

CLOSER

SHANNON  
HIRSCHBAUM

BRENDA

And that the last people we know of who saw the victim alive were Flynn and Provenza.

POPE

What?

BRENDA

We have it on video - which Buzz filmed.

POPE

Why?

BRENDA

They were moonlighting for a lawyer, serving Hirschbaum a subpoena in a civil suit.

POPE

A lawyer. Oh my God.

BRENDA

And the person who went off the balcony? Not Steven Hirschbaum.

POPE

Not Steven Hirschbaum. Then who's in the morgue?!

BRENDA

Some actor - which we aren't going to tell the press while we're still looking for the killer.

POPE

Raydor is dissecting your squad's every move and you want a member of the LAPD to lie publicly?

Brenda points to the FLATSCREEN on the far wall showing a smiling Taylor addressing the press corps...

POPE (CONT'D)

Oh. I can live with that.

Brenda moves to the conference table with Pope following.

BRENDA

Good morning, ladies. I'm Deputy Chief Brenda Johnson - and I am so sorry for your loss. You must be...

→  
START

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SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

Shannon Hirschbaum. Steven's fourth  
- and final - wife.

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

And I'm Andrea. His only daughter.  
That we know of.

BRENDA

I see. So your mother...

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

- was my Dad's first wife. She  
lives in Boca Raton.

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

(to Andrea)

Which is why I wish you'd call me  
'Mom.'

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

I'm not calling you 'Mom,' Shannon!  
You sat behind me in eighth grade  
French.

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

You don't have to be such a total  
bitch when I'm only trying to  
comfort you!

(then)

I can't believe Steve's dead!

BRENDA

Well, death isn't always the end,  
Shannon. Now, I apologize for  
asking you questions at a time like  
this - but can you tell me when you  
last spoke to your husband?

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

(choking up)

It was Tuesday afternoon. You see,  
we had an argument - and he packed  
some things and left.

BRENDA

Did he say where he was going?

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

No. You see, we had an argument -  
and he packed some things and left.

Brenda shares an uncertain look with Pope.

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BRENDA

You didn't know he was at a hotel?

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

(back to her script)

No. You see, we had an argument and he packed -

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM (CONT'D)

- some things and left.

BRENDA

- some things and left.

BRENDA

Andrea, I understand you gave your father's cell number to the attorney suing him.

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

What makes you say that?

BRENDA

...The attorney told me?

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

Okay. Well, I know that might make me look like I had something to do with what happened - but I was just trying to get people talking.

Andrea looks between Brenda and Pope, wiping her eyes.

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM (CONT'D)

If it's not too much trouble, do you think one of you could get me a copy of my dad's death certificate?

POPE

You need his death certificate? Right now?

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

For the lawyers. So they can start to put things in order.

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

I can't believe you gave his private cell number to a lawyer suing him! Your father wouldn't even give me his private cell!

Brenda - reflecting on what she's just heard - stands -

BRENDA

Excuse me..

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~~HIRSCHBAUM~~

~~This may come as a shock but right now I'm about as well-liked as your average Middle-East dictator! But if I had to guess, I'd say it was my wife Shannon, that murderous near-sighted bitch!~~

~~BRENDA~~

~~And why would she want you dead?~~

~~HIRSCHBAUM~~

~~Partly because the sex has been sub-par for months - her fault, not mine - but mostly because she must have found out about my girlfriend. And Shannon's the only one who knew I was at the hotel.~~

~~BRENDA~~

~~Lt., would you take me off speaker?  
(he does, then)  
Lt., did Buzz videotape your abduction of Mr. Hirschbaum?~~

~~PROVENZA~~

~~Uh-huh. You want to see the tape?~~

~~BRENDA~~

~~Immediately. And please hold onto Mr. Hirschbaum because if he didn't commit the murder, somebody out there still wants him dead - and with a little nudge, I think they'll reveal themselves...~~

24

INT. ELECTRONICS ROOM - DAY (AN HOUR LATER)

24

Brenda is speaking with Hirschbaum's wife and daughter.

~~ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM~~

~~...What kind of good news? Did you find my dad's killer?~~

~~BRENDA~~

~~Oh, it's so much better than that, Andrea! You see, it turns out the man who died last night at the hotel wasn't even your father!~~

STAR

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

What do you mean? Who was he?

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BRENDA

...An actor hired to throw off the authorities.

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

My husband's alive? You're sure?

BRENDA

I am! In fact, I can even show you video of him taken two hours ago.

Brenda leans over and uneasily works the video joystick...

BRENDA (CONT'D)

Bear with me. I am bad with this control thingy...

ON THE MONITOR - Provenza knocks at the bungalow door -

PROVENZA (ON MONITOR)

Hello. You called for a limo?

HIRSCHBAUM (ON MONITOR, O.S.)

One minute!

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

That's really him! That's Steven's voice! He's alive!

BACK ON THE MONITOR - The door opens revealing Hirschbaum - standing next to girlfriend Lisa. Brenda freezes the image. Shannon - and Andrea - are aghast,

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM (CONT'D)

What is he doing with her?!

BRENDA

Oh, do you know that woman?

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

(disgusted)

It's Lisa Fleming. She's our personal trainer. What were they doing together?

BRENDA

Heading off to Venezuela, we think.

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

Venezuela?! He can't be taking Lisa Fleming to 'Cawackas'! He was supposed to be taking me, that bastard!

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

(to Shannon)

It's Caracas, not 'Cawackas' - and I can't believe you two were planning on running off and leaving me to deal with this mess!

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

I only thought we were running off and leaving you to deal with this mess! He was actually doing it! With Lisa - who doesn't deserve to be with him in 'Cawackas!'

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

It's 'Caracas!' You pronounce the 'r!' You know, I think I liked my father more when he was dead.

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

Oh, listen to you! The only reason you wanted the death certificate was to claim your inheritance which - let's be honest - you'd probably waste on charity anyway!

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

Yes, 'let's be honest!' You said you didn't know about the hotel! What else did you lie about?

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

I told you I liked your ugly new haircut! You can start there!

ANDREA HIRSCHBAUM

(spinning on Brenda)

Where is he?!

SHANNON HIRSCHBAUM

(now possessed)

Yes, where?! I want to know...

BRENDA

I believe the motel is called the 'Las Pulgas.' Here, let me check.

**→ END**  
Brenda grabs the joystick and, fumbling, reverses the footage all the way back through the body flying up off the Prius - stopping on Buzz's broken taillight. This startles Brenda - who focuses intently on the taillight...

CUT TO:

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