USA

Carol’s Second Act: Two Writers Quit After Allegations Were Leveled Against Patricia Heaton’s EP Husband

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Two feminine writers give up the freshman CBS sitcom *Carol's Second Act* after allegations had been leveled towards government producer David Hunt, who's married to collection star Patricia Heaton.

In keeping with *The New York Instances*, author Broti Gupta alleged that Hunt touched her inappropriately on two separate events. The primary incident occurred at a forged and crew dinner in August, when Hunt allegedly hugged Gupta twice from the aspect, then complimented her pants and ran his hand up the aspect of her thigh. Later that evening, Gupta mentioned the incident together with her boyfriend, fellow TV scribe Greg Gallant, and actress Dylan Gelula, who confirmed their conversations with the *Instances*.

Heaton with husband David Hunt in 2016

Weeks later, on the set of the *Carol's Second Act*, Gupta was seated in a chair subsequent to co-executive producer Margee Magee. Hunt, who was supposedly in search of one thing, approached Gupta, took her by the shoulders and jerked her ahead — at which level Magee leapt up from her personal chair and stated, "Excuse me." Hunt didn't reply.

In statements supplied to the *Instances*, Hunt's lawyer Bryan Freedman claimed that his consumer "doesn't recall rubbing anybody's thigh or leg and he disputes that characterization of it." Hunt additionally "doesn't bear in mind the element of touching anybody's shoulders, and if he did that, it was not meant to be offensive," Freedman stated.

Following the on-set prevalence, Gupta informed

Magee concerning the preliminary inappropriate touching. Magee went with Gupta to debate the matter with showrunners Sarah Haskins and Emily Halpern, who subsequently reported the allegations to CBS Tv Studios. Throughout a follow-up assembly with an HR exec, Gupta was adamant that she didn't need Hunt kicked off the present, however as an alternative educated on harassment.

The next week, Gupta and Magee discovered that they had been barred from the sitcom's rehearsal as a result of the earlier run-throughs had been "too chaotic." They had been additionally knowledgeable that they'd not be capable of run revised jokes by Haskins and Halpern on tape evening. Each Gupta and Magee believed that the modifications had been put in place to separate them from Hunt, whereas a letter from the showrunners' legal professional claimed that these modifications had been determined upon *earlier than* Gupta's criticism.

After talking with Haskins and Halpern, Magee strongly believed that the modifications *had* been put in place to separate Gupta from Hunt. Gupta subsequently give up, partially as a result of the brand new insurance policies had penalized her fellow writers.

"To be clear, we have now by no means executed and would by no means do something to penalize or retaliate towards anybody who raised these considerations," Haskins and Halpern stated in a press release to the *Instances*. "We're devastated that most of the inflammatory claims which have been made about us are merely not tethered to the fact of what occurred."

When Gupta resigned, Magee met with HR brass to specific her considerations, after which she was stripped of almost all writing tasks and was led to give up as effectively. CBS maintains that there was "no proof" that Haskins or Halpern had "retaliatory intent."

Gupta and Magee labored out an settlement with CBS to be paid solely what they had been owed beneath their contracts. Hunt, in the meantime, underwent sexual harassment coaching, which was accomplished on Oct. 1.

Along with serving as an EP on *Carol's Second Act*, Hunt is an actor whose credit embrace episodes of *24, Blue Bloods, Citadel, The Comeback* and *Mad*

Males. He additionally had a recurring function on Heaton's former sitcom *Everyone Loves Raymond*, as Ray's nemesis Invoice Parker.

You may learn CBS Tv Studios' full assertion on the matter beneath:

> *A declare of unprofessional habits was made by a author concerning one of many present's government producers. The criticism was reported by a producer to the showrunners, who instantly alerted the manufacturing firm and the Studio. The matter was promptly investigated by human assets, and acceptable motion was*

taken to handle the criticism. The manager producer cooperated absolutely with the method.

As well as, we regarded into allegations of retaliatory conduct by the showrunners on the time they had been raised, and we discovered no proof of retaliatory intent of their interactions with the author or the producer. Specifically, their selections concerning the writers' process throughout rehearsals and tapings had been creatively motivated to streamline their manufacturing course of *and had been already being mentioned previous to the criticism.*

Additional, our human assets crew at all times endeavors to handle points in knowledgeable and delicate method, and we should make clear that sure allegations about them have both been misstated or taken wholly out of context.

The author and producer determined to depart the present of their very own accord. CBS agreed to their request to be paid for the rest of their assured episodes this season, and *we supported their request to waive any contractual provisions that may forestall them from talking about their experiences on the present.*