

S1:E5 Treatment

“The Price of Avarice”

Logline: With a private investigator closing in and corporate loyalties unraveling, Tracy Shepard wages a quiet war to protect her secret—only to discover that ambition, desire, and revenge may destroy her long before the truth does.

The episode opens in the quiet bureaucracy of NanoNano’s procurement wing, where Marilyn, preparing to return to Kuala Lumpur, thanks Gordon for shielding her security expenses at the corporate level. Hannah, now embedded in procurement, begins to notice something troubling: the sudden appearance of Pacific Rim Security Services—an unapproved vendor with sprawling indemnification clauses and complex invoices that Gordon doesn’t have the resources to fully vet. Hannah volunteers to review the contracts herself, quietly stepping into dangerous territory.

Across the country, Richards deepens his off-books investigation. In a diner parking lot, he bribes an evidence clerk for access to the murder weapon and bullet. At a gun shop, he pays for an unofficial ballistics analysis that comes back with a damning “maybe.” Meanwhile, Tracy’s hired operatives—posing as FBI agents—are actively dismantling Richards’s support network, manipulating Ron Slomsky with techno-babble lies while laughing at how easily he’s fooled.

Tracy, lounging on Matt’s yacht, learns from Aiman that Richards has identified Walter Mough—the con man’s real name. She realizes Marilyn has talked. Her control tightens. The game is entering its end phase.

In Dubai, Matt and Hannah travel together under the guise of business expansion. Their professional partnership slips into intimacy at the Armani Hotel rooftop pool and later in bed—an affair layered with ambition, dependency, and betrayal. Hannah simultaneously uncovers more suspicious Pacific Rim invoices: vague “field operations,” a mysterious Saigon LLC, and a downtown San Diego storefront lease. She brings these concerns to Matt, carefully framing them as accounting anomalies rather than accusations against Tracy.

Back in Malaysia, Tracy confronts Marilyn directly. Playing doctored recordings, Tracy forces Marilyn to resign under threat of prosecution, stripping her of power and dignity in one brutal meeting. Marilyn gets one final revenge: revealing she saw Matt and Hannah boarding a Dubai flight together. Tracy absorbs the blow in silence.

Matt receives Marilyn's resignation during a high-level dinner in Dubai and begins to see fractures forming across his empire.

Meanwhile, Tracy and Aiman collaborate to corner Richards. They obtain surveillance footage proving Richards bribed morgue staff and illegally accessed evidence. Armed with this leverage, Tracy meets Richards in a New York hotel bar. She forces him to abandon the investigation under threat of criminal exposure. Richards extorts \$50,000 anyway—and delivers the ultimate humiliation: Tracy's father unknowingly sold him the murder weapon, now rebranded as a valuable Audie Murphy collectible. Tracy pays, but leaves him with a chilling warning: *"Death is the only water that washes away dirt."*

Believing she's neutralized Richards and purged Marilyn, Tracy returns to San Diego expecting to reclaim control. Instead, she discovers Matt has fired Gordon, uncovered Pacific Rim's fraudulent contracts, and begun legal proceedings to remove her from the board. Worse: Matt is openly with Hannah now.

On the yacht, Tracy confronts both of them. Matt admits the affair, announces he's reshoring the cosmetics division, and informs Tracy the board will vote her out. Her leverage is gone. Her narrative collapsed. She storms away soaked in rain, breaking a heel on the sidewalk—an unglamorous fall from power.

That night, alone in her apartment, Tracy receives a large wooden crate.

Inside: her Kandinsky painting, returned by Matt with a curt note.

"Sending your painting back. I never liked it."

The gesture is surgical. Everything Tracy built—career, marriage, dominance—has been dismantled.

She stands in silence, staring at the artwork that once symbolized her taste, status, and control.