

As soon as you arrive at the White House, you are ushered into McKim's office.

A tall, gaunt man in his late forties, McKim relates to you that at about 9:30 yesterday morning Maria Bismar, the president's secretary, opened a new letter to the president from Dr. Claude Du-Mont. She put the letter on a table for the president to look at later that day. When she came back a half hour later, it was missing.

"Who had access to that room?" you ask McKim.

"Only the president, his security adviser—Henry Timbers—and myself, and, of course, Mrs. Bismar."

McKim rises as the president himself walks into the room. The two of you shake hands, and the president asks about your work on the case.