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INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, WASHINGTON

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BRADLEE

(to Bagdikian)

You talk to Rand? 'g^

BAGDIKIAN

A couple times. Nothing there.

BRADLEE

(tired)

Make some calls and see if this "study" has anything to do with—

BAGDIKIAN

It doesn't exist, Ben-

BRADLEE

Just do it! I'm tired of being ten minutes late to the party! When we meet back in a couple of hours let's fill in all those "someones" and "somethings" with a few more fucking details. $^{\lg}$

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ELLSBERG

How'd you figure it was me?

BAGDIKIAN

Sounded like something a crazy guy would do.

He's half-joking. Ellsberg laughs.

BAGDIKIAN

(CONT'D)

I poked around at Rand. They got nervous when I mentioned your name.

ELLSBERG

What do you know?

BAGDIKIAN

The basics. You were part of a team set up at the DoD to gather information on Vietnam.

ELLSBERG

(almost wistful)

McNamara would say "let the chips fall where they may." He wanted scholars to have the opportunity to examine Vietnam policy — all angles. I loved it. I loved the guys — the work. We had access to everything. I mean, how often does that happen, you know?

BAGDIKIAN

(treading lightly)

But.

ELLSBERG

(shrugging)

What else . . . "but" we found something.

Bagdikian holds his breath. Ellsberg lights a cigarette, his hand shakes.

 ΔV " da%,>"\e''

BAGDIKIAN

What was

EXT. BACKYARD, GRAHAM HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

BRADLEE

(CONT'D)

You could've told me to get off the story. But you didn't. You could've told me to not get the documents. But you didn't.

Beat.

BRADLEE

(CONT'D)

And if The Post doesn't publish these papers, you'll have to find a new executive editor tomorrow.

FRITZ

(scowling)

Don't be dramatic.

Ignatius stammers. Kay hides a smile, looking back to Bradlee.

BRADLEE

I give you my word.

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. $\label{eq:Marty} {\tt MARTY}$

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 . . .

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MARTY

Good to know. V]_"

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INT. GLOBE, MARTY'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

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?

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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? Vlg"

\V"

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 a couple 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)

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?

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.

V]!ep" "

ROBBY

∖e"

You have any names?

ERIC MACLEISH

(stonewalling him)

No. No I don't.

INT. GLOBE, SPOTLIGHT - LATE AFTERNOON 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)

b]" da%,>"\e"

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.

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