

A STARZ ORIGINAL SERIES

# BOSS

## CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

### **MAYOR TOM KANE (Kelsey Grammer)**

Male, mid 50s, tough when it's called for and charismatic when necessary, he's a career politician and a good one at that. As the mayor, Kane is no stranger to the glad-handing, backroom politics for which Chicago is famous – he knows the game and runs it well. Several terms at the city's helm have made him the most powerful man in Illinois, but not without sacrifice: his cold but mutually understood relationship with his wife, Meredith, and his tenuous relationship with his estranged daughter, Emma, are casualties which Kane must endure. Kane's reign of power is threatened when he learns he has a debilitating disease he must hide in order to maintain control.

### **MEREDITH KANE (Connie Nielsen)**

Female, late 40s, immaculately groomed, professional, confident, formidable, a woman whose unassailable public persona seems too embedded to allow her to have or reveal emotion, Meredith is Mayor Kane's wife. Polite but no longer emotionally engaged with her husband, Meredith goes to his public outings without question, and handles her own end of their business-like spearheading an independent educational organization that's funding the city's failing schools—with steely, unwavering commitment.

### **KITTY O'NEIL (Kathleen Robertson)**

Female, mid 30s, tough, supremely organized, Kitty is Mayor Kane's right hand woman, who manages his schedule, makes sure he's where he should be, has a working knowledge of the most arcane details of his agenda, and even writes his speeches. Having worked for Kane for eight years, Kitty is unfazed by the frequent brutality in his manner, and can witness the most shocking show of temper on the Mayor's part without losing her composure. Kitty works closely with Ezra Stone, Kane's senior advisor, and like him conducts herself impeccably to make sure she deserves the Mayor's trust—because clearly his enmity would be terrifying.

### **EMMA KANE (Hannah Ware)**

Female, 30, no fuss, small, simply attired, with a sense of unending determination even though she seems chronically tired, Emma is the daughter of Chicago Mayor Tom Kane; she's also the rector of the Calvary Episcopal Church, from which she organizes/operates a free health services clinic for the poor. Emma seems to have a troubled relationship with her father, and is accustomed to not being able to connect with him, literally and figuratively. Despite her obvious good works and sense of mission, Emma seems to be a bit lost, possibly searching for something, possibly struggling with a drug habit, which makes her reach out to a friendship with an unexpected young man.

### **BEN ZAJAC (Jeff Hephner)**

Male, 40, impeccably handsome, a Chicago native from a working class background, Zajac is the state's Treasurer, having left a lucrative private sector law career to pursue public service, about which he is infectiously passionate; he's also ambitious. He's clearly about to become a major player on the Chicago political scene.

### **EZRA STONE (Martin Donovan)**

Male, 50s, lean and fit, Stone is Kane's "grey suit" (senior advisor), who is grey in demeanor and greyer in moral outlook. A Yale graduate, smart and savvy, much trusted by the Mayor, Stone is a seasoned politico who helps the Mayor achieve his agenda, whether it's pushing through an unpopular ordinance or organizing the



support of an unexpected gubernatorial candidate. Stone also comes through for the Mayor in a much more personal way, no questions asked.

**GOVERNOR MCCALL CULLEN (Francis Guinan)**

The governor of Illinois, a seasoned, driven politico facing a bitter campaign, Cullen hates having to play along with the Mayor's apparent unwavering support of his bid for re-election, but he's clearly aware that Kane is going to drop him down a manhole pretty soon. A man with, if possible, an even worse temper than Mayor Kane, Cullen is unbelievably abusive to his long-suffering aide.

**DARIUS MORRISON (Rotimi Akinosho)**

Darius is a kind young man who brings his elderly, ailing uncle to Emma's free clinic for help with his emphysema. Muscular, ambitious and intriguing, Darius is a smart, enterprising and thoughtful young man striving to break free of the confines of his immediate world – one fraught with primal dangers. Maybe that's why Emma is drawn to him.

**DR. ELLA HARRIS (Karen Aldridge)**

Female, 40s, strong, serious, the mother of an 8-year-old son, Dr. Harris is a neurologist. She has integrity and takes her doctor-patient confidentiality role seriously. However, she's shaken to her core when she's given a frightening reminder from one of Kane's henchmen about the need for secrecy.

**SAM MILLER (Troy Garity)**

Male, 30s, a Tribune reporter with a reputation for fearlessly pursuing the truth, Miller is politically savvy with a journalist's nose for the real story. Currently working on an in depth piece about Mayor Tom Kane, Miller follows Meredith Kane on one of her stumps for the private company funding the failing inner-city schools. Miller has no idea that he's about to be a pawn in Kane and Stone's master plan for revealing their gubernatorial candidate.

**ALDERMAN MATA (Ricardo Gutierrez)**

Male, 50s-60s, an Alderman on the Chicago council, political boss of the 30th ward, basically a thug in a suit, Mata's a brutal politico who believes in pissing down the ladder: after a vicious chewing out by Kane for letting one of his underlings, construction company owner Moco Ruiz, make an unauthorized TV appearance, Mata ends a golf game with Ruiz by having his henchmen teach him a lesson he will never forget. Mata is responsible for muscling through an ordinance in council designed to help out Kane in his struggle to expand the airport.

**ALDERMAN ROSS (James Vincent Meredith)**

Male, 40s, African-American, a strong alderman in the predominately African-American wards of Chicago's South Side. He sees Kane's stronghold over City Hall and organizes a faction against him. Having been established as Kane's rival, he positions himself to work against him whenever necessary, including voicing his strong indignation at a certain ordinance proposal that he deems contemptible and outrageous.

**MOCO RUIZ (Joe Minoso)**

Male, 30s, Hispanic/Spanish speaking, one of Mata's "guys," not too astute, Ruiz is the owner of the construction company that got the bid to work the airport expansion, which includes the exhumation of graves at a cemetery. When Ruiz learns that an ancient Native American site has been discovered in the process of the exhumation, he takes it upon himself to publicly go on TV to discuss it, an act which enrages the Mayor, who reads the riot act to Ruiz's boss, Mata. Ruiz pays a terrible price for his indiscretion.

