

# Maggie Prescott 12. 113

33A QUICK MONTAGE - NEWSPAPER & INTERNET HEADLINES

33A

~~All about Christine. Ayia is suddenly not on the front page.~~

~~FIONA V.O.~~

~~Cases like this are tried as much in the court of public opinion as much as they are inside a courtroom. These new revelations about Christine Vorse's past had leveled the playing field...~~

35 INT. FIONA'S APARTMENT - NEW SCENE/V.O. FOR FIONA

35

~~FIONA V.O.~~

~~Of course, there's "leveling" the playing field...and then there's DESTROYING it...~~

37 INT. MAGGIE PRESCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY

START

'Vox Populi' Editor-in-Chief MAGGIE PRESCOTT is somewhere between 40 and death and does not comprehend any point of view other than her own. Fiona is her latest victim and looks as if she's just been hit by a truck.

MAGGIE

All your sources are insisting they're either misquoted or they've never spoken to you-

FIONA

That makes no sense. Why would I knowingly destroy the biggest story of my career? Something else is going on here, Maggie...Why are you afraid to publish this?

MAGGIE

Afraid? Honey, I've got the biggest cock in New York. I'll go to the gates of Hell for what I believe in, but bottom line, your work isn't good enough, okay?

FIONA

Why now? You've never complained before...

MAGGIE

It's not gritty and sexy enough to get talked up on tv.

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You're too caught up in what's driving these two women...dull, dull, dull...save the motivation thing for Ibsen.

Fiona paces, trying to understand what is happening.  
Maggie slugs down a drink.

MAGGIE

I just started this 21 day fast... All I can drink is this mishmash of sweet potatoes, spinach, enzymes and aloe...It's supposed to make your skin look like a baby's, but Christ, does it taste like crap.

FIONA

Someone got to you...

MAGGIE

Jesus, you think there's a cabal plotting in stairways against you? The ego!

FIONA

I see. Well, then I'll sell it somewhere else.

MAGGIE

Like Hell you will. I own it. Book rights, too.

FIONA

So you're just not going to have any story on the biggest trial since--

MAGGIE

What are you, a retard? I'm having the end of this trial written by someone I know I can trust to get it right. But don't worry, I'm not firing you and shipping you back to England as America's biggest loser.

FIONA

You're not? Why?

MAGGIE

Because despite what everyone else on this planet says, I think you show promise. But you need to be covering something more appropriate for your experience level.

Fiona says nothing, but she's humiliated and angry.

MAGGIE

Now, now. No self-pity. That's for losers. You should kiss my tuches for saving yours.

END

43 INT. HALLWAY, PHILADELPHIA COURTHOUSE - DAY

43

~~Christine and Rob walk~~

CHRISTINE

Peter didn't come home last night.

ROB

Peter doesn't exist today. Today is the Holy Grail. Eldorado. Excalibur.

CHRISTINE

Right.

Christine gestures to the ladies' room.

CHRISTINE

I'll be right with you.

44 INT. LADIES' ROOM - DAY

44

Christine tries to focus. But Peter does exist today.

45 INT. HALLWAY, PHILADELPHIA COURTHOUSE - DAY

45

Guards escort Ayira towards the ladies' room. 2 TEENAGE GIRLS see her and reach out to her; she's their idol. The Guards push them back. Ayira smiles at them; it's going to be okay.

46 INT. LADIES' ROOM - DAY

46

Looking through the mirror, Christine sees Ayira enter. Both women are surprised, though only Christine is uncomfortable.

AYIRA

You'll forgive me if I don't wish you bon chance.

CHRISTINE

Ayira, we should not be having any ex parte conversations. It's not--

She starts moving out of the room.