

COP

Your "baby" is twenty-five, and sold rock to an undercover. Now back up before I put your ass in a cell with him.

The Woman is pissed but shuts up. Preston and Ashe walk in. They get looks. Not hostile. Guarded. Curious.

SHERIFF DANIEL PLATT -- white, late 40's, stands with an OLDER MAN, white, late 60's. They share a joke. Laugh. The Older Man walks toward the doors. Gives a slap on the back of OFFICER CALEB BROOKS -- White, 30's, as he passes. Brooks forces a smile.

Sheriff Platt approaches.

PLATT

Can I help you?

PRESTON

I'm Preston Terry, attorney with DOJ Civil Rights.

PLATT

Should of known from the suit. We're strictly Men's Wearhouse down here.

PRESTON

This is my investigator, Ashe Bell.

Platt eyes her for a moment.

PLATT

How long were you on the Job?

ASHE

(small smile --)

Two years patrol, then got tapped by DEA. Worked Columbia and Mexico for six years.

Platt whistles, impressed.

PLATT

And you gave all that up for the cushy life.

ASHE

I like being my own boss.

Preston reacts.

"INDICTMENT" (SCENE #1) START

(1/6)

"PLATT"

18.

BELK
(beat, then --)
Yes. Adrenaline I guess.

ASHE
I know how it is.
(then --)
Was there anything substantiating
your initial suspicions?

BELK
I found a couple ounces of
marijuana in my search of the
vehicle.

PRESTON
Was this search done before or
after the shooting?

BELK
After.

PRESTON
You said "White guy in that
neighborhood means drugs."

BELK
Yes, sir.

PRESTON
Was there a legitimate cause for
the initial stop or was it all
based on profiling?

Belk stares at him.

BELK
I'm gonna wait for my rep now.

Ashe tightens in frustration.

EXT. POLICE STATION - LATE MORNING

(SCENE #2)

Preston and Ashe walk toward the rental. Sheriff Platt steps
outside.

PLATT
You headed over?

PRESTON
Yes.

(3/6)

"INDICTMENT"

START

"PLATT"

19.

PLATT
Let me get you an escort.

Before Preston can answer --

ASHE
We're good thanks.

PLATT
I'd feel a whole lot more comfortable. Pretty rough down there.

ASHE
Appreciate that. But its important we keep our investigation as independent as possible.

PLATT
Suit yourself.

(SCENE #2 - END)

INT. RENTAL CAR - SHORT TIME LATER

Ashe drives. Scans the local radio stations. Preston sits in the passenger seat.

ASHE
What's your music preference?

PRESTON
Depends on my mood.

ASHE
So what are you in the mood for?

PRESTON
Quiet.

Ashe turns off the radio.

PRESTON (CONT'D)
You got Belk to open up.

ASHE
That's my job.

PRESTON
You did it well.

ASHE
Wish I could say the same.

(4/6)

"INDICTMENT"

"PLATT"

56.

ACT FOUR

EXT. BELK HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Simple one story, two bedroom. Middle-class neighborhood. The house is surrounded by LOCAL NEWS CAMERAS. Shades are drawn. A police cruiser sits out front...

INT. BELK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

(SCENE # 3)

Sheriff Platt sits on the couch as Belk quickly dumps the take out containers from last night.

BELK

I was drunk. Just popping off at the mouth. That's not how I really feel, sir.

PLATT

Hell I've said things sober that could get me fired. Nobody here is taking offense.

His wife Kerry hands Platt a glass of orange juice.

PLATT (CONT'D)

Thanks, Kerry.

She forces a smile, retreats to the doorway.

BELK

What about the guys?

PLATT

There's a box of saltines on your desk with a bow on it.

Belk smiles. Relieved.

PLATT (CONT'D)

Unfortunately the media's not so forgiving. Looks like they got their new ball of yarn.

BELK

I can handle it.

PLATT

I know you can. But I think its best you to take some time off 'til these DOJ folks finish their investigation.

(5/6)

"INDICTMENT"

START

"PLATT"

57.

BELK
What?

Just then, CHRISTIAN BELK -- 5, runs in rocking a superhero cape and underwear. He dives on his dad.

BELK (CONT'D)
(tight --)
Hey son, not right now.

He looks over at Kerry, shoots her a look. Kerry quickly takes a hold of him.

KERRY
I think you're missing some pants little man.

He giggles, wriggles away from her. Platt waits patiently. Belk is dying. Finally she corrals Christian out of the room.

PLATT
Look. This is not a suspension. No one's saying you did anything wrong. But its gonna be a distraction and its gonna be impossible for you to do your job.

BELK
I'll make a statement. Let people hear from me.

PLATT
Josh, you're turning into the story. Keep a low profile, keep your mouth shut and let this blow over. Trust me.

Belk is unsure. He is also in no position to argue.

BELK
Yes, sir.

(SCENE #3 - END)

INT. HOTEL - HALLWAY - EARLY MORNING

Preston strides down the hallway. In the clothes he was in last night. Ashe leans in her doorway.

ASHE
Morning.

PRESTON
Have you seen the video?

(6/6)

"INDICIMENT"