

THE SCENE TAKES  
PLACE AFTER  
KAREN NEILL  
RECEIVES A  
NOTICE FOR BEING  
SUED

INTERIOR. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. LATE AFTERNOON.

Karen enters the office, accompanied by Sally Dalrymple. Karen wears a casual blouse, dress pants, and carries a tote bag. Her hair is brushed, but it is not styled. Sally wears an expensive-looking pantsuit, with her hair pulled tightly back in a bun.

Paula looks up from her office, and walks over towards to two women. Paula smiles and shakes both of their hands, gestures to her watch. Sally hands Paula a file, and Paula gestures for them to follow. She holds the door open for them, which leads to Missy Fleming's room.

Missy looks up from her computer, and timidly rises from her chair to acknowledge the guests. The room appears to have no uniqueness, but a small picture of Missy next to a piano stands on the bookshelf. A plain, desk calendar also lays on Missy's desk. She does not shake hands with Karen or Sally, but simply nods then sits back down.

Paula hands Missy the file and smiles. Missy looks concerned with the file in her hands, but Paula pats her back and smiles.

Paula exits the room.

Missy sits back in her desk, and does not look at the two women who eagerly watch her. She opens the file, and pulls out papers. She slides one piece of paper and a pen, over to Sally. The paper reads "Hillsborough County Health Certified Completion".

Sally immediately signs the paper. When she is done signing, she sits up straighter and hands the paper back to Missy. Missy avoids eye contact as she takes the paper back.

Karen takes out multiple pieces of paper from her tote bag and hands them to Missy. Missy takes notes on the paper. Sally points at the desk calendar deliberately. Missy looks at them and sighs. She stands up and exits the room.

Moments later, Missy returns with Paula and Margo Miller.

Paula looks at Missy, but Missy ignores her gaze. Paula gestures to the two clients, Sally and Karen. Margo walks over and shakes their hands.

Missy is organizing the papers and putting them back in the folder. She looks up at Paula, who is frowning. When Paula notices she's been watched, she smiles and shakes her head.

Missy hands the filled folder to Margo, who nods at her. Karen and Sally stand, and Paula opens the door. Missy moves out of the way.

Sally, Margo, and Karen exit.

Paula carefully closes the door and turns around to face Missy. Missy looks away, and Paula sits down in one of the chairs. Missy sits down at her desk, and Paula suddenly laughs. Missy looks alarmed. Paula points at herself. She makes the numbers "seven", then "eight" with her fingers. Missy nods. Paula points to herself again, and makes a slitting-throat gesture.

Missy rolls her eyes and smiles hesitantly. Paula stands up and walks over towards Paula. Paula slowly stands, and hugs Paula. Paula walks towards the door, then turns around and winks at Missy. She smiles and holds up her index finger and waggles it towards Missy. Missy brushes hair behind her ear and nods without looking at Paula.

Paula exits the room, and returns moments later with a folder. She places the folder on Missy's desk, her index finger pressing into the folder. She looks at Missy and nods at her. Missy takes the file and opens it.

Paula exits.

CUT TO:

INTERIOR. MARGO'S OFFICE. SUNSET.

Margo's room dignifies her character. Photographs of degrees adorn her walls, alongside a frame of a used target. Tennis trophies line her bookshelf, and a pack of new tennis balls stand behind her desk.

Karen is pacing the room, while Sally is violently pointing at pieces of paper. Sally appears frustrated, and consistently shoves these papers in Margo's face.

Margo closes her eyes and massages her temples. She takes the papers from Karen and reads it. Margo's eyebrows crinkle, and she bites her lip.

The sun had set, and the room is lit with dim lights. Karen sneezes, yawns, looks at her watch and walks over to the two women. She shakes their hands, and smiles.

Karen exits.

Sally hands Margo a business card and exits the office.

Missy enters.

Margo looks up, and Missy shyly looks down. She's carrying two photographs: one of bacteria, and one of the restaurant. She hands them to Margo, who glances at them before tossing them aside on the desk.

Missy rushes over to the paper and points at certain spots in the photographs. Margo looks bored, until she sees what Missy is pointing at. Her eyes get big, slaps her forehead, and smiles.

Missy smiles uncertainly, and Margo hugs her. She points at the photos then at Missy, and looks confused. Missy shrugs.

Paula enters.

Margo jumps up at Paula's entrance, and hastily grabs the pictures. She shoves them in Paula's face, and Paula holds the pictures.

Paula smiles at Margo and then looks at Missy. Missy looks away, then Paula hugs her. Margo laughs and taps at Missy's head and winks.

Margo yawns, and Paula points at the clock.

Margo puts the photos in the file folder, and places them in a drawer.

Margo waves at the two women, and exits the room.

Paula walks over to the drawer and opens it. She pulls out the case file. She pulls out the picture and smiles at Missy.

Missy shrugs, and Paula rolls her eyes. She places the contents back in the folder and closes the drawer.

Missy exits.

Paula turns off the lights, and exits the room.

CUT TO:

INTERIOR. PIZZA DINER. AFTERNOON.

Margo, Karen, and Sally are all seated at a diner with pizza on their plates. They are next to a window. Margo has a tote bag on the floor.

Margo is wearing a business dress-suit, and Sally adorns a doctor's lab coat. Karen wears an employee shirt, saying "My Pizzeria". Karen pulls on her shirt and points at herself. Sally rolls her eyes.

Sally swipes the table with her finger and examines the dust. She looks satisfied and eats her slice of pizza.

Karen gestures to drinking. Sally and Margo nod. Sally leaves and returns with three drinks.

Margo picks up her tote bag and pulls out the case file.

Karen sits down.

Margo points at specific spots on the photographs. Then she points out the window towards a building, it is across the street.

Karen looks shocked with her mouth open. She looks from the building back to Margo a couple of times.

Sally nods at the news.

Karen slams her fist down on the table and glares out the window.

Margo gestures towards the files and smiles at Karen and Sally. She gives a thumbs up, and Karen smiles. Sally nods slowly, not looking away from the building across the street.

THE WOMEN LEAVE THEIR DRINKS ON THE TABLE AND EXIT THE BUILDING.

END OF  
SCENE.

THE SCENE TAKES  
PLACE AFTER THE  
CASE WENT TO  
COURT.

KAREN

I mean, how could this happen?

Sally exits the room.

Margo paces the room, spots Missy from her office door, and motions for her.

Missy hesitantly enters the room.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Oh yes, I remember you.

MISSY

Hello.

MARGO

Look at these, Missy.

Margo hands Missy the case files. Missy stares at them for a moment before setting the unopened file on Margo's desk. Margo gives her a pointed look.

MISSY

With all due respect, court is out of the question for me.

MARGO

That's not what I'm asking you.

Margo stares at Missy until she sighs, then picks up the folder. Missy starts reading the information inside.

KAREN

We had everything!

Sally enters the room, holding more papers.

SALLY

Oh hello Missy! Did anything happen  
while I stepped outside?

Missy does not acknowledge Sally, but continues to study the files. Karen chews at her fingernails, while Margo stares out the window.

SALLY (CONT'D)  
How do we prove they did it?

MISSY  
How do you prove anything?

Sally looks at Missy, then sits down. Missy rifled through Margo's desk until she uncovers a highlighter. She then begins to highlight certain pieces.

MARGO  
Would you mind excusing us?

Margo and Missy exit.

KAREN  
I can't believe this nonsense.

Karen looks around before standing up. She goes over to Margo's desk and starts looking through papers.

Sally quickly looks around then smacks Karen on the arm, who shoos her away.

Karen opens one of the desk drawers and after rifling through papers, pulls out an envelope. She opens the already unsealed envelope. There is a single piece of paper in the envelope, a check. The envelope also contains more papers.

KAREN (CONT'D)  
What the hell?

SALLY  
Is that...?

KAREN  
What the hell?!

Karen exits the room.

CUT TO:

INT. PAULA GARDNER'S OFFICE.

Is that so?

MARGO

I mean, look at this evidence I had. She had to have damaged it.

PAULA

Are you sure you're not projecting?

MARGO

Excuse me?

Margo appears to notice Karen in the room. Margo walks over and peers at the paper. She smiles uncomfortably.

PAULA

You will sign it when she is done.

Margo's mouth open, she looks appalled. She begins to pace.

MARGO

This is nonsense!

PAULA

I expect your resignation on my desk by the end of the week.

MARGO

I'm your best lawyer! I've been with GPL for years, I was the best—

PAULA

You may leave now.

MARGO

You know I have that bungalow I've been working on and money's been tight...

PAULA

Get out of my office, Miss Miller.

Margo looks stunned, wipes her dress-suit, then exits without a word. Karen stops writing and looks at Paula with wide eyes.

PAULA (CONT'D)

I am sorry that this happened, Miss Neill. Please do not blame the law