

BODY OF EVIDENCE - MEGAN

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM #1 - LATER THAT MORNING

Angela Swanson's body lies on the examination table. Detectives Morris and Baker stand off to one side, observing. Megan and Peter are in scrubs and smocks, wearing latex gloves. A microphone hangs overhead recording everything.

MEGAN

This is Dr. Megan Hunt, Medical Examiner, assisted by Peter Maxwell, Medical Investigator, Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office, performing an autopsy on Angela Swanson, age 36, Open Homicide Case File Number -- Peter, you'll fill in the number along with the date and time. Observing are Detectives Morris and Baker. Say hello, Detectives.

Detectives Morris and Baker mumble "hello's" as Megan begins her visual inspection of Angela's body.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You find her entry point into the river?

DET. MORRIS

Strawberry Mansion Bridge.

She waits for it --

DET. MORRIS (CONT'D)

West side.

-- and smiles in inverse proportion to Det. Morris' frown.

MEGAN

So what do we know about this girl?

DET. BAKER

She's local. Grew up in Fishtown. Central High, scholarship to Brown, senior associate at Whitney, Howell & Walker. Apartment in Mount Airy, single no boyfriend. Colleagues say she was a workaholic who pretty much lived at the office.

Det. Morris shoots a look at his partner. Det. Baker shoots a 'What's the big deal?' look back.

MEGAN

She's obviously in excellent physical condition. Callouses on her feet, a few minor scars here and there, healed puncture marks on the left forearm both anterior and posterior, made by an animal's incisors, probably canine. Fingernails are trimmed short, chewed in places --

DET. MORRIS

Any DNA under them?

MEGAN

All in good time, Detective.
(continuing to the head
and mouth)
Looks like she ground her teeth.
Another stress indicator. Was she
up for partner?

The Detectives exchange another look.

DET. BAKER

That's right.

Like everything else, Megan files this away --

MEGAN

Scarring on the skull above the hairline. Peter, check for any prior head injuries in her medical files.

(continuing)

Now this is interesting.

DET. MORRIS

What?

MEGAN

A small growth at the base of her neck. Some kind of nodule or neoplasm. Peter, make sure you get a sample to the lab --

An impatient sigh escapes Det. Morris' mouth.

MEGAN

Yes, Detective Morris?

DET. MORRIS

She got her head bashed in. Can we get to the murder weapon already?

Megan pauses from her examination to look at him.

MEGAN

There are over 100 trillion cells in the human body, 60,000 miles of arteries, veins and capillaries, 208 bones, 40 plus organs and dozens of life sustaining systems from cardiovascular to respiratory and at any given moment anything can go wrong with any one of them. When the range of possibilities is infinite I abide by one rule and one rule only: the body is the evidence. It will tell us everything we need to know, if we have the patience to look.

DET. MORRIS

You could have told us that before you called us in here.

MEGAN

If it's going to be good for you it has to be good for me too, okay Detective?

Det. Morris' jaw drops.

DET. MORRIS

You're something else.

MEGAN

I know.

DET. MORRIS

I'm gonna get some coffee.

Det. Morris heads for the door. Megan turns Angela's head around to inspect the wound. As she speaks, Det. Morris slows to a stop.

MEGAN

The skull has collapsed into the occipital lobe in a V-shaped depression. Extensive tissue and hair loss and flecks of rust throughout.

(MORE)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

The murder weapon was something heavy, maybe cast iron, and square with a dull edge, possibly a large plumber's wrench or some kind of mallet. And Detective?

DET. MORRIS

Yeah?

MEGAN

I take mine with cream, no sugar.

A beat. Det. Morris shakes his head and pushes his way out the door. All of which Det. Baker has secretly enjoyed. No one, we get the feeling, talks to her partner this way, including her.

DET. BAKER

I heard you were some big neurosurgeon a few years back.

Megan heads to a work table and a tray of instruments. She picks up a scalpel. For just a moment, she stares at it. It used to feel like an extension of her hand. But no more.

MEGAN

That's right.

DET. BAKER

So why are you working here?

Megan turns back to the examination table. She positions the scalpel at Angela's right shoulder, angled towards the base of the sternum --

MEGAN

You can't kill someone when they're already dead.

-- and begins to cut.