

SPOTLIGHT

Written by

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A quiet, cold winter night. An OLDER COP emerges from an INTERVIEW ROOM, walks down a long hall.

Boston, MA - December, 1976

He reaches the front desk. A YOUNG COP looks to him, curious, as he lights a cigarette.

YOUNG COP
How's that going?

OLDER COP
The mother's bawling and the uncle's
pissed off.

YOUNG COP
She's not married?

OLDER COP
Divorced with four kids. I guess
Father was helping out.

YOUNG COP
Helping out?

The Older Cop shrugs. The front door opens and BURKE, FRESH FACED, 32, walks in. He wears a dark overcoat.

OLDER COP
Hey, Mr. Burke. They're in the back
talking to the Bishop.

BURKE
And Father?

The Older Cop nods in the other direction.

OLDER COP
We put him in the break room.

BURKE
Any press?

OLDER COP
Some guy from the Citizen, but we
sent him away. None of the big
papers.

BURKE
Let's keep it that way.

Burke walks toward the interview room.

4 **EXT. POLICE STATION - LATER**

4

The Young Cop stands outside smoking. He watches as the Bishop and Father Geoghan exit the police station and get into a TOWN CAR, a DRIVER behind the wheel. As they drive away, we HOLD ON the cop. PROCESSING.

FADE TO BLACK.

SPOTLIGHT

FADE IN:

6 **INT. BOSTON GLOBE, NEWSROOM - DAY, 2001**

6

A large newsroom. REPORTERS and EDITORS gathered.

Boston, MA - July, 2001

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR **BEN BRADLEE JR.**, 50s, gruff, stands in front with an older reporter, STEWART, 60s. And a cake.

BEN

Losing good reporters, it's tough.
And losing one of our best... well
to put it as eloquently as I can,
it's a real kick in the ass.

A few polite chuckles from those in the crowd.

BEN (CONT'D)

But Robby's known Stewart longer
than most of you have been alive so
I'm gonna turn it over to him.
Robby?

Ben looks to **WALTER 'ROBBY' ROBINSON**, 55, Boston Everyman.

ROBBY

Thanks, Ben. I think. And although
I take issue with the reference to
my seniority, I will say Stewart's
departure is especially painful for
me. You see, for... what? 20 years
now, Stewart's been more than
willing to part with his money at
the poker table...

(Laughter)

And I got a kid in college.

More laughter.

STEWART

Yeah, but I'm gonna keep playing.

ROBBY
 Problem solved. Godspeed, buddy.

Everyone's laughing now. Robby connects in a warm, easy way.

ROBBY (CONT'D)
 Now, Stewart, I find the timing of your departure a bit disconcerting. The corner office sits empty, the new editor arrives on Monday, so forgive me, buddy, but I gotta ask... what the hell do you know?

The room hoots and laughs. Stewart covers his mouth. Speak no evil. More laughter takes us to...

7 **INT. GLOBE, HALL/STAIRWELL - LATER** 7

SACHA PFEIFFER, 28, wholesome, no bullshit, and **MATT CARROLL**, mid 40s, mustache, family man, walk down the hall, into a stairwell and down a set of stairs, both carrying cake.

7A **INT. GLOBE, HALL OUTSIDE SPOTLIGHT - MOMENTS LATER** 7A

They emerge on the floor below, Sacha eating her cake.

MATT
 How's the cake?

SACHA
 It's really good. Saving yours?

MATT
 Nah, it's for Mike. I can never eat at those things. They kind of depress me.

SACHA
 I know.
 (taking a bite)
 You see the numbers from Washington?

MATT
 Yeah. Very interesting.

SACHA
 I think so too.

They walk into --

8 **INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS** 8

CRAMPED OFFICE. Small windows. **MIKE REZENDES**, late 30s, good looks, so-so haircut, sits at his UNHOLY MESS of a desk.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Uh huh. Uh huh. Uh huh. Dan, I talked to my guy at Justice, I know you guys have been dropping cases...

(then)

Look, Dan, I'm not asking if the PD's lying, I know they are. All I'm asking is who's behind it?

Matt sets the cake by Mike, sits at a desk full of FAMILY PHOTOS. Sacha checks messages at a tidy desk, full of books.

MIKE (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

I get it. You don't want to talk.

(listens)

I'm not mad, Dan, I'm hungry. We've been talking so long, I missed lunch. So I'm going to go eat, which gives you an hour to decide if you want to be on the right side of this or read about it in the paper like everyone else.

Mike hangs up the phone, digs into the cake.

SACHA

You think Cahill's got something?

MIKE

Maybe, I just don't think this story's for us.

MATT

Ben likes it.

MIKE

Yeah, it's not bad, it's just not Spotlight.

Robby enters.

ROBBY

What's just not Spotlight?

SACHA

The PD numbers.

MIKE

The numbers story. It feels thin.

*

*

ROBBY (CONT'D)

Oh. You got Cahill to talk?

MIKE

(busted)

No. But I will.

ROBBY

Good. Then we'll know if it's thin.

Robby goes into his office, bit of an edge to him.

MIKE

How'd it go upstairs?

MATT

Okay. Robby gave a good speech.

SACHA

I heard Lubin and Connor are going to the Times.

MATTY

Come on, really?

MIKE

Yeah, I heard the same thing.

MATT

They're leeching us.

MIKE

At least they're sending us a guy from Miami to run things. That should help.

MATT

Has Baron even spent time in Boston?

MIKE

I don't think he's ever been here before. Maybe we should buy him a map.

SACHA

I have a friend down at the Herald, said Baron cut 15% of the staff.

MATT

Great.

Mike rolls his chair back, calls out to Robby in his office.

MIKE

Hey Robby, the new boss coming in to make cuts?

ROBBY

I have no idea.

MIKE

Aren't you sitting down with him?

Robby looks up, fucking Rezendes, always snooping.

ROBBY

Yes, I am.

MIKE

You think it's about Spotlight?

ROBBY

I don't know, Mike, but I do know Ben needs an answer on the crime numbers story.

MIKE

I'm telling you, I really don't think that story's for us.

ROBBY

So you did get Cahill to talk then?

Mike, annoyed, wheels back to his desk, picks up his phone...

10

INT. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, RESTAURANT - LATER

10

Marty sits at a table reading "The Curse of the Bambino," a NOTEPAD beside him.

ROBBY

Mr. Baron.

Marty looks up and rises to greet Robby.

ROBBY (CONT'D)

Walter Robinson. Robby.

MARTY

Thanks for taking time out of your weekend, Robby.

ROBBY

My pleasure.
(they sit)
What are you reading?

Marty holds up a book.

MARTY

'The Curse of the Bambino.'

ROBBY

(sitting)
That's a great book. The Globe has season tickets at Fenway, once you settle in.

MARTY

Thank you. Uh, to be honest, I'm not much of a baseball fan. I'm just trying to get a feel for city. Are you originally from Boston?

ROBBY

I am, born and raised. A lot of the newsroom is from here. It really feels like a local paper in that way.

MARTY

And did that change at all after the paper was sold to the Times?

ROBBY

No. I don't think that had a big impact.

MARTY

Good.

(then)

So, you're an editor for, uh, the Spotlight team?

ROBBY

I prefer to think of myself as more of a player-coach. But yes. Are you familiar with Spotlight?

MARTY

No. Not particularly.

ROBBY

Well, we're a four person investigative team. We report to Ben Bradlee Jr. and we keep our work confidential.

MARTY

What are you working on now?

ROBBY

We just put out a piece on this shoddy construction outfit and right now we're trolling around for our next story.

MARTY

How long does that typically take?

ROBBY

Hard to say. A couple of months.

MARTY

A couple of months.

ROBBY

Yeah, we don't like to rush it.
Once we settle on a project, we can
spend a year or more investigating
it.

Marty jots down some notes. Robby sees he's writing a lot.

ROBBY (CONT'D)

Is that a concern?

MARTY

Not necessarily. Uh, but from what
I understand readership is down, the
Internet is cutting into the
Classified business and, uh, I
think, uh, I'm going to have to take
a hard look at things.

ROBBY

So you anticipate more cuts?

MARTY

I would assume so, yes, but what I'm
more focused on right now is finding
a way to make this paper essential
to its readers.

ROBBY

I'd like to think it already is.

MARTY

Fair enough. I just think we can do
better.

Off Robby --

12A **EXT. BOSTON GLOBE - DAY**

12A

The front of the Globe. Marty gets out of a cab, shuts the
door. He walks inside.

13 **INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - DAY**

13

Ben strides across the newsroom. Robby falls in.

ROBBY

Mr. Bradley.

BEN

Hey. Saw the email on the PD numbers. Looks interesting.

ROBBY

Yeah. There's something there.

BEN

How much longer you need?

ROBBY

Another week.

BEN

(realizing)

Where are you going?

ROBBY

To the 10:30.

BEN

You? Since when?

ROBBY

Technically, I am an editor.

BEN

Technically. Your sit-down with Baron go that well?

ROBBY

I couldn't get a read on him.

BEN

That's a first.

ROBBY

How 'bout you?

BEN

(shrugs)

He's a barrel of laughs.

14

INT. GLOBE, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

14

Editors around a horseshoe table, side seats filled. It's QUIET, nervous eyes on Marty, who reads some notes. Ben and editor HELEN DONOVAN, 50s, to either side. Robby sits off to the side, WATCHING.

HELEN DONOVAN

Morning everyone. Let's get started.
Do you want to say something, Marty?

MARTY

Uh, sure.

(to the group)

Hello. As most of you know by now, my name is Marty Baron, I'm delighted to be here. If you can tell me your name as we go around, that would be helpful.

Marty looks back to his notes.

HELEN DONONVAN

Okay. Peter?

Ben nods to METRO EDITOR PETER CANELLOS, 40s.

CANELLOS

Peter Canellos, Metro. We've got a major Big Dig closure that's just been scheduled for early August...

Marty makes notes. Off Ben and Robby, trading a look.

15

INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - LATER

15

Mike, cuppa coffee, walks over to **STEVE KURKJIAN**'s desk. 60s.

MIKE

Hey Steve. Crappy game last night.

KURKJIAN

They can't hit worth a nickle.

Mike looks toward the conference room of editors.

MIKE

What's Eileen McNamara doing in the 10:30?

KURKJIAN

Do you need something, Mike?

MIKE

No. Just curious.

KURKJIAN

I got work to do. Go be curious somewhere else, will you?

16

INT. GLOBE, LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

16

The meeting is wrapping up.

SPORTS EDITOR

...and it looks like Pedro's gonna be out until September 1st. Jimmy says he'll be back this year, but the doc didn't seem so sure.

BEN

When's the Pats opener?

Laughter. Except Marty.

MARTY

Is that everyone?

HELEN

Yes, that's it.

MARTY

Great, thank you. Uh, did everyone read Eileen McNamara's column this weekend?

The room reacts. Huh? Editors look at EILEEN MCNAMARA, 50s.

HELEN

That's the Geoghan case?

MARTY

Yes, what's the folo on that?

BEN

It's a column, what kind of folo were you thinking?

MARTY

Well, apparently this priest molested kids in six different parishes over the last thirty years and the attorney for the victims, Mr...

EILEEN

Garabedian.

MARTY

Thanks, Eileen. Mr. Garabedian says Cardinal Law found out about it fifteen years ago and did nothing.

CANELLOS

I think that attorney's a bit of a crank. And the Church dismissed the claim.

EILEEN

He said, she said.

MARTY

Whether Mr. Garabedian is a crank or not, he says he has documents that prove the Cardinal knew.

BEN

As I understand it, those documents are under seal.

Silence. No one knows what to do. Robby watches.

MARTY

Okay, but the fact remains, we have a Boston priest abused 80 kids, we've got a lawyer who says he has proof Law knew about it, and we've written all of...

(checking his notes)

...two stories on this in the last six months?

(then)

This strikes me as an essential story for a local paper. At the very least, we should be going after those documents.

CANELLOS

How would you like to do that?

MARTY

Well, I don't know what the laws are here, but in Florida we would go to court.

Robby raises an eyebrow. In fact, the whole room does.

BEN

You want to sue the church?

MARTY

Technically we wouldn't sue the Church. We would file a motion to lift the seal on those documents.

BEN

The church will read that as us suing them. So will everybody else.

MARTY

Good to know.

Off Robby, intrigued --

17

INT. GLOBE, BEN'S OFFICE - LATER

17

Ben and Robby walk into Ben's office.

ROBBY

Gutsy call for the first day.

BEN

That's one word for it.

ROBBY

How do you think it's gonna play
down front?

BEN

I think Gilman's gonna shit a brick.

Knock. Knock. Mike's at the door.

MIKE

Hey.

BEN

Door.

Mike shuts the door, looks at Robby.

MIKE

How'd it go?

ROBBY

Baron wants to sue for the sealed
docs in the Geoghan case.

MIKE

He wants to sue the church? That's
great.

BEN

We covered Geoghan when the story
broke three years ago. Baron was
still in Miami.

ROBBY

(needling Ben)

I think he was at the Times then.

BEN

He wasn't here.

MIKE

You think the suit has a chance?

ROBBY
Depends on the judge.

BEN
And what parish he belongs to.

Ben's phone RINGS. Ben picks it up.

BEN (CONT'D)
Bradlee. Yeah. Okay.
(hanging up, to Robby)
Baron wants to talk to us.

ROBBY
Us?

Off Robby, surprised --

18

INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

18

Ben and Robby enter. Marty's on the phone.

MARTY (INTO PHONE)
Okay, thank you. Yes. Okay, thanks.

Marty hangs up as they sit.

MARTY (CONT'D)
I set up a meeting for tomorrow with
outside counsel...

BEN
Jon Albano?

MARTY
Yeah.

BEN
Who's the Judge on this case?

MARTY
Uh, Constance Sweeney.

BEN
Tough.

MARTY
Why's that?

BEN
Good Catholic girl.

Marty pushes on.

MARTY

Judging from what I've read, it doesn't seem like we've done a thorough investigation of the Geoghan case. Is that right?

BEN

No it's not. We looked hard at Geoghan. David Armstrong for Metro and Michael Paulson for Religion.

Marty isn't impressed.

MARTY

Okay, but, uh, just so I understand, beyond our daily coverage, we haven't committed any long term investigative resources to the question of whether or not Cardinal Law knew about this?

BEN

No, we haven't.

MARTY

(to Robby)

And that's the kind of thing your team does?

ROBBY

Spotlight? Well, yeah, but we're still prospecting the Boston PD story I told you about.

MARTY

Could you set it aside?

ROBBY

We could.

BEN

Marty, in the past, Spotlight has had success in large part because they pick their own projects.

MARTY

Would you consider picking this one?

Mike, Sacha, Matt all working. Sacha on the phone.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)
I don't know if he's writing about
you but I will let him know you
called. Okay. Bye.

Sacha hangs up as Robby enters.

MIKE
Hey, how'd it go?

ROBBY
Okay. Baron wants us to scrub the
Geoghan case.

MIKE
That's great.

MATTY
Didn't we cover Geoghan?

ROBBY (CONT'D)
There's a lawyer alleging Cardinal
Law knew about it.

SACHA
Mitch Garabedian, right? I covered
him at the courthouse.

ROBBY
Can you get to him?

SACHA
I only interviewed him once. He's
kind of a character.

MIKE
I like characters. I'll take him.

ROBBY
He's yours. Also, we should talk to
the lawyer who repped the victims in
the Porter case. Eric MacLeish.

MATT
That guy was always on TV.

SACHA
The Porter case? Remind me?

MIKE
Father Porter, similar story,
molested dozens of kids in Fall
River about ten years ago.

MATT
So we're dropping the Boston PD?

MIKE

I vote yes.

ROBBY

No, we're just setting it aside for now. I don't need to tell you guys, we need to be more discreet than usual. Everybody's gonna be interested in this, not just the Herald. I don't want the Chancery getting wind of this before we know what we have.

MATT

Good luck with that.

They reach for phones and computers, Robby leaves them to it.

20 **EXT. SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE, SOUTHIE - NIGHT** 20

The quiet street dips down, disappearing into the harbour. Sacha and Hansi get out of their car, cross the street.

21 **INT. SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT** 21

A cozy dining room. Sacha, her GRANDMOTHER and her husband HANSI finish dinner. Sacha's grandmother wears a gold cross.

SACHA

When are you leaving, Nana?

NANA

The bus is picking us up in the church parking lot at nine o'clock. We have forty people going.

SACHA

Is Father Dominic going?

NANA

No. He said, he's very unlucky. But luck has nothing to do with it.

Hansi can't help but smile.

SACHA

Nana won a hundred and sixty dollars last time.

HANSI

Wow.

22 **INT. SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT** 22

Hansi and Sacha wash dishes. They talk quietly.

HANSI
You gonna tell her?

SACHA
We don't even know if there's a
story yet.

HANSI
"Globe sues church?" There's gonna
be a story.

Sacha continues rinsing, glances at the small, porcelain
Virgin Mary on the window sill above the sink.

23 **INT. GLOBE, LARGE PUBLISHER'S FOYER - DAY** 23

Marty ascends a large, open air staircase in the upscale
business side of the building. He steps off, heads down the
hall then stops, looks around. Lost in his own building.

A YOUNG EMPLOYEE walks past.

MARTY
Excuse me, do you know where the
Publisher's office is?

The employee points. Marty heads that direction.

24 **INT. GLOBE, PUBLISHER'S OFFICE - DAY** 24

RICHARD GILMAN, 50s, Brooks Brothers suit, finishes a call.
Marty is sitting on a couch in large, plush office opposite.

GILMAN (INTO PHONE)
Thanks, Tom. Will do.
(hangs up, to Marty)
How are you, Marty? Settling in?

MARTY
Yes, I think so.

GILMAN
Good. What can I do for you?

MARTY
I'd like to challenge the protective
order in the Geoghan case.

GILMAN
You want to sue the Catholic Church?

MARTY

We're just filing a motion. But yes.

GILMAN

You think it's that important?

MARTY

Yes. I do.

GILMAN

Because, obviously, the Church will fight us very hard on this. Which won't go unnoticed by our subscriber base. 53% of them are Catholic.

MARTY

Uh, I think they'll be interested.

Gilman considers for a long moment, looks unsettled.

GILMAN

Okay.

Marty nods, gets up to go.

GILMAN (CONT'D)

Marty? Lake Street will probably contact you about a face to face with the Cardinal. It's customary.

MARTY

They already have. It's set up for next week.

GILMAN

I wouldn't mention this.

24A **INT. GLOBE - DAY**

24A

Matt walks down a row of cubicles, disappears down a spiral staircase.

24B **INT. BOSTON GLOBE LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS**

24B

Matt descends the staircase and arrives at the front desk.

MATT

Hey Lisa. Could you pull all the relevant clips on that for me?

He hands her a sheet of paper. She looks at it. Reacts.

LISA

Yeah. This is for Spotlight?

MATT

Just drop them off when they're ready, thanks.

Matt walks off.

25 **INT. MITCHELL GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE - DAY** 25

Mike steps off an elevator and into a DUMP of an office. He eyes a small reception desk covered with FILE BOXES.

MIKE

Hello. Hello?

Mike peeks through an open door... a small office, crammed FLOOR TO CEILING with BOXES, each with GEOGHAN written on it.

PARALEGAL

Can I help you?

Mike turns. A PARALEGAL pokes her head out of a cubicle.

MIKE

Oh. Hi. I'm Mike Rezendes from the Boston Globe. I'm here to see Mitchell Garabedian.

PARALEGAL

He's on a call. Please have a seat.

Mike grabs a seat, checks his watch. He hears YELLING coming from behind a closed door. Garabedian?

26 **INT. ONE INTERNATIONAL PLACE, LOBBY - DAY** 26

Robby and Sacha stride across an enormous, marble and stone lobby, a STARK CONTRAST to Garabedian's digs.

27 **OMITTED** 27

28 **INT. GREENBERG TRAUIG, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 28

ERIC MACLEISH, 40s, good looks, quick with a story and a smile, walks into the posh room, finds Sacha and Robby.

ERIC MACLEISH

The famous Walter Robinson in my conference room.

MacLeish and Robby shake hands.

ROBBY

Good to see you again, Eric. Sacha Pfeiffer, Eric MacLeish.

ERIC MACLEISH

Nice to meet you. Do you play golf?

SACHA

(caught off guard)

Uh, no.

ERIC MACLEISH

Good. Your colleague took some money off me at a charity event last year.

ROBBY

Lucky putt. I actually had my eyes closed.

MacLeish smiles. Chummy.

ERIC MACLEISH

So, how can I help you?

ROBBY

You're familiar with the Geoghan case?

ERIC MACLEISH

Sure. Eighty plaintiffs. All individual cases, Garabedian must be swimming.

ROBBY

And the allegations against Cardinal Law?

MacLeish considers the question.

ERIC MACLEISH

Look, it's tricky. You need to understand these are shitty cases. The statute of limitations is only 3 years and most of these victims don't come forward until long after that.

SACHA

Why is that?

ERIC MACLEISH

They're kids. Shame. Guilt. And they come from tough neighborhoods, nobody wants to admit this kind of thing. So you're screwed on the time limit and even if you argue your way around that, the charitable immunity statute caps damages at twenty grand.

SACHA

Twenty grand for molesting a child?

ERIC MACLEISH

That's the way the system works. The Church is tough. So your best shot is to try these cases in the press like I did on Porter. But most victims want nothing to do with being on TV. And Mitch isn't exactly a people person.

ROBBY

So if Garabedian can't get these victims to talk to the press...

ERIC MACLEISH

Then he has a long road ahead of him. My guess? He doesn't have anything on Law.

SACHA

You think he's bluffing?

ERIC MACLEISH

I think he's grandstanding to cut a better deal.

ROBBY

Seems a bit reckless.

ERIC MACLEISH

Have you met Mitch Garabedian?

29

INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE - LATER

29

Mike, still waiting, checks his watch. He hears more YELLING behind the door. Suddenly the door opens. A SHORT MAN exits.

Mike looks at the paralegal, points: "*Is that him?*" She shakes her head, walks off screen. Mike watches her go. Then, impatient, he stands, walks into --

30

INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

30

A small boardroom. **MITCHELL GARABEDIAN**, thin, 50s, sits at a table buried in paperwork. He's abrasive, to say the least.

MIKE

Hi.

GARABEDIAN

Who are you?

MIKE

Mike Rezendes from the Boston Globe.
I had an appointment with you about
an hour ago.

GARABEDIAN

I can't talk to you, I'm very busy.
(calling to reception)
Sharon?!

MIKE

Sharon went out for coffee, she said
she'd be right back, I'm following
up on an article...

GARABEDIAN

The one in the Phoenix?

MIKE

No. In the Globe.

GARABEDIAN

Did you see the one in the Phoenix?

MIKE

No, I didn't.

GARABEDIAN

I thought it was very good. I have a
copy here somewhere.

He starts to dig through the heap of papers.

MIKE

That's okay. I'll track it down. I'm
actually following up on a column
that Eileen McNamara wrote for the
Globe about your suit.

GARABEDIAN

Suits. There are eighty-four of
them, it's not a class action. You
should get your facts straight.

True to word. Garabedian is a bit of crank.

MIKE

You're right. I should. I'm just trying to get some background information on the Geoghan case...

GARABEDIAN

You're not recording this are you?

MIKE

No, I wouldn't do that without asking.

GARABEDIAN

(brusque)

I can't show you the Church documents if that's what you're after, they're under seal.

MIKE

I know that.

GARABEDIAN

Do you know they've tried to bring me before the Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers three times? They're watching me very closely.

MIKE

The Church?

GARABEDIAN

Yes, the Church. They'd like to get me disbarred. In fact, put that away.

(off Mike's pad)

Put it away! I don't want you recording this in any way, shape or form. Not on paper, not on tape, nothing. In fact, I probably shouldn't even be speaking to you.

MIKE

Look, Mr. Garabedian, I know there are things you can't tell me. But I also know that there's a story here. And I think it's an important story.

GARABEDIAN

I already talked to the Phoenix.

MIKE

Yeah, and there's a reason I didn't see it, nobody reads the Phoenix anymore. They're broke, they don't have any power. The Globe does. And if we cover this story, everybody will hear about it.

GARABEDIAN

The Church thinks in centuries, Mr. Rezendes. You think your paper has the resources to take that on?

MIKE

Yeah, I do. But if you don't mind me asking, do you?

Mike's question is non-threatening, but Garabedian reacts. He stands, walking Mike to the door...

GARABEDIAN

I don't have the time to talk to you, Mr. Rezendes, I'm very busy.
(calling out)
Sharon!

But before he can push Mike out the door, Mike turns back --

MIKE

Can I at least talk to some of your clients? The victims? I'd like to do that.

GARABEDIAN

Call me tomorrow. I need to think about it.

31 **INT. GLOBE, LIBRARY - DAY**

31

A Button is pushed, CONTROL PANEL lights up.

A rotating library clip file comes to stop.

A few old newspaper clips are pulled.

A folder from the LARGE PHOTO clip file is pulled.

A Nexis search on a computer screen.

A Micro Fiche search on another screen.

A PRINTER spits out the Micro Fiche article.

SACHA

You want me to track him down?

ROBBY

Yeah. Bring him in. How much longer do you need to get through the clips?

SACHA

A few days. There's a lot and Lisa's still sending stuff up. Most of it is on Porter.

MATT

Hey guys... I think I got another priest.

Robby and Sacha turn. Matt stares down at a clip.

MATT (CONT'D)

Liam Barrett. Molested some kids in Philly then was moved to Boston, did the same thing then was moved again.

SACHA

Really? Sounds like Geoghan.

ROBBY

Is that one of our clips?

MATT

Yeah. Byline's Diego Ribadeneira, 1997. Must've been back when he was working religion.

ROBBY

Was there any folo?

MATT

Not much. One short piece. Looks like the Church settled the case.

(then)

Don't you know Jim Sullivan?

ROBBY

Yeah, why?

MATT

Looks like the Church brought him in to help out.

Matt shows Robby the clip. Robby reads, surprised.

Mike glances over at Kurkjian.

KURKJIAN

I'm just watching the game. Omerta.

MIKE

We got another priest, Liam Barrett.

KURKJIAN

We reported on him.

(off Mike's look)

We did, I'm just saying.

MIKE

Okay, but the guy was shuffled from parish to parish every few years, just like Geoghan and Porter. I think there's a pattern.

Ben looks at Kurkjian, who's not impressed.

BEN

Sounds thin. What else you got?

MIKE

Sacha found this guy from a victims' organization, Phil Saviano.

KURKJIAN

From SNAP? Oh boy. We reported on him too.

MIKE

I thought you were watching the game, Steve?

KURKJIAN

That guy's pretty banged up, Mike.

BEN

We ran a couple stories on him, the guy would not stop writing letters.

KURKJIAN

He wants a holy war.

MIKE

So he's not worth taking to?

BEN

Where are you on Garabedian?

MIKE

I'm working on it.

BEN

Robby said MacLeish thinks he's bluffing.

MIKE

I think there's something there, Ben.

BEN

Get me something solid or I'm taking you off it. I don't want us chasing our tails on this.

Off Mike --

37

EXT. WOLLASTON GOLF CLUB, 8TH TEE, MILTON, MA - DAY

37

JIM SULLIVAN, 50s, lines up a tee shot. Smacks it. ROBBY and TWO OTHER GOLFERS watch as Jim talks to his ball...

JIM

Stay away from that trap.

ROBBY

You couldn't reach that trap in a million years, partner.

One of the other golfers (PAUL) tees up his ball.

JIM

I've reached that trap before.

ROBBY

Yeah. Now Paul, maybe.

The group laughs.

38

EXT. WOLLASTON GOLF CLUB, 8TH HOLE FAIRWAY - DAY

38

Robby and Jim walk down the fairway. Robby checks the card.

JIM

How we doing?

ROBBY

We're good. We're two up.

JIM

Good.

(then)

How's the new editor working out?

ROBBY

Well, he doesn't like baseball. But he seems like a smart guy.

JIM

Yeah, I just read an article about him. Said he's the first Jewish editor at the Globe.

ROBBY

Must have been a slow news day.

JIM

He got a family?

ROBBY

No, he's not married.

JIM

Divorced?

ROBBY

Don't think so.

JIM

So the new editor of the Boston Globe is an unmarried man of the Jewish faith who hates baseball?

Robby half smiles, shrugs.

JIM (CONT'D)

They should have given it to Ben. He's a Bradlee for crying out loud.

ROBBY

He didn't raise his hand fast enough.

(then)

By the way, I was reading about this priest, Father Barrett. Said you were involved in the case.

Jim reacts, surprised.

JIM

Barrett, yeah. Bad egg. Lake Street asked for help, I pitched in.

ROBBY

The victim said Cardinal Law knew about Barrett when he came from Philly.

JIM

You know I can't talk about the case, Robby.

ROBBY

Off the record?

JIM

Off the record, I can't talk about it. Is this related to the lawsuit?

Now Robby hides his surprise. He stops.

ROBBY

You heard about that?

JIM

Look, I don't know this guy Baron or what his agenda is and frankly I don't care, I just don't want you taking a bullet for him.

Jim heads off toward his ball. Off Robby, processing.

39

INT. BARBARA'S CAR, WOLLASTON PARKING LOT - LATER

39

Robby gets in. She pulls off.

BARBARA

How'd you play?

ROBBY

Not too bad. Shoulda left my putter at home.

BARBARA

How's Jimmy?

ROBBY

Good. He brought up the suit.

BARBARA

Really? What'd he say?

ROBBY

He was thrilled about it.

BARBARA

It's not a surprise, Robby. The Church does a lot a good in this town.

Robby nods, but something about that doesn't sit right.

40 **EXT. MATT CARROLL'S HOUSE, WEST ROXBURY - SUNDAY MORNING** 40

Matt, in coat and tie, shepherds his family out the door and into a minivan. His wife and daughter wear DRESSES, his sons are in BLUE BLAZERS and KHAKIS -- clearly en route to church.

PRIEST (PRELAP)

The other day I was on the world wide web. Anything you want to know. It's right there.

41 **INT. CHURCH, SOUTHIE - DAY** 41

Sunday mass. Full house. A PRIEST mid homily. In back, FIND Sacha, her husband, HANSI, and her GRANDMOTHER.

PRIEST

Now as a priest, I admit, this makes me a little nervous. Should I be worried about job security?

Sacha watches her grandmother laugh with the congregation.

42 **EXT. CHURCH/INT. DINER, SOUTH BOSTON - DAY** 42

CONGREGANTS milling outside a church.

PRIEST (O.C.)

I don't think so. You see knowledge is one thing. But faith is another.

FIND Marty, sitting in a diner across the street, eating breakfast and reading. He glances at the church.

42A **EXT. OLD HARBOR, DORCHESTER - DAY** 42A

Mike, in running gear, runs along the water.

43 **OMITTED** 4344 **INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - LATER** 44

Mike walks through the mostly empty newsroom.

45 **INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - DAY** 45

Mike walks in, grabs a gym bag by his desk, pulls out a towel when he spots... Robby. Sitting in his office. Working.

46 **INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER** 46

Robby's looking over some of the clips Matt pulled.

MIKE

Hey. Shouldn't you be golfing?

Robby looks up. Mike's in the door, towel around his neck.

ROBBY

Golfing's not a verb. And I couldn't get a tee time today.

MIKE

Is that what they call it? A tee time?

ROBBY

They also call it a leisure activity. You should try it, Mike.

MIKE

I run.

ROBBY

You run to work.

Mike shrugs, true. He eyes the clips on Robby's desk.

MIKE

So what are you doing here today?

ROBBY

Looking at clips. On Saviano.

MIKE

Ben and Steve think he's a dead end. They gave me a bunch of crap about it at the game.

ROBBY

Yeah, Ben emailed me.

MIKE

He did?

ROBBY

Yeah. He said we should let it go.

MIKE

What do you wanna do?

ROBBY

Bring Saviano in.

MIKE

So just ignore those guys?

ROBBY

I think we have to start ignoring everybody on this one.

MIKE

I'm good with that.

(then)

You think Baron has any idea what's coming down the Pike?

ROBBY

No. I don't think he cares either.

MIKE

That's refreshing.

ROBBY

Yeah. Unless he's wrong.

Mike registers this.

47 **EXT. LAKE STREET, CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE - DAY**

47

An Audi A4 pulls up in a large parking lot. Marty gets out, looks up at the Cardinal's MASSIVE LAKE STREET MANSION.

CARDINAL LAW (PRELAP)

I've always been fascinated with the newspaper business.

48 **INT. LAKE STREET, CARDINAL LAW'S PRIVATE STUDY - DAY**

48

Mahogany bookshelves, leather furniture. CARDINAL LAW, large, 50s, wears a collar and sits across from Marty.

CARDINAL LAW

I used to sit in on lectures with the Nieman fellows when I was at Harvard.

MARTY

I, uh, read you were an editor once.

Law chuckles.

CARDINAL LAW

Yes. A very long time ago. The Mississippi Register. Small, diocesan newspaper, but for a 30-year-old pastor it was a big responsibility. Too much at times.

MARTY

How so?

CARDINAL LAW

I was close with the Evers brothers,
we took a stand on civil rights.
Our readership was not pleased.
They saw me as a meddling outsider.

MARTY

I can imagine.

CARDINAL LAW

Tough seat to sit in, especially in
a small town. I think you'll find
Boston's a small town too, Marty, in
many ways. But if I can be of any
help, don't hesitate to ask. I find
that this city flourishes when its
great institutions work together.

MARTY

Uh, thank you. Personally I'm of
the opinion that for the paper to
best perform its function it needs
to, uh, stand alone.

Law reacts, surprised -- the rebuff almost feels unwarranted.

CARDINAL LAW

Of course, but my offer stands.

A KNOCK on the door.

CARDINAL LAW (CONT'D)

Come in.

A SECRETARY slips in with a WRAPPED GIFT.

CARDINAL LAW (CONT'D)

Oh. Thank you, Maureen. A little
gift, Marty. Think of it as A
Cardinal's guide to Boston.

Law hands the gift to Marty. Who looks at it. Bemused.

49

INT. MARTY'S CAR (PARKED), LAKE STREET - LATER

49

Marty gets into to his car. He sits, unwraps the gift. A
thick book, THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. Off Marty--

49A

INT. GLOBE, LOBBY - DAY

49A

A MAN (SAVIANO) carrying a LARGE BOX walks up to reception.

SAVIANO

I'm here to see Sacha Pfeiffer?

GUARD

Name?

SAVIANO

Phil Saviano.

GUARD

Okay, just a minute.

The guard picks up the phone, calls upstairs.

50

INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE - DAY

50

The entire team sits in Robby's small sitting area facing **PHIL SAVIANO**. Phil is mid-40s, thin and twitchy. He's got a medium sized BOX in front of him. He rifles through some papers on his lap.

SAVIANO

So am I the first survivor you've talked to?

ROBBY

Yes, Phil. You are.

SAVIANO

Okay, well, first of all, let me say thank you for having me in today. I want you to know that you have the full cooperation of my organization, SNAP.

SACHA

How many members are there in your organization, Phil?

SAVIANO

We had eleven at our last chapter meeting. No ten. Karen just moved.

ROBBY

There was a woman in your group?

SAVIANO

Of course there was a woman. They don't discriminate, not when it comes to abuse. And this has nothing to do with being gay. What this is, is priests using the collar to rape kids. Kids. Boys and girls.

He reaches into a file, pulls a PHOTO of himself as a kid.

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

I was eleven. I was preyed upon by Father David Holley in Worcester. And I don't mean prayed for. I mean preyed upon. Are any of you Catholic?

The whole team looks at each other. Good question.

MATT

I was raised Catholic but now I go to my wife's Presbyterian church.

SACHA

I'm lapsed but I go to church with my grandmother sometimes.

ROBBY

It's safe to say we were all raised Catholic but now...

MIKE

Not so much.

SAVIANO

Okay. Well, let me tell you, when you're a poor kid from a poor family, religion counts for a lot. And when a priest pays attention to you it's a big deal. He asks you to collect the hymnals or take out the trash, you feel special. It's like God asking for help. And maybe it's a little weird when he tells you a dirty joke but now you got a secret together so you go along. Then he shows you a porno mag, and you go along. And you go along, and you go along, until one day he asks you to jerk him off or give him a blow job. And so you go along with that too. Because you feel trapped. Because he has groomed you. How do you say no to God, right?

This lands.

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

See, it's important to understand that this is not just physical abuse, it's spiritual abuse too. When priest does this to you, he robs you of your faith.

(MORE)

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

So you reach for the bottle or the needle or if those don't work, you jump off a bridge. That's why we call ourselves survivors.

The team stares, gobsmacked. Phil pulls a book from the box.

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

Have you read Jason Berry's book? He wrote about the Gauthe case in Louisiana?

ROBBY

We're not familiar.

SACHA

That's G-U...

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

G-A-U-T-H-E. And talk to Richard Sipe. He worked in one of the Church's 'treatment' centers, he's an ex-priest, married a nun.

(pulling out a file)

Here, this is his testimony from the Kos case.

SACHA

Phil, what's a treatment center?

SAVIANO

It's where they send priests when they get caught. This is all right here in the box, I sent it all to you guys five years ago.

ROBBY

To the Globe? Who'd you send it to?

SAVIANO

I don't wanna say who, but they said they weren't interested.

MATT

But Phil, we did run a couple of stories on you. I saw them in the clips.

SAVIANO

Yeah but to be completely frank, it wasn't enough!

Robby and Mike trade a look as Phil takes a PACKET out of the box overflowing with tattered clips, articles and data CDs.

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

You guys gotta understand, this is big. It's not just Boston, it's the whole country, the whole world. And it goes right up to the Vatican.

MIKE

Do you have any proof of that, Phil?

SAVIANO

No, not yet, but think about it, there are so many of them, how else could they have hidden it for so long?

MIKE

So many what?

SAVIANO

Priests! I know of thirteen right here in Boston.

ROBBY

You know of thirteen priests who have molested children in Boston?

SAVIANO

Yeah. Why do you keep repeating everything I say?

ROBBY

I just like to clarify things.

SAVIANO

Maybe you should have clarified it five years ago when I sent you all this stuff! It's all right here.

Phil's sudden anger catches the room off guard. He stares at the box, tries to pull himself together.

SAVIANO (CONT'D)

May I use your bathroom?

MATT

Yeah. Sure, Phil. Come on.

Matt leads Phil out. A beat. Mike quickly starts shuffling through the packet.

SACHA

What do you think?

ROBBY

He's got an agenda, that's for sure.

MIKE

You think?

SACHA

He's obviously been through a lot.

SACHA

But he's smart and if he's right about thirteen priests...

ROBBY

Might be a big 'if' with this guy.

(then to Sacha)

Run background on him and follow up with some of the other survivors in his group.

MIKE

I'll track down this ex-priest Sipe.

ROBBY

Okay. But stay on Garabedian, that's more important.

MIKE

Garabedian's a pain in the ass.

ROBBY

You can be a pain in the ass, Michael.

52

EXT. STATE STREET, BOSTON - DAY

52

Garabedian walks down State Street. Mike falls in with him.

MIKE

Mitch, what a surprise. How are you?

GARABEDIAN

I'm fine, Mr. Rezendes.

The light changes and Garabedian walks. Mike tags along.

MIKE

Good. You know, I never heard back from you. I left you a couple messages.

GARABEDIAN

I've been very busy. I don't have time for calls.

MIKE

Jeez, I'm sure you don't. Listen, Mitch, lemme talk to a couple of your victims... You can sit in on the interview, if you're not happy you can kill it.

GARABEDIAN

I spoke to my clients, they don't want to be in the press. I'm sorry.

Garabedian walks into --

53

INT. GARABEDIAN'S BUILDING, LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

53

A shitty lobby, Mike follows Mitch in, continues --

MIKE

I get that but I don't need to name names, Mitch.

GARABEDIAN

I don't believe you, Mr. Rezendes.

Mitch walks to the elevator, presses the button.

MIKE

Yeah, I'm sure you don't.

GARABEDIAN

I don't.

The elevator opens. Mitch walks on. Mike follows him into --

54

INT. GARABEDIAN'S BUILDING, ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

54

The doors close. It's cramped, but Mike keeps going.

MIKE

Listen, Mitch, I'm not writing a profile here. I'm working on something bigger.

GARABEDIAN

Bigger, what does that mean?

MIKE

I'm not supposed to tell you this, but I'm digging around for Spotlight.

This registers with Mitch.

SACHA

Would you mind if I took some of notes? Would that be alright?

57

INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

57

Mike and Garabedian sit with 25-year-old PATRICK MCSORLEY. McSorley is good looking but ragged. Not outwardly nervous, but he's got a high-pitched voice and an ADDICT'S ITCH.

MIKE

You don't mind if I take some notes, do you?

PATRICK MCSORELY

You gonna use my name?

GARABEDIAN

No.

MIKE

Not if you don't want me to.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

I just had a kid. He's only one but I'm not sure I want him to know about this.

MIKE

Yeah. I get it.

GARABEDIAN

You can stop this interview any time you want, Patrick.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Okay. Go 'head with your notes.

MIKE

Where did you live when it first happened?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

In the projects, over in Hyde Park.

MIKE

Over by the Stop & Shop?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Yeah, you know it?

MIKE

Yeah, I drove a cab for years. Opens early, bad coffee, right?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Yeah, I guess.

McSorley isn't having it.

MIKE

How old were you? When it happened.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

I was twelve. My dad had just killed himself.

MIKE

Jeez.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

He was a real piece of shit. And my mom, she wasn't so stable to begin with.

MIKE

What do mean?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

I mean she was nuts.

GARABEDIAN

She was schizophrenic.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Same shit.

MIKE

So how did you meet Geoghan?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

My sister saw him in the Dunkin' Donuts. She tells him about my old man and he rushed right over.

Patrick nervously itches at his arm as we CUT TO --

58

INT. CAFE FRANCESCA, SOUTH END - DAY

58

Joe talks very fast. He takes a big gulp of water.

JOE CROWLEY

...and there was this nun, Sister Barbara, she ran this group for kids from troubled families.

SACHA

Where was that?

JOE CROWLEY

St. Ambrose in Dorchester. She's the one who introduced me to Father Shanley. He was a street priest, long hair, very hip. He invited me to his apartment in Back Bay.

SACHA

Where in Back Bay?

JOE CROWLEY

Beacon Street. Are you from here?

SACHA

I grew up in Ohio but my mom's from Southie.

JOE CROWLEY

So you get it. I'd never even been to Back Bay.

SACHA

What happened on that first visit?

JOE CROWLEY

Well, he was very nice at first, very casual, very funny. And I think he could tell I was gay because he showed me this mobile he had, like over a baby's crib? But with different words. Homosexual, bisexual, transsexual...

SACHA

Did you know you were gay at the time, Joe?

JOE CROWLEY

Yes, but that wasn't information I was sharing with anybody. Not in Dorchester.

SACHA

Right. So, what happened when he showed you the mobile?

JOE CROWLEY

Well, I was a little freaked out and I guess he could tell so he said, you know what will help is if we play strip poker. Of course I lost. And things went on from there.

SACHA

What happened specifically?

JOE CROWLEY

Specifically, he molested me.

SASHA

Joe, I think the language here is going to be very important. We can't sanitize this, just saying molest isn't enough. People need to know what actually happened.

Joe sits back, getting it as the waiter serves two coffees.

JOE CROWLEY

Maybe we should get these to go.

59

INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

59

Mike sits with McSorley and Garabedian.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Geoghan shows up and my mom, she's thrilled. I mean this was like God showing up, you know?

MIKE

Sure. So what happened then?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

You really want to hear this shit?

MIKE

Yeah, Patrick. I do.

Patrick is struggling a bit. But he continues.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

He offers to take me to get ice cream. He's a priest, I'm a kid, so I go.

MIKE

Sure.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

So we're driving home and he starts patting my leg and then... his hand just slides up and he grabs my dick. I just froze up, I was fucking petrified. I couldn't move. I didn't know what to do, I was just a little kid.

(MORE)

PATRICK MCSORLEY (CONT'D)

(then)

I never even touched my freakin' ice cream, it just melted down my arm.

MIKE

Did you see him again after that?

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Yeah.

GARABEDIAN

Alright, it's good. Let's stop there for now...

McSorley stares down at his hands. Trembling. Then he itches his arm. This time, Mike notes the HEROIN TRACKS.

60

EXT. TITUS SPARROW PARK, SOUTH END - DAY

60

Sacha and Crowley walk through Peter's Park. We can see the Cathedral in the distance. Crowley's a little less nervous.

JOE CROWLEY

He said it was a way to make me more comfortable with my body.

SACHA

And what happened next.

JOE CROWLEY

...he took off his clothes and said I've been depressed, maybe you can cheer me up and give me a blow job. Classy guy.

SACHA

And did you?

JOE CROWLEY

Yeah. I know what you must be thinking, why I would ever do that with some creepy guy thirty years older than me. But you have to understand, this was the first time in my life that someone told me it was okay to be gay. And he was a priest.

SACHA

So you had oral sex. Did you have intercourse as well?

JOE CROWLEY

Yes. Not then, but later. It really messed me up. I'm sober now but that was the beginning of it all. It's very confusing, you know, to be introduced to sex like that and then to be attracted to men...

Joe tears up a bit. He stops, wipes his eyes.

JOE CROWLEY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I knew I was gonna do this. I'm sorry.

SACHA

Don't be sorry. It's okay, Joe. It's okay.

Joe notices the kids on the church playground.

JOE CROWLEY (CONT'D)

And of course there's a church right here. And a playground.

Joe laughs nervously.

SACHA

Joe, did you ever tell anyone?

JOE CROWLEY

Like who, a priest?

61

INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

61

It's dark now. Mike's writing up some notes as McSorley puts on his coat. Mike stands as McSorley heads for the door.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Can I use your phone?

GARABEDIAN

Yeah, you know where it is.

McSorley nods in thanks. Then turns to Mike.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

You can use my name if you want.

MIKE

Thanks, Patrick.

PATRICK MCSORLEY

Don't thank me, just get that asshole, will you?

He exits. Mike lets out a breath. It's a lot, even for him.

GARABEDIAN

He's one of the lucky ones.
 (off Mike's look)
 He's still alive.

61A **INT. KITCHEN, SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER'S APARTMENT - DAY**

61A

Sacha sits at the table looking through her notes. Her grandmother is at the stove cooking.

Sacha notices something in her notes, stands and takes out her cell. She walks out while she dials.

SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER

Would you like a cup of tea, Sacha?

SACHA

I'm fine, Nana. Thanks.

Sacha walks into --

61B **INT. DINING ROOM, SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS**

Sacha on her phone, looking over her notes.

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

Hello?

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

Hi Joe, it's Sacha Pfeiffer.

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

Hi Sacha. How are you?

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

I'm good, thanks. Listen, Joe, there's one thing that I wanted to follow up on. You talked to Phil Saviano about all this, right?

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

Yeah. I went to a couple SNAP meetings.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

Right. And did Phil ever suggest doing anything about it?

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

No. The meetings weren't really about that. I mean, a couple of them had gone to a lawyer but I didn't think it was worth it.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

Why not?

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

There were so many forms to fill out, it was overwhelming. And he said he could get only get me a small settlement.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

Who said that?

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

The lawyer.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

So you did go to see a lawyer?

Sacha takes out her pen, starts taking notes.

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

Yeah, but I didn't end up using him, so I didn't think it was important. I'm sorry. I'm not trying to hide anything.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

No, I know, Joe. Do you remember his name? The lawyer?

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

No. But maybe Phil would know. The guy was on TV a lot during the Porter case. He was handsome.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)

Was it Eric MacLeish?

JOE CROWLEY (OVER THE PHONE)

Yeah, that's it. MacLeish. I thought he was very handsome.

Off Sacha --

62AA

INT. GLOBE, CANTEEN - NIGHT

62AA

Robby getting a coffee, paying. Matt enters.

MATT

Hey.

ROBBY

Hey.

Matt heads for the Peanut M&Ms as Robby pays.

MATT

I was just in the newsroom, Judge Sweeney set a date for the hearing.

ROBBY

When?

MATT

Two weeks. Canellos started a pool. Ten bucks to get in.

ROBBY

Anyone picking the Globe?

MATT

He's only taking bets on how fast Sweeney rules against us.

Robby's phone rings.

ROBBY

Huh.

He heads into the hall --

62A

INT. GLOBE - LATER

62A

Robby picks up.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

Robby.

SACHA (OVER THE PHONE)

Hi, it's me. Did you get my message?

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

I did. Looks like Father Shanley could be our fourth priest.

SACHA (OVER THE PHONE)

I think he is.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

Did you follow up on MacLeish?

SACHA (OVER THE PHONE)

I just talked to Phil. He said MacLeish dealt with a number of these cases.

62B **INT. NANA'S HOUSE - LATER**

62B

Sacha is alone at the dining room table.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
Guess he forgot to mention that.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)
I'm gonna go to the courthouse
tomorrow to see if I can find any
cases he settled against the church.

ROBBY (OVER THE PHONE)
Call me after you do. Good work.

Robby hangs up. Sacha sits there, spent, the day and the
story LANDING on her. Hard.

63 **INT. GLOBE, BEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

63

Ben packs up. A KNOCK. He turns, finds Robby with his bag.

ROBBY
You wanted to chat?

BEN
I'm late for a dinner. Walk me out.

64 **INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS**

64

Ben and Robby walk. Robby sees Marty in his office, working.

ROBBY
Does he ever go home?

BEN
Apparently not. I got guys who
won't leave 'til he does, he's
wearing out the goddamn newsroom.

Robby smiles.

BEN (CONT'D)
Where are we on Geoghan?

ROBBY
Following up with more victims. I
want to expand the investigation.

BEN
Why?

ROBBY

We got a fourth priest. There might be as many as thirteen.

BEN

Thirteen? Who's your source?

ROBBY

Phil Saviano.

Ben stops.

BEN

Christ, Robby, I told Mike --

ROBBY

I know. I think Saviano might be legit, Ben.

BEN

You wanna elaborate on that?

ROBBY

No. Not yet. Just feels like this is stacking up. That's my gut.

Robby doesn't embellish. The case is turning.

BEN

Okay.

ROBBY

Good. Thanks.

Robby walks off. Ben watches him go... then heads out --

65

INT. MIKE'S APARTMENT, EAST BOSTON - NIGHT

65

Mike opens the fridge when his phone RINGS. He picks up.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Hello.

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE)

Mr. Rezendes?

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Yeah. Who's this?

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE)

It's Richard Sipe.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
Oh, hey Richard, thanks for calling.
Phil Saviano gave me your name, can
I ask you a few questions?

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE)
Of course.

Mike reaches for his bag, pulls out his pad and a pen.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
Great. So Phil said you worked at
one of the church's treatment
centers in Baltimore...

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE)
Yes, that's right. The Seton
Psychiatric Institute. It was run
by the Daughters of Charity.

MIKE
And when was that, Richard?

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE)
Well, I started my psychotherapy
fellowship there in 1965 and I was
there for five years, but I spent
the next thirty studying abusive
priests and their victims.

MIKE
Really? That's been your sole
focus?

SIPE
Look, Mike, the church wants us to
believe that it's just a few bad
apples, but it's a much bigger
problem than that.

MIKE
How much bigger?

SIPE
Well, based on the research, I would
classify it as a recognizable
psychiatric phenomenon.

As Mike starts scribbling, sucked back in...

MIKE
That's big.

66

INT. GLOBE, CAFETERIA - LATE MORNING

66

Eileen reads the paper, drinks a diet coke. Kurkjian sits nearby, working on a story and some eggs. Matt joins.

MATT

Hey Mac, if I needed historical data on a priest, parishes he'd been assigned to, where would I find it?

EILEEN

For Geoghan? It's all in the clips. Lisa has the source material.

MATT

Yeah, what if it was another priest? One that hadn't been in the papers.

EILEEN

You're looking at another priest?

KURKJIAN

Who're you looking at?

Kurkjian looks over. Matt tries to focus on Eileen.

MATT

Any ideas?

EILEEN

Come on Matt, you're not going to tell me?

Matt stares at her. Then pulls back.

MATT

I gotta get to a meeting. Thanks Mac.

Matt beats a hasty retreat. Eileen and Kurkjian trade a look. Huh.

67

INT. GLOBE, LIBRARY - LATER

67

A HAND pulls a BOOK off a reference shelf. FIND LISA TUIITE, handing Matt the 2001 CATHOLIC CHURCH DIRECTORY.

LISA TUIITE

The Archdiocese puts out an annual directory, every priest and parish.

MATT

This is great. Do these go back any further than '98?

LISA TUIITE

Oh yeah. They go back to the 80's
in the Mez. Beyond that, you gotta
go to the BPL.

MATT

In the Mez. Thanks, Lisa.

68

INT. GLOBE, LONG HALLWAY - DAY

68

Robby and Mike walk down the hall. Mike debriefs him, a
little manic, not unaffected by what he's picked up.

MIKE

He said they all target the same
kinda kid. Low income family,
absentee father, broken home...

They walk into --

69

INT. GLOBE, PRESSES - CONTINUOUS

69

It's early. The presses are relatively quiet.

MIKE

And guys like Geoghan go after boys
not cause they prefer them, but
cause they're more ashamed, less
likely to talk. These guys are
predators, Robby. Sipe says he saw
dozens of them at Seton in the 60's.
He called it a "a phenomenon."

ROBBY

Why didn't he go public?

MIKE

He did, but the church has made a
huge effort to discredit him. Smear
campaigns, public statements by
prominent bishops. It's just like
Saviano said. And Garabedian.

ROBBY

You getting anywhere with him?

MIKE

More victims.

ROBBY

You can't empty his pockets?

MIKE

I'll get him. I just need more time.

ROBBY

Come on, Mike, you gotta get him.

MIKE

I'll get him, I'll get him.

They open a door, walk into --

70

INT. GLOBE, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

70

A dank basement, low fluorescents and rows of old books on cheap tin bookshelves. Robby and Mike react to the smell.

MIKE

Jeez, what the hell is that smell?

MATT (O.C.)

There's a dead rat in the corner.

Mike and Robby find Matt beside a HUGE STACK OF BOOKS.

ROBBY

What do we got?

MATT

Church directories. It's every priest in Massachusetts, what parish they're assigned to...

MIKE

These are official?

Mike and Robby grab directories, flipping through.

MATT

Yeah. I figured they could help us track down the priests Saviano mentioned, maybe find more victims.

ROBBY

(reads, squinting)
Can we turn on some more lights?

MATT

I couldn't find the switch. You wanna borrow my glasses?

ROBBY

No, I'm good.

MIKE

(off a directory)
1983, John Geoghan... St. Brendan's
in Dorchester. So we can see where
any priest was in any given year.

MATT

(flips through another)
Exactly. I got him here at... huh.

ROBBY

What?

MATT

1980, the year he was pulled from
JP. It says he's on sick leave.

MIKE

Come on. It actually says that?

Matt shows Mike. Robby urgently searches the directories.

ROBBY

Where's 1991?

Robby finds the 1991 Directory and opens it. He searches...

ROBBY (CONT'D)

Barrett... Barrett... Liam Barrett..
I can't read this. Can you look up
Liam Barrett?

(handing it to Mike)

1991's the year they pulled him out
of Charlestown.

MIKE

(reading)
Barrett, Liam. Sick leave.

He shows them. We see the designation. SICK LEAVE.

MIKE (CONT'D)

It's an official designation.

ROBBY

Let's get these upstairs. And Matt,
let's check the priests Saviano gave
us.

They start to collect the directories. Robby's cell RINGS.

ROBBY (INTO THE PHONE) (CONT'D)

Robby.

SACHA (OVER THE PHONE)
Hey, I'm down at the courthouse.

71

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RECORDS ROOM - DAY

71

Sacha makes notes on a pad, a couple of files to one side.

SACHA (INTO PHONE)
Something's not right here.

A COURT CLERK (MARK) walks over.

COURT CLERK (MARK)
There's nothing on Shanley either,
Sacha.

SACHA
Okay, thanks.
(into phone)
We need to talk to MacLeish again.

ROBBY (OVER THE PHONE)
Really. Why?

SACHA (INTO PHONE)
There's nothing here. There aren't
any records...

72

INT. GREENBERG TRAUIG, CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

72

Robby and Sacha have been waiting. Macleish enters.

ERIC MACLEISH
Thanks for waiting, so sorry guys, I
got stuck on a call. What's up?

SACHA
Mr. MacLeish, are you familiar with
a priest named Paul Shanley?

MacLeish looks at her. Surprised. He sits back.

ERIC MACLEISH
Yes, I'm familiar with him.

SACHA
Have you settled cases against
Father Shanley?

ERIC MACLEISH
As I'm sure you can understand, I
can't discuss that.

ROBBY

What about Father Ronald Paquin?

ERIC MACLEISH

I can't discuss that either. Come on, guys.

SACHA

We understand you've settled several cases against each of them.

ERIC MACLEISH

Even if I'd been involved in those cases, the settlements would be confidential. I could be disbarred for acknowledging their existence.

Robby's not backing down. MacLeish shakes his head.

ERIC MACLEISH (CONT'D)

Look, I told you, these are tough cases. Most of these folks just want some acknowledgement of what happened. We got them a sit-down with the bishop and a little dough. It was the best they could hope for.

ROBBY

It was certainly the best the priest could hope for.

ERIC MACLEISH

No, the Church promised to take the priests out of circulation.

ROBBY

And did you follow up on that?

ERIC MACLEISH

(done with this)
You guys need anything else?

SACHA

Yes. Why aren't there any records? I was just down at the courthouse, why aren't there any records of these settlements?

MacLeish pauses. Hesitant, now not so sure of himself.

ERIC MACLEISH

We dealt directly with the Church. We'd draw up a demand letter and we'd send it to the chancery.

SACHA
You never filed anything in court?

ERIC MACLEISH
It was a private mediation.

So that's a no. Jesus. Sacha and Robby react.

ROBBY
So this is just you and the
archdiocese's lawyers in a room?

ERIC MACLEISH
Correct.

SACHA
Anyone else?

ERIC MACLEISH
Occasionally, the Church would bring
in another defense attorney to help
out.

ROBBY
You have any names?

ERIC MACLEISH
(stonewalling him)
No. No I don't.

73

INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT - LATE AFTERNOON

73

Ben sits with the gang.

BEN
So this was all under the table?

SACHA
There's no paper trail at all. The
victim has to sign a confidentiality
agreement to get the settlement.
The lawyer takes his third and the
Church sweeps it under the rug.

MIKE
Jeez. It's a freakin' racket.

BEN
It's more complicated than that.
MacLeish has got a duty to his
clients to get the best deal he can.

SACHA

Sure, but how many victims do you represent and profit from before you say something?

MIKE

Garabedian would say none. That's why he's taking these cases to court. Because he wants people to know about this.

SACHA

I agree. And, legal ethics aside, Ben, operating the way MacLeish has all but guarantees the abuse stays under wraps.

BEN

Yeah.

(then)

Did MacLeish confirm all of Saviano's priests?

ROBBY

No. He's limited by the confidentiality agreement.

SACHA

But he's clearly settled cases against a number of them. Phil's put me in touch with some of the other victims, I'm pretty confident all of his priests are going to check out.

BEN

So it's thirteen priests?

SACHA

Yeah.

ROBBY

Looks that way.

BEN (CONT'D)

Holy Shit. Okay. Keep going.

Off Ben --

75

INT. COPLEY SQUARE BALLROOM, ATRIUM - NIGHT

75

CLOSE ON a woman scanning a list of names on clipboard.

WOMAN

I'm sorry, what was it again?

REVEAL Marty standing next to her at the base of wide staircase. Several such women are checking off attendees.

MARTY

Uh, Baron? B-A-R-O-N.

WOMAN

I'm sorry, I don't see you here.

PETE CONLEY (O.C.)

It's okay, Kim, I can vouch for him.

Marty turns, finds **PETE CONLEY**, 60s, Irish wealth and power. He extends a hand.

PETE CONLEY (CONT'D)

Pete Conley, I'm on the board of Catholic Charities. Welcome to Boston, Mr. Baron.

MARTY

Uh, thank you.

PETE CONLEY

I appreciate you joining us. We're very proud of the work we do here in Boston.

(then)

The Cardinal said you had a nice visit.

MARTY

Uh, yes. We did.

PETER CONLEY

He's an extraordinary man. I'm glad you had a chance to chat.

75A

INT. COPLEY SQUARE BALLROOM - MOMENTS LATER

75A

Marty walks into the party, not knowing a soul. He stands alone, taking it in.

ROBBY

Enjoying yourself?

Marty turns. Robby's there. Slacks and a blazer.

MARTY

Uh, to be honest, these events aren't really my strong suit.

(then)

Are you involved with the charity?

ROBBY

Not directly. Several of my friends are. We all went to BC High together. That's the school across the street from the Globe.

MARTY

It's hard to miss.

ROBBY

Yeah. Hard to get away from too, apparently.

Marty smiles.

ROBBY (CONT'D)

The Cardinal's in the corner if you're so inclined.

Robby nods. Indeed, there's the Cardinal and he's talking to Pete Conley and few others.

MARTY

We've met.

ROBBY

Did he mention the suit?

MARTY

No, but he did give me a copy of the Catechism.

ROBBY

(laughs)

Yeah, the Cardinal's not known for his subtlety. During the Porter investigation, he literally called down the power of God on the Globe.

MARTY

How did that play out?

ROBBY

A week later our editor broke his leg skiing.

Marty reacts to Robby's line.

WAITER

Shrimp toast, gentlemen?

Robby takes a shrimp.

76

INT. ARMENIAN DINER, DOWNTOWN BOSTON - NIGHT

76

CLOSE ON a bowl of soup. HANDS reach for it... REVEAL Garabedian and Mike having dinner. Mike's going over notes.

MIKE

You said there was a victim who filed a criminal complaint?

GARABEDIAN

There were a few, but the judge sealed the case records after friends of the Church stepped in. The Church has a lot of friends.

MIKE

Like Eric MacLeish?

Garabedian sees he understands. Garabedian's impressed.

GARABEDIAN

Let's just say, he's not part of the solution. You follow what I'm saying?

MIKE

Sure.

Mike jots down some notes. Garabedian watches him.

GARABEDIAN

You work hard, Mr. Rezendes. Are you married?

MIKE

Yeah.

GARABEDIAN

And your wife doesn't mind you working all the time?

MIKE

Yeah, she does.

GARABEDIAN

See. That's why I never got married. I'm too busy, what I do is too important.

Garabedian salts his soup.

GARABEDIAN (CONT'D)

Your new editor, he's a Jew right?

MIKE

Uh, that's right.

GARABEDIAN

He comes in, suddenly everybody is interested in the Church. You know why? Because it takes an outsider. Like me. I'm Armenian. How many Armenians do you know in Boston?

MIKE

Steve Kurkjian, works at the Globe.

GARABEDIAN

That's two! You should get a prize or something. What are you, Italian?

MIKE

Portuguese.

GARABEDIAN

From where?

MIKE

East Boston.

GARABEDIAN

You don't sound like it.

Mike shrugs. Garabedian shakes his head, chuckles.

GARABEDIAN (CONT'D)

This city, these people, making the rest of us feel like we don't belong. But they're no better than us. Look how they treat their children.

(wiping his mouth)

Mark my words, Mr. Rezendes, if it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to abuse one.

Garabedian eats. Mike ponders. Oddly moved.

77

INT. COPLEY SQUARE BALLROOM, ATRIUM - NIGHT

77

Robby crosses the room, joins Jim Sullivan at the bar.

JIM

There he is.

They two men shake.

JIM (CONT'D)
Wanna beer?

ROBBY
Love one.

Jim nods to the bartender.

JIM
You here with Barbara?

ROBBY
No. She hates these things.

JIM
Karen too. Smart ladies.

The bartender sets down two beers. Robby hands one to Jim.

ROBBY
Sláinte.

JIM
I just met your new editor, seems
like a decent fella.

ROBBY
I think he is.
(then)
I had an interesting conversation
with Eric MacLeish yesterday. Turns
out he's been settling abuse cases
with the archdiocese for years.

JIM
You really wanna talk about this
here?

ROBBY
You said you helped out on Father
Barrett as a favor, that was a one-
off?

Jim doesn't say anything. Robby DARKENS.

ROBBY (CONT'D)
How many of these cases have you
been involved with, Jim?

JIM
You know I can't answer that, Robby.
It's unethical.

ROBBY
Is that all it is?

Jim stares Robby down. He drinks.

JIM
So this is the Robby Robinson I've
always heard about but never met.

ROBBY
Listen to me, Jimmy. You want to be
on the right side of this.

JIM
You're talking about the Church,
Robby. Look around. These are good
people who've done a lot of good for
this city.
(then)
Enjoy the party.

Jim smiles, heads into the party, leaving Robby alone at the
bar. Robby glances over at Marty, still on the edge of the
party. So this is what it feels like to be on the outside...

78

INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE - DAY

78

Matt, Sacha and Mike are crammed in Robby's office, Matt
downloading the team on the directories.

MATT
I've been through a lot of these.
'Sick leave' isn't the only
designation they use when they take
one of these priests out of
circulation. They use a slew of
terms - 'absent on leave,'
'unassigned,' 'emergency response.'

MIKE
They got a name for everything,
these guys.

SACHA
Except rape.

A phone rings in the Spotlight office. Mike exits to get it.

MATT
And they move parishes way more
frequently than other priests. When
I was a kid, a priest moved after
seven or eight years. These guys,
it's two to three tops.

SACHA

Did they use these designations for all of Saviano's priests?

MATT

Yeah. It's a pretty clear pattern.

As Robby considers this, Mike calls from Spotlight --

MIKE

Guys, I've got Sipe.

79

INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

79

The team is HUDDLED around a SPEAKERPHONE.

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

I think if you want to understand the crisis, you need to start with the celibacy requirement. That was my first major finding: only 50% of the clergy are celibate.

They share a look. 50%? Can that be true?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE) (CONT'D)

Now, most of them are having sex with other adults. But this creates a culture of secrecy, that tolerates and even protects pedophiles.

SACHA

So you believe the church is aware of the extent of this 'crisis?'

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

Absolutely. After the first major scandal in Louisiana, Tom Doyle, the Secretary Canonist for the Papal Nuncio, coauthored a report warning pedophile priests were a billion-dollar liability. That was in 1985.

MIKE

1985?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

That's right.

MIKE

Who saw this document? Anyone in the Catholic hierarchy?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)
 Sure. Doyle tried to introduce the report at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In fact, Cardinal Law initially helped to fund the report, but then he backed out and they shelved it.

REZENDEZ
 (to Sacha and Matt)
 Are you kidding me?

ROBBY
 Richard, Robby here. We think we have thirteen priests in Boston that fit this pattern, which would be a very big story. Does that sound right to you? In terms of scale?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)
 No. Not really. It sounds low. My estimates suggest six percent act out sexually with minors.

MIKE
 Six percent of what?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)
 Six percent of all priests.

Holy shit. Robby turns to the team.

ROBBY
 How many priests do we have in Boston?

MATT
 About fifteen hundred. One percent is fifteen... six percent is ninety.

ROBBY
 Ninety priests?

SACHA
 Is that possible?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)
 From a metric standpoint, that would be in line with my findings.

The team looks at each other. FLOORED. A beat, then --

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE) (CONT'D)
 Hello?

80

INT. GLOBE, BEN'S OFFICE - DAY

80

Ben eats lunch, Robby and Mike download him. Ben's shocked.

BEN

Ninety fucking priests? In Boston?

ROBBY

That's what he said.

BEN

If there were ninety of these bastards people would know.

MIKE

Maybe they do.

BEN

And no one said a thing?

MIKE

Good Germans?

BEN

I don't think that's a comparison you want to make publicly.

ROBBY

MacLeish knew and said nothing.

BEN

That's thirteen priests, big difference between thirteen and ninety. Where's this guy Sipe getting his numbers?

MIKE

He's studied this for thirty years, he's a trained psychotherapist --

BEN

Okay, but we need something more than a metric from some hippy ex-priest who's shacking up with a nun.

MIKE

So we'll track down more victims, we'll get more priests. Then we can check them against the directories.

BEN

That's a shitload of victims.

MIKE
We'll get them.

BEN
How long's it gonna take?

Mike shrugs. Robby considers. Then...

ROBBY
Too long.

Robby gets up, moves for the door. Maybe with an idea.

BEN
Meeting over?

ROBBY
For now.

81

INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

81

Robby walks through the newsroom. Mike catches up to him.

MIKE
What do you got?

ROBBY
What if we work backwards?

MIKE
What do you mean? From what?

ROBBY
The directories. We've been using them to confirm bad priests. What if we do it the other way around?

MIKE
(getting it)
Use the directories to identify bad priests?

ROBBY
Yeah, exactly. We search by designation, we look for any priest on 'sick leave' or 'unassigned' --

MIKE
Or for priests who moved around a lot...

ROBBY
Yeah.

MIKE

That's gonna take a load of time.

ROBBY

Not if we're all on it.

MIKE

You too?

ROBBY

Generally, that's what all means.

MIKE

Yeah, generally.

That's the plan. Robby looks set. Off Mike, we --

82

INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT - LATER

82

CLOSE ON a ruler moving down a directory. It stops at a designation: Sick Leave. PAN TO the name of a priest. **MAHAN**. A pen circles it and we --

CUT TO another ruler scanning a directory. It stops. Unassigned. PAN TO the name of another priest. **KEANE**. The name is circled and we --

CUT TO another ruler scanning. Sick Leave. **PAQUIN**.

REVEAL Sacha, moving a ruler down a directory. **CUT TO** --

ABOVE Mike, scanning a directory with a ruler. **CUT TO** --

CLOSE ON Robby. Squinting at a directory. **CUT TO** --

Matt, hunched over a computer, entering data. **CUT TO** --

CLOSE ON an excel spreadsheet. A date, a priest's name, then the designation are typed into a column. **CUT TO** --

More names and designations, logged year by year, into the spreadsheet. **CUT TO** --

82A

INT. SACHA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

82A

Sacha at her desk at home, scanning a directory. It's late.

84

INT. SANTARPIO'S, EAST BOSTON - NIGHT

84

Mike sits in the pizza joint, marking up a directory, two others beside him. A waiter delivers a pizza and a beer. Without looking up, Mike reaches for the beer, keeps working.

MATT

Robby?

Robby looks up from his desk. He walks over to join them.

SACHA

Three off Sipe's estimate. That's incredible.

ROBBY

How many?

MATT

Eighty-seven.

MIKE

Eighty-seven priests. In Boston.

ROBBY

Call MacLeish. I wanna talk to him.

Robby takes the PRINTOUT, walks into --

91

INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

91

Robby shuts his door, picks up his phone and dials. It rings. A secretary picks up.

SECRETARY (OVER THE PHONE)

Jim Sullivan's office.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

Walter Robinson for Jim Sullivan.
Tell him it's important.

A beat, then we hear --

JIM (OVER THE PHONE)

Hey Robby. Everything okay?

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

I need you to tell me something,
Jim. Could it be ninety priests?

JIM (OVER THE PHONE)

What?

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

Could it be as high as ninety?

JIM (OVER THE PHONE)

Jesus, Robby.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
I need to know, Jim. I wouldn't be asking if it wasn't important.

Silence.

JIM (OVER THE PHONE)
You gotta stop this, Robby.

Click. Robby darkens. Then sees Sacha in the doorway.

SACHA
MacLeish's assistant said he's all booked up, he can't see us.

ROBBY
The hell he can't.

Robby exits. Sacha quickly follows. Off Mike and Matt --

92

INT. ONE INTERNATIONAL PLACE, LOBBY - EARLY EVENING

92

Eric MacLeish and a colleague get off an elevator, head out. MacLeish sees Robby and Sacha sitting in the lobby, waiting for him. As they stand, MacLeish turns to his colleague.

MACLEISH
You know what, I'll catch up with you, okay?

The colleague heads off.

MACLEISH (CONT'D)
Hey guys, I'm really sorry, I am, I don't have any time to talk right now, but if you call my assistant --

SACHA
Mr. MacLeish, we have reason to believe that there have been allegations against as many as 87 priests in Boston.

ERIC MACLEISH
I can't talk about that.

SACHA
Does that number sound right to you?

ERIC MACLEISH
You gotta be... I don't have time for this crap.

He starts to move but Robby steps in his way, angrier than Sacha's ever seen.

ROBBY

Eric, how many priests did you settle?

ERIC MACLEISH

You know I can't tell you, Robby.

ROBBY

You're gonna give me their names. And the names of their victims.

ERIC MACLEISH

Are you threatening me?

A beat. Robby controls himself, turns calm. Professional.

ROBBY

We've got two stories here. We've got a story about degenerate clergy and we've got a story about a bunch of lawyers turning child abuse into a cottage industry. Now, which story do you want us to write? Cause we're writing one of them.

MacLeish recedes. Robby's got him.

ERIC MACLEISH

I already sent you a list of names.

ROBBY

What are you talking about? To whom?

ERIC MACLEISH

The Globe. Years ago. After the Porter case, I got plenty of calls. I had 20 priests in Boston but I couldn't go after them without press. So I sent you guys a list of names and you buried it.

ROBBY

I want those names tomorrow.

ERIC MACLEISH

Check your goddamn clips, Robby.

Robby turns and leaves. Sacha follows. They walk a bit.

SACHA

We didn't find anything in the clips.

ROBBY

Yeah. Big surprise.

93

INT. MIKE'S APARTMENT, EAST BOSTON - NIGHT

93

Mike boils hot dogs on the stove.

MIKE

Richard, do you still go to mass?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

No, I haven't been to church for some time now. But I still consider myself a Catholic.

MIKE

How does that work?

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

The Church is an institution, Mike, made of men. It's passing. My faith is in the eternal. I try to separate the two.

MIKE

Sounds tricky.

Mike's shakes his pen, out of ink. He crosses to his backpack by the front door. He reaches in, digs around.

SIPE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

It is. Especially since the Church continues to go after me. It takes a toll, Mike.

SIPE (CONT'D)

They'll try to silence anyone who speaks out. I'm sure they'll come after you and your team soon enough.

MIKE

And how do you think they'll do that? Hello? ...Richard?

Mike checks his phone. Disconnected. Huh. Suddenly, there's a loud KNOCK on the door. Mike JUMPS.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Who is it?

BEN (O.C.)
The Archbishop of Canterbury.

Mike opens the door. Ben's there with a PIZZA BOX.

BEN (CONT'D)
I had dinner at Santarpio's, had
some leftovers.

He hands Mike the pizza.

MIKE
Ah, you're the freakin' best. You
want a beer?

BEN
Yeah.

Ben enters, takes in Mike's apartment. Mike grabs two beers.

Jesus. How much longer you gonna be
in this shithole?

MIKE
Working on it.

BEN
She's a good girl, Mike.

MIKE
Yeah, she is. We'll figure it out. I
haven't had a lot of time lately.
(then)
I was just on the phone with Sipe
actually.

BEN
Have you met this guy in person yet?

MIKE
No, but his knowledge of this is on
a whole other level.

Ben frowns, skeptical. Mike hands him a beer. They sit.
Mike opens the pizza box, digs in.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Oh man, I'm starving.

BEN
So, where are we on the ninety?

MIKE
Close.

BEN
How close?

MIKE
We're close.

BEN
Just answer the question, will you?

Mike clocks this.

MIKE
We got 87 names. We're trying to get confirmation. I think we will.
(then, off Ben)
Something bugging you?

BEN
Just surprising, that's all.

MIKE
Yeah, it is. For everyone.

93A

EXT. MIKE'S APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - NIGHT

93A

Ben walks out of Mike's apartment, heads up the stairs when Mike opens his door, calls after him.

MIKE
Hey. Ben, I forgot to ask, Phil Saviano said he sent a bunch of info to the Globe years ago. You have any idea to who?

BEN
(irked)
No. Why?

MIKE
Just curious. I wanted to see if there were any other leads you guys didn't run out?

BEN
(pissed off)
Saviano was a fucking train wreck five years ago, Mike. We didn't miss anything. This story needed Spotlight.

Mike's taken aback.

MIKE
Yeah. I know. Just following up.

Nothing more to say.

BEN

Good night.

Ben walks off. Mike watches him go.

94

INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - DAY

94

CLOSE ON an EMAILED LIST of Priests and victims.

BEN (O.C.)

This is unbelievable.

MARTY

When did you get this?

ROBBY

MacLeish emailed the list this morning. He settled cases against forty-five priests.

REVEAL Marty and Ben across the table from Robby and the rest of the Spotlight team. Marty pages through the printout.

MARTY

Where are we on Law? Anything that shows he had knowledge of this?

BEN

We're still working Garabedian. But nothing concrete.

Marty considers this. Then he turns to Robby.

MARTY

I keep thinking about that conversation we had the other night. You said Law called down the power of God when we reported on Porter.

BEN

That's just Law being Law.

MARTY

Okay, but I checked the clips, Porter wasn't even in the Boston Archdiocese. He was in Fall River. So, why the extreme reaction?

ROBBY

(realizing)
Law had to know.

(MORE)

ROBBY (CONT'D)

That's why he had the reaction. He knew there were others.

MARTY

I think that's the bigger story.

The team reacts. Robby watches.

MIKE

Bigger than fifty priests?

MARTY

If it came from the top down, yes.

SACHA

But the numbers clearly indicate senior clergy were involved.

MARTY

That's all they do, indicate.

MIKE

You're telling me we run a story about fifty pedophile priests in Boston --

ROBBY

(stepping in)
Mike--

MARTY (CONT'D)

We'll get into the same cat fight you got into on Porter, which made a lot of noise but changed things not one bit. We need to focus on the institution not the individual priests. Practice and policy. Show me the Church manipulated the system so that these guys wouldn't have to face charges. Show me they put those same priests back into parishes, time and time again. Show me this was systemic, that it came from the top down.

Beat. Pretty fucking clear.

BEN

Sounds like we're going after Law?

MARTY

We're going after the system.

94B

INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT - LATER

94B

The team enters together, heads for their desks. Robby talks to Sacha.

ROBBY

Make a list of all the victims we have and start reaching out. Pull Matt in if you need help.

SACHA

Okay.

ROBBY

(to Mike)

When you are going to Springfield?

MIKE

Hearing is Monday.

Robby nods, heads into --

94C

INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

94C

Robby settles in. Starts to check e-mails.

MATT

Robby? You got a second?

Robby looks up, Matt's in the door.

ROBBY

Yeah.

MATT

I, uh, got one of those treatment centers a block from my house.

(then)

We got neighbors with kids. I know our work is confidential but I feel like I should tell 'em.

ROBBY

We'll tell 'em soon.

Matt hesitates. Then nods and exits.

95-99

SUMMER VICTIM MONTAGE

95-99

In a series of quick cuts, we see --

-- Sacha (and Matt) out and about in JP, Dorchester, Mission Hill, trying to find victims. They knock on some doors and get no answer, they knock on others to find that victims have moved, it's tough to track folks down.

-- Sacha (and Matt) manage to track victims down, but face obstacles. Obstructionist family members, reticent victims...

-- Finally, Sacha (and Matt) actually are let in. We see shot after shot of them entering houses, some new, some where they were previously denied. They're getting the story...

100 **INT. RUNDOWN HOUSE, DORCHESTER - DAY**

100

Sacha sits with the middle-aged-man.

MIDDLE-AGED-MAN

The Bishop came over the house. He said nothing like this had ever happened before, they asked us not to press charges.

SACHA

And what did your mother do?

MIDDLE-AGED-MAN

My mother? She put out freakin' cookies.

Sacha blinks.

103A **INT. DUSSOURD APARTMENT, JAMAICA PLAIN - DAY (FORMERLY 1021)** 103A

A small apartment. MARYETTA DUSSOURD, 57, wears a gold cross.

DUSSOURD

There was a lot of pressure to keep quiet.

She struggles. Matt across from her, prods...

MATT

From the Church?

DUSSOURD

Yeah, from the Church... but not just the Church. From my friends, from the other parishioners...

101 **INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - EARLY EVENING**

101

CLOSE ON a spreadsheet, going up on the wall. Names of priests, dates, reports...

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE)

Well, many of the priests I treated were psychosexually stunted....

REVEAL Sacha putting up the list of 15 priests on the corkboard as Matt walks over 3x5 CARDS with VICTIM'S STORIES. In the foreground, Mike talks on the phone to Sipe.

SIPE (OVER THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
 ...on the emotional level of a
 twelve or thirteen year old.

MIKE

Jeez.

103 **INT. COFFEE SHOP, HINGHAM - DAY**

103

Sacha sits with the a COP, 40s, African-American.

COP

Sure, the chief knew, everybody
 knew. But nobody wants to cuff a
 priest.

SACHA

What about the prosecutor?

COP

I shouldn't talk about this shit.

SACHA

I think you should actually.

Sacha waits, stares him down.

103a **EXT. JAMAICA PLAIN - DAY**

103a

Sacha talks to a painter on a ladder.

SACHA

Do you know a Father Hurley or a
 Father Gale?

MAN

I do.

103aa **EXT. TWO DECKER, DORCHESTER - DAY**

103aa

A man yells at Matt from his porch.

MAN

You get out of here before I
 kick the shit out of you,
 alright?

MATT

Sorry to bother you. Sorry
 to bother you....

MAN

You leave me alone, leave my brother
 alone, you hear me goddammit?

104

EXT. TWO FAMILY HOUSE - MALDEN, MA - LATE AFTERNOON

104

Sacha walks up to a door. The knock. A kindly looking OLDER MAN (RONALD PAQUIN) in a checkered shirt answers the door.

SACHA

Hi, I'm looking for Ronald Paquin.

RONALD PAQUIN

Yes?

Sacha blinks, surprised.

SACHA

You're... Father Paquin?

FATHER PAQUIN

Yes, that's right.

SACHA

(rapid, tense)

My name is Sacha Pfeiffer, I, I'm a reporter with the Boston Globe.

FATHER PAQUIN

Okay.

Sacha, awkward, reaches for her pad.

SACHA

Could I ask you a few questions?

FATHER PAQUIN

Go ahead, dear.

Sacha starts recording.

SACHA

We've talked to several men who knew you when they were boys at St. John the Baptist in Haverhill? They told us you molested them? Is that true?

FATHER PAQUIN

...Sure. I fooled around. But I never felt gratified myself.

Sacha almost hides her shock.

SACHA

Right, uh, but you admit that you molested boys at St. John the Baptist?

FATHER PAQUIN

Yes, yes, but as I said, I never got any pleasure from it. That's important to understand.

SACHA

Right. Can you tell me where and how you, uh, fooled around with these boys.

FATHER PAQUIN

I want to be clear, I never raped anyone. There's a difference. I should know.

SACHA

How would you know?

FATHER PAQUIN

I was raped.

SACHA

...I'm sorry... who raped you?

JANE PAQUIN (O.C.)

Ronny? Who're you talking to?

FATHER PAQUIN

It's okay, Jane.

SACHA (CONT'D)

Father Paquin, who raped you?

Paquin's sister, JANE PAQUIN, 50s, comes to the door.

JANE PAQUIN

Who are you?

SACHA

Sacha Pfeiffer, I'm with the Globe--

JANE PAQUIN

Please get off my porch.

FATHER PAQUIN

I can speak for myself, Jane.

JANE PAQUIN

Get inside the house, Ronald.

SACHA

I just have a few more--

JANE PAQUIN

Get inside, Ronnie.

SACHA

I'm sorry, who are you?

JANE PAQUIN

I'm his sister, and I don't want you coming back here.

SACHA

Ms. Paquin --

But Jane SLAMS the door. Sacha stands there for a moment, STUNNED. Then she turns, quickly heads down the walkway, scribbling notes. She pauses as she reaches the sidewalk, finishing up. Two CHILDREN ride past on bikes. She's VISIBLY SHAKEN by the encounter.

105

INT. HAMPDEN SUPERIOR COURT, COURTROOM, SPRINGFIELD, MA - DAY

Mike watching the Globe's lawyer, JON ALBANO, 50s, white beard and moustache, present to JUDGE CONSTANCE SWEENEY, 40s.

JUDGE SWEENEY

Could you please clarify the Globe's position for me, Mr. Albano?

The courtroom's empty, Garabedian at one desk, WILSON D. ROGERS JR., 60s, the Church's lawyer, at another.

ALBANO

Yes, Judge Sweeney. Our argument to make these documents public rests mainly on 1st amendment grounds. We also have a number of other relevant arguments. After all, your honor, this was a discretionary order...

JUDGE SWEENEY

Yes, Mr. Albano, it was made at the Judge's discretion...

Mike FIGHTS TEDIUM... until a REPORTER slides in next to him.

HERALD REPORTER (JOE QUIMBY)

Hey Mike.

MIKE

Hey Joe.

HERALD REPORTER

What's a Spotlight reporter doing in Springfield?

Mike doesn't answer.

HERALD REPORTER (CONT'D)

Your man Albano's sledding uphill. You really think you have a shot at winning this thing?

MIKE

You want me to comment for the Herald?

QUIMBY
 (writing on his pad)
*"Globe reporter would not comment
 but did not seem hopeful."*

Mike settles in. Gonna be a long day.

106

INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE/ROBBY'S OFFICE - DAY

106

Sacha downloads Robby. We see a large map of Boston on a desk, neighborhoods circled, writing and Post-its noting priests and victims.

SACHA
 He didn't try to hide it at all, he had this odd rationalization for it. Like it was normal to fool around with little boys.

Nearby, we see Matt adding 3x5 victim cards to the wall. On the wall, 19 OF ROUGHLY 50 PRIESTS have cards. [*N.B.: The priests (and victims) should be grouped by neighborhood*].

SACHA (CONT'D)
 I'd really like to go back. I think he'd talk to us.

ROBBY
 We will. Just not yet... Let's stay focused on victims right now.

MATT
 Sacha, where'd they send Father Talbot again?

SACHA
 I think it was Cheverus?

MATT
 Yeah, that's right.

ROBBY
 Father Talbot? From BC High?

SACHA
 Yeah. You know him?

ROBBY
 He was there when I was. We have a victim?

MATT
 Yeah. He lives in Providence.

Matt hands him the card. Robby stares down at the name.

108

INT. HAMPDEN SUPERIOR COURT, COURTROOM - DAY

108

Mike is still listing.

ALBANO

There's nothing personal in these documents, your honor, they concern how the Cardinal is handling--

JUDGE SWEENEY

Say the Archdiocese.

ALBANO

Er, excuse me?

JUDGE SWEENEY

You don't get to tag the Cardinal with everything, Mr. Albano. Say the Archdiocese.

Albano looks flustered.

WILSON D. ROGERS JR.

Judge Sweeney, the Globe isn't a party to this case, they just want to sell papers. If Mr. Garabedian hadn't smeared the Cardinal's good name, we wouldn't even be here.

GARABEDIAN

Your honor, I object to the use of the word smear.

JUDGE SWEENEY

Duly noted, Mr. Garabedian.

Garabedian, angry, mutters under his breath. Mike catches it.

109

EXT. HAMPDEN SUPERIOR COURT, SPRINGFIELD, MA - LATER

109

Garabedian sits on the courthouse steps, eating a packed lunch out of tupperware. Simmering.

MIKE

How you doing, Mitch?

Mike walks up, sits down.

GARABEDIAN

I'm fine.

MIKE

(pushing him)
He's tough, that Wilson Rogers.

GARABEDIAN

He's smug. And he's sloppy.

MIKE

He doesn't seem sloppy.

GARABEDIAN

You don't know the half of it.
Trust me.

MIKE

What's the half of it?

(then)

Tell me the half of it, Mitch.

Garabedian looks at him, wrestling with something.

GARABEDIAN

Off the record.

MIKE

Off the record.

GARABEDIAN

Three years ago, I get a call from an ex-Priest. Anthony Benzevich. He was at Blessed Sacrament back in '62 and he saw Geoghan taking little boys up to the Rectory bedroom. Benzevich was appalled, he told the Bishop. And the Bishop threatened to reassign him. To South America.

MIKE

Jeez.

GARABEDIAN

Yeah. So, fast-forward 35 years, Benzevich reads Geoghan's been charged with molesting more than a hundred kids. Benzevich feels guilty, he calls me.

MIKE

You have testimony from a priest telling his superiors about Geoghan in 62'?

GARABEDIAN

No, I do not. Because when I call Benzevich in to give a deposition, he shows up with a lawyer.

MIKE

Wilson Rogers.

GARABEDIAN

Suddenly, Father Benzevich has a foggy memory. Can't remember anything. He's useless. So I go back to work, I forget about it, whatever. Until about a year ago. I find an article about a priest who warned church officials about Geoghan.

MIKE

(stunned)

Benzevich went to the press.

GARABEDIAN

Local paper, Patriot Ledger, nobody saw it. But now I got Benzevich on record, so I file a motion to depose him a second time. And Wilson Rogers, that smug son of a bitch, he files a motion opposing my motion. And that's when I have him!

MIKE

Have him how?

GARABEDIAN

Rogers opposes my motion. So I gotta make an argument as to why I'm allowed to depose Father Benzevich a second time. But now, I'm allowed to attach exhibits. You follow what I'm saying?

MIKE

The sealed documents...

GARABEDIAN

Yes, I can use the sealed documents I've gotten in discovery, Mr. Rezendes, the same documents your paper is currently suing for.

MIKE

You're shitting me.

GARABEDIAN

No, I am not shitting you. So I pull out the 14 most damning docs and I attach them to my motion. And they prove everything.

(MORE)

GARABEDIAN (CONT'D)

About the Church, about the bishops,
about Law...

MIKE

And it's all public? Because your
motion to oppose Rogers' motion...

GARABEDIAN

...is public. That's correct. Now
you're paying attention.

MIKE

(head spinning)

So I can just walk into the
courthouse right now and get those
documents?

GARABEDIAN

No. You cannot. Because the
documents are not there.

MIKE

But you just said they're public.

GARABEDIAN

I know I did. But this is Boston.
And the Church doesn't want them to
be found. So they are not there.

MIKE

Mitch, are you telling me that the
Catholic Church had legal documents
removed from the courthouse?

Mitch collects his things, turns to Mike. With clarity.

GARABEDIAN

Look, I'm not crazy, I'm not
paranoid, I'm experienced. Check
the docket, you'll see. They control
everything. Everything.

Mitch exits. Mike watches him go, UNNERVED. Is Mitch right?
And was that just the mother of all tips? A beat... then
Mike grabs his stuff and runs towards his car.

110

EXT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DOWNTOWN BOSTON - LATER 110

Mike gets out of his car, runs across same street into the
courthouse.

111 **INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RECORDS ROOM - DAY** 111

A mousy looking CLERK #2 (O'BRIAN) pushes a BINDER across a help desk to... Mike. Who starts going through the file.

CLERK #2 (O'BRIAN)
Docket entry #49 in the Geoghan case.

(then)
We're closing in ten minutes.

CLOSE ON DOCKET ENTRY #49: Plaintiff's opposition to Reverend Anthony Benzevich's Motion for Protective Order. Dated APR 2, 2001. And a list of 14 exhibits.

Mike, excited, opens the file, finds the motion and a FOLDER, EXHIBITS A - N. Mike opens it. It's empty. HOLY SHIT.

112 **INT. ROBBY'S HOUSE, ROBBY'S HOME OFFICE - EARLY EVENING** 112

Robby stands, searching through bookshelves... until he finds a BC HIGH YEARBOOK. He flips to the faculty page, homing in on a PHOTO... FATHER JAMES TALBOT. A beat. His phone RINGS.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
Robby.

MIKE (OVER THE PHONE)
Hey, it's me. You're not gonna believe it.

113 **EXT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DOWNTOWN BOSTON - SAME TIME** 113

Mike is walking out of the courthouse.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
Garabedian gave me a tip, some of the sealed docs are already public. They're part of a motion he filed. He said they're the best of the bunch, we don't have to wait for Sweeney's ruling.

INTERCUT THE TWO SCENES

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
So we can get them?

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
Yeah, but they're not there! I already talked to Albano, he said all we have to do is file a motion and Sweeney will order Mitch to refile the docs.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
And you think these documents are...

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
He said these 14 docs are all we
need. They're huge, Robby.

ROBBY
Okay. I'll call Ben. Good work.

114 **EXT. GLOBE, PARKING LOT - EARLY MORNING** 114

Marty gets out of his car and walks toward the building. It's a beautiful September morning.

115 **INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - MOMENTS LATER** 115

It's pretty empty. Marty walks in, heads toward his office, but slows when SOMETHING on a TV catches his attention. He walks to the TV, joins A YOUNG REPORTER already watching.

MARTY
What happened?

YOUNG REPORTER
They're saying it's a prop plane but
that's not a prop plane.

We glimpse the TV. The World Trade Center. On fire.

MARTY
Tell Linda to get every reporter we
have in here now.

116 **INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - DAY** 116

CLOSE ON a TV. Cardinal Law addressing a large group of reporters, citizens in front of the Cathedral.

CARDINAL LAW (REAL FOOTAGE)
*You pray for the injured, and those
who survived. You pray, too, for
the nation, that our response might
reflect our best ideals and God's
teaching as it is found in
Christianity and Islam as well.*

REVEAL a group watching TV in the corner of the newsroom, Ben front and center. Robby, Matt, Sacha are off to the side.

BEN
Not bad. Who's there?

FEMALE EDITOR

Paulson.

Ben starts to move, an editor at his side.

BEN

I wanna talk to him when he's back.
(to Robby)
Did Rezendes find a way to get to
Florida?

ROBBY

They just opened the airport in
Providence, he's on his way there
now.

News to Sacha and Matt.

CANELLOS

Ben, I'm gonna need more people on
Massport.

BEN

I'll give you three of my guys.
Robby, put your team on that too.

ROBBY

Got it.

BEN

And Robby, everything else stops.

ROBBY

Understood.

Ben heads off.

MATT

Why's Mike going to Florida?

ROBBY

Flight school. It's where they
learned to fly.

SACHA

Robby, I've got a lot of victim
interviews set up this week.

ROBBY

You're gonna have to cancel 'em.

SACHA

That's going to be hard.

MATT

This is nuts. Two days ago, I told my wife we gotta be working the biggest story on the planet....

Robby nods as we PAN to Reception. Linda and several others taking calls.

LINDA

Boston Globe. We have no knowledge of additional threats.

RECEPTIONIST 1

Boston Globe. One second please.

RECEPTIONIST 2

Yes, if you have a tip I'll transfer you to the metro desk.

Off the RINGING PHONES --

117 **INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 117

Garabedian works at his desk. The phone rings, he picks up.

GARABEDIAN (INTO PHONE)

Mitchell Garabedian.

118 **INT. MIKE'S CAR (MOVING), I-95 - DAY** 118

Mike speeds frantically down I-95 towards Providence, phone to his ear. It's ringing.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Mitch, it's Mike, I've been trying to reach you...

GARABEDIAN (OVER THE PHONE)

I don't have time to talk to you, Mr. Rezendes.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Did you refile those documents yet?

GARABEDIAN (OVER THE PHONE)

No, I just got the order, it takes time.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Okay, great. Can you to hold off on refiling them?

GARABEDIAN
Hold off?

MIKE
I have to go to Florida, once
you refile, they're public,
other newspapers will be able
to get a hold of...

GARABEDIAN (INTO PHONE)
Other newspapers are not my concern.
I received a judicial order, I told
you the Church is watching me...

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
Mitch, please, I just need a few
weeks.

GARABEDIAN (INTO PHONE)
I can't make any promises. Goodbye.

Garabedian hangs up.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
Mitch? Mitch! Shit!

119 **EXT. T-STOP, BOSTON - DAY** 119

The season has changed. The leaves are all but gone. Sacha
emerges from the subway, crosses the street.

120 **INT. BAR, JAMAICA PLAIN - SAME TIME** 120

A relatively empty bar. ON TV, we see CNN coverage of the US
BOMBING IN AFGHANISTAN. Phil Saviano sits in a booth across
from Sacha. Phil's on the edge.

SAVIANO
Look, I get it, no one wants to read
about kids getting raped by priests.
Especially now. But you asked a lot
of people to relive some very
painful experiences and then you
disappear!

SACHA
Phil, you know why we were
taken off the story.

SAVIANO
It's been six weeks since
9/11.

SACHA
I realize that and we're going to
get back to it.

SAVIANO
When? You're doing the same
thing you guys did last time-- ...no... SACHA

SAVIANO

--you're dropping us! Maybe I should tell the Herald that story!

SACHA

Okay, Phil. You can do that, it'll undo all the work we've done. But I can't stop you.

Phil looks away, but quiets.

SACHA (CONT'D)

Listen to me. I am here because I care. We are not going away. We are not going away. We are going to tell this story and we're going to tell it right. We just need more time, that's all we're asking for.

PHIL

Why bother asking? You're gonna do what you want anyway. You always do.

He gets up and leaves.

SACHA

Phil. Phil...

But he's gone. Off Sacha --

121

INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - EVENING

121

Marty's working at his computer. Ben knocks.

BEN

Marty, you gotta a second?

MARTY

Sure.

Marty turns as Ben walks in.

BEN

Robby's itching to get his team back on the church story. At this point, I think we're covered on 9/11.

MARTY

Okay. Sounds right.

Ben starts to leave when --

MARTY (CONT'D)

Ben.

(then)

I, uh, wanted to say thank you for taking the lead on 9/11. All the politics at Logan and Massport, I wasn't the person to do it. You've done an excellent job over the last six weeks.

Ben is completely caught off guard.

BEN

Oh. Well... thanks.

(awkward, exiting)

Good night.

MARTY

Good night.

122

INT. HOLIDAY INN, HOTEL ROOM, MIAMI, FL - LATER

122

A crappy hotel room. ESPN on TV, a suitcase, clothes, papers everywhere. Mike takes a burrito out of the hotel microwave, tries to pick it up when his phone RINGS. He grabs the phone.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Hey.

ROBBY (OVER THE PHONE)

How's South Beach?

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

I'm in Boynton Beach. Remarkably different place. What's up?

ROBBY (OVER THE PHONE)

Mitch Garabedian called me today.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

Why'd he call you?

ROBBY (OVER THE PHONE)

Because he knew you'd yell at him. He refiled the docs.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)

(yelling)

What? Robby, those docs are public now, we gotta get them before anyone else does...

123

INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE/SPOTLIGHT - SAME TIME

123

Robby sitting in his chair.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
I know, wrap up what you're doing
and catch the first flight you can.

MIKE (OVER THE PHONE)
I'll book a flight, go straight to
the courthouse tomorrow.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
Good. Call me when you get it.

Robby hangs up. Sacha is in his door, putting on her coat.

SACHA
Robby, I'd like to let Phil Saviano
know that we are back on it.

ROBBY
Good idea. Go have dinner with
Hansi. Might be the last time for a
while.

SACHA
Okay.

Sacha hesitates, then grabs a clip off her desk.

SACHA (CONT'D)
Robby, after we saw MacLeish, I
started going back through the
clips... and I had a little time
last week finally, so, uh...
(she hands him the clip)
I found that. It's from '93.

Robby looks down. We see the clip. "LAWYER FOR PORTER
VICTIMS SAYS 20 OTHER PRIESTS IN AREA ARE ACCUSED."

Robby's face CHANGES. Sacha waits, expecting a response.

ROBBY
That it?

Robby's abrupt tone catches Sacha by surprise.

SACHA
Yeah. That's it.

ROBBY
Good night.

SACHA

Okay. Good night.

Sacha takes a beat, then leaves, a bit confused and hurt. Robby looks down at the clip. Off Robby --

124 **INT. MATT CARROLL'S HOUSE, BEDROOM, WEST ROXBURY, MA - NIGHT** 124

Matt sits up in bed. Checks the clock. 4am. Can't sleep.

125 **INT. MATT CARROLL'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - LATER** 125

Matt walks in, takes two aspirin. He eyes a 9/11 BUMPER STICKER on the fridge. His gaze drifts down to the photo of the house on Pelton Street. Matt frowns... realizing he's back on the church.

126 **EXT. MODERN RESTAURANT, PROVIDENCE, RI - DAY** 126

A wide shot. A well dressed, good looking MAN checking his blackberry.

Robby walks in, introduces himself to the man. PRELAP --

127 **INT. MODERN RESTAURANT, PROVIDENCE, RI - LATER** 127

Robby and the man, KEVIN, 40s, sit at a table. We're in a long shot. We see them talking. Kevin is friendly, amiable.

KEVIN

So, I was probably a few years after you, right?

ROBBY

More than a few.

KEVIN

(laughing)

Well after BC High, I came down to Providence, played hockey for the Friars.

ROBBY

You must've been pretty good.

KEVIN

No, rode the bench in college. But I loved the city, never left. We just had our third kid. And I still get my Globe, for the record.

ROBBY

Good to know.

Kevin smiles. Robby nods. Takes a beat. Then dives in.

ROBBY (CONT'D)

Look, Kevin, that's actually why I'm here. I need ask you some questions about Father Talbot.

Kevin's face tightens, his eyes intense. Robby waits.

KEVIN

How'd you find out? I guess that doesn't matter.

(shakes his head)

I never even told my wife.

129

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 129

Mike, still carrying his bags from the plane, emerges from an elevator, hurries down the hall, nearly knocking people out of the way. He arrives at the Records Room and slams up against the glass just as the clerk (O'BRIAN) LOCKS the door.

MIKE

Hey, hey, I need to get in there.

CLERK O'BRIAN

We're closed.

MIKE

Come on, let me in, five minutes, come on.

CLERK O'BRIAN

I'm sorry, we're closed!

MIKE

Come on, five minutes!

But the clerk leaves. Mike bangs the door in frustration.

130

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, HALLWAY - MORNING 130

The elevator door opens and Clerk O'Brian walks out with coffee and a copy of the Globe. He approaches the door and stops.

Mike sits on the floor, waiting. O'Brian eyes him. A beat, then he unlocks the door. Mike follows him into --

131

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RECORDS ROOM - MORNING 131

O'Brian walks in. Mike fills out a form at the 'application for records' table. He turns to the desk, hands the form to Clerk O'Brian, who reads it.

CLERK O'BRIAN
This is the Geoghan case?

MIKE
Yeah. That's right.

CLERK O'BRIAN
Those records are sealed.

MIKE
No, that's a public motion, those records are public. Look, I work for the Globe.

Mike shows his credentials.

CLERK O'BRIAN
Good for you.

MIKE
Can I talk to your supervisor?

CLERK O'BRIAN
He's not in today.

Mike, frustrated, eyes the CROSS the clerk is wearing.

MIKE
What about a judge? You gotta have a judge who handles these issues.

The clerk eyes Mike.

CLERK O'BRIAN
Sixth floor.

132

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - LATER

132

Mike walks in. Sees a receptionist.

MIKE
I'd like to see Judge Volterra please. It's urgent.

RECEPTIONIST
Judge is in court until 3:30.

MIKE
There's no other judge on duty?

RECEPTIONIST
Would you like to have a seat?

Her look says it all.

MIKE

Yeah. Sure. I'll take a seat.

Mike sits. Frustrated and anxious. We PRELAP --

JACK DUNN (PRELAP)

We understand the nature of the allegations against Father Talbot.

133

INT. BC HIGH, PRESIDENT KEMEZA'S OFFICE, DORCHESTER - DAY 133

Robby, Sacha sit with PRESIDENT BILL KEMEZA, 50s, SPOKESMAN JACK DUNN, 40, and Pete Conley, the swell we met earlier.

JACK DUNN

I'm just not sure what you want from President Kemeza. Talbot taught here long before Bill took over.

SACHA

Of course. We just want to know if it's possible that the faculty, the President, the Board, that no one knew what was going on at the time.

JACK DUNN

I graduated in 1979 and I had no idea about any of this, so if you're suggesting that Father Gibbons and Father Callahan --

ROBBY

Gibbons and Callahan ran this place like the navy, Jack, you really think they didn't know?

JACK DUNN

It's a big school, Robby, you know that. You're talking about seven alleged victims over eight years.

ROBBY

Seven that we know about.

JACK DUNN

This is ridiculous. You're reaching for a story here, we can't possible know if...

PRESIDENT KAMEZA

Jack. Jack --

PRESIDENT KAMEZA

Jack. If I had been President back then, I would have known.

Conley looks at him, sharp.

JACK DUNN
 Bill, I'm not sure that's
 relevant --

PRESIDENT KAMEZA
 Why do you think they sent
 Talbot up to Cheverus? You
 know they wanted him out of
 town.

*
 *

PETER CONLEY
 (to Robby, direct)
 Robby, as well-intentioned as Bill's
 remarks are, I'm hoping maybe we can
 keep this between us until we all
 get on the same page.

ROBBY
 Is that why we're here, to get on
 the same page?

PETER CONLEY
 No, we're here because you're an
 important alumnus, Robby, and a
 friend.

JACK DUNN
 Exactly. We know you care about
 this school as much as we do.

Robby contains his anger.

ROBBY
 Did you play a sport here, Jack?

JACK DUNN
 (confused)
 Yeah. Football. Why?

ROBBY
 I ran track.
 (then)
 I went to Providence yesterday, to
 talk to one of Talbot's victims, he
 played hockey here. He's one of the
 better ones, has a wife, kids, good
 job. Ten minutes into the
 conversation guy breaks down,
 couldn't stop crying. Said he could
 never figure out why Father Talbot
 picked him.
 (beat, to Jack)
 Father Talbot coached the hockey
 team. So, I guess we just got lucky,
 you and me.

Off Sacha, watching him.

134

EXT. BC HIGH, DORCHESTER, MA - DAY

134

Robby and Sacha walk from BC High back to the Globe.

SACHA

Does Jack Dunn work for the school?

ROBBY

No. He's PR for Boston College. They call him when they need help.

SACHA

And Pete Conley? Why was he there?

ROBBY

Good question. Pete's a big alum. But I called Bill directly and I asked for a sit-down, I never mentioned anybody else.

SACHA

It's like everybody already knows the story.

This hits Robby. He pauses, looks back at BC High.

ROBBY

Yeah, except us. And we work right there.

135

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - LATER

135

Mike is still waiting. A JUDGE enters. Mike stands.

MIKE

Judge Volterra?

JUDGE VOLTERRA

Yes?

MIKE

Hi, I'm Mike Rezendes from the Boston Globe. I'm having some trouble accessing some public records down in the records room. I was wondering if I could have a word with you?

136

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - LATER

136

JUDGE VIERI VOLTERRA stares down at Mike's request.

JUDGE VOLTERRA

These exhibits you're after, Mr. Rezendes, they're very sensitive records.

MIKE

All due respect, your honor, that's not the question here. The records are public.

JUDGE VOLTERRA

Maybe so, but tell me, where is the editorial responsibility in publishing records of this nature?

MIKE

Where's the editorial responsibility in not publishing them?

137

INT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RECORDS ROOM - DAY

137

Clerk O'Brian drops the file in front of Mike, who dives in. His face says it all. HOLY SHIT. A beat, then Mike grabs the files, starts to rush out.

CLERK O'BRIAN

You can't take those. You need to make copies.

MIKE

Yeah, I'm going to the copy room.

CLERK O'BRIAN

It closed at four.

Mike stops, fucked. He digs into his pocket, counts bills.

MIKE

I'll give you 83 bucks to use yours.

138

EXT. SUFFOLK COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DOWNTOWN BOSTON - TWILIGHT 138

Mike, already on his cell phone, hurries across the street toward and catches a cab.

MIKE

Hey, Cabbie! Hey, hey, hey!

Mike gets in cab.

MIKE (CONT'D)

I'm going to the Boston Globe on Morrissey Boulevard. Don't take 93. Take Dorchester Avenue.

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Robby, it's incredible!

138A **EXT. STATE STREET, BOSTON - MOMENTS LATER** 138A

Mike's cab moves up State Street.

MIKE (V.O.)
 Law knew about Geoghan for years, no question! There's a letter to Law from a woman, Margaret Gallant, who lived in Jamaica Plain in the early 80's when Geoghan was there. Listen to this...

139 **EXT. KING'S CHAPEL, TREMONT STREET, BOSTON - MOMENTS LATER** 139

Mike's cab whisks past the old King's Chapel.

MIKE (V.O.)
 (reading)
"Our family is rooted in the Church, our desire is to protect the Holy Orders..."

140B **EXT. MONSIGNOR REYNOLD'S WAY, SOUTH END - MOMENTS LATER** 140B

Mike's cab passes the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.

MIKE (V.O.)
"...even in the midst of our agony over the seven boys in our family..."

140C **EXT. PLAYGROUND BY THE CATHEDRAL - MOMENTS LATER** 140C

Patrick McSorley plays with his kid on the playground.

MIKE (V.O.)
...who have been violated." Seven, Robby! Seven boys!

141 **EXT. WEST 4TH STREET BRIDGE, BOSTON - LATER** 141

The cab crosses over the bridge into Dorchester.

MIKE (V.O.)
"It was suggested we keep silent. We did not question the Authority of the Church two years ago..."

142 **EXT. OLD COLONY ROAD, DORCHESTER - LATER** 142

The cab is stuck on Old Colony Road. It turns into a TRAFFIC CIRCLE, past St. Monica's church and onto Columbia Road.

MIKE (V.O.)
*...but since Father Geoghan is still
 in his parish...* She sent it to
 Law and Law did shit!

142A **EXT. COLUMBIA STREET, DORCHESTER - SAME TIME**

142A

The cab drives down by the water.

MIKE (V.O.)
 Here's another one to Law, same
 year. Listen to this...
 (reading)
*"A word on the recent assignment of
 Father John Geoghan..."*

144 **EXT. BOSTON GLOBE - EVENING**

144

The cab pulls up. Mike jumps out, pays the driver, hustles
 inside.

MIKE (V.O.)
*"...as an associate at Saint Julia's
 in Weston. Father Geoghan..."*

145 **INT. GLOBE, LOBBY - LATER**

145

Mike races in through the glass doors, then hustles up the
 escalator...

MIKE (V.O.)
*"...has a history of homosexual
 involvement with young boys. I
 understand his recent departure from
 Saint Brendan's may be related to
 this problem..."*

147 **INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - NIGHT**

147

The whole team sits around as Mike finishes reading.

MIKE
*"I wonder if Father Geoghan should
 not be reduced to weekend work while
 receiving therapy. You know how
 grateful I am to you for your
 constant concern, sincerely yours in
 our Lord, Most Reverend John M.
 D'Arcy, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston.
 December 7, 1984."*

MATT
 An auxiliary bishop wrote that?

We see the letters, both addressed to Law. The team reels.

SACHA

It's incredible. He broke ranks.
When did Gallant write her letter?

MIKE

1984.

SACHA

And Law just ignored her.

MATT

How do you ignore that freakin'
letter?!

MIKE

We've got him. You can't read those
letters and think anything else.
It's proof.

ROBBY

Yeah. It is. This is good work.

MIKE

Should we take it up to Ben?

ROBBY

No, not yet.

MIKE

Why not? We got Law. This is it.

ROBBY

No, this is Law covering for one
priest. There's another 90 out
there.

MIKE

Yeah, and we can print that story
when we get it but we gotta go with
this now.

ROBBY

I'm not gonna rush the story, Mike.

MIKE

We don't have a choice, if we don't
run to press, somebody else is gonna
find those letters and butcher the
story! Joe Quimby from the Herald
was at the freakin' courthouse!

ROBBY

So we'll write a holding story and we'll keep an eye on the Herald.

MIKE

(losing it)

Keep our eye on the Herald? They run this and they get it wrong, the Church will bury it! We gotta do this now!

MATTY

Mike --

MIKE

What? Why are we hesitating! Baron told us to get Law!

ROBBY

Baron told us to get the system. We need the full scope, that's the only thing that will put an end to this.

MIKE

Then let's take it up to Ben, let him decide!

ROBBY

We'll take it to Ben when I say it's time.

MIKE

It's time, Robby. They knew and they let it happen! To kids! This coulda been you, it coulda been me, it could have been any one of us. We gotta nail these scumbags, show people that no one can get away with this! Not a priest or a Cardinal or a fucking Pope!

Robby, Sacha, and Matt are still. Mike looks around the room, out of breath, adrenaline draining. Robby is pissed.

ROBBY

You finished?

MIKE

Yeah. I am. This is bullshit.

Mike leaves, slamming the door behind him.

149

INT. SACHA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

149

Sacha and Hansi have just finished dinner. Hansi's cleaning off the table as Sacha loads the dishwasher.

She tries to slide the upper rack into the dishwasher. It's jammed. She tries again. It won't go. She jiggles the rack, tries a third time... she SNAPS, slamming the rack hard, sending the dirty glasses crashing into each other.

She looks up... Hansi is just staring at her. Whoa.

HANSI

You okay?

Before she can answer, there's a KNOCK on the door. Hansi walks over, opens the door. It's Mike.

MIKE

Hey, Hansi.

HANSI

Hard day at work, Mike?

150

EXT. SACHA'S HOUSE, BACK PORCH - LATER

150

Sacha walks onto the porch with two beers, hands one to Mike.

MIKE

Thanks. I dunno why I got so pissed off. I mean I think Robby's wrong but...

SACHA

You care about the story, Mike. We all do.

Mike takes a drink.

SACHA (CONT'D)

I stopped going to church with my Nana. It was just too hard. I'd be sitting there and I would start thinking about Joe Crowley or someone else and I'd just get so angry.

MIKE

Did you tell her why?

SACHA

She goes to church three times a week, Mike.

Mike considers this. Shakes his head.

MIKE

Really pisses me off.
(then)

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

You know, I actually liked going to
mass when I was a kid.

SACHA

Why'd you stop?

MIKE

Typical shit.

(then)

But the weird thing is, I think
there was a part of me that figured
one day, maybe I'd go back. I was
holding on to that.

Sacha watches him, not expecting this.

MIKE (CONT'D)

And when I read those letters,
something just cracked.

SACHA

That's a shitty feeling.

MIKE

Yeah. It's a shitty feeling.

Off the two of them, a little lost...

151

INT. FAIRMONT HOTEL, OAK ROOM, DOWNTOWN BOSTON - NIGHT

151

The posh bar of one of Boston's oldest hotels. Robby is at
the bar, a glass of red wine in front of him.

PETER CONLEY

Looks like a long day.

ROBBY

Hey Pete.

PETER CONLEY

I'm sorry to make it longer. Brian?

Peter Conley sits, nods to the barman: 'the usual.'

ROBBY

Anyone ever said no to a drink with
you, Pete?

PETER CONLEY

Sure. The trick is to keep asking.
(raising his glass)
For Boston.

ROBBY

For Boston.

(drinks, then)

So, you here for the Cardinal?

PETER CONLEY

No, no, I wouldn't presume to speak for the Cardinal.

(then)

You gotta a lot of people here who respect you, Robby, respect your work.

ROBBY

Good to know.

PETER CONLEY

It's 'cause you care about this place. It's why you do what you do, it's who you are. But people need the Church more than ever right now. You can feel it. And the Cardinal may not be perfect but we can't throw out all the good he's doing over a few bad apples.

Robby lets this sink in. Nods as if in agreement.

PETER CONLEY (CONT'D)

I'm bringing this up with you because I know this is Baron's idea. His agenda. And I gotta tell you, honest to God, I don't think he cares about this city the way we do. How could he?

Robby looks at Conley. A long beat.

ROBBY

This is how it happens, isn't it, Pete?

PETER CONLEY

What's that?

ROBBY

A guy leans on a guy and suddenly the whole town just looks the other way.

Stung. Pete downs his drink. Gets up.

PETER CONLEY

Robby, look. Marty Baron is just trying to make his mark. He'll be here for a couple years and he's gonna move on. Just like he did in New York and Miami. Where you gonna go?

He starts to go.

ROBBY

Pete?

(Pete turns)

When we do run the story, I'm gonna need a comment from the Cardinal.

Conley takes it. Then smiles.

PETER CONLEY

We'll talk again later. Good night, Robby.

153

INT. GLOBE, ROBBY'S OFFICE/SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - DAY

153

Robby, Mike, Sacha and Matt sit working. It's dark, quiet, serious. A beat, then Robby's phone RINGS. He answers.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)

Robby. What? No shit, when? Okay.
(hangs up, calls out)

Hey.

The team looks towards Robby's office as he walks in.

MIKE

What's up?

ROBBY

Sweeney ruled in our favor. She ruled to unseal the documents.

MIKE

Jeez...

The group sits stunned.

154

INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

154

Marty, Ben, Robby, and Canellos (the Metro editor we met earlier) sit with the Globe lawyer, Albano.

ALBANO

The Church already filed an appeal. But the trial court's ruling is generally upheld in these matters.

MARTY

And when would we get the documents?

ALBANO

Probably takes Cohen a few weeks to rule, then there'll be a redaction process... I'd say they'll be made public mid-January.

MARTY

Okay. Thanks, John. And nice work.

Albano exits.

CANELLOS

Metro should run something, Marty.

ROBBY

We can't run this big.

CANELLOS

Why wouldn't we? It's a major First Amendment victory. Not to mention, an Irish Catholic judge rules against the church? That's a hell of a precedent.

ROBBY

(to Ben)

We don't want the Herald going too deep on this.

MARTY

Why's that?

ROBBY

You're gonna have to step out, Peter.

CANELLOS

I'm not stepping out.

Robby picks up a FOLDER OF DOCUMENTS on the table beside him. He places it in front of Marty. Marty picks it up.

BEN

Peter.

Marching orders. Canellos exits, not happy.

155

INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

155

CLOSE ON the letters. Reveal Marty and Ben reading, STUNNED.

MARTY

When did you --

ROBBY

A couple of weeks ago.

BEN

A couple of weeks?

ROBBY

Yeah.

BEN

And you're telling us now?

MARTY

These are substantial. They clearly show that Law was negligent.

Ben and Marty stare at Robby. A beat, then --

ROBBY

I need more time. I want to keep digging.

BEN

For what? This is the goddamn story.

ROBBY

It's not the whole story.

BEN

(dismissive)

Tough shit. We're on a clock now. Even if we don't run Sweeney's ruling, another paper could find these letters and fuck the story.

ROBBY

Agreed. But we run the letters alone, Law apologizes, says it's a one time thing, he can bury it.

MARTY

How? These clearly show he knew and did nothing.

ROBBY

Look, I'm close to stories on 70 priests.

(MORE)

ROBBY (CONT'D)

We nail that along with those letters, it's proof that this is bigger than Law. It's the whole system.

Marty considers.

MARTY

You have multiple sources confirming the 70 priests?

ROBBY

On some. I can get more.

BEN

Too risky. If we're not buttoned up on every single one of them, the Church'll pick us apart.

Robby's up against it. He plays his hand.

ROBBY

I think I can get someone from the other side of the aisle.

BEN

Someone inside the Church?

ROBBY

Yeah, a lawyer.

MARTY

Will he go on the record?

ROBBY

Deep background. But he's a solid source.

Marty considers. A beat, then Ben steps in.

BEN

Rezendes needs time to write up the story. We don't want to drop this at Christmas, not after 9/11. We could run it just after New Year's, before the rest of the documents are released.

MARTY

Okay. Tell Canellos to bury the ruling in Metro.

(then, to Robby)

You've got six weeks.

Robby nods, gets up and leaves. Ben follows him into --

156 **INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM OUTSIDE MARTY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS** 156

Ben and Robby walk out.

BEN

Tell Mike I want a draft before Christmas. And we need a response from Lake Street. Who does PR for the Cardinal? Still John Walsh?

ROBBY

No, somebody new, Donna Morrisey, she came from TV, she's young.

BEN

Good, get a quote, we need something from Law to appear even-handed.

ROBBY

Got it.

BEN

And Robby? Next time give me a goddamn heads up?

Ben exits. Robby takes it on the chin then walks off. As he does, we hear a child's voice start into SILENT NIGHT...

157 **INVESTIGATION/WRITING MONTAGE** 157

As a second child joins in, we see a SERIES OF SHOTS...

157A MIKE'S COMPUTER. 41 days until deadline. The very start of the story. FIND Mike in SPOTLIGHT, pecking out the story on his COMPUTER. Matt, coat and briefcase, walks out... 157A

157I Sacha with Phil, Crowley and another guy at a shitty DINER, sad Christmas decor. Sacha doesn't eat, she writes on a pad. 157I

157Fa MIKE'S COMPUTER. 21 days until deadline. The story is further along... 157Fa

157Fb Matt drives down the street in HIS CAR, eyes on an old man, putting down salt on the front walk of the TREATMENT CENTER. 157Fb

157E In BEN'S OFFICE, Mike watches Ben and Robby read the story. Cross outs. He hands it back to Mike. Not there yet. 157E

157F A SMALL HYDE PARK LIVING ROOM. A man in 40s cries, 157F
talking to Sacha. A Christmas tree in the background.

157J MIKE'S COMPUTER. 8 days until deadline. More edits on 157J
the story. FIND Mike in his APARTMENT. Editing. A beer
by the computer...

157Ja An E-MAIL to Robby from Ben: *'Where are we on your* 157Ja
source? It's time.' Find Robby IN HIS OFFICE, staring
at the computer.

157M A night mass at an EAST BOSTON CHURCH. 157M

As the children's choir finishes Silent Night, we FIND
Mike, in the doorway, standing there. Watching. Cut to --

161 EXT. SULLIVAN HOUSE, BROOKLINE - NIGHT 161

The door of a pretty colonial, a wreath still up. A hand
knocks. The door opens. A pretty woman (JIM'S WIFE) smiles.

JIM'S WIFE

Robby. What a nice surprise.

REVEAL Robby at the door. He walks into --

162 INT. SULLIVAN HOUSE, JIM'S HOME OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER 162

Jim sits at on a leather couch watching golf. Through a
door, we see a Christmas tree. His wife and Robby walk in.

JIM'S WIFE

Look who I found outside.

Jim looks up, less than happy to see Robby standing there.

JIM

Hon, give us a minute, will you?

Jim's wife looks surprised.

JIM'S WIFE

Sure.

ROBBY

Good to see you, Karen.

She leaves. Jim turns off the TV,

JIM

What's up?

Robby pulls out a list, hands it to Jim.

ROBBY

I'm out of time, Jim. We've got cover-up stories on 70 priests, but the boss isn't gonna run it unless I get confirmation from your side.

Jim turns off the TV, looks it over.

JIM

Are you out of your mind?

ROBBY

Come on. This is our town, Jimmy. We all knew something was going on and no one did a thing. We gotta put an end to it.

JIM

Don't tell me what I gotta do! Yeah, I helped defend these scumbags, but that's my job, Robby. I was doing my job!

ROBBY

Yeah. You and everyone else.

Jim stands, hands Robby the list.

JIM

Get out of my house.

163

EXT. SULLIVAN HOUSE, BROOKLINE - MOMENTS LATER

163

Robby walks out of the house, toward his car.

JIM

Hey!

Robby turns, finds Sullivan.

JIM (CONT'D)

You come to my home and lay this shit on me!

(then)

You're right, Robby, we all knew something was going to on. So where were you? What took you so long?!

This lands with Robby. No answer.

ROBBY

I don't know, Jimmy.

Jim shakes his head, looks like he might slug Robby.

JIM
Give me the list.

Jim holds out his hand. Robby hands him the list. Jim eyes the first page, flips to the second. He checks the names... then flips back. He looks at Robby. Holds out a hand for a pen. Robby gives him one.

Jim leans on the roof of Robby's car. Marks up the list, then hands it back to Robby. Nothing more to say, Jim turns and walks away. Robby looks down at the list. Reacts.

THE ENTIRE first page is CIRCLED. And the second.

163A **EXT. GLOBE - DAY (FORMERLY 171A, ALREADY SHOT)** 163A

The Globe Building. Snow falls.

MIKE (INTO PHONE, PRELAP)
Larry, we're going to press in six hours.

164 **INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT OFFICE - DAY** 164

Mike and Matt work the phones.

MATT (INTO PHONE)
Donna Morrissey said she'd call us with a quote from Law hours ago.

MIKE (INTO PHONE)	MATT (INTO PHONE)	
That's what I thought. Okay,	When did you talk to her?	*
Larry.	Yeah. That's good to know.	*
	Thanks, Pete.	

They hang up. Mike walks to the coffee machine.

MIKE
Anything?

MATT
Conley said Donna Morrissey should have called, he just left Lake Street.

MIKE
Yeah. Rasky said the same thing.

MATT
This is ridiculous. You'd think they want to get out ahead of this.

MIKE

They'd be idiots not to. I'd love to see their faces when they read this.

Both of them wait.

MATT

You know, Sunday's the Feast of the Epiphany.

MIKE

Seems appropriate.

The phone rings. Mike grabs it.

MIKE (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Mike Rezendes. Hi Donna. Thanks for calling. I just had a few questions if you have a minute....

Mike listens. Matt waits.

MIKE (CONT'D)

What? I just hung up with Larry Rasky...

He listens, then grabs a pad and starts writing furiously.

165

INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - DAY

165

Marty sits reading copy. He crosses something out. Ben, Robby and Sacha sit opposite Marty.

BEN

What?

MARTY

Another adjective.

Mike and Matt roll in.

ROBBY

Anything?

MIKE

Law just turned us down.

BEN

Jesus Christ.

MIKE

I just got off the phone with Donna Morrissey. She said, quote:

(MORE)

MIKE (CONT'D)

(off his pad)

"We don't even want to know what the questions are." End quote.

ROBBY

She really said that?

MIKE

(slight smile)

Yeah.

BEN

(to Marty)

That oughta do it.

MARTY

(writing)

"The Church had no interest in knowing what the Globe's questions would be."

(hands it to Mike)

Work it in somewhere before the jump.

(to the team)

Anything else?

ROBBY

Matt wants to put the letters online so readers can see it for themselves.

MATT

We can run the URL at the bottom of the article. It's pretty straightforward.

No one really knows what that means.

MARTY

Okay.

MATT

We also put the Spotlight tip line at the end of the story so people can call in. Goes directly to our office.

SACHA

Matt and I will be in in the morning in case we get any calls.

BEN

I'm more concerned about the phones at reception.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

After we ran the Porter story, the message center was tied up for weeks. It was a real problem.

MATT

And we had picketers. Lots of them.

MARTY

I'll talk to Gilman about security and the phones.

(to Robby)

How's it coming on the folo story?

Robby looks to Sacha.

SACHA

We've nailed down multiple stories on seventy priests.

MARTY

All seventy?

SACHA

Yeah. And with the confirmation from Robby's source, we're ready to go. We can have a draft next week.

MARTY

Robby, that source of yours, is this someone we could revisit?

ROBBY

Might be tough.

BEN

But he has no problem helping the church protect dozens of dirty priests. Guy's a scumbag.

Matt glances at Robby. Who's looking at Ben.

MATT

He's a lawyer, he's doing his job.

MIKE

He a shill for the Church.

BEN

He knew and did nothing.

MIKE

He coulda said something about this years ago. Maybe saved some lives.

ROBBY

What about us?

BEN

What's that supposed to mean?

ROBBY

We had all the pieces. Why didn't we get it sooner?

BEN

We didn't have all the pieces.

ROBBY

We had Saviano, we had Barrett, we had Geoghan. We had the directories in the basement.

BEN

You know what? We got it now.

MIKE

Robby, this story needed Spotlight.

ROBBY

Spotlight's been around since 1970.

BEN

So what? We didn't know the scope of this. No one did. This started with one goddamn priest, Robby.

Robby looks at Sacha. A beat.

ROBBY

MacLeish sent us a letter on 20 priests, years ago. Sacha found the clip.

MIKE

Are you freaking kidding me? 20 priests?

BEN

When?

SACHA

Just after Porter. December of '93.

ROBBY

We buried the story in Metro. No folo. Sacha found the clip.

BEN

That was you. You were Metro.

ROBBY

Yeah, that was me. I'd just taken over. I don't remember it at all. But yeah.

The room quiets. Gut punch. Ben shakes his head.

MARTY

Uh, can I say something?

They turn to him.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Sometimes it's easy to forget that we spend most of our time stumbling around in the dark. Suddenly a light gets turned on, and there's fair share of blame to go around.

(then)

I can't speak to what happened before I arrived but all of you have done some very good reporting here, reporting that I believe is going to have an immediate and considerable impact on our readers.

(then)

For me, this kind of story is why we do this.

The team takes this in.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Having said that, Cardinal Law and the Catholic community are going to have a very strong response to this. So if you need to take a moment, you've earned it. But I will need you back here Monday morning focused and ready to do your job.

165A **EXT. GLOBE - NIGHT (FORMERLY 171A, ALREADY SHOT)** 165A

The building is dark, save for the PRESS ROOM. Through the window, we see the presses. Running.

166 **INT. GLOBE, BEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT (FORMERLY 166A)** 166

Ben, coat on, sits alone in his office.

MARTY (O.C.)

Leaving?

Ben looks up. Marty's in the door. Ben stands.

BEN

Yeah.

Ben walks out into --

166A **EXT. GLOBE NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS (FORMERLY 166B)**

166A

Ben and Marty walk across the quiet press room.

MARTY

I just got a call from the Cardinal.

BEN

Really. Why?

MARTY

He wanted to tell me personally that he had decided not to comment. He said he wanted to, uh, extend me that courtesy.

BEN

Jesus, the balls on that guy. What'd you say?

MARTY

I told him he was making a mistake. And that we were going to run the story.

BEN

Damn right we're gonna run it.

166B **INT. GLOBE, PRESSES - NIGHT**

166B

The papers run...

167 **INT. SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM = NIGHT**

167

Old, delicate hands move slowly over copy. Find Sacha's Grandmother reading an early edition of the paper. Upset.

Sacha, sitting nearby, watches her. But there's no emotion, no empathy. She's blank, empty. Nothing left to feel...

SACHA'S GRANDMOTHER

Sacha, can I have a drink of water?

SACHA

Sure, Nana.

Sacha gets up, walks into the kitchen.

167A **INT. GLOBE, LOADING DOCKS - NIGHT** 167A

Bundles of papers fly down CIRCULAR CHUTES into the trucks. INSIDE THE TRUCKS, men grab the bundles, and stack them.

168 **INT. GARABEDIAN'S OFFICE, CONFERENCE ROOM = NIGHT** 168

REVEAL Mitch standing behind his desk, at the window. He reads another early edition. Then folds it up and hands it back to Mike... who's standing in front of the desk.

GARABEDIAN

Can I keep this?

MIKE

Sure. I thought you should see it first.

GARABEDIAN

Thank you for bringing it by. Now I have some clients I have to attend to.

Mitch goes back to work. Same old Mitch. Mike walks out.

169 **INT. GARABEDIAN OFFICE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS.** 169

Mike walks back toward the elevator. He presses the button, waits, hears children laughing. He peers into --

170 **INT. GARABEDIAN OFFICE, SMALL WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 170

A MOTHER sits with TWO YOUNG CHILDREN, ten and eight, playing innocently. The mother, distraught, fingers ROSARY BEADS. It's reminiscent of our open.

GARABEDIAN

Both boys were abused. Jamaica Plain. Two weeks ago.

In the HALLWAY, Garabedian stands behind Mike.

GARABEDIAN (CONT'D)

Keep doing your work, Mr. Rezendes.

He goes in. Mike just stands there, GUTTED. Off Mike, his reflection playing on the window, CUT TO --

172A **EXT. GLOBE - NIGHT** 172A

The GREEN AND GOLD TRUCKS roll out from the Globe. We see headlights, a car waits for the trucks to pass.

PUSH IN... and we see it's Robby behind the wheel. CUT INTO --

172B **INT. ROBBY'S CAR - SAME TIME** 172B

Robby sits in his car watching the trucks roll out.

A173 **EXT. BOSTON - DAWN** A173

The SPARKLING BOSTON SKYLINE. The City on the Hill.

173 **EXT. WEST ROXBURY, BOSTON - EARLY MORNING** 173

A welcome mat. A copy of the Globe is slapped down. We see the HEADLINE: **Church Allowed Abuse by Priest for Years.**

Reveal Matt walking away from the door. We see it's the treatment center near his house.

174 **INT. GLOBE, HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING** 174

We're behind Sacha as she walks down the hall. She opens the firehose box, grabs a key. Unlocks the door to Spotlight.

174A **INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT - EARLY MORNING** 174A

Sacha enters, turns on the lights, takes off her coat. Matt enters.

MATT

Hey.

SACHA

Morning.

MATT

How'd you sleep?

SACHA

Not very well. You?

MATT

I haven't slept well for months.
I've actually started writing.

SACHA

Writing?

MATT

Yeah, I'm working on a book. Gives me something else to focus on.

SACHA

That's great. What kind of book?

MATT

Horror.

Sacha reacts, the irony not lost on her. The phone RINGS. The tip line. They both stare. At last, Matt picks up.

MATT (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
Spotlight. Yeah. Yeah, of course.
Can I get your name please?

He grabs a pen. As he and Sacha trade a look, CUT TO --

175

EXT. GLOBE, FRONT PARKING LOT - MORNING

175

The small visitor's lot at the Globe entrance is empty, save for MIKE'S CAR. Idling. Robby's car enters, pulls up next to Mike's. Robby looks across at Mike. The two men connect.

Mike and Robby get out of their cars.

ROBBY
You do know it's Sunday, right?

MIKE
I couldn't get a tee time.

Robby smiles. Mike notes the SECURITY GUARDS at the entrance.

MIKE (CONT'D)
No picketers.

ROBBY
Probably still at church.

They walk in. Warriors returning home.

177

INT. GLOBE, NEWSROOM - EARLY MORNING

177

Mike and Robby walk into the newsroom. It's QUIET. Mike and Robby share a CONFUSED look as they reach the desk. LINDA, the operator, and two others sit by the phones. BORED.

ROBBY
Hey Linda.

MIKE
It's quiet, huh?

LINDA
Yeah. Easiest overtime I ever made,
phone hasn't rung once. Marty sent
two of mine down to Spotlight.

Mike and Robby trade a look. Spotlight? They start moving.

This lands on Robby. A beat. Then he moves to his desk. Passing Mike, already picking up a phone...

MIKE (INTO PHONE)
This is Spotlight.

Robby moves to his desk. He watches the team answering phones, working. A beat. Then he grabs a phone.

ROBBY (INTO PHONE)
Spotlight.

FADE TO BLACK.

A CARD APPEARS.

Over the course of 2002, the Spotlight team published close to 600 stories about the scandal.

The card fades. ANOTHER CARD APPEARS.

249 priests and brothers were publicly accused of sexual abuse within the Boston Archdiocese.

The number of survivors in Boston is estimated to be well over 1,000.

The card fades. ANOTHER CARD APPEARS.

In December 2002, Cardinal Law resigned from the Boston Archdiocese.

He was re-assigned to the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, one of the highest ranking Roman Catholic churches in the world.

The card fades. ANOTHER CARD APPEARS.

Major abuse scandals have been uncovered in the following places:

Anchorage **AK**, Fairbanks **AK**, St. Michael **AK**, Stebbins **AK**, Mobile **AL**, Phoenix **AZ**, Tucson **AZ**, Yuma **AZ**, Los Angeles **CA**, Los Gatos **CA**, Monterey **CA**, Oakland **CA**, Orange **CA**, Sacramento **CA**, San Bernardino **CA**, San Diego **CA**, Santa Barbara **CA**, Santa Rosa **CA**, Stockton **CA**, Denver **CO**, Bridgeport **CT**, Hartford **CT**, Wilmington **DE**, Miami **FL**, Palm Beach **FL**, Marietta **GA**, Savannah **GA**, Honolulu **HI**, Davenport **IA**, Dubuque **IA**, Farmington **IA**, Grand Mound **IA**, Chicago **IL**, Joliet **IL**, Peoria **IL**, Indianapolis **IN**, Conway Springs **KS**, Kansas City **KS**, Anchorage **KY**, Covington **KY**, Louisville **KY**, New Orleans **LA**, Fall River **MA**, Springfield **MA**, Wellesley **MA**, Worcester **MA**, Baltimore **MD**, Portland **ME**, Detroit **MI**, Grand Rapids **MI**, Colleegeville **MN**, Greenbush **MN**, Onamia **MN**, St. Paul/Minneapolis **MN**, Cape Girardeau **MO**, Hannibal **MO**, Kansas City **MO**, St. Louis **MO**, Jackson **MS**, Billings **MT**, Helena **MT**, St. Ignatius **MT**, Raleigh **NC**, Fargo **ND**, Lincoln **NE**, Omaha **NE**, Manchester **NH**, Camden **NJ**, Mendham **NJ**, Gallup **NM**, Santa Fe **NM**, Albany **NY**, Brooklyn **NY**, Goshen **NY**, New York **NY**, Rochester **NY**, Rockville Centre **NY**, Cincinnati **OH**, Cleveland **OH**, Toledo **OH**, Baker **OR**, Portland **OR**, Altoona **PA**, Philadelphia **PA**, Pittsburgh **PA**, Scranton **PA**, East Greenwich **RI**, Providence **RI**, Charleston **SC**, Marty Indian School **SD**, Rosebud Reservation **SD**, Memphis **TN**, Nashville **TN**, Dallas **TX**, El Paso **TX**, Fort Worth **TX**, San Antonio **TX**, Richmond **VA**, Burlington **VT**, Briscoe Memorial, **WA**, Seattle **WA**, Spokane **WA**, Yakima **WA**, Milwaukee **WI**, St. Francis **WI**

Berazategui **Argentina**, Buenos Aires **Argentina**, Morón **Argentina**, Paraná **Argentina**, Pilar **Argentina**, Quilmes **Argentina**, Salta **Argentina**, Adelaide **Australia**, Ballarat **Australia**, Bass Hill **Australia**, Bathurst **Australia**, Bindoon **Australia**, Canberra **Australia**, Dandenong **Australia**, Goulburn **Australia**, Hobart **Australia**, Lancefield **Australia**, Melbourne **Australia**, Mildura **Australia**, Mittagong **Australia**, Morisset **Australia**, Mount Isa **Australia**, Neerkol **Australia**, Newcastle **Australia**, Perth **Australia**, Sydney **Australia**, Toowoomba **Australia**, Wagga Wagga **Australia**, Wollongong **Australia**, Hollabrunn **Austria**, Bruges **Belgium**, Flawinne **Belgium**, Ottré **Belgium**, Arapiraca **Brazil**, Franca **Brazil**, Mariana **Brazil**, Rio de Janeiro **Brazil**, Antigonish **Canada**, Chatham **Canada**, Igloolik **Canada**, Sherbrooke **Canada**, St. John's **Canada**, Wilno **Canada**, Cottolengo **Chile**, Maipú **Chile**, Melipilla **Chile**, Quilicura **Chile**, Santiago **Chile**, Medellín **Colombia**, Rab **Croatia**, Santo Domingo **Dominican Republic**, London **England**, Manchester **England**, Middlesbrough **England**, Preston **England**, Reading **England**, Caen **France**, Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne **France**, Berlin **Germany**, Munich **Germany**, Riekhofen **Germany**, Ollur **India**, Curracloe **Ireland**, Dublin **Ireland**, Gortahork **Ireland**, Kilnacrott **Ireland**, Letterfrack **Ireland**, Lota **Ireland**, Monageer **Ireland**, Wexford **Ireland**, Nairobi **Kenya**, Ngong **Kenya**, Ciudad de México **México**, Cuacnopalan **México**, San Luis Potosí **México**, Auckland **New Zealand**, Christchurch **New Zealand**, Feilding **New Zealand**, Hamilton **New Zealand**, Masterton **New Zealand**, Silverstream **New Zealand**, Akute **Nigeria**, Kircubbin **Northern Ireland**, Trondheim **Norway**, Ayacucho **Peru**, Chimbote **Peru**, Bontoc **Philippines**, Cebu City **Philippines**, Manila **Philippines**, Naval **Philippines**, Tubay **Philippines**, Poznan **Poland**, Edinburgh **Scotland**, Rufisque **Senegal**, Bo **Sierra Leone**, Brits **South Africa**, Cape Town **South Africa**, Comillas **Spain**, Grenada **Spain**, Soni **Tanzania**, Mérida **Venezuela**

FADE OUT.