

COVER STORY

by

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INT. MAJOR NEWSPAPER BUILDING - OFFICE - EVENING

There is a mixed temperature inside this room of reporters. Some corners are calm and others are energetic.

LOGAN'S corner is energetic on the inside and calm on the outside.

LOGAN

You wasted so much time Jimmy, so much time. You knew we could have beat them to the punch.

JIMMY

I made every effort--

LOGAN

You sat on that lead one afternoon too long. You should have called him--

JIMMY

I called and called and waited and waited.

LOGAN

We aren't in the business of waiting!

JIMMY

I couldn't leave my post---if he had called, I would have missed--

LOGAN

You should have went directly to the source--

JIMMY

Fly to Boston?

LOGAN

Fly, car, walk, I don't give a damn. Just get there and get out!

(pause.)

JIMMY

I blew it, I'm sorry.

LOGAN

Sorry doesn't get us the cover story, does it?

Jimmy puts his head down.

To staff.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

This isn't a Jimmy problem folks. This is an OUR problem. Each and every one of you refuse to dig deeper inside yourselves. Where's the extra step? Where's the risk? Where's the JOURNALISM?! We talk quality, facts, you name it, I get that but where's the hunger, the drive to show the truth? Where's the courage? Yeah, well, I am to blame. I'm the one aiming this ship and I'll be damned if I allow us to settle for less than what we are, less than what we believe in. If we have an opportunity we take it. We cannot stand idle and play it safe. (like a rhyme) "If we see the opportunity..."

THE STAFF

"We take it."

LOGAN

That's right. Back to work. (his eyes connect with Paul) PAUL, I need a word.

Logan leads Paul into his office.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

Shut the door.

Paul closes door.

You get that cover story for me?

PAUL

I was able to get these photos.

Paul takes them out of envelope and spreads them on Logan's desk

LOGAN

Easy, get the blinds.

Paul closes the blinds.

Logan observes the photos. He holds one in his hand of a woman and man.

PAUL

That was taken at the Carlton yesterday at two o'clock.

LOGAN
Two o'clock. Who is he?

PAUL
His name is Mark Rutherford. He's
a big shot over at Mart and
Stewarts.

LOGAN
Rutherford...

PAUL (CAUTIOUSLY)
Yes, sir. I was able to overhear
part of their conversation in the
cocktail lounge.

Logan puts photo down on his desk as he sits.

LOGAN
Did you?

PAUL
They were talking about going away
together, somewhere sunny, your
wife--um--she mentioned Hawaii and
he---

LOGAN
Okay, I get it. So...you're
certain?

PAUL
Yes, sir, I'm afraid so.

Logan pulls out a wad of cash.

LOGAN
You did good, Paul.

Logan hands Paul a few bills. He escorts him out.
That will be all.

PAUL
Oh, okay, sir. Thanks, um, I'm
sorry for the---

LOGAN
Not a word of this to anyone, is
that clear?

PAUL
Yes, sir. Not a word.

LOGAN
Has everything been erased?

PAUL
Erased?

LOGAN
Do I have the only set of photos?

PAUL
Yes, sir.

LOGAN
Keep it that way.

Logan closes door on Paul's face.