

DIAGNOSIS MURDER

"Slam Dunk Dead"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 A BASKETBALL 1

dribbles on the asphalt.

2 TWO SNEAKERED FEET 2

Favoring the THUNDER SHOES LOGO shuffle back and forth.
These feet, and the remarkable shoes on them, belong to none
other than

3 DESMOND CONWAY 3

Basketball superstar, makes a break for the hoop, blasting
through the other players, knocking them out of his way
with
a flying elbow, knee, or foot, all the while the camera
focusing on those great shoes when, out of nowhere

4 HOWIE LANIER 4

A fellow MUSTANG, his only equal on this court, steps
between
Conway and the basket. Conway doesn't slow down, just
grins a
little as he leaps in the air, hurling the ball into the net.
You could fly like this, too, if you had a pair of THUNDERS.

But Conway isn't finished yet. He twists himself in mid-air to send his flying body smashing into

5 LANIER

5

who is thrown to the ground, his head slamming onto the parquet. A DIRECTOR'S VOICE yells:

DIRECTOR

Cut!

6 WIDE ANGLE - THE COURT

6

That's when the lights go on and we see that this is a COMMERCIAL SHOOT. The director, 20s, pulls off his headset.

We see other LA Mustangs on the sidelines, watching, along with DWAYNE, 20s, the team's handicapped towel boy/gofer.

DIRECTOR

What the hell are you doing?

CONWAY

Protecting my ball.

(CONTINUED)

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2.

6 CONTINUED:

6

DIRECTOR

I don't care about the ball, I
care about the shoes.

CONWAY

It's the way I play.

DIRECTOR

This isn't a game, Conway, it's a
commercial. Look around, you're
all on the same team.

CONWAY

That's how I play, whenever I play.

The TEAM DOCTOR rushes over to Lanier. It's JESSE.

JESSE

Stay still. Let me get a look at
you.

Lanier shrugs him off.

LANIER

I'm fine.

Lanier gets up, walks it off, Jesse watching him carefully.
Conway shoots Lanier the ball.

CONWAY

Gee, did that hurt, Howie? Sure
looked painful.

Lanier paces away from Conway, controlling himself. And
then

hurls himself at Conway. The other players and Jesse
separate
the two and pull them apart. The director turns to Jesse.

DIRECTOR
I used to think kids and dogs were
hard. Gimme a pudding commercial
any day.

7 ACROSS THE COURT

7

Slick sports agent KENT BEAUDINE, 30s, strides onto the
court,
working the team members like it's a party, shaking hands,
clapping shoulders, shooting grins. Following behind
Beaudine
at a discreet distance as he heads toward MALIK SEELY, is an
ND MAN, 40s, in a dull suit.

BEAUDINE
Hey, Malik, my man.

(CONTINUED)

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3.

7 CONTINUED:

7

MALIK

Where's the seven-figure Burger
Town endorsement you promised me?

BEAUDINE

In the pipeline, bro. Hugs to the
wife.

MALIK

I don't have a wife.

BEAUDINE

Awright! Give the babes something
to dream about.

Beaudine is on the move toward BRENT BARRY.

BEAUDINE

Brent, how's it hanging?

BRENT

When are you renegotiating my deal
with this lousy team?

BEAUDINE

I'm on it, under it, and all
around it. And that's FDIC
insured, baby.

BRENT

What?

But Beaudine is already past him, homing in on Conway.

BEAUDINE

The shoes look good. Of course,
I'm the guy that put'em on you.

CONWAY

I thought if I fired you, I never
had to see you again.

BEAUDINE

I'm gonna be your reflection until
I get the half-a-million in
commissions you owe me. Takes a
lot of gas to drive that shiny red
Humvee.

CONWAY

I wouldn't give you the change
between my couch cushions.

BEAUDINE

Shame - that'd probably make us
even.

(CONTINUED)

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4.

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

He snaps his fingers. The ND guy who has been trailing Beaudine steps forward and shoves a SUBPEONA into Conway's hands.

BEAUDINE

See you in court, boychick – the one without hoops.

Beaudine walks over to Lanier, Conway glaring after him.

BEAUDINE

Howie! Superstar! Get your wings pressed, I got you a shot on "Touched by an Angel."

Conway, furious, picks up a basketball and throws it at Beaudine's head. Smack! Beaudine goes down. His keys go flying. Jesse rushes over to Beaudine, who is dazed but okay.

JESSE

(to Dwayne)

Get me some ice.

(to Beaudine, re:

Conway)

What is it with that guy?

BEAUDINE

\$20 million a year.

Lanier marches up to an unrepentant Conway.

LANIER

Easy to take a shot at someone's

back. You don't have the guts to
do it face-to-face.

his
to
Conway GROWLS and launches himself at Lanier, clamping
teeth down on LANIER'S NOSE. Lanier yelps in pain and tries
push Conway off, but he's biting tight, like a dog with a
bone. Jesse groans.

JESSE
Not again.

Jesse throws himself between them. Everyone else just
watches.
They know better.

JESSE
Break it up!

one
but
Conway releases Lanier's nose. Lanier grabs his nose with
hand, and throw a punch with the other. Conway dodges it,
it catches Jesse right in the jaw. Jesse drops and Lanier
flies at Conway.

(CONTINUED)

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5.

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

And as the two basketball stars start fighting again, we hold on Jesse, unconscious on the floor and...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 8 EXT. COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL – DAY

9 9 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL – DAY

As Amanda leads Mark quickly down the corridor.

MARK
Is Jesse's condition really that serious?

AMANDA
Worse.

MARK
It's all my fault. I recommended him for the Mustangs job.

AMANDA
He's an adult, Mark. There's no way you could have predicted--

They turn into:

10 10 INT. EXAM ROOM – DAY

10

where Jesse, holding an icepack on the back of his head, is talking enthusiastically to an unimpressed Steve.

JESSE

So I'm standing between the two
greatest players ever to share a
court. Of course, it's a volatile
mix – like matter and anti-matter.

AMANDA

--that his ego would go completely
out of control.

Jesse beams to see Mark and Amanda.

JESSE

As the team doctor, I'm the one
who has to hold it all together.
A physician, sure, but also
counsellor, friend, spiritual
leader.

AMANDA

The Nobel committee has been
informed.

(CONTINUED)

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7.

10 CONTINUED:

10

MARK
(to Steve)
You're not encouraging him?

STEVE
I'm trying to get an autographed
jersey for the PBA auction.

AMANDA
And that requires another endless
recital of Jesse's basketball
adventures?

STEVE
Apparently.

MARK
I don't want to dash your hoop
dreams, but when I recommended you
to David Clarke, it was only as a
doctor.

JESSE
And it's a great opportunity. I
feel like I'm getting a condensed
residency in the highest levels of
sports medicine.

Mark examines Jesse's head.

MARK
From the inside.

JESSE
Seriously, this is the best job

I've ever had.

AMANDA

Too bad it's only temporary.

STEVE

Which means you should get working
on that jersey soon.

JESSE

You'll get it.

Shooting him a dubious look, Steve leaves, along with
Amanda.

Jesse hesitates. This is hard to say, but:

JESSE

Actually, I've been thinking about
putting my name in for the
permanent position as team doctor.

(CONTINUED)

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8.

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

MARK

Are you seriously thinking of giving up emergency medicine?

JESSE

You mean the long hours, low pay, and miserable conditions? It'd be hard, but I might be willing to make the sacrifice.

And on Mark's surprise:

11 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL HOSPITAL CORRIDOR – DAY
11

a Amanda comes down the corridor. As he walks past a room,
Kent MEDICATIONS CART flies out, followed quickly by a NURSE.
Beaudine steps out of the room, calling after her.

BEAUDINE

I'd sue you for every penny you had if I thought they paid you anything.

Amanda goes up to him.

AMANDA

Is there a problem?

BEAUDINE

Aside from Nurse Mengele here trying to poison my client, not at

all.

AMANDA

I'm Doctor Amanda Bentley, chief of pathology, and if you have a problem with one of our nurses, I need to know.

BEAUDINE

My problem is with your entire medieval dose `em up and shove `em out system of medicine, "Doctor."

That's when Howie Lanier comes out of the room behind him, a

BIG BANDAGE across his nose.

LANIER

But Kent, it hurts.

BEAUDINE

You think I'm not suffering here?
I'm passing a kidney stone just thinking of my top client in pain.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

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9.

11 CONTINUED:

11

BEAUDINE (cont'd)

But you don't see me running to
their medicine cabinet.

Amanda goes up to Lanier.

AMANDA

How bad is the pain?

Beaudine shoots his client a look, but Lanier ignores him.

LANIER

I got my nose bit off. How bad do
you think it is?

Amanda checks the chart.

AMANDA

Your attending physician
prescribed Oxycodone. Would you
like me to get you one?

BEAUDINE

No, he wouldn't.

LANIER

Kent, my nose hurts.

BEAUDINE

More than losing the Dash Cola
endorsement?

(checks watch)

You've got a date with a needle,
remember?

LANIER

I thought you were going to do something about that.

BEAUDINE

Hey, I raised the issue, started a dialogue. I think we came to a real understanding.

LANIER

But I still have to take the test.

Beaudine fishes in his pocket and comes out with what looks like a fistful of candy bars in neon wrapper.

BEAUDINE

Chew on this, you'll feel like fifteen million dollars. Well, thirteen-five after my commission.

(CONTINUED)

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10.

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

Lanier takes one of the bars and stomps away. Amanda takes one of the candy bars.

AMANDA

"Nature's Natural Healthilizer?"

BEAUDINE

I'm the West Coast distributor.

AMANDA

(reading)

"Made from the same endangered rain forest tree bark eaten by the Chamokome Indians in their sacred rituals."

BEAUDINE

And as I'm sure you know, they're the healthiest people on Earth.

AMANDA

Does it actually relieve pain?

BEAUDINE

You could say that.

AMANDA

Uh-huh. Could you?

BEAUDINE

Not until the FDA lifts the restraining order. But my lawyer assures me it's only a matter of time until those fascists crumble

in the face of scientific evidence.

(then)

Which makes this the perfect time
for you to get in as a
subdistributor.

Amanda unwraps the healthilizer bar and smells it, recoiling
at the stench.

AMANDA

Do you harvest the bark before or
after the Indians eat it?

12 INT. MUSTANGS TRAINING FACILITY DOCTOR'S OFFICE -
DAY 12

Jesse sits at a desk, facing a long line of PLAYERS. Dwane
brings Jesse a medical file.

JESSE

Who's next?

(CONTINUED)

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11.

12 CONTINUED:

12

DWAYNE
Malik Seely.

Although Dwayne is partially paralyzed on one side and speaks with obvious difficulty, he moves with great dignity. Malik Seely steps up to the desk as Jesse prepares a needle for drawing blood.

MALIK
You be careful there, Doc. That arm is worth a lot.

JESSE
I'll try not to do any permanent damage.

Jesse draws blood. Behind them in line, Brent Barry and CAMEO #3 exchange looks.

BRENT
Hey, his blood is red.

CAMEO PLAYER #3
What they pay him, I was expecting it to be green.

BRENT
Or gold.

Jesse takes the vial of blood and puts it in a CUSHIONED, INSULATED CARRIER specially designed for these vials – it's already half-filled. At the other end of the room, team owner

DAVID CLARKE, 50s, comes in with an unhappy Howie Lanier, who still wears the big bandage over his nose and carries a ThunderShoes box.

CLARKE

My lawyers checked the player's union contract, and your agent was right about every one of his objections.

LANIER

So you'll call off the drug testing.

CLARKE

I want to, because I want to do right by my players.

LANIER

But?

(CONTINUED)

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12.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

CLARKE

Before I'd realized my mistake,
someone mentioned the testing to
the Dash Cola guys.

LANIER

What?

CLARKE

Anyway, they want the names of
anyone who refuses a test.

(then)

I'm terribly sorry if that causes
you a problem, and promise it will
never happen again.

But Lanier's not hearing any of Clarke's BS.

LANIER

Who told them?

And then Lanier knows. As Clarke leaves, Lanier turns and
sees

Conway grinning at him from the desk, where Jesse is taking
his blood.

CONWAY

Sorry, Howie. Dash Cola doesn't
want players with good taste, they
want players who taste good.

He mimes biting off Lanier's nose. Lanier wants to hurl
himself at Conway. But he controls himself.

LANIER

Oh, yeah, nothing like a little cannibalism to sell product.

CONWAY

That's why I signed three new deals after my little snack.

LANIER

Too bad the new ThunderShoe Speedmeister XLQ wasn't one of them.

CONWAY

What are you talking about? I am Thundershoes.

LANIER

Then why am I holding the first XLQs off the assembly line?

He holds up the box.

(CONTINUED)

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13.

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

CONWAY

Give me that.

LANIER

Sorry, don't you remember the confidentiality clause in the Thundershoe contract?

(then, grins)

Oh, wait, that's only for the new, important campaign.

Conway reaches out and grabs the box.

CONWAY

Thousand dollars says there's no shoes in here.

off
its
He looks around the room, looking for takers. Then he rips the lid – and freezes as an ADORABLE LITTLE KITTEN sticks its head out of the box. He fixes Lanier with a hate-filled sneer as the other players start to laugh.

LANIER

Gee, Des, you win.

CONWAY

You're a dead man.

the
Conway SNEEZES violently. Furious, he lifts the shoe box and is about to smash it to the ground – kitten and all – when Dwayne calmly takes it from his hand and removes it from

room.

LANIER

You took my nose, I took yours.

Conway is seized by a fit of sneezing and rushes out of the room. Smiling, pleased, Lanier struts over to Jesse's desk.

LANIER

I'm ready for my test now.

And as he settles into a chair:

13 13 EXT. TRAINING FACILITY PARKING LOT – DAY

As Jesse walks to his car, carrying the insulated case, Clarke alongside him.

CLARKE

You did good work in there, Travis.

JESSE

I just stuck the needle in. The players did the hard part.

(CONTINUED)

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14.

13 CONTINUED:

13

CLARKE

No, it's more than that. These drugs tests can get ugly, turn players against management. But they seem to like you, trust you.

JESSE

Doing my job.

CLARKE

I don't know what your future plans involve, but if sports medicine is an interest, maybe we can work something out.

JESSE

Thanks.

Jesse is thrilled. Clarke slaps him on the back and heads away. Jesse, floating in the air, opens his car door, puts the insulated case on the passenger seat, and goes around to the driver's side. That's when a miserable-looking Conway comes up to him, eyes red and watering, nose swollen, gasping for breath.

CONWAY

You've got to help me.

And on Jesse's concern:

14 INT. TRAINING FACILITY DOCTOR'S OFFICE – DAY

14

on
it
As Dwayne limps from the filing cabinet and puts a CHART
the desk in front of Jesse. Conway sits across from him,
looking more miserable every second. Jesse opens it, checks
out.

JESSE

It doesn't say here what you
usually take for an allergy attack.

CONWAY

I try not to take anything. Drugs
mess me up worse than the
allergies.

JESSE

They make you drowsy?

CONWAY

And take my edge off. That's why
I switched to holistic medicine.

(CONTINUED)

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15.

14 CONTINUED:

14

JESSE

You mean those natural pills made from herbs and bark?

CONWAY

Yeah, they do any good?

JESSE

They're great – for marinating a chicken. If you want allergy relief, try this.

He pulls a DRUG SAMPLE out of a drawer and hands it to Conway,
who takes the sample, regards it suspiciously.

CONWAY

Tersenadine?

JESSE

Guaranteed not to cause drowsiness. Or take your edge off.

(checks chart)

Everything seems okay. Are you allergic to any medications? Are you taking any other medications?

CONWAY

(joking:)

Just that chicken marinade. And I take a lot of concentrated garlic.

JESSE

What's that for?

CONWAY
Anyone who tries to block me.

Jesse looks confused. Conway exhales at him. And as the
scent – and the understanding – reaches Jesse, Conway pops
the pills in his mouth.

15 EXT. PARKING LOT – DAY

15

Jesse, still feeling good, reaches his car. He pulls out his
keys, then notices the door is UNLOCKED. He opens the
door,
and his face falls.

16 JESSE'S POV

16

The insulated carrier has fallen onto the floor and the top is
off. The floor is littered with smashed glass – and soaked
with blood.

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16.

17 JESSE

17

stares, shocked. And on his concern:

18 INT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY

18

As Mark brings a pizza to the table where Steve is talking to a very disturbed Jesse.

STEVE

Is it possible that the case fell off the seat?

JESSE

Sure, and it's possible that I forgot to latch the top, and it's possible that all the vials happened to slip out of a container specifically designed to prevent that. And it's possible it was all caused by a 6.8 quake that no one noticed.

STEVE

I have to ask these questions, Jesse.

JESSE

I know. It's just I've already heard them all.

MARK

I guess no one's going to be harder on you than you.

JESSE

Right. Except for the cops at the car wash. They saw my floor mat and figured they had the next Jeffrey Dahmer.

Mark and Steve share a smile. Jesse is less amused.

MARK

There was no sign that Jesse's car had been broken into?

STEVE

Not a trace.

JESSE

Right, and it's possible that I forgot to lock the door of my new car I just spent a fortune on.

MARK

Jesse, no one's blaming you.

(CONTINUED)

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17.

18 CONTINUED:

18

JESSE

Only because they don't know yet. You think any of the players are going to be thrilled when they find out they have to take another blood test?

MARK

One of them a lot less than the rest.

STEVE

You think one of the players smashed all the vials to hide his own drug use?

Now Jesse's remembering something.

JESSE

Howie Lanier was fighting pretty hard to keep from being tested.

MARK

But if he's using drugs, putting off the test for a day isn't going to substantially change the results.

STEVE

Maybe it was enough just to delay it. They don't take a blood test every day.

And as that thought percolates:

The commercial shoot is being staged again. The same players are on hand. as is Jesse. Lanier is facing the DIRECTOR, who can't seem to take his eyes off the player's bandaged nose

LANIER

You can't cut me from the commercial. My endorsement future is riding on this ad.

DIRECTOR

But your nose.

LANIER

You're shooting my shoes. Can't you shoot my face later?

(CONTINUED)

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18.

19 CONTINUED:

19

DIRECTOR

I'm sorry, Howie.

(then)

Keep the shoes, our treat.

LANIER

I only wear what I'm paid to wear.

He yanks the shoes off his feet and tosses them in the
nearest
trash can. They GO RIGHT IN.

CONWAY

Maybe if we lowered the hoop you
could do that with a ball some day.

Lanier glares at Conway.

LANIER

I'm not going to forget this.

CONWAY

I don't think any of us are.

And as Conway walks away, laughing, we FIND Jesse with
Clarke.

JESSE

How do they squeeze in practice
between the movies, commercials,
and photo shoots?

CLARKE

The marketing is what gets people
to watch. It's as important as how

they play.

20 THE DIRECTOR

20

Settles into his seat in front of a monitor and signals the A.D.

DIRECTOR
Action!

21 A BASKETBALL

21

dribbles on the parquet.

22 TWO SNEAKERED FEET

22

These Favoring the THUNDER SHOES LOGO shuffle back and forth.
other feet, and the remarkable shoes on them, belong to none
than

"Slam Dunk Dead" Blue (2) 8/26/97 19.

23 DESMOND CONWAY 23

a Basketball superstar, in the LA MUSTANG'S UNIFORM, makes
break for the hoop, blasting through the other players,
knocking them out of his way with a flying elbow, knee, or
foot, all the while the camera focusing on those great shoes
when, out of nowhere

24 MALIK SEELY 24

Conway A fellow MUSTANG, steps between Conway and the basket.
doesn't slow down, just grins a little as he leaps in the air,
and is about to hurl the ball into the net when he's seized by
a MASSIVE HEART ATTACK and DROPS TO THE FLOOR.

25 WIDE ANGLE – THE COURT 25

hell There's instant PANDEMONIUM. The lights go on. What the
happened to Conway? Everyone rushes forward, led by

26 JESSE 26

not Who kneels over his body. Conway is unconscious and he's
breathing. Jesse takes his pulse, then looks up in shock at
Clarke, Lanier, the director, and the other players.

JESSE
He's dead.

off And on Conway's body, and the forgotten basketball rolling
the court into the darkness, we FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

27 27 EXT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – ESTABLISHING – DAY
27

28 28 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – PATHOLOGY – DAY
28

Amanda is standing over Conway's body as Mark comes in.

AMANDA
How's Jesse?

MARK
Shaken. We all are. Desmond Conway was a professional athlete in peak condition – hardly a likely candidate for a heart attack. And, from what Jesse says, his medical file shows no history of coronary problems.

AMANDA
Maybe we should take a closer look at that file.

MARK
He had heart problems?

AMANDA
Not until today.

MARK
Amanda, what are you getting at?

Amanda takes a deep breath. She really doesn't want to tell Mark this.

AMANDA
The first thing I noticed was that he had a very high white blood cell count.

She hands Mark a test report. He examines it.

MARK
It looks like he was fighting an allergy or an infection.

AMANDA
With the help of an anti-biotic: clarithromycin.

MARK
That's not unusual.

(CONTINUED)

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21.

28 CONTINUED:

28

Here comes the hard part. Amanda gives Mark a grim look.

AMANDA

I also found traces of the allergy medication tersenadine in his system.

Mark looks astonished.

MARK

If you combine the two, it causes ventricular fibrillation. It's been heavily covered in all the medical journals. Jesse would never make a mistake like that.

AMANDA

I know. But I thought you should hear it from me first before I make my official determination public. Cause of death: Possible negligent homicide by fatal drug interaction.

MARK

You have any idea what this will mean for Jesse?

AMANDA

Mark, I have no choice.

Mark nods solemnly and leaves. And we go:

29 29 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – DOCTOR'S LOUNGE – DAY

Amanda has just told Jesse the news. Jesse is pacing, trying to walk out his frustration.

JESSE

I checked his file before I gave him the sample of tersenadine. There was nothing in there showing Dr. Gelbman prescribed clarithromycin.

(then)

Take a look at the chart yourself.

AMANDA

It's being sent over. Did you ask him if he was taking any prescription medication?

Jesse gives her a withering look.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

JESSE

What kind of doctor do you think I am?

AMANDA

I'm sorry, Jesse. But I had to ask, and unfortunately, I won't be the last.

JESSE

It wasn't in the chart and he didn't tell me he was taking it.

AMANDA

I believe you.

But Jesse's getting a little frantic now, the frustration and anxiety building in him.

JESSE

If medication isn't in the chart, and the patient doesn't tell me, how am I supposed to know?

AMANDA

You're right. I'm sure that--

Jesse interrupts, steam-rolling over him.

JESSE

If Conway was taking an anti-biotic, why wouldn't he tell me? It's not illegal, and certainly nothing to be ashamed of.

AMANDA
Of course it isn't. I don't know
why he--

JESSE
(continues)
Ordinarily I would have called his
physician to double-check, but the
hereafter is a long way to go for
a medical consult.

Amanda shouts to get his attention:

AMANDA
Jesse.

Jesse stops, startled. Amanda continues, in as soothing a
voice as he can.

AMANDA
It's not your fault.

(CONTINUED)

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23.

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

Jesse slumps into a chair.

JESSE

Whether it is or not is now open
to debate.

AMANDA

It won't be after I get Conway's
chart.

That's when NEAL RYDER, 30's, a sharply-dressed
professional
executive-type, knocks and enters.

RYDER

Excuse me, Dr. Travis?

JESSE

Yes?

Ryder sets his briefcase on a table and clicks it open.

RYDER

I'm Neal Ryder, legal counsel for
Community General.

Amanda and Jesse share a look.

JESSE

Bad news travels fast.

RYDER

David Clarke just came to see me.
He's filing a \$100 million
wrongful death suit against you.

And since you are a member of our staff, we're being named as well.

JESSE
I don't believe this.

RYDER
(to Jesse)
The hospital will be holding a fitness hearing in 48 hours to decide whether to revoke your privilege to practice here. In the meantime, you are on paid leave.

JESSE
We can clear this up in just a few minutes. All you've got to do is look at Conway's chart.

RYDER
I have.

(CONTINUED)

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29 CONTINUED: (3) 29

He clicks open his briefcase and hands Jesse a file.

RYDER

Here's a copy. You might want to read it more closely this time. I also suggest you find yourself good legal counsel.

Ryder walks out. Jesse sets the file on the table and tears through it, stopping at the last page. He stares up in shock at Amanda, who reads the page.

AMANDA

He was prescribed clarithromycin.

JESSE

I swear to you, Amanda, this page wasn't in the chart when I read it.

30 EXT. CONWAY'S HOUSE - DAY 30

An upscale house too large for one person but certainly too small to contain Conway's ego. Amanda drives up and is surprised to see JESSE'S MUSTANG already parked on the other end of the U-shaped driveway in front. She clips her MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ID to her shirt and goes to the front door.

JESSE (O.S.)

Don't bother knocking, there's no one home.

She looks up to see Jesse on a ledge along the house.

JESSE

But it looks like there might be
a window open.

AMANDA

Jesse, you shouldn't be here.

JESSE

I'm not here. What are you doing
here?

AMANDA

I want to see those pills for
myself, who prescribed them and
when. You should go.

Jesse works his way to the window.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

JESSE

You don't see me and I don't see you.

AMANDA

I can't do that. As a county medical examiner, I'm an officer of the court.

JESSE

I'm not in court – at least not yet.

Jesse slides open the window and disappears inside. Amanda fumes. A moment later the FRONT DOOR opens.

JESSE

You'd think a guy like Conway would've set the alarm before he left.

AMANDA

How do I know you haven't stolen the bottle of antibiotic to save yourself?

JESSE

You could search me.

AMANDA

You're missing the point.

JESSE

The point is it's my career's at risk. Would you just sit on your

hands and rely on your friends...
or would you do whatever you could
to save yourself?

Amanda stares at him for a long moment, then comes to a
decision:

AMANDA

You're not here. I don't see you.

JESSE

I never thought I'd be glad to
hear a woman say that.

He steps aside and she enters, stopping cold when she sees:

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26.

31 INT. CONWAY'S HOUSE - DAY

31

It's a SHRINE to Conway. LIFE-SIZE photos of Conway are everywhere, along with TROPHIES, JERSEYS, BASKETBALLS, BANNERS, DOLLS, BASKETBALL CARDS, anything and everything ever produced with his name or image on it.

AMANDA

The man has his own hall of fame.

Jesse peers into a glass case.

JESSE

You want to see what his first diaper looked like?

AMANDA

I'll pass.

JESSE

It's inscribed.

Amanda makes her way to the stairs.

AMANDA

Most people keep their prescription medication in their bedrooms or master baths.

Jesse follows her up. And we go:

32 INT. CONWAY'S HOUSE - MASTER BATH

32

There's another LIFE SIZE picture of Conway across from the

toilet. Amanda and Jesse share a look.

JESSE

Remind me not to use his decorator.

Amanda turns Jesse around and steers him back into the bedroom.

AMANDA

I don't want you anywhere near the medicine cabinet.

JESSE

I thought you said I wasn't here.

She gives him a stern look and goes back inside. She opens the medicine cabinet. It's full of BOTTLES, all apparently from the same manufacturer. Amanda takes one of the bottles down and examines it as:

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27.

33 INT. BEDROOM – DAY

33

Jesse shakes his head at the LIFE-SIZE CONWAY in front of the bed, and then his gaze is drawn to a PILE OF SCRAPBOOKS beside the bed. He starts flipping through one of them as Amanda emerges from the bathroom, holding a bottle.

JESSE
Found anything?

Amanda reads the label on the bottle.

AMANDA
"Healthilizer. High Energy Formula Powder. One hundred percent organic and all natural. Take three times daily."

JESSE
Is that all?

AMANDA
He's got more of the same.
Healthilizer face cream,
Healthilizer shaving lotion,
Healthilizer deodorant,
Healthilizer vitamins,
Healthilizer stress reducer.
(then)
I didn't see a single prescription medication... or any genuine medication at all.

Jesse sighs with relief.

AMANDA
What've you got?

JESSE
Conway's bedside reading. His life
story in newspaper clippings from
grade school to the nose-bite.

That's when they hear a SOUND from downstairs.

JESSE
There's someone else in the house.

Before Amanda can stop him, he bolts out of the room in
time
to see:

34 HIS POV – FROM THE STAIRS

34

A MUSCULAR WOMAN runs across the ENTRY HALL and out
the door,
but we don't see her face. She's carrying A LARGE TROPHY
under
her arm.

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35 BACK TO SCENE 35

Jesse and Amanda charge down the stairs after her.

36 EXT. CONWAY'S HOUSE - DAY 36

Our heroes emerge to see a HUMVEE speeding away from the curb across the street.

37 EXT. HOUSE - DAY 37

Amanda and Jesse get into their cars, facing opposite directions on the U-shaped driveway and speed off -- nearly colliding head-on as they hit the street, effectively cutting each other off.

38 EXT. STREET - DAY 38

They both stop and the Humvee disappears. Amanda bursts out of her car, furious, and marches to the Mustang. Jesse slams his fist on the dash. Damn.

AMANDA
Look at what you've done!

JESSE
Don't worry - I think I know whose car that was.

AMANDA
Good for you.

She holds out her hand, palm out.

AMANDA
Let's see some proof of insurance.

Jesse gives her a sheepish look. She snaps her fingers. Jesse obediently opens his glove box and starts searching through the papers.

DISSOLVE TO:

39 EXT. BEACH HOUSE – ESTABLISHING – DAY
39

40 INT. BEACH HOUSE – DOCTOR'S LOUNGE – DAY
40

Mark is flipping through Conway's scrapbooks with Steve.

(CONTINUED)

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29.

40 CONTINUED:

40

MARK

Even in high school Conway was an exceptional player.

STEVE

And an exceptional jerk. He deliberately hammered an opponent into the basket post during a game. Cracked the poor kid's skull open.

Mark casually scans the clipping.

MARK

And you broke Tommy Taylor's arm tackling him in the Malibu High play-offs. Accidents happen in sports, especially at that age.

STEVE

Yeah, but you don't see Tommy Taylor in my scrapbook. It's not something I'm proud of. Conway's got every injury but his own in here.

MARK

You may have a point.

(then)

Remember when you caught that fly ball with your nose?

STEVE

Every time I look in the mirror.

That's when Amanda comes in.

AMANDA

I ran some tests on that Health
Formula I found at Conway's house.

MARK

Let me guess – sucrose, fructose,
vitamins, minerals and amino acids.

AMANDA

Close. You left out one ingredient.

MARK

Fiber.

(CONTINUED)

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30.

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

AMANDA
Clarithromycin.
(off their looks)
It's as if someone smashed up some
pills and laced it in with the
powder.

Mark and Steve share a look.

MARK
This was no accidental drug
interaction. This was murder. And
Jesse was the weapon.

Steve rises from his seat.

STEVE
That makes this a homicide
investigation. Where is Jesse now?

Amanda takes a deep breath.

AMANDA
Remember how I said I was at the
house alone? And that I lost the
intruder because I got hit by a
car?

STEVE
Yeah.

AMANDA
It was Jesse who hit me.

MARK

Jesse was with you?

Amanda gives him an apologetic look.

AMANDA

He was already there when I arrived.

STEVE

Do you realize how this looks? Now someone can argue that Jesse stole the prescription and spiked the vitamin mix to make it look like murder instead of malpractice.

AMANDA

What was I supposed to do, Steve, physically subdue him?

(CONTINUED)

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40 CONTINUED: (3) 40

STEVE

No, but when I find him, I might.
Where is he?

AMANDA

I don't know. He drove off when
the tow truck came for my car.

(then)

He did say he had an idea who the
intruder was.

And on their consternation, we go:

41 EXT. ESTATE – DAY 41

As Jesse carefully climbs the wall to see:

42 HIS POV – THE COURTYARD 42

Several high-priced cars... including the HUMVEE we saw
leaving Conway's house.

43 BACK TO SCENE 43

Jesse leaps onto the grass and is approaching the car when
Rochelle's figure looms up behind him. Before Jesse can
turn,
the woman takes him in a choke hold. Jesse struggles futilely
as she slowly squeezes the life out of him. And as Jesse
passes out, we FADE OUT with him.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

44 INT. BEAUDINE'S HOUSE – DAY

44

The room is decorated in sports memorabilia. mostly pictures of Kent Beaudine with every sports figure he could put his arm around. The TROPHY from Conway's place is now prominently displayed among the stuff.

Jesse opens his eyes to find himself lying on a leather couch facing the most MUSCULAR WOMAN he's ever seen. This is ROCHELLE. And she's wearing something that flaunts every rippling muscle she has.

JESSE

If you're nice to me, I'll teach you how to rub two sticks together and make fire.

ROCHELLE

Pretty cocky for a guy with the muscle tone of a jello mold. I have something for you.

She moves towards him. Jesse rears back defensively on the couch.

JESSE

Are you going to hurt me again?

She reaches past him for a big jar of HEALTHILIZER MIX.

ROCHELLE

Take this with a glass of milk
three times a day. And with a
little aerobics and weight
training, the next time I choke
you, you might have 30 to 40
seconds more before you pass out.

JESSE

Next time?

BEAUDINE'S VOICE

Isn't she great?

Jesse turns to see Kent Beaudine sauntering into the room, a
big grin on his face.

BEAUDINE

Stallone with hooters.

JESSE

Just what the world needs.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

BEAUDINE

For now, she's my trainer and bodyguard, but she's going to be a major star.

ROCHELLE

Kent's developing a "Her-cules" movie for me.

BEAUDINE

And her health formula is gonna turn her into the Mrs. Fields of fitness.

JESSE

I'm thrilled for you both. But don't you think going to jail for stealing Conway's M.V.P trophy and nearly choking me to death will put a crimp in things?

BEAUDINE

Conway owed me half-a-mil in commissions - now that he's dead, the trophy might get me a piece of that. I'll probably never see the rest.

(then, sadly)

I'm really the victim here.

JESSE

If Conway and you were on the outs, why are his shelves filled with Healthilizer mix?

ROCHELLE
Because it's a superior product
that tastes great.

She says it defensively as if she's daring Jesse to disagree.
He wisely doesn't.

BEAUDINE
All of my clients – the galaxy of
NBA superstars – are using it.

Jesse nods, getting it now.

JESSE
And I bet all of them agreed to
endorse it – except Conway.
(then)
You got a lot of reasons to hate
the guy. maybe even enough to want
him dead.

(CONTINUED)

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44 CONTINUED: (2) 44

BEAUDINE
Only I'm not the doctor who
poisoned him. No offense.

And on Jesse's angry look, we:

CUT TO:

45 INT. CLARKE'S OFFICE – DAY 45

You could mistake this for a lawyer's office, if not for the
smattering of basketball memorabilia. Clarke is on the
phone
as Mark appears in the doorway.

CLARKE
(into phone)
If we lower the prices any further
on those houses we might as well
give them away.

He motions Mark in. Mark moves to a chair, finds a
basketball
in it. He absently spins it on his finger as Clarke's
conversation continues.

CLARKE
(into phone)
I don't care what they're charging
at those other developments,
Bellevista Country Estates is a
prestige address. We spent more
furnishing our models than they
spent building theirs.

Mark nearly loses control of the ball. He fumbles with it, catches it, then puts it back on the seat before Clarke can notice.

CLARKE

(into phone)

That is not the problem. Maybe what we need is a new sales manager.

(then)

Think hard about updating your resume, Jimmy.

Clarke hangs up the phone.

CLARKE

You have a lot of guts coming down here.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

MARK

I wouldn't be here if it wasn't important. We found clarithromycin in Conway's health drink mix.

CLARKE

So you just proved our case.

MARK

The antibiotic comes in pill form. If Dr. Gelbman gave Conway a prescription for it, why didn't we find a pill container? Why was it mixed with his vitamin shake?

CLARKE

Maybe Conway didn't like to swallow pills. What difference does it make? Your doctor's incompetence killed him.

MARK

But if Jesse is telling the truth, it could mean Conway may not have known he was taking it either.

CLARKE

Why would someone spike his vitamins with antibiotics?

MARK

That's what I need time to find out. I'd like you to drop your lawsuit against Jesse until we know exactly what happened.

Clarke waves away the notion like it was an irritating insect.

CLARKE

I'll tell you what happened. I lost my headline player and now my team, which was worth \$100 million, will be lucky to sell for a quarter of that.

MARK

And you were counting on that sale to off-set some of your real estate losses.

(then)

The drug test was to show potential buyers that your team was clean.

(CONTINUED)

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36.

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

CLARKE

The real estate market will bounce back. All I have to do is wait it out. Not that it's any of your business.

MARK

I was just sympathizing with your problem.

(then)

It's a good thing you insured Conway. Now you can keep the team and settle with your creditors.

Clarke rises slowly from behind his desk.

CLARKE

What are you implying?

MARK

Nothing at all. I'm just relieved that you'll come out of this tragedy on your feet. And I intend to see that Jesse does, too.

Mark leaves. And on Clarke looking after him, we go:

46 INT. MUSTANG PRACTICE COURT – DAY

46

Mark wanders onto the empty court and is sauntering along when he spots a BASKETBALL on the parquet. He picks the ball up,

looks around to see if there's anyone watching, then
DRIBBLES
it in place a couple times. Feels good. Mark looks around
again then dribbles down the court a few yards. Yeah, that's
the nice. Looking around one more time, he dribbles hard down
the court, dodging make-believe opponents, and going for a
jump shot. Basket! He raises his fists in the air and dances a
victory jig for the adoring crowd applauding in his head.

...and that's when he sees THE TEAM gathering on the
sidelines, watching him. Mark abruptly stops, embarrassed.

MARK
I was just, uh, you know.

CHARLES O'BANNON
Trying out your jumpshot. Not bad.
But you should work on your cross-
over dribble.

MARK
Cross-over what?

Charles O'Bannon does a quick demonstration.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

MARK

I don't think I could ever do that.

ED O'BANNON

Most of the time, he can't either.

Mark smiles and wanders off the court, where he encounters Dwayne, shooing away a CAT, limping and lurching as he chases it out of the gym.

MARK

Don't like cats?

DWAYNE

Habit. Conway was allergic to them. I was supposed to keep them away.

MARK

I didn't know basketball attracted cats.

DWAYNE

It's all the popcorn, hotdogs, and pretzels. Brings rats. Mr. Clarke got the cats to kill `em.

MARK

A lot of people would just use poison.

DWAYNE

Mr. Clarke doesn't care what other people do. He does what he thinks

is right.

MARK
I've noticed that.

DWAYNE
Most people won't even consider hiring a guy with cerebral palsy. Mr. Clarke knew it was the right thing to do.

MARK
I hope the next owner feels the same way.

Dwayne freezes. That's never occurred to him.

DWAYNE
Mr. Clarke would never sell the Mustangs.

(CONTINUED)

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38.

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

MARK

I hope you're right. But you might want to start looking around, just in case.

Dwayne tries to process that information.

DWAYNE

Guess I'll just have to find someone else with Mr. Clarke's courage. Got any openings for an orderly who moves slow but works hard?

MARK

If it comes to that, give me a call.

Dwayne gives him a friendly wave and limps on, slowly. Mark watches him, a thought crossing his mind. Then he turns to go:

47 EXT. MUSTANGS' TRAINING FACILITY - PARKING LOT - DAY
47

Mark's fumbling for his keys when Howie Lanier comes up to him, looking nervous, even trembling, in shorts, but carrying his street clothes on a hanger.

LANIER

Hey, Doc. Come to watch us play?

MARK

Actually, I came down to try one

more time to convince David Clarke
not to sue Jesse.

LANIER
I liked the guy. Pity what's
happening to him.

Lanier grins again.

MARK
Maybe you can use your new
influence on David.

LANIER
My influence?

MARK
With Desmond Conway gone, you're
the star of the team, aren't you?

LANIER
I've always been the star of this
team.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

MARK

I'm sorry, I kept hearing so much about Desmond Conway, I just assumed.

LANIER

Des was a freak show, he got airtime.

MARK

And endorsements. Didn't I read about a fifty million dollar shoe deal? In fact, I think it was the same company you used to do commercials for.

Lanier is clearly not pleased at the thought – but he grins again, almost uncontrollably. A thought starts percolating in Mark's head.

LANIER

Say hello to the little guy for me.

Lanier turns to walk away. Mark pats his pockets.

MARK

Uh-oh.

Lanier stops, comes back.

LANIER

Something wrong?

MARK

I think I locked my keys in the

car.

LANIER
Need a hand?

MARK
Don't worry, I'll take a cab back home, grab my extra set. I don't live much more than half an hour from here.

Lanier hands Mark his street clothes.

LANIER
Hold these.

Lanier pulls the hanger out from his shirt and unbends it.

MARK
What are you going to do?

(CONTINUED)

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40.

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

LANIER

A little trick I picked up as a kid.

Lanier sticks the wire down between the driver's side window and the rubber gasket – and in about three seconds has the door unlocked and open.

MARK

That's amazing.

LANIER

Guess I'm out of practice. Took a little longer than it used to.

MARK

How long did it take to break into Jesse's car and smash the blood vials?

Lanier moves towards him menacingly.

LANIER

What are you talking about?

MARK

You're jittery, Howie, you can't stop moving.

LANIER

I've got an electric personality.

MARK

You've got an addiction to pain pills – one that would have shown

up in the blood tests. You're showing all the symptoms.

Lanier crumbles.

MARK

How did you get hooked?

LANIER

It was a practice session just before the start of last season. Des Conway hit me when I was in the air, I came down on my knee a little too hard.

MARK

Your own teammate. You must have hated him.

(CONTINUED)

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41.

47 CONTINUED: (3)

47

LANIER

At first I took the pills for the pain. Then I invented pain so I could keep taking the pills. Then I stopped pretending.

(then)

Are you going to tell Clarke about the pills?

MARK

Not if you want to quit.

Mark takes out a business card.

MARK

They can help you. Quietly.

LANIER

Thanks.

Mark smiles, reaches into his pocket – and pulls out his car keys.

MARK

Had them all along – who knew?

And with that, he gets into his car and drives off as Lanier watches him.

48 INT. BEACH HOUSE – DAY

48

Jesse watches as Mark plows through a box of medical records

as Amanda sets another one down in front of him.

MARK

Did Dr. Gelbman do anything for these people besides prescribe drugs?

JESSE

From what I saw, they were a pretty healthy bunch. There was an outbreak of strep throat a few months back, but aside from that, nothing.

MARK

But there isn't a hint of preventative medicine. And almost every minor injury results in a prescription.

(picks up a file)

And look at this.

Jesse starts to take the file, but Amanda snatches it away.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

AMANDA

I got the Mustangs' medical records as part of my official investigation into Desmond Conway's death. I am not going to allow them to be shared with the subject of that investigation.

JESSE

Two days ago, they were my files.

AMANDA

You should have looked at them then.

She hands the file back to Mark. Jesse manages to sneak a peek as it goes by. Dwayne's name is on it.

JESSE

Dwayne the gofer? Was he on pain pills, too?

MARK

Apparently, he wasn't on anything. Gelbman doesn't have a single notation about his condition. Unusual case of cerebral palsy though – he seems to be afflicted only on the right side of his body.

JESSE

So Gelbman was sloppy. At least no one died while he was there.

MARK

Jesse, there are only a few allergy medicines that don't cause drowsiness. Any doctor would have prescribed the same thing.

AMANDA

How did the killer know Conway would need allergy relief at the right time?

Mark has an idea.

MARK

Do you still have the clothes Conway was wearing when he died?

AMANDA

Of course. They're in the path lab.

(CONTINUED)

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43.

48 CONTINUED: (2)

48

MARK

Good. Because I think we'll find
the other half of the murder
weapon there.

And on his determination:

49 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – PATH LAB – DAY
49

Mark peers through the microscope.

MARK

It's exactly what I
thought –there's microscopic cat
dander all over Conway's clothes.

AMANDA

And not just the ones he was
wearing. I checked the clothes
that were in his locker – they
were covered, too.

MARK

Someone planted the dander to make
sure he'd have an allergic
reaction.

JESSE

The same person who put the
clarithromycin in the Health
Formula, right?

MARK

It's a safe assumption.

JESSE

Yeah, safe for the guy who did it.
Because we still have no idea who
that is – and my hearing is
tomorrow.

And on his frustration and worry, we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

50 EXT. BEACH – DAY

50

Steve finds Jesse, in his best jacket and tie, pacing on the sand, staring out at the surf.

STEVE

Dad's been looking all over for you. Your hearing is in an hour.

JESSE

It is? You know, it entirely slipped my mind.

STEVE

Sorry I bothered you.

Steve abruptly turns and starts to walk away.

JESSE

Truth is, I can't stop thinking about it.

Steve turns.

JESSE

I've never been so scared.

Steve nods, considers for a moment, then:

STEVE

Worse than when you were infected

with genetically altered small pox?

JESSE

I was the victim of an infection
I had no control over. It was
totally different.

STEVE

Worse than when you were accused
of murdering that doctor?

JESSE

(irritated)

What is your point?

STEVE

This is not the first time you've
been in a tight spot, and you
always manage to come through.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

JESSE

But those times it wasn't my fault.

STEVE

It's not this time, either.

JESSE

What if I missed it, Steve? What if that page was in the chart and I didn't see it? What if Conway mashed those antibiotic pills up in his Health Formula?

STEVE

Do you really believe that's what happened?

JESSE

No.

(then)

Maybe I'm fooling myself. Maybe my subconscious is shielding my conscious from the horrible truth I can't bear to face.

STEVE

I thought you stopped watching soap operas during lunch.

JESSE

It's either that or "Barnaby Jones" reruns.

(then)

Whatever happened to Mark Shera?

STEVE

You didn't miss the page. It was
planted and Conway was murdered.
You were set-up.

JESSE

So far it's just a theory. In the
meantime, it's only my word
against theirs.

STEVE

But you've got something going for
you they don't. The truth.

Jesse stands up, a smile on his face.

JESSE

Gee, I wonder who's been watching
"Barnaby Jones" at lunch.

And on Steve's smile, we go:

51 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – BOARD ROOM
51

The tables have been arranged to more-or-less resemble a court room, with THREE BOARD MEMBERS facing Community General legal counsel Neal Ryder at one table, and Jesse, Mark and Amanda at the other. David Clarke and Lanier are seated in the room, as are several other PLAYERS. Lanier plays with a BASKETBALL in his lap. Our heroes are just taking their seats. Jesse motions to Ryder.

JESSE
Shouldn't he be on my side?

AMANDA
Ryder wants to distance the hospital from you – and any legal action you might face.

JESSE
He could do that by proving I'm innocent.

AMANDA
He doesn't work for you. He works for them.

She motions to the "judges." Jesse gives Mark a worried look.

One of the board members, PECK, clears his throat and addresses himself now to Ryder.

PECK

What is your recommendation to the board?

Ryder rises, not bothering to look at Jesse. The attorney chooses his words thoughtfully.

RYDER

I believe it's in the best interests of our patients to release Dr. Travis from his obligations to Community General.

Jesse stiffens. Amanda gives Jesse's hand a thoughtful squeeze. Mark stands up and faces the board.

MARK

It's too soon to be making any decisions about Dr. Travis' future, certainly not based on the information we have now. None of us knows all the facts yet.

(CONTINUED)

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47.

51 CONTINUED:

51

RYDER

We know enough. Dr. Travis prescribed tersenadine to a patient who was already taking clarithromycin. A first year med student wouldn't make that kind of fatal mistake.

MARK

Jesse didn't.

Ryder picks a file up off his desk and presents it to the board.

RYDER

It says very clearly in Conway's chart that he was taking clarithromycin.

MARK

That notation was not in the file when Jesse read it.

PECK

So what we have here is a file folder on one side against Dr. Travis' word on the other. You'll both have to do better than that.

And on Mark and Ryder sharing a look, we

DISSOLVE TO:

52 52 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – BOARD ROOM – LATE

David Clarke is sitting in a chair, much like a witness in a trial. Ryder is questioning him.

RYDER

Last month, an event occurred that almost forced the LA Mustangs to cancel a game. Can you tell us what that event was?

CLARKE

Some kind of bug hit everyone from the towel boy to me. Looked like half the team was gonna be too sick to play.

RYDER

What did you have?

(CONTINUED)

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52 CONTINUED:

52

CLARKE

Dr. Gelbman said it was strep throat.

RYDER

And what did the team doctor prescribe for all of you to treat this illness?

CLARKE

Clarithromycin.

RYDER

(to board)

A prescription noted in just about every player and employee's chart. Including Desmond Conway's.

Ryder sits down. Mark rises.

MARK

The LA Mustangs did play the game though, didn't they?

CLARKE

Yes. We beat Chicago by 20 points.

MARK

And who made half those baskets?

CLARKE

Desmond Conway.

MARK

In fact, it was one of his best

games of the season. Amazing for someone supposedly suffering from strep throat.

CLARKE

The guy was a superstar. Now you know why.

Jesse turns to Amanda and nervously whispers.

JESSE

I'm dead.

AMANDA

Mark is just getting warmed up.

JESSE

I hope you're right.

Jesse reaches for a carafe of water to refill her glass, and accidentally knocks over Mark's glass.

(CONTINUED)

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52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

He tries to catch it, and in doing so knocks all the FILES and SCRAPBOOKS off the table in a crash of WATER, GLASS, and PAPERS.

Jesse looks up sheepishly at the stern faces of the board of directors. Even Mark has a hard time hiding his embarrassment.

JESSE
I'm so sorry.

Jesse drops to his feet and starts cleaning up the mess.

MARK
(to the board)
Could we have a couple moments?

Peck nods. Mark and Amanda join Jesse on the floor, gathering up the papers.

JESSE
Notch up another point for our side.

MARK
It's okay, Jesse. No one can blame you for being a little nervous.

Mark gathers up one of Conway's scrapbooks and his eyes fall on that article Steve was looking at earlier; the high school accident that left Conway's opponent with a cracked skull.

MARK

(to Jesse)
I want you to go somewhere.

JESSE
You're kicking me out of my own hearing?

MARK
I'm going to call Amanda as a witness while you find Dwayne, the team gofer.

JESSE
What do you need him for?

MARK
To save you. Dwayne was there when you did the blood test and witnessed the fight between Lanier and Conway, right?

JESSE
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

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52 CONTINUED: (3)

52

MARK

You have to get him down here to testify for you right away.

JESSE

I'll get him here if I have to tie him up and throw him in the trunk of my car.

Jesse leaves. Ryder and the board notice. Mark covers quickly:

MARK

Dr. Travis will return shortly, but he has asked me to continue on his behalf.

(then)

I'd like to ask Dr. Amanda Bentley, who serves with the medical examiner's office, to explain her findings.

for Amanda, surprised, gives Mark a look and says, low enough only him to hear:

AMANDA

What am I supposed to say?

MARK

As much as you can for as long as you can.

And on Amanda taking her seat, we

DISSOLVE TO:

53 53 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – BOARD ROOM – DAY

the Amanda is still on the stand. And from the expressions on
the faces of Ryder, Peck and the board, she has been on forever.

MARK

Your autopsy found that Conway died of cardiogenic shock caused by the interaction of clarithromycin and tersenadine.

AMANDA

Yes.

MARK

Were you able to locate a prescription for the antibiotic or any of the actual pills in Mr. Conway's possession?

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

AMANDA

No.

MARK

How, then, was the antibiotic administered?

AMANDA

It was ground up in a Health Formula he presumably took each day.

right That's when Jesse comes in, accompanied by Dwayne, who limps/staggers to the "defense" table, dragging the lame side of his body and favoring his stronger left side. Mark smiles and continues his questioning with genuine vigor. No more stalling necessary.

MARK

Is that the standard way to take this or any medication?

AMANDA

Absolutely not. How can you control the dosage if the pills are ground up in some kind of wheat germ vitamin powder?

MARK

It was almost as if someone spiked his formula with the antibiotic without his knowledge, wouldn't you say?

AMANDA
That would be my guess.

RYDER
Her guess.

Ryder's comment to himself is loud enough for everyone to hear. He gets a harsh look from Peck, but Ryder's point is made. Mark continues on as if he didn't hear it.

MARK
When you examined his medical records, did you notice if Conway had any pre-existing medical conditions?

AMANDA
Only a problem with allergies, particularly to cats.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: (2)

53

MARK

So it would be safe to assume, if Conway was having an allergy attack, he might be given tersenadine by a doctor. And if neither the doctor nor Conway knew he was taking the antibiotic...

AMANDA

It could kill him.

Mark sits down. Ryder rises.

RYDER

But you don't actually know if Conway put the antibiotic into his health stuff himself, do you?

AMANDA

No, I don't.

RYDER

In fact, this whole scenario is simply a hypothesis, there are no real facts to back it up.

AMANDA

I wouldn't say that.

RYDER

Of course you wouldn't.
(then)
Thank you.

Ryder sits down and Amanda returns to her seat. Mark rises.

MARK
I'd like to ask Dwayne to answer
a few questions for us.

Ryder stands up, weary.

RYDER
Hasn't this charade gone on long
enough? We're discussing a medical
issue here – what possible insight
can the towel boy provide?
(to Dwayne)
No offense intended.

DWAYNE
None taken.

MARK
I beg the board's indulgence. This
will only take a moment.

(CONTINUED)

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53 CONTINUED: (3)

53

PECK

You have a moment then. But that's all, Dr. Sloan. Our patience is wearing thin.

Mark takes Lanier's BASKETBALL and idly plays with it in his hands as he questions Dwayne.

MARK

Thank you for coming down to help, Dwayne.

DWAYNE

No problem.

MARK

What is your job, Dwayne?

DWAYNE

I keep the locker room clean, run errands, do the laundry, give the players fresh towels and Gatoraid.

MARK

And shoo away the cats.

Dwayne manages a smile.

DWAYNE

Whatever they ask me to do, I do. My job description is pretty loose.

MARK

You are among the few people who have access to the entire

facility, even the players'
lockers.

DWAYNE
Me and Mr. Clarke.

Mark spins the ball in his hands, thinking, then:

MARK
Do you like basketball?

DWAYNE
I'm not in the job because I like
cleaning toilets.

MARK
Would you like to play?

Everyone shoots Mark a shocked look at the
inappropriateness
of his comment. Dwayne's friendly demeanor darkens.

(CONTINUED)

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53 CONTINUED: (4)

53

DWAYNE

With cerebral palsy, I'm glad just to be able to walk in a straight line. Playing basketball isn't even a possibility for me.

MARK

But it was once, wasn't it?

DWAYNE

Never. Cerebral palsy is something you're born with. You should know that.

MARK

I do.

Suddenly Mark HURLS THE BASKETBALL straight at Dwayne's HEAD, shocking everyone. Dwayne's RIGHT ARM shoots up with lightning speed, blocking the ball. The room falls dead silent.

MARK

Cerebral palsy is a disorder of the nervous system that affects the entire body... not half. That's usually the result of a stroke. Or a serious head injury.

Mark picks up the clipping from Conway's scrapbook.

MARK

Like the one you got in high school when Desmond Conway slammed

you into the back-board pole.

Dwayne glances at the clipping. Aside from his left arm, his physical demeanor hasn't changed a bit.

DWAYNE

That's not me. That's not even my name.

MARK

If you had cerebral palsy, you couldn't have blocked the ball I threw at you.

(then)

Desmond Conway didn't just hurt you, he destroyed your future and stole your dream.

DWAYNE

You have the wrong person. My right arm has always been stronger. I've been trying to build it up for -

(CONTINUED)

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55.

53 CONTINUED: (5)

53

Mark turns his back on him and interrupts him.

MARK

But the fact is, even without the accident, you never would have made pro. You were okay, not great.

Mark turns his back on Dwayne, who is trying to hold his anger in check, and examines the article.

MARK

You didn't have the talent or the skill that Conway had. Even then, Conway was extraordinary. You were just playing, he was living the game. The moves came to him instinctively, like breathing. He was –

DWAYNE

No better than me.

Furious, Dwayne has risen from his seat, pointing at Mark with his left hand.

DWAYNE

The only reason he got where he was instead of me was because he took me out, he assassinated me.

MARK

So you assassinated him.

halting
that
Dwayne's entire demeanor has changed. Gone is Dwayne's speech, heavy head, and awkward motions. We realize now that most of his condition has been an act.

MARK

You had strep throat, that's where you got the antibiotic you put in Conway's Health Formula. You had access not only to the lockers, but to the files. And no one knew more about Conway's allergies than you.

Dwayne sees everyone looking at him. He knows it's over. No use playing now. Besides, he's proud of what he's done.

DWAYNE

I took this job and exaggerated my illness to get close to him. But I didn't have too... I worked in that locker room for two years.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

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53 CONTINUED: (6)

53

DWAYNE (cont'd)

Conway never recognized me – he didn't remember the face of a man whose life he destroyed.

MARK

You set him up for the drug interaction... and then you altered his chart.

DWAYNE

I watched him out there, getting all the acclaim, the women, the endorsements, and I knew it should have been me. It would have been... if he hadn't stolen it from me.

MARK

So you decided to steal a career from Jesse.

DWAYNE

It was the only way... I'm sorry.

Mark shares a look at Ryder, who rises.

RYDER

I recommend that Dr. Travis remain on staff of this hospital and that no mention on this event be made in his file.

PECK

Your recommendation is accepted.

This hearing is over.

Dwayne slumps in his seat, a broken man. Jesse and Amanda hug.

And on Mark's smile, we

DISSOLVE TO:

54 EXT. COMMUNITY GENERAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY
54

55 INT. EXAM ROOM - DAY 55

Amanda is passing by when she spots an ill Kent Beaudine vomiting into a BEDPAN held by a NURSE.

BEAUDINE
Where's the doctor? I'm dying
here.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

Amanda enters.

BEAUDINE

I guess it's fatal.

(then)

Come to measure me for a slab in
the morgue?

AMANDA

What's wrong?

BEAUDINE

I can't stop throwing up. My guess
is the Black Death. Or the Red
Death. One of those major color
deaths.

AMANDA

Or food poisoning.

BEAUDINE

Impossible. All I've eaten are my
healthilizer meal packs.

She gives him a look and turns to the nurse.

AMANDA

Start him on an IV, saline,
sodium, and potassium, 5 mg
promazine and .6 mg atropine.

BEAUDINE

But the Chamokome Indians eat this
stuff in all their sacred rituals.

AMANDA
Ever seen one of these Indians
afterwards?

BEAUDINE
They disappeared three or four
million years ago.

AMANDA
You may have just discovered why.

BEAUDINE
But the stick figures they drew on
their caves looked so healthy.

Beaudine vomits again into the bucket. Amanda looks away.
Beaudine looks up... and has a bright idea.

BEAUDINE
Hey, maybe I can market it as a
diet program.

(CONTINUED)

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That's when Steve walks in.

STEVE

Amanda – have you been hiding from me?

AMANDA

Yes, but suddenly you seem like the better alternative.

STEVE

I'll take that as a compliment.

She goes out with him. Beaudine calls after her:

BEAUDINE

It's still not too late to become a distributor!

56 INT. COMMUNITY GENERAL – PATHOLOGY – DAY

As Amanda and Steve are emerging.

STEVE

I'd appreciate it if you could rush the Hope Street autopsies.

AMANDA

I was planning on just taking my time and savoring every last moment of it, but since this is such a rare request...

Before Steve can reply, JESSE is WHEELED IN by two EMTs. His HEAD is BANDAGED.

STEVE
What happened to you?

JESSE
Just playing a little half-court
with the guys.

Ed That's when we see that the guys are Charles O'Bannon and
O'Bannon.

ED O'BANNON
I'm really sorry. I didn't even
see him.

CHARLES O'BANNON
I was just dribbling down the
court, I had no idea I was
bouncing the ball off your head.

(CONTINUED)

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56 CONTINUED:

56

JESSE

That was my strategy. Bet you didn't even notice I stole the ball from you.

ED O'BANNON

Not until he dropped you through the basket.

JESSE

I still say that's two points for me. I had possession of the ball.

And on their arguing on this point, we FADE OUT.

THE END