Stephanie in to see him. Jesse says no one has been prevented from seeing him, anyone is welcome to

visit Dave, including Dave's family. Dave says I don't have a family any more. Dave says he can't believe Stephanie hasn't tried to see him... she's must be around, she's handling the Community General account and negotiating the new supply contract for the year. Jesse says if he sees her, he'll tell her Dave would like her to stop by. Jesse leaves, more suspicious than ever. INT. TOD'S HOUSE – DAY Kim comes home, is unpacking, when Stephanie shows up. She tells Kim she's working with Tod, and would like to get him a special gift for giving her the Community General contract. Stephanie talks about Tod in a creepy, intimate sort of way that makes Kim very uncomfortable...and that clearly implies that they are lovers. Stephanie sees that Kim isn't going to be much help and leaves, but not before complimenting Kim on her clothes and hair-style...and wondering aloud how it would work for her. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – TOD'S OFFICE – DAY Tod is meeting with Norman when the secretary buzzes – the rep from the pharmaceutical company is here to see you. Tod tells the secretary he is tied up all day. Secretary says the woman insists. Tod says tell her our business is concluded and hangs up. Norman asks if there is a problem. Tod says no. Norman smiles, assuming Tod is just being a tough negotiator. That's when the door bursts open and Stephanie marches in... though at first, we can be forgiven for not recognizing her. Because now she looks just like Kim, she's got the same hairstyle and clothes. She smiles at Tod, who is too shocked... make that too horrified... to say a word. Norman says it was time for a break anyway...and leaves them alone (but not before whispering to Tod to that "every penny counts.") Once they're alone, she goes to Tod, who stays the hell away from her. She doesn't take that well. She says I love you, Tod. I want you. Tod tells her that he loves his wife, and what they did the other day was a terrible mistake. Stephanie doesn't believe that. Tod says, as carefully as he can, that it might be a good idea if Stephanie got some help. She says Tod can give her all the help she needs. Tod tells her that, under the circumstances, he would prefer to deal with someone else from her company and that he doesn't want to see her again. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – OUTSIDE TOM'S OFFICE – DAY Stephanie storms out and bumps into Jesse, who tells her about Dave's condition and suggests that Dave would really like to see her. This only seems to piss Stephanie off more. She says she'll see Dave on her way out. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAVE'S ROOM – DAY The moment Stephanie walks in, Dave's face lights up. He is so glad to see her. And he loves her sexy new look. It's not for you, Stephanie

says coldly. Dave is confused, doesn't understand what she's talking about. She says I wish you had died. Dave isn't getting this at all. He tells her he loves her, that he's been longing to see her. She says get over it...our relationship is over. He says it can't be, I gave up my wife for you, my family for you. She doesn't care. She's found someone else. Dave wants to know who...she says it's Dr. Tod Grimes, but if it wasn't Tod, it would have been someone else. Dave implores her to give him another chance. She says I'm going to Tod's house tonight, giving myself to him with all my body and soul, and you will already be forgotten. On her way out, she tells Dave how sorry she is that he lost his job. Dave asks how she knew. She says someone had to tell them how you were slipping...your poor sales figures were dragging us all down...I had no idea that they'd actually give me your office. Oh well, that's life. And, after that final stab, she leaves Dave, a wrecked man. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – LOBBY – DAY Stephanie goes to the elevator, just as it opens and Kim steps out. Kim is stunned to see Stephanie here...and looking just like her. Stephanie only smiles, says she loves the way Tod giggles when you lick his ear, and gets into the elevator. Kim marches down the corridor in a fury. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – CORRIDOR – DAY Tod and Mark are walking down the hall. Tod is telling Mark that he thinks Stephanie is a nut, perhaps obsessed, and wonders what he can do about her. Mark says maybe Steve can be of some help... they are discussing possible approaches when a furious Kim confronts Tod, rips him apart for his wild affair. She creates an enormous scene...almost like a grenade going off. She says she's going back to Boston on the next plane. Kim storms out. And on everyone's shock, we cut to: INT. TOD'S HOUSE – NIGHT Tod is pleading his case to Kim. He knows what he did was wrong, and that Kim may never forgive him. But their marriage is too important to just throw away. He pleads with her to work it out with him. She goes into a violent tirade. He backs off, says he will be at the hotel if she wants to talk. He leaves. She stays behind, cries, starts breaking things. Suddenly, she's CUT DOWN by TWO GUNSHOTS through the window. And on her dead body, we FADE OUT. END OF ACT TWO ACT THREE INT. TOD'S HOUSE – DAY It's a crime scene. Mark and Steve are there. Looks like Kim was shot with a gun by someone standing just outside the window. Neighbors report hearing a loud argument shortly beforehand. Tod is convinced Stephanie killed his wife. Steve will look into it. INT. STEPHANIES HOUSE – DAY Steve meets with her. She admits to the affair, but claims it was Tod who was obsessed

with her. Says Tod's big worry was his wife finding out about them. Steve asks her where she was last night. She says she was having a business dinner. Steve asks with whom. She says Norman Briggs.

INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAY Jesse is examining Dave's chart...he's very worried about test results taken last night – his blood pressure, heart rate, and other levels are unusually high. Jesse is worried about complications. He goes to see Dave, who has heard about what happened to Tod. Dave decides Jesse has to know the truth... Dave was having an affair with Stephanie. She is a sexual predator. Dave lost everything for her, and when he had nothing more to give her...well, she pushed him in front of the car. Jesse is shocked. Dave says Stephanie is a very dangerous woman... and I'm not the first man she's sunk her fangs into.

INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAY Mark is stunned to see Tod there. Tod says here else could I go? Mark says he can stay at the beach house, but Tod would rather work. Norman sees Tod and asks if he can have a word with him, when he gets a chance. Tod says now is good for me. Norman invites Tod to his office... INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – ELSEWHERE – DAY Stephanie is supervising delivery of drugs or other business when Steve tracks her down. He tells her he discovered she has a license to carry a gun. She says she carries around a lot of drugs and she, as well as all the salespeople, are armed for their own protection. Steve would like to see the gun. Stephanie says he'll have to go to Pittsburgh. She left the gun with her mother...she hates to carry it and prefers her mother have it around to protect herself.

INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – NORMAN'S OFFICE – DAY Norman politely suggest that Tod take a few weeks off to get his life in order. Tod says but I just started here, I'd rather not. Norman says it really is for the best. Tod refuses and implies that Norman is really firing him. Norman reluctantly concedes the board would like to re-examine the whole situation. Tod keeps pushes, forcing Norman to say that the Board is embarrassed, that after only a few days in town, Tod has already created a scandal. Perhaps it will die down in a few weeks, Norman says, and everything will be fine. Tod says screw the job and walks out, right into

INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – CORRIDOR – DAY ...where Stephanie is. Tod throws himself at her, accusing her of killing his wife, taking his job, and is about to throttle her when Steve pulls him off. Tod takes a swing at Steve, who is forced to deck him and cuff him. Tod is under arrest. Norman shares a grim look with Mark... I think we're in the market for a new Chief of Staff.

END OF ACT THREE ACT FOUR INT. JAIL – DAY Mark visits Tod, who tells

Mark his life is over. He's lost everything... his wife, his job, his reputation, all because of one lapse. Mark says if Stephanie killed Kim, he'll prove it. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAY Jesse catches up with Mark, wants a medical consult on Dave. He shows Mark the perplexing test results....and tells Mark what Dave told him about Stephanie. Mark says that's the second time today I've heard that story. Jesse says what do you mean? Steve comes up, says he has bad news. Steve talked to Stephanie's neighbors to see if any of them saw her leave her house at the time of the killing. Instead, a neighbor of Stephanie's has confirmed her alibi...seems the neighbor is a peeping Tom, and Stephanie likes to parade around naked with the drapes open. She was definitely home when she said she was. Something clicks for Mark. He asks to see Dave's chart again... INT. JAIL – DAY Tod is bailed out... by Stephanie. She says she knows that Tod didn't mean the things he said... that he really wants her. Tod says you're right. She says not that Kim is gone, we can be together. Let's go home. Tod agrees. (A police officer overhears this). INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DAVE'S ROOM – DAY Mark goes to see Dave, tells him he's concerned about the test results. They aren't consistent with a man who has been lying in bed after a splenectomy...but of a man who's been under physical duress. Dave doesn't understand, what's physically stressful about lying here? Mark says nothing at all...which is the problem. But the results would make sense if you did something physically active like, say, like going to Tod's house, killing his wife, and coming back here before your tests. Dave says Mark is nuts. Mark says you're a drug salesman like Stephanie, I bet you have a gun license, too. You told Jesse your story to point a finger at Stephanie, but actually pointed it at yourself. Dave breaks down...it's true, he killed Kim. But he meant to kill Stephanie. He saw what Stephanie was doing to Tod and knew she had to be stopped before she did to Tod what she did to him. When he saw the woman tearing up Tod's house, he assumed it was Stephanie... we all heard Kim say she was taking the next flight back to Boston. Dave feels incredible remorse...all he wanted to do was save Tod and, instead, he ruined him. The truth is, Dave stepped in front of the car....to kill himself. Steve comes in...he just found out that Tod was bailed out of jail by Stephanie. Mark says we have to find them. Steve says a policeman heard them say something about going home. INT. TOD'S HOUSE – DAY Tod is letting himself be seduced by Stephanie. He's kissing her, holding her face, letting his hands slide down to her throat, and then he starts to squeeze. She tries to fight him off, but he only

squeezes her throat tighter. He's going to kill her for what she's done...and he's about to putting his hands around her throat... and suddenly he starts to succeed, when Mark and Steve come in. Mark tells him that Stephanie didn't kill Kim, that Dave did. Tod says it's still Stephanie's fault...she drove Dave to it. Mark says if he kills her, she's won, she will have truly taken everything from him. Tod relents, releasing Stephanie, who is terrified. INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL - DAY It's a long time later. We learn that Mark and Tod have testified on Dave's behalf for a lenient sentence. Stephanie couldn't be prosecuted for any crime, but her deeds have caught up with her. After Tod's attack, she suffered a complete nervous breakdown and has been committed. Tod, meanwhile, is thinking about opening a general practice in some small town somewhere. Our heroes ponder the consequences one mistake can have on so many lives... and we fade out. THE END