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"LAW & ORDER"

"BURNED"

Written by

Siobhan Byrne

REC'D OCT 17 1997

6:05pm

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LAW & ORDER

"BURNED"

SCRIPT REVISION HISTORY

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10/17/97	Green	1-65

LAW & ORDER

"BURNED"

CAST

DETECTIVE LENNIE BRISCOE
DETECTIVE REYNALDO CURTIS
LIEUTENANT ANITA VAN BUREN
ASST. D.A. JACK MC COY
ASST. D.A. JAMIE ROSS
D.A. ADAM SCHIFF

EMIL SKODA
STAN KAMINSKI
ELLEN RATTINGER
(RAT-TIN-JURE)
VOICE (TERRY LAWLOR) (X)
NORM CRISPIN
KRISTIN'S VOICE
SECOND FEMALE VOICE
THERESA GREEN
ROY LAWLOR (LAW-LUR)
SALVATORE HESS
TONY COLLABRO
SANDRA LAWLOR
ELAINE LAWLOR (X)
CARL ANDERTON (X)
TED VLAHOS
(VLA-HO-SS)
TERRY LAWLOR
BRADY
LAWRENCE WEAVER
JUDGE SIMONS (SIGH-MONZ)
GRACE KILLEEN
LOIS GAREY (X)

LAW & ORDER

"BURNED"

SETS

INTERIORS:

EXTERIORS:

PRECINCT

- VAN BUREN'S OFFICE
- SQUADROOM
- INTERROGATION ROOM
- INTERVIEW ROOM
- LAB
- PROPERTY CLERK'S OFFICE
- D.A.'S OFFICE
- SCHIFF'S OFFICE
- MC COY'S OFFICE
- ROSS'S CUBICLE
- KAMINSKY'S APARTMENT
- DOORWAY
- LIVING ROOM

- KAMINSKI APARTMENT BUILDING
- STREET
- ANDERTON APARTMENT BUILDING
- COURTHOUSE
- CHILDREN'S ZOO
- PARK
- LOADING DOCK

- APARTMENT BUILDING
- HALLWAY

- ROY LAWLOR'S APARTMENT
- KITCHEN
- EARTHLY TREASURES - (X)
- BEAUTY SUPPLY
- ARSON SQUAD
- BAR
- ANDERTON'S APARTMENT (X)
- LIVING ROOM
- STUDY
- COURTHOUSE
- JUDGE SIMONS' CHAMBER
- HALLWAY
- COURTROOM
- LAWYER'S ROOM
- D.A.'S CONFERENCE ROOM
- PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- LIBRARY (X)

LAW & ORDER"BURNED"TEASER

FADE IN

1 INT. APARTMENT DOORWAY - NIGHT 1

Stan Kaminski, late thirties, dressed in jeans, a t-shirt, and cowboy boots, opens his apartment door. Ellen Rattinger, a woman in her early thirties, trying to look like she's in her twenties -- trendy clothes and big hair -- leans against him for support. They're both tipsy.

RATTINGER

I've been lied to by experts...

KAMINSKI

Like I said, no wife, no roommates, no live-ins, no problems, baby...

2 INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 2

A bachelor pad -- minimal furnishings. Rattinger sinks into the couch. She looks at the ashtray in front of her -- piled with cigarettes. She pulls out a butt...

RATTINGER

Red lipstick?

KAMINSKI

My mother's.

He leans down and kisses her, a reminder of why they're at his apartment, and a promise of things to come.

KAMINSKI

You want a drink, baby? Wine?

RATTINGER

A glass a wine'd be nice.

Kaminski heads down a hallway, towards the kitchen...

RATTINGER

Sure you're not married...?

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

KAMINSKI

Last time I checked.

She scans the room, for more evidence he's lying. She spots the answering machine -- the LED display indicates there's one message. With an eye towards the kitchen, Rattinger leans over, lowers the volume and presses play --

FEMALE VOICE

(on answering
machine)

I did it. You don't have to worry anymore. I killed Dee-Dee...

Rattinger stares at the answering machine. Before she has time to react, Kaminski comes back with the drinks. He hands her a glass of wine, and sits beside her on the couch... She puts the wine down on the coffee table.

RATTINGER

I just remembered, there's somewhere I have to be...

She starts to rise, but he pulls her back down.

KAMINSKI

C'mon baby...

He puts his arm behind her head, and pulls her to him, kissing her neck and face. Rattinger resists --

RATTINGER

Stop it!

Kaminski shifts himself on top of Rattinger, but she pushes him away and bolts as he staggers drunkenly after her.

CUT TO

3 INT. PRECINCT - NIGHT

3

Rattinger sits with Briscoe and Curtis, who are clearly unphased by Rattinger's hysterical account of her night, which only serves to make her more insistent with them.

RATTINGER

The message said "I killed her."

BRISCOE

You sure you heard right? You said yourself you'd had a few drinks.

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

RATTINGER

This guy had someone killed. It said
so on the machine.

Briscoe and Curtis exchange looks.

BRISCOE

Where do we find him?

RATTINGER

You know the big building on the
corner of 8th and 23rd? That's where
he lives.

CURTIS

His apartment number?

RATTINGER

I was in a rush to get the hell outta
there.

CURTIS

O.K., what's the guy's name?

RATTINGER

Stanley.

Briscoe writes it down, waiting for a last name.

RATTINGER

He said he was a fashion photographer.
I don't know where.

BRISCOE

Lemme see if I've got this straight.
Stanley somebody, a fashion
photographer somewhere, who lives in
some apartment building, probably on
23rd and 8th has some sort of message
about the murder of somebody who might
be named Dee-Dee.

RATTINGER

That's right.

BRISCOE

(dismissive)

Well, thank you for coming in.

CURTIS

You think you could describe him to
our sketch artist?

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED (2)

3

Briscoe gives Curtis a look.

RATTINGER

Yes.

CURTIS

Good. Wait here. We'll get somebody.

Curtis and Briscoe move off.

BRISCOE

(wry)

This is gonna be a slam dunk, Rey.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

4 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY 4

Briscoe and Curtis stand outside the building speaking with Norm Crispin, the super. He is hosing down the front of the building. Curtis is holding out a sketch of Kaminski.

CRISPIN

I got Stan Arnold, Stan Hudson, 'cept he's in New Mexico til the end of October, Stan Kaminski --

CURTIS

Could you just look at the picture. Our Stanley is a photographer. About my height, dark hair and likes to pick up women in bars...

CRISPIN

Kaminski.

CURTIS

You see him with anyone last night?

CRISPIN

When the Rangers play, I don't see anything 'cept the television.

CURTIS

Where can we find him?

CRISPIN

He works in a lumber store on Fourteenth.

BRISCOE

(to Curtis)

He's a Polaroid photographer.

CUT TO

5 OMITTED

5

5A EXT. LOADING DOCK - DAY

5A

Kaminski is stocking the shelves with plumbing supplies -- pipes, connections, etc. as Briscoe and Curtis question him.

KAMINSKI

She had dark hair, skinny... I don't remember her name.

BRISCOE

Name Ellen ring a bell?

KAMINSKI

Something happen to her?

BRISCOE

Just tell us what went on.

KAMINSKI

We go back to my place. One minute she's warming up, next thing it's a no hitter. But I didn't touch her. She saying I touched her?

CURTIS

No. You return all the calls you got on your answering machine last night?

KAMINSKI

I haven't checked the messages.

CURTIS

You know anyone by the name of "Dee-Dee?"

KAMINSKI

What's this got to do with my answering machine?

CURTIS

She says someone left a message about Dee-Dee on your machine.

KAMINSKI

This chick listens to my answering machine, invading my privacy, and I'm the one getting the third degree.

CONTINUED

5A CONTINUED

5A

BRISCOE

Who's Dee-Dee, Stan?

KAMINSKI

I don't know any Dee-Dee.

BRISCOE

So you won't mind letting us listen to your incoming messages, clear this up, and we'll be on our way.

KAMINSKI

C'mon, man, I'm workin'...

CURTIS

We'll square it with the boss.

KAMINSKI

And I'm leaving with two cops...?

BRISCOE

Look at the bright side -- you're not in handcuffs.

CUT TO

6 INT. KAMINSKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

6

Briscoe, Curtis and Kaminski stand around the answering machine. Kaminski presses play...

MACHINE VOICE

You have two messages...

(We hear a beep)

Hi, this is Kristin, from the Clam House, last Friday. I'm off the whole weekend. Have bikini, will travel, if you still wanna go to your place in Jamaica...The number's five-five-five-one-four-three-seven. Bye...

(Machine voice)

Friday, eleven twenty a.m.

Curtis looks at Briscoe -- another one?

CURTIS

(To Kaminski)

You're a busy man.

The machine beeps again.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

6

FEMALE VOICE

(We hear a beep)

Mr. Kaminski, this is Miss Lee from
O.K. Cable. Give us a call regarding
your outstanding balance.

(We hear another
beep)

Friday, twelve forty-seven. That was
your last message.

KAMINSKI

So which one of these is supposed to
be from Dee-Dee?

CURTIS

Does your tape automatically rewind
when the last message plays?

KAMINSKI

Yeah.

CURTIS

Then, we need to take the tape with
us.

KAMINSKI

Lemme just get a pen...

Kaminski goes over to a side table, finds a pen.

BRISCOE

555-1437.

KAMINSKI

What?

BRISCOE

(takes the tape)

Have bikini, will travel. 555-1437.

The cops leave. Off Kaminski, writing the number down.

CUT TO

7 INT. PRECINCT - DAY

7

Van Buren and Briscoe.

BRISCOE

The lab's checkin' if Kaminski
recorded over the confession.

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

7

VAN BUREN

Alleged confession. Don't you have crimes with actual bodies to investigate? It could be she just wants to rattle his chain.

BRISCOE

If she was just out to make trouble, she coulda cried rape...

Curtis walks in.

CURTIS

Stanley Kaminski. Nineteen ninety-five, Assault Three. Probation. And last April, a Dina Perucci got an Order of Protection against him.

BRISCOE

Dina, Dee-Dee?

VAN BUREN

Go see if Dina's still alive and kickin'.

CUT TO

8 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - DAY

8

Briscoe knocks on the door, which is opened by an attractive blonde woman, thirtysomething.

BRISCOE

Miss Perucci?

THERESA GREEN

Who're you?

The cops tin her.

BRISCOE

Detective Briscoe. This is Detective Curtis.

THERESA GREEN

(introduces herself)

I'm Theresa Green. Dina's not home.

CURTIS

Do you know when she'll be back?

CONTINUED

THERESA GREEN
(shakes her head
no)

She hasn't been around since Monday.

CURTIS
Is that unusual for her?

THERESA GREEN
We're flight attendants.

BRISCOE
You know her boyfriend, Stan Kaminski?

THERESA GREEN
That guy. What did he do now?

BRISCOE
She had a protection order against
him.

THERESA GREEN
Dina breaks up with him and a week
later, two in the morning, he's
banging on our door.

CURTIS
When's the last time you saw her?

THERESA GREEN
Monday morning. I had a flight. When
I got back she wasn't here.

CURTIS
Which airline does she work for?

THERESA GREEN
Worldwide.
(beat)
What's wrong?

Curtis' beeper goes off.

BRISCOE
We just need to talk to her.

CURTIS
(re: beeper, to
Briscoe)
The Lab.

CUT TO

9 INT. POLICE LAB - EVENING

9

Jack Brady, early thirties, a tech, stands in front of an audio console.

BRADY

The loudness of the original message and the high frequency left a print-through.

Brady plays the tape...

AUDIO MESSAGE

I did it. You don't have to worry anymore. I killed Dee-Dee...

(Beep; machine voice)

Friday, eleven thirty-seven.

BRADY

(re: tape)

Sounds young. Probably female. Early twenties...

CURTIS

Maybe he got one of his girlfriends to kill Dina.

BRISCOE

This guy's good-looking, but not that good-looking.

CUT TO

10 INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

10

Briscoe sits across from Kaminski, who glares across the table at him, clearly aggravated that he's being questioned. Curtis leans against the back wall, studying Kaminski.

KAMINSKI

How many times do I have to tell you, I don't know this Dee-Dee.

CURTIS

How about Dina Perucci, you know who she is, don't you?

KAMINSKI

What's she got to do with this?

CONTINUED

CURTIS

She had an Order of Protection against you.

KAMINSKI

Dina over reacted.

BRISCOE

You like playing rough with women, Stan?

KAMINSKI

I knocked on Dina's door -- what's the big deal?

CURTIS

The big deal is the murder confession on your answering machine.

BRISCOE

Where's Dina?

KAMINSKI

I haven't seen her in months.

BRISCOE

She jammed you with that restraint order. Maybe you wanted to jam her back?

CURTIS

Is she "Dee-Dee"?

Kaminski puts his head in his hands.

KAMINSKI

I don't know a Dee-Dee. Maybe the message was a mistake, a wrong number...

(searching his memory)

When I first got this number I used to get a lot of calls for some other guy.

BRISCOE

He got a name?

KAMINSKI

(thinks)

Ray or Roy. Something like that.

BRISCOE

Ray or Roy, that's all you got?

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED (2)

10

Kaminski nods. Briscoe starts to lead him out.

BRISCOE

Let's go.

KAMINSKI

(can't believe it)

What about this guy, Ray...

CURTIS

You remember anything more about him,
like his last name, tell lock-up,
they'll let us know.

CUT TO

11 INT. SQUAD ROOM - DAY

11

Curtis sits at his desk on phone. Briscoe and Van Buren
walk toward him.

VAN BUREN

We got word from Worldwide. Dina's in
Athens on a lay-over.

BRISCOE

So, Dina's not Dee-Dee.

VAN BUREN

Or she is, and the phone call was a
prank.

BRISCOE

Or she isn't and the call was for this
guy, Roy.

VAN BUREN

Send Mr. Kaminski home. I haven't got
a budget for this.

CURTIS

(on to phone)

Uh-uh...

(writes)

Any current address?...Thanks

(hangs up)

Roy Lawlor. He had the number before
Kaminski.

CUT TO

12 OMITTED

12

13 INT. ROY LAWLOR'S APARTMENT - DAY

13

Briscoe and Curtis sit on hardback chairs in the cramped kitchen of Roy's apartment. Roy Lawlor is around forty, but looks closer to sixty -- gray hair, underweight and stooped shoulders. Bottles and cans of hair products and glossy brochures are spread out on the table. Roy chain smokes as the tape plays...

AUDIO MESSAGE

"...I killed Dee-Dee."

Curtis shuts it off.

CURTIS

You recognize the voice?

ROY LAWLOR

(shrugs)

No idea.

BRISCOE

You don't know anyone named Dee-Dee?

ROY LAWLOR

No.

CURTIS

Diane, Dina, Doris...?

Lawlor shakes his head no. Briscoe nods toward Lawlor's open, half packed sample case.

BRISCOE

Maybe somebody you met on your route?

ROY LAWLOR

The people I meet are named Roberto and Jacques. Oh yeah, and Joe the Barber. And they're not killing each other over me.

Roy lights up another cigarette, chain-smoking.

BRISCOE

Two packs a day?

ROY LAWLOR

(nods)

Ever since I quit drinking.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED

13

BRISCOE

Are you a friend of Bill W's?
(off Lawlor's nod)

When I quit, I went half nuts.

ROY LAWLOR

I went into the program when my
marriage broke up. It's still a
struggle.

BRISCOE

(glance3s at
Curtis)

That's funny. It usually works the
other way around.

Roy shrugs.

BRISCOE

Well, one day at a time.

ROY LAWLOR

Sure. One long day.

CUT TO

14 OMITTED

14

15 INT. EARTHLY TREASURES BEAUTY SUPPLY - DAY

15

Shelves of hair products line the walls -- gels, mousses,
shampoos, conditioners, leave-in treatments... Briscoe and
Curtis sit across from Salvatore Hess, late forties, his
hair is dyed black, and he has it slicked back.

HESS

Roy's out in the field most of the
time.

CURTIS

What's he cover?

HESS

Bronx, Uptown Manhattan to Lincoln
Center, East side to 86th street.

(beat)

You guys from the one-five?

CURTIS

The two-seven.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED

15

Hess rummages through his drawer, and pulls out a pile of parking tickets.

HESS

You know anybody at the one-five? I got parking problems. Four tickets in the past month. My guys pull up outside double-park for two minutes -- to restock -- by the time they get back to the car, there's a ticket.

BRISCOE

Lawlor close to any of the other salesmen?

HESS

(shakes head no)

He doesn't spend much time with the other guys. Most of them work out of town, the tri-state area. Lawlor has to stay pretty much in the City.

CURTIS

How come?

HESS

Couldn't get insurance on the guy. Our carrier said he was a liability.

CURTIS

What's his problem? D.U.I.'s?

HESS

Something under the influence. He stays at his apartment, we don't have to worry about insurance. He stays at hotels, motels, the insurance company says he'd be a risk.

(beat)

Look, they guy's had a bad enough time.

(re: AA)

When I met him in the rooms, he was real mokus. If I hadn't given him a job, he'd be out collecting bottles for the refund.

BRISCOE

What's his problem with insurance?

HESS

Two years ago, he got drunk, passed out, and started a fire. Killed somebody.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED (2)

15

BRISCOE

Who?

HESS

His daughter. Diane.

BRISCOE

(looks at Curtis)

Dee-Dee.

HESS

(as he writes it)

So what should I do with the parking tickets?

BRISCOE

Eat 'em.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

16 INT. ARSON SQUAD - DAY

16

Briscoe, Curtis and an arson investigator -- Tony Collabro.
Curtis leafs through the report.

COLLABRO

(skimming report)

Five year-old kid asleep on a daybed
in a corner of the room. Fire Company
got there in the early stages, but the
windows were shut.

(beat)

Smoke inhalation. Father recovered.
Kid didn't. EMTs worked on her for
forty-five minutes. But she was
already dead.

BRISCOE

How'd it start?

COLLABRO

With a cigarette. In the living room.
Near the couch where we found Lawlor.

CURTIS

(glancing at the
report)

Says here it started three feet from
the couch. Usually, if someone drops
a cigarette, doesn't the fire start on
or near him?

COLLABRO

(glancing at
report)

Good point. There were cigarette
butts all over the floor. I guess the
investigator figured one of them hit
some newspapers.

CURTIS

Who called it in?

COLLABRO

(looks at report)

Neighbor's dog started goin' crazy.
She went into the hall. Smelled the
smoke...

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED

16

CURTIS

Lawlor say he started the fire?

COLLABRO

(nods)

After he came to. He was out when they found him.

CURTIS

Because of the smoke inhalation?

COLLABRO

That, and his blood alcohol was point two five. He was loaded.

BRISCOE

Where was the mother at the time of the fire?

COLLABRO

Upstate. Saratoga.

CUT TO

17 INT. ROY LAWLOR'S APARTMENT - DAY

17

Briscoe, Curtis and Roy Lawlor.

BRISCOE

Awfully big memory lapse, Roy.

ROY LAWLOR

You try dealing with something like this.

BRISCOE

Who made that phone call?

ROY LAWLOR

I don't know. Somebody's trying to spook me.

BRISCOE

Who'd do that?

ROY LAWLOR

I don't know. You want a list of the people I've pissed off, pull up a seat.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

CURTIS

Let's start with your ex-wife.

ROY LAWLOR

C'mon... Don't go rehashing it with her...She's been through enough.

BRISCOE

She a drinker, too?

Lawlor nods.

CURTIS

You wanna tell us where to find her?

ROY LAWLOR

I don't know where she is.

CURTIS

(skeptical)

You haven't kept in touch?

ROY LAWLOR

Like I said, she's been through enough.

CUT TO

18 INT. BAR - DAY

18

Sandra Lawlor, a blonde in her late thirties, nurses a beer. It's not hard to imagine she was once very attractive, but tragedy and too much drink have dulled her features.

SANDRA LAWLOR

(a little miffed)

You used my social security number to look up where I work?

CURTIS

And your boss sent us here.

SANDRA LAWLOR

Can't even drink in peace anymore.

BRISCOE

Mrs. Lawlor --

SANDRA LAWLOR

You call me Sandra.

(to Curtis)

And you can call me Sandy.

CONTINUED

CURTIS

Mrs. Lawlor, we need to ask you some questions about your daughter's death.

She looks at them surprised...

SANDRA LAWLOR

What?

BRISCOE

We're following up. The report says you were in Saratoga.

SANDRA LAWLOR

I was at a conference.

She swallows the last gulp of her drink in an effort to dull the memory.

CURTIS

How about last Friday, around eleven, twelve in the afternoon, do you remember where you were?

SANDRA LAWLOR

I was still asleep. I didn't get up til one. My day off.

CURTIS

Sleeping off a late night?

SANDRA LAWLOR

(gives him an
appraising look)

All my nights are late.

CURTIS

(ignoring her look)

Did you try calling your ex-husband that day?

SANDRA LAWLOR

No. Why?

BRISCOE

Somebody left a message for him at his old number.

SANDRA LAWLOR

Why would I call his old number? Last time I spoke to him was September twenty-fifth.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED (2)

18

BRISCOE

You remember the exact date?

SANDRA LAWLOR

It would've been Dee-Dee's seventh birthday.

CUT TO

19 INT. VAN BUREN'S OFFICE - DAY

19

Van Buren enters with Curtis.

CURTIS

Her ex-employer confirms she was in Saratoga and didn't check out of her hotel until the morning after.

VAN BUREN

You leave home, everything's okay. You come home...Hey, I'd start drinking too.

She shakes her head. Briscoe enters, carrying some faxes.

BRISCOE

I got the LUDs off Sandra Lawlor's phone. No calls to Kaminski's number. But, I've got some late night calls from her to Roy's new number.

Curtis looks at the LUDS.

CURTIS

All the calls were a minute long.

BRISCOE

Long enough to get the answering machine and hang up.

VAN BUREN

Lawlor was screening his calls.

BRISCOE

She also made a dozen one-minute late night calls to another number. Get this -- that number's listed to an Elaine Anderton Lawlor.

VAN BUREN

Another Mrs. Lawlor?

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED

19

BRISCOE

This one's in Gramercy Park.

CURTIS

Could be a sister, or an aunt.

BRISCOE

Whoever it is, I pulled their LUDS.
The confession came from their number.

VAN BUREN

Let them know we got the message.

CUT TO

20 INT. ANDERTON APARTMENT -DAY

20

Briscoe and Curtis sit on a beige overstuffed couch, across from Elaine Anderton Lawlor, a good looking forty-year-old -- her opulent apartment a stark contrast to Roy's.

ELAINE LAWLOR

Roy? We got divorced eight years ago.
He moved to the West Side six, seven
months ago. I haven't talked to him
since.

BRISCOE

What about Sandra Lawlor?

ELAINE LAWLOR

His second wife? That drunk calls at
all hours, complaining about me,
complaining about him.

(beat)

Is Roy in some kind of trouble?

CURTIS

We're looking into the death of his
daughter, Diane.

ELAINE LAWLOR

Uh-huh, and...?

CURTIS

Someone left a message on an answering
machine confessing to the arson.

ELAINE LAWLOR

What does it have to do with me?

BRISCOE

The call came from this apartment.

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED

20

ELAINE LAWLOR

That's impossible.

ANDERTON (O.S.)

Introduce me to your friends, Elaine.

Carl Anderton, 63, enters. He's a tall man -- with steel gray hair, lightly bronzed skin. He's dressed casually -- khaki's and a golf shirt, but even casual, he exudes money.

ELAINE LAWLOR

Daddy, these are police detectives.

ANDERTON

Carl Anderton. Is there a problem?

ELAINE LAWLOR

They're saying someone used our phone to confess to killing Roy's daughter.

ANDERTON

(to cops)

Someone's pulling your leg.

BRISCOE

That may be, but the phone records say the call came --

ANDERTON

In my business, I only trust records I can prove haven't been tampered with.

BRISCOE

Why would anyone want to change your phone records?

ANDERTON

My daughter is no longer married to that drunk. If you have questions about the fire, talk to him. He set it.

Anderton takes a business card from a desk.

CURTIS

Mr. Anderton --

ANDERTON

He destroyed one life. He nearly destroyed my daughter's.

(hands card to
Briscoe)

This is my lawyer. You can talk to him to your heart's content. Now, if you'll please leave --

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED (2)

20

Off Briscoe and Curtis.

CUT TO

21 EXT. ANDERTON BUILDING - DAY

21

Briscoe and Curtis stand with Ted Vlahos, the doorman, dressed in a green uniform and hat.

VLAHOS

Who works for the Andertons? Two housekeepers, Elsie Ruiz and Anne Ryan, the cook, Emma Hooper, the chauffeur, a secretary, people going in and out all the time.

BRISCOE

Ages?

VLAHOS

Ruiz is around sixty.

CURTIS

Ryan?

VLAHOS

Fifties. Hooper, maybe forty, forty-five.

Briscoe and Curtis exchange a look: not promising.

BRISCOE

Anybody else?

VLAHOS

Just Mr. Anderton, his daughter and her kid.

BRISCOE

Her kid?

VLAHOS

Terry. Him and his mother've lived with Mr. Anderton since her divorce.

CURTIS

How old's the boy?

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

VLAHOS

Teenager, like fourteen, fifteen.

Briscoe looks at Curtis.

CURTIS

High pitched voice?

VLAHOS

Yeah.

CURTIS

Where is he now?

VLAHOS

In school. Their chauffeur brings him home around four.

CURTIS

Thanks.

Vlahos goes inside. Curtis turns to Briscoe.

CURTIS

The kid?

BRISCOE

The kid.

(beat)

The Andertons aren't going to volunteer him for a voice sample.

CURTIS

Maybe he'll volunteer one himself.

TIME CUT TO

22 EXT. ANDERTON BUILDING - DAY

22

A car pulls up, and Terry Lawlor steps out. He's tall and lanky, with a short haircut, and a black knapsack thrown over his shoulder. He starts to walk toward the building when Briscoe and Curtis walk up to him.

CURTIS

(a DEA pin mike in his collar)

Hey kid --

Terry turns around.

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

BRISCOE

We're looking for The Player's Club...

TERRY

(points)

It's one block up that way, then you make a right.

Terry starts to go inside.

CURTIS

(repeating
directions wrong)

One block, first left...

TERRY

(stopping)

First right. It's got an awning out front...half-way down the block. You can't miss it.

Before Terry can say anything more, the limousine driver gets out of the car, glances at the cops.

BRISCOE

Nice talkin' to ya.

The cops move off. Curtis unclips a small microphone from his lapel. A wire runs behind the lapel to a small dictaphone in his breast pocket. He takes out the dictaphone and presses the stop button.

CUT TO

23 INT. POLICE LAB - DAY

23

Briscoe, Curtis, Jack Brady at the audio console.

BRADY

The kid's voice barely registers fifty decibels... Even with a filter --

(off Curtis look)

Sixty percent match is what I can do.

Brady moves off.

CURTIS

Sixty percent's about twenty percent short of an arrest warrant.

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED

23

BRISCOE

We can take another look at the arson evidence...

CUT TO

24 INT. PROPERTY CLERK'S OFFICE - DAY

24

Briscoe, Curtis, Collabro. They are looking at the sealed evidence bags from the fire.

BRISCOE

Five cigarette butts, some newspapers, couple matchbooks...

Curtis looks at the singed matchbook.

CURTIS

The Connaught Hotel, London.

BRISCOE

My first wife wanted to stay there one night. I figured we could afford one hour.

CURTIS

That seem like Roy Lawlor's kind of place?

BRISCOE

Not the Roy Lawlor I saw. But it's right up Carl Anderton's alley.

CURTIS

(to Collabro; re matchbook)

Where was it found?

COLLABRO

(checks report)

On the floor, in the hallway.

BRISCOE

Was it ever checked for prints?

COLLABRO

No.

(shakes head)

Geniuses. The cardboard has an acetate finish. It's not too damaged. They should have been able to lift a print.

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED

24

BRISCOE
Maybe we still can.

CUT TO

25 INT. ROSS' CUBICLE - NIGHT

25

Briscoe, Curtis and Ross.

BRISCOE
Latent found a print on the matchbook.
It's not Roy's.

ROSS
Whose?

CURTIS
The size of the print looks like it
could belong to a kid.

ROSS
What else do you have?

CURTIS
A 60 percent voice match on the phone
call.

ROSS
Only 60 percent?
(shakes head)
Carl Anderton sits on the Mayor's re-
election committee.

CURTIS
If he sat in a booth collecting tolls
for the Lincoln Tunnel, we'd be
arresting his grandson by now.

ROSS
What's that supposed to mean?
(flashing)
You've got --

BRISCOE
(also flashing)
-- a print, a confession --

ROSS
Motive?

BRISCOE
The kid's half-sister?
(MORE)

CONTINUED

25 CONTINUED

25

BRISCOE (CONT'D)

You don't have to be a genius to come up with something.

ROSS

(flat)

Then come up with something.

Briscoe half-turns away, frustrated.

ROSS

What about the father?

CURTIS

He's had plenty of opportunity to implicate his son, and he hasn't...

ROSS

The mother?

BRISCOE

If she had anything to say about Terry and the fire, she would've said it by now.

ROSS

What about the people who live with the boy? I'm sure there's no shortage of household help at the Andertons.

BRISCOE

If they worked there two years ago, if we can find them, if they'll talk...

ROSS

I have confidence in you.

CUT TO

26 EXT. CHILDREN'S ZOO - DAY

26

Briscoe and Curtis walk with with Grace Killeen, a nanny from Ireland. She has a slight accent.

KILLEEN

When I worked for Mr. Anderton, he had me sign a confidentiality agreement.

CURTIS

He can't keep you from talking to us.

CONTINUED

BRISCOE

A little girl died in a fire we think Terry started.

KILLEEN

He makes all his employees sign one...

BRISCOE

She was only five years old.

(off Killeen's
hesitation)

You gonna wait for a subpoena? One way or another, you're gonna end up talking to us.

KILLEEN

(beat)

After that fire, Terry stayed in his room, drawing pictures. Of that poor little girl.

CURTIS

Did he talk about her?

KILLEEN

Only with his father.

BRISCOE

At the Anderton's?

KILLEEN

(shakes head no)

On the phone.

(off Briscoe's
look)

Sometimes I'd spend the night.

CURTIS

And his father would call?

KILLEEN

(shakes head no)

Terry would call him in the middle of the night. I heard him from the other room, talking on and on...

BRISCOE

About what?

KILLEEN

Terry could only see his father on weekends. He blamed the little girl.

CONTINUED

CURTIS

What else did he say about her?

KILLEEN

He said she was turning his father against him. A little girl. It was crazy. I thought maybe he was on drugs.

BRISCOE

Did he use drugs?

KILLEEN

I don't know. I don't think so.

CURTIS

Where was he the night of the fire?

KILLEEN

I don't know.

(a beat)

Two weeks after the fire, I checked the bag with clothes they give to Salvation Army.

BRISCOE

Why would you do that?

KILLEEN

They throw things out... Lots of stuff is still good.

BRISCOE

(getting her on track)

So you looked in the bag...

KILLEEN

I found a shirt...

CURTIS

And?

KILLEEN

You could still smell the smoke.

BRISCOE

One of Terry's shirts?

Killeen nods yes.

CUT TO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

28 INT. MCCOY'S OFFICE - LATER

28

McCoy, Ross, Anderton and Lawrence Weaver.

ANDERTON

I don't like it... My grandson wearing
some electronic monitoring device
while he's out on bail.

MCCOY

All due respect, if the boy weren't
your grandson he might not even be out
on bail.

ANDERTON

With all due respect, Mr. McCoy, if he
weren't my grandson, he wouldn't have
even been charged with the crime. The
whole thing's political dirty tricks.

MCCOY

(getting angry)
How's that?

ANDERTON

To embarrass the Mayor.
(before McCoy can
respond)
You're a lifelong Democrat, aren't
you, Mr. McCoy?

MCCOY

I've been a Demublican for years.

WEAVER

Mr. McCoy, Terry Lawlor's a good kid.

ROSS

Whose prints were at an arson that
killed another good kid.

ANDERTON

That's not enough to prove --

CONTINUED

MCCOY

(to Anderton)

We have enough for trial. Or we could talk about a plea?

ANDERTON

We're going to talk about dropping the charges.

MCCOY

(to Weaver)

We'll discuss that with the boy's mother.

ANDERTON

I'm his guardian. I make all the decisions concerning him. You talk to me, Mr. McCoy.

WEAVER

The Arson squad closed this case two years ago.

ANDERTON

A drunk named Roy Lawlor did it.

MCCOY

This case isn't about Roy Lawlor. Or, for that matter, about you, Mr. Anderton.

ANDERTON

It most certainly is about me.

WEAVER

No way you'll prove Terry set that fire.

ROSS

We have his confession on tape.

WEAVER

Not for long.

Weaver takes papers from his briefcase and hands them to Ross.

WEAVER

It's a motion for an audibility hearing.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED (2)

28

ANDERTON

This 60% voice-match is crap, and you know it.

Anderton leaves. Weaver closes his briefcase and follows.

CUT TO

29 INT. JUDGE SIMONS CHAMBERS - DAY

29

McCoy, Ross, Weaver, and Judge Simons. Weaver puts a small stack of papers on the judge's desk.

WEAVER

Six reports from three different nationally recognized experts comparing the tape to my client's voice and to five random samples.

(beat)

My wife's voice was a fifty percent match.

ROSS

We're not offering a conclusive match, your Honor, but a probable one in light of the other evidence.

WEAVER

Your Honor, the tape was altered in the lab.

MCCOY

Your Honor, the call to the answering machine came from his client's home --

WEAVER

That may be true, but whether or not my client made the call is the issue.

JUDGE SIMONS

Mr. McCoy, the tape was enhanced, and produced a voice match disputed by experts.

MCCOY

By defense experts.

JUDGE SIMONS

I also heard your expert.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED

29

JUDGE SIMONS (CONT'D)
I listened to the tapes, and I can't tell that the two voices are from the same person. Given the inflammatory nature of the tape's content, I'm going to suppress it.

Off McCoy, pissed...

CUT TO

30 INT. SCHIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

30

McCoy, Ross, and Schiff.

SCHIFF
(shakes head)
Carl Anderton's grandson...
(beat)
Carl's a good man. We worked on the Lindsay campaign together.

MCCOY
We're not prosecuting him.

SCHIFF
The boy obviously feels repentant for what he did. He called his father, didn't he?

MCCOY
And then he had second thoughts.

ROSS
Or someone had them for him.

SCHIFF
You offered a plea?

ROSS
We got turned down.

SCHIFF
What kind of plea?

ROSS
We didn't get that far. He turned down the idea of a plea.

MC COY
Adam, why are we pussy-footing around?

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

SCHIFF

(cutting McCoy off)

The man has a four billion dollar war chest. Three years ago, on the Atlantic-Starcom cable merger, he took on the SEC -- and won.

ROSS

(pissed)

He's rich, he's powerful. Maybe we should let Robin Leach try the case.

SCHIFF

(flash of anger)

Carl Anderton brought down a governor, put senators in office, and now he's fighting for his grandson.

MC COY

I'm not kissing his ass, Adam.

SCHIFF

You treat him with respect.

MC COY

He gets the same from me everybody else does. I don't care who he is.

Off Schiff --

CUT TO

31 INT. ANDERTON APARTMENT - STUDY - NIGHT

31

Subdued lighting, bookcases surround the room, oil paintings, photos of Anderton with various politicians. Schiff enters behind Anderton who takes a seat in a leather wingback chair. Schiff is obviously uneasy amid the power. He motions to another chair.

SCHIFF

Here?

Anderton motions -- sure.

ANDERTON

Bobby Kennedy sat in that chair, smoked a Cohiba. Right after we signed the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration agreement. You remember? You were sitting --

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED

31

SCHIFF

(motions)

I stood right over there.

ANDERTON

Yes.

A valet enters.

ANDERTON

You want something, Adam?

SCHIFF

No thank you.

Anderton motions, the valet leaves.

SCHIFF

You know why I'm here.

Anderton doesn't react. Schiff is getting more uncomfortable.

SCHIFF

We're both in a bad spot, Carl. It's just going to end in a bloody mess.

ANDERTON

If you wanted, Adam, you could make it go away.

SCHIFF

(beat)

Your grandson confessed.

ANDERTON

That was no confession. Terry was just trying to make his father feel better. The boy has a good heart.

SCHIFF

There's other evidence. A plea bargain's the best way to go, Carl.

ANDERTON

You've been very creative in the past, Adam. Look what it took to get the Bed-Stuy Restoration off the ground. You cut a lot of sweet deals.

SCHIFF

For a good cause.

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED (2)

31

ANDERTON

When's your term up? Next spring?

SCHIFF

(stiffening)

What are you implying?

ANDERTON

Don't misunderstand me.

(beat)

We go back a long way. It was a different City. But the important things -- loyalty, friendship -- they haven't changed.

SCHIFF

No, they haven't.

ANDERTON

This is my only grandson. You were at his mother's wedding, Adam. I have a picture of you holding the boy when was a baby.

SCHIFF

(beat)

I'm sorry, Carl. There's a plea offer on the table. Take it, don't take it. It's up to you.

ANDERTON

Adam, you deny me a personal request?

SCHIFF

I can't do this, Carl.

(beat)

I won't.

A beat. Schiff and Anderton gaze at each other. Nothing more to be said. Schiff gets up, crosses the room, -- as Anderton watches him go.

CUT TO

32 INT. MCCOY'S OFFICE - EVENING

32

McCoy and Ross go over the case files.

MCCOY

A fingerprint on an old match book, a smelly shirt... Not the strongest case I've ever taken to trial.

CONTINUED

ROSS

It might help if we could tell a jury what turned Terry into an arsonist.

MCCOY

He was angry at his father. That's an emotion I can understand.

ROSS

Something pushed Terry over the edge.

MCCOY

Didn't the nanny suspect drugs? It'd be nice to prove it.

ROSS

I checked his school records, medical records, insurance. There's no sign he ever had a drug problem.

MCCOY

What about friends?

ROSS

I haven't found any. And I can't get anyone at his school to say anything bad about him.

MCCOY

They're afraid of losing a future endowment. What about other schools the boy attended?

Ross pulls a yearbook from a stack of papers.

ROSS

Selwyn Academy. That's the prep he was at when the fire occurred. They wouldn't talk to me either.

MCCOY

Is that their yearbook?

She hands it to him. McCoy flips through, looks up Terry, stops at a few pages.

MCCOY

He seems pretty harmless in a jacket and tie.

ROSS

(smiles)

You all do.

CONTINUED

32 CONTINUED (2)

32

MCCOY

(finds)

Here. They had a school counselor.
If the kid was on drugs she'd know
about it.

CUT TO

33 INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY - DAY

33

Clearly not a private school. Little kids' artwork adorn the walls. Ross speaks with Lois Garey, the former school counselor. Garey is in her mid to late thirties, and she hasn't lost her zeal for the job. She's soft looking -- loose hair, baggy pants and a big sweater -- a woman who puts you at ease without a word.

GAREY

Drugs weren't his problem. Maybe he
would've been better off if they were.

ROSS

What was his problem?

GAREY

His real problem? I never got a
chance to find out. But his behavior
in school was something else.

ROSS

A handful.

GAREY

Depending when you caught him. He
could be a charmer one week, an
absolute monster the next. He'd get
in these funks, I could hardly get a
word out of him.

ROSS

Given his home life, wouldn't you
expect him to be moody?

GAREY

It wasn't about that.

(explains)

He decided to run for student
president of the middle school. He
had a very well articulated platform,
posters, the whole bit. A week before
the elections, he withdrew.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED

33

GAREY (CONT'D)

I asked him why, he went into a diatribe about the other candidate sabotaging his campaign, planting spies.

ROSS

Was it true?

GAREY

He said he could hear them whispering through the walls.

ROSS

Did you talk about this with his mother?

GAREY

We had instructions only to talk to his grandfather. I gave Mr. Anderton the names of some child psychiatrists. But he never contacted them.

ROSS

You followed up?

GAREY

Yes. I liked Terry. When Mr. Anderton didn't act, I went to the headmaster and insisted.

ROSS

What happened?

GAREY

They fired me. I didn't know it at the time, but the Vice-Chairman of the school's Board of Governors happened to be President of Anderton Tele-Communications.

Off Ross --

CUT TO

34 INT. MC COY'S OFFICE - DAY

34

McCoy, Ross and Emil Skoda.

CONTINUED

SKODA

Paranoia, Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder... You expect me to make a diagnosis based on the observations of an amateur?

MCCOY

Yes. You have a problem with that?

SKODA

(smiles)

Okay. He can't relate to others, he has low tolerance for frustration, he's unpredictable... So far, that's my kid. Now, the fear and suspicion, the whispering through the walls...it sounds like the kid's in the early stages of bipolar disorder.

ROSS

Bipolar disorder.

SKODA

Alternating cycles of depression and mania. Periods of feeling better than normal -- brighter and more energetic and charming -- hypersexuality, poor judgement. Then, suddenly irritability, aggression, delusions of persecution, hearing voices.

MC COY

That's what's going on with this boy?

SKODA

It's a third hand diagnosis. Take it for what it's worth. But, it might explain why he's a fire bug.

ROSS

If he's crazy, why isn't his lawyer going for an insanity defense?

MC COY

Good question.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

35 INT. ANDERTON'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

35

McCoy, Ross, Weaver, Anderton. The tables and walls are crowded with art.

WEAVER

Bipolar disorder? I think you need your head examined, Mr. McCoy.

ROSS

We didn't pull this out of thin air. We've talked to a former school counselor, to his friends --

ANDERTON

People with impeccable credentials in the field of psychiatry.

ROSS

The behavior they observed can't be explained any other way.

MCCOY

Mr. Anderton, I have no interest in prosecuting your grandson if he has a mental disease.

ANDERTON

There's nothing wrong with Terry.

MCCOY

Then, you won't mind if our psychiatrist examines him.

WEAVER

So you can gather evidence against him? I don't think so.

MCCOY

It would be off the record. You have nothing to lose.

Weaver looks at Anderton, who shakes his head no.

ROSS

Mr. Anderton, your grandson needs treatment, not prison.

CONTINUED

35 CONTINUED

35

WEAVER

The way your case is going, he doesn't have to worry about prison.

As Anderton gets up --

MCCOY

Your grandson killed that little girl. Whether in a prison or a psychiatric hospital -- he's going to answer for it.

ANDERTON

At the end of this, Mr. McCoy, my grandson is coming home with me, and you better look to your linen.

MCCOY

We'll see what a judge thinks about that. I'm moving for a seven, three, oh exam.

Off Weaver and Anderton --

CUT TO

36 INT. JUDGE SIMONS CHAMBERS - DAY

36

McCoy, Ross, Weaver, and Judge Simons.

JUDGE SIMONS

Unusual for the prosecutor to be the party requesting a psychiatric exam.

WEAVER

Unless it's a last ditch effort to get out of a trial they're going to lose.

MCCOY

Your Honor, I've brought this motion in the interest of justice --

JUDGE SIMONS

Aren't the defendant's best interests served by his counsel?

MCCOY

Unless counsel refuses to acknowledge the obvious.

WEAVER

What obvious?

(MORE)

CONTINUED

36 CONTINUED

36

WEAVER (CONT'D)

Your Honor, the defendant hasn't been howling at the moon, or ripping his hair out. He's not crazy.

ROSS

If there's nothing wrong with his client, a seven, three, oh exam can't possibly --

WEAVER

(interrupts)

It's a pointless proceeding that can only be to my grandson's detriment. The prosecutors can question him in violation of his rights --

JUDGE SIMONS

Mr. McCoy, if you think his client's mental condition is so obvious, then it should be apparent if I talk to him. I'll question him in chambers and decide if your motion has merit.

MCCOY

I'd like our psychiatrist to observe --

WEAVER

Absolutely not.

JUDGE SIMONS

I'll decide what goes on in my chambers, Mr. Weaver. Mr. McCoy's psychiatrist can observe, but I'll be the one asking questions.

CUT TO

37 INT. JUDGE'S CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

37

McCoy, Ross, Skoda and Weaver watch as Terry is questioned by Judge Simons.

JUDGE SIMONS

So you understand everything that's happened in this case so far?

TERRY

Yes, sir.

JUDGE SIMONS

How do you feel about all of this?

CONTINUED

37 CONTINUED

37

TERRY

Scared.

JUDGE SIMONS

Understandable. And how is it for you at home?

TERRY

I've been playin' a lot of Nintendo.

He gestures to the electronic monitoring device on his ankle.

TERRY

I can't rollerblade with this on.

Judge Simons smiles.

JUDGE SIMONS

Thank you for coming in. You can wait for Mr. Weaver outside.

Terry gets up and leaves.

JUDGE SIMONS

He seems like a normal teenager to me.

SKODA

With all due respect, your Honor, I would have asked different questions.

JUDGE SIMONS

That's why you were allowed here only as an observer.

MCCOY

Your Honor, Dr. Skoda's point is --

JUDGE SIMONS

Mr. McCoy, I don't care what his point is. I'm satisfied the defendant is of sound mind. Your motion for a 730 exam is denied.

CUT TO

38 EXT. COURTHOUSE, HALLWAY - A LITTLE LATER

38

McCoy with Ross and Skoda. McCoy is pissed.

CONTINUED

38 CONTINUED

38

SKODA

I'm not a mind reader, Jack. "Hi, how are ya?" isn't a diagnostic question.

MCCOY

You can't tell me anything?

SKODA

He likes rollerblading and Nintendo. So do I.

ROSS

I don't get it. They should've jumped at a chance for the exam.

MCCOY

(shrugs)

They think they're going to win.

ROSS

The way things are going, they're probably right.

(beat)

So now what?

MCCOY

(annoyed)

We go to trial. If they don't want to use his mental state to get him acquitted fine, we'll use it to convict him. He set the fire because he's deluded.

ROSS

If he has a mental disease, Jack, he doesn't belong in prison.

MC COY

Maybe it won't come down to that.

ROSS

What if it does?

MC COY

That's what they pay us for.

CUT TO

39 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

39

McCoy, Ross for the prosecution. At the defense table: Terry, Weaver, two other lawyers.

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED

39

Behind Weaver sit Carl Anderton and Elaine Lawlor. Sandra Lawlor is on the stand. Roy Lawlor watches her testimony from the back of the gallery. Judge Simons presides.

SANDRA LAWLOR

After Dee-Dee was born, Terry became, well, aggressive with her.

MCCOY

In what way?

SANDRA LAWLOR

Squeezing her too hard, for one thing.

Anderton whispers something to Weaver.

MCCOY

Did you discuss this with your husband?

SANDRA LAWLOR

I told Roy I didn't want Terry around her. I was afraid he might...do something. We cut his visits to just the weekends. When I could be there.

MCCOY

Why didn't you tell the police any of this before?

SANDRA LAWLOR

I didn't think it mattered. Roy said the fire was his fault.

MCCOY

Thank you. Nothing further.

McCoy sits. Weaver gets up.

WEAVER

Were there any witnesses, other than yourself, who saw Terry hug Diane?

SANDRA LAWLOR

No.

WEAVER

Ms. Lawlor, do you drink?

MCCOY

Objection. Relevance.

CONTINUED

39 CONTINUED (2)

39

WEAVER
Goes to credibility.

JUDGE SIMONS
Overruled. Answer the question.

SANDRA LAWLOR
I have a few drinks every day.

WEAVER
And isn't it true, Mrs. Lawlor, on two occasions you and your husband got into a fight that was so severe neighbors had to call the police.

SANDRA LAWLOR
Yes, but --

WEAVER
That this was an example of the kind of home you and Roy Lawlor kept, and it was Terry's mother and grandfather who --

MCCOY
Objection --

WEAVER
(over)
-- curtailed Terry's visits -- not you -- because they feared for his safety?

MCCOY
(standing)
Your Honor, he's testifying.

JUDGE SIMONS
Sustained. The jury will disregard Mr. Weaver's last remark.

WEAVER
No more questions.

CUT TO

40 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

40

The school counselor, Lois Garey, is on the stand.

CONTINUED

GAREY

On certain occasions, Terry told me he thought he was being persecuted. For example, towards the end of the school year, Terry was convinced the other kids were conspiring against him.

Anderton leans forward and whispers to Weaver.

MCCOY

Did he tell you how he knew this?

WEAVER

Objection. Hearsay.

MCCOY

Your Honor, the testimony is not offered to prove the truth of the statement, but to demonstrate the defendant's state of mind at the time.

Again, Anderton whispers to Weaver.

JUDGE SIMONS

Overruled. The witness will answer.

GAREY

He told me he could hear the other students --

WEAVER

(interrupts)

Your Honor, may we approach the bench?

The judge motions counsel to the bench.

WEAVER

This witness is a high school counselor. She's not accredited by any graduate school of psychiatry or psychology --

MCCOY

She's not being asked to offer a professional diagnosis, but only to describe observed behavior, something any lay person can do.

JUDGE SIMONS

He's right, Mr. Weaver.

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED (2)

40

WEAVER

(scrambling)

Your Honor, in her capacity as a school counselor, anything she was told by my client falls under patient privilege --

MCCOY

He can't have it both ways. Either she's a qualified mental health practitioner or she isn't.

JUDGE SIMONS

You really can't, Mr. Weaver. Now step back. Ms. Garey, please answer Mr. McCoy's question.

GAREY

He told me he could hear the other students whispering about him through the walls.

This as Weaver huddles with Anderton.

MCCOY

What if any other behavior did you notice around this time?

WEAVER

Your Honor, we request a recess.

JUDGE SIMONS

For what purpose?

WEAVER

To consult with the District Attorney.

JUDGE SIMONS

Mr. McCoy?

MCCOY

We have no objection.

JUDGE SIMONS

Very well. Court is now in recess. We will reconvene at ten a.m. tomorrow. Ms. Garey, I remind you you're still under oath and you're not to discuss your testimony with anyone.

He bangs the gavel.

CUT TO

41 EXT. COURTHOUSE PORTICO - DAY

41

McCoy, Ross, Weaver and Anderton. In the b.g., Anderton's limo waits.

WEAVER

We're prepared to plead to second degree manslaughter.

McCoy looks at Ross.

ANDERTON

This fire was an accident... There was no pre-meditation. Terry certainly didn't mean to hurt anyone.

MCCOY

You'd let him go to prison?

WEAVER

We're talking minimum time in a juvenile facility.

MCCOY

Prison is prison. Mr. Anderton, you really think that's where your grandson belongs?

ANDERTON

That's where you want to send him.

ROSS

You heard the testimony. Your grandson needs psychiatric help.

ANDERTON

Absolutely not!

MCCOY

I don't understand you, Mr. Anderton. We're offering him --

ANDERTON

What? The chance to stay in a loony bin until some state employee decides he can leave? I know what this is really about, Mr. McCoy. You're going after my grandson to embarrass me -- personally, professionally, publicly. I know your type.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

41 CONTINUED

41

ANDERTON (CONT'D)

You think by bringing down a man who's accomplished something in his life, it builds you up. Well, you won't get away with it. I put a fair offer on the table. You turn it down, I'll go public. I'll expose you for the vindictive envious little man you are.

Anderton walks down the steps past some onlookers who have been watching him rave and gets into his limo. A beat. Then --

MCCOY

Tell Mr. Anderton we'll think about his offer.

Weaver follows Anderton down the steps into the limo.

ROSS

I don't get it. Is he looking for a better deal? Is he setting us up for an appeal?

MCCOY

What did Skoda say?
(recalling)
Charming one minute, aggressive and paranoid the next. Sound familiar?

ROSS

Carl Anderton. Like grandfather, like grandson?

MCCOY

Maybe that's the conclusion he's afraid of.

(beat)

Get everything you can on him.

CUT TO

42 INT. SCHIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

42

McCoy and Ross brief Schiff. Ross has accumulated a mountain of information on Anderton.

ROSS

In 1951, he was taken out of Andover in the middle of the school year.

CONTINUED

SCHIFF

So he got homesick.

ROSS

He finished out the year at Austin-Riggs. The Boys Town of the rich and famous.

MCCOY

He spent the next two years at home with tutors.

SCHIFF

Carl was always high-spirited.

MCCOY

This isn't high spirits, Adam.

ROSS

I tracked his press clippings over the last thirty years. There are unexplained absences, or he's checked himself into a hospital suffering from exhaustion.

SCHIFF

Doesn't mean anything.

ROSS

Last April, he made a surprise take-over bid for Commonwealth Airlines. One week later, he withdrew the bid and accused the FAA and the stockholders of conspiring against him. He's done this over and over again.

MCCOY

One day he's giving a hundred million dollars to save the world, a week later he's telling the graduating class at Columbia we're all doomed.

ROSS

It's classic manic-depressive behavior.

SCHIFF

It doesn't make sense. He runs a Fortune 500 company.

CONTINUED

42 CONTINUED (2)

42

MCCOY

So did Howard Hughes.

ROSS

Anderton could be fully functional if he's medicated.

Schiff considers the evidence, calls up his own memories of Anderton. Yes, McCoy and Ross are right. Finally --

SCHIFF

I don't want him humiliated.

MCCOY

He's standing between his grandson and an appropriate disposition. I want him to get out of the way.

SCHIFF

(resigned)

Maybe his daughter can talk some sense into him.

CUT TO

43 EXT. PARK - DAY

43

McCoy and Ross meet with Elaine. They've laid out their theory for her. She's not buying it.

MC COY

Your son is in trouble, Mrs. Lawlor. With a good therapist and proper medication he has a chance. But, only if the people around him recognize he's sick.

ELAINE LAWLOR

My father said you were desperate. You're losing the case.

ROSS

Do you have any idea what prison would be like for Terry? Thirty kids to a dorm. Drug addicts, gangbangers, sex offenders. One guard. A long way from Selwyn Academy.

ELAINE LAWLOR

My father loves my son. If Terry was sick, don't you think he'd get him help?

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED

43

MC COY

Unless he's afraid it would trace back to him.

ELAINE LAWLOR

Trace what? I told you, my father's in perfect mental health. He's a public figure. People would've noticed.

ROSS

Not if he's on medication.

MC COY

Maybe they have noticed, Mrs. Lawlor. Look at how the media describes him. Colorful, eccentric, mercurial, unpredictable.

ELAINE LAWLOR

I now realize just how desperate you are.

MC COY

This is not a smear. To a psychiatrist, those are just code words.

ROSS

See for yourself. Check his medicine cabinet. If he's taking Tegretol, Risperdal, Valproic acid, Lithium --
(off Elaine
Lawlor's reaction)
What pills does he take, Mrs. Lawlor?

ELAINE LAWLOR

My father only takes medication to help him sleep.

(beat)

His days are stressful. To calm him down.

MC COY

To control his bipolar disorder.

(beat)

Your father's offered to let Terry plead to second degree manslaughter. He'd let him go to prison.

Elaine reacts -- she didn't know.

CONTINUED

43 CONTINUED (2)

43

MC COY

Our offer is, he pleads not guilty by reason of mental disease, he goes to a psychiatric facility instead of prison.

Elaine Lawlor looks at them a beat, the blood draining from her face.

ELAINE LAWLOR

My father is Terry's guardian. I don't have any authority. I can't...I don't know what to do.

Beat. McCoy looks at Ross.

CUT TO

44 INT. D.A.'S CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

44

Weaver and Anderton enter with Ross, and find McCoy, Schiff, and Elaine already seated.

ANDERTON

Elaine, what are you doing here?
Adam, is this some kind of --

MC COY

I invited her, on the off-chance someone in your family might act in your grandson's best interests.

ANDERTON

What's that supposed to mean?

WEAVER

Mr. Anderton, let's just find out what Mr. McCoy decided.

(to McCoy)

You thought about our offer?

MC COY

Man Two? Out of the question. The choice is Man One or not guilty by reason of mental disease.

ANDERTON

Back to that. When are you going to get it through your thick skull my grandson doesn't belong in a hospital.

CONTINUED

ELAINE LAWLOR
Daddy, he does need help.

Surprised, Anderton looks at his daughter a beat.

ANDERTON
You wait outside until we're through.

MCCOY
She's staying.

ANDERTON
(to Elaine)
Outside.

ELAINE LAWLOR
No.

ANDERTON
(beat; to McCoy)
It doesn't matter what she wants. I'm
Terry's guardian.

MCCOY
That can change, Mr. Anderton.

SCHIFF
You better agree to this, Carl, or
we're going to petition to have her
appointed guardian ad litem of your
grandson.

ANDERTON
On what basis?

SCHIFF
Mental competency.

ANDERTON
Whose?

SCHIFF
Yours.

Anderton is flabbergasted.

SCHIFF
We know about your stay at Austin-
Riggs, the private tutors, the
hospitals --

ANDERTON
Exhaustion. That's all...

CONTINUED

SCHIFF

Once we start proceedings and issue subpoenas, everyone'll know.

(beat)

I'm sorry, Carl.

ANDERTON

(to Schiff)

You trust these...these people...over me?

(off Schiff's
silence)

They finally got to you, didn't they, Adam. After all these years. You finally caved. You...they used to call you The Incorruptible. We used to joke about it. You were the one man they couldn't get to. You'd walk to the edge, peer over, look down into the pit where we were tearing at each other. But never fall. You'd never fall. Not like we did. You'd keep your hands clean while we did the dirty work. This...this thing, this accusation...

Schiff watches with growing pain as Anderton raves.

ANDERTON

Don't you see? They've...they've used it before, the networks, the newspapers, you've seen the hints, when Commonwealth tried to smear me, saying I was...I was...

(can't bring
himself to say it)

-- I was never, never, was never what they accused me of being. Even when I was a kid they tried to convince me that...that...that I was... It's because they've always been afraid of me, of my energy, of the way I got things done, of my mind...

(losing all
connection to
reality)

If you let them do this, it'll never stop. Once it starts...starts, it never stops, and then, and then...

His daughter takes Anderton by the arm.

CONTINUED

44 CONTINUED (3)

44

ELAINE LAWLOR

It's okay, Daddy.

She helps her father sit down, dazed and scared. He looks around, finally focusing on Schiff.

ANDERTON

(pleading)

Adam, please, don't let them do this... Please...

Off Schiff --

CUT TO

45 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

45

No jury. McCoy and Ross at the prosecution table. Weaver and Terry standing at the defense table. In the gallery -- Anderton, Elaine, Roy Lawlor Sandra Lawlor, and Schiff. No one else has been allowed to sit in. A court reporter records the proceedings. Judge Jane Simons presides.

TERRY

I remember thinking my step-sister had some kind of demon inside her.

JUDGE SIMONS

A demon?

TERRY

It has to do with why my Dad was an alcoholic... And I had this idea that if I built a fire, I could scare the demon away...I read in a book some Native Americans use fire to purify the innocent...I...I wanted my Dad to stop drinking. I wanted that more than anything.

JUDGE SIMONS

Why didn't you tell anyone you set the fire?

TERRY

I did. I told my grandfather when I got home. He...he told me not to talk about it. That he'd make sure I wouldn't get in trouble.

He stops. Beat.

CONTINUED

45 CONTINUED

45

JUDGE SIMONS

Mr. McCoy?

MC COY

The People are satisfied, Your Honor.

JUDGE SIMONS

Very well. Terence Lawlor, you're hereby remanded to a secure facility to be designated by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene until such time as a panel of doctors has determined you no longer pose a danger to yourself or to society. We're adjourned.

She gavels. Off reactions, as Terry is led away. He looks to his grandfather for help. But Anderton is powerless and finally turns away. Elaine and Roy are left there, looking on bereft and heartbroken as their son is led away through a door.

CUT TO

46 INT. SCHIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

46

Schiff stands at his desk, packing his briefcase. McCoy sits in a chair, waiting for him.

MC COY

Sorry about your friend.

SCHIFF

He's a survivor. We haven't heard the last of him.

MC COY

(shaking his head)

Living with that secret all those years...It must have taken enormous will power.

SCHIFF

Carl always had that. Whenever he tried something bold -- the Lindsay campaign, the take-over bids -- the op-ed pundits would call him crazy.

(beat)

Carl would just smile..

Schiff shuts his briefcase, takes his suit jacket from a hanger, and puts it on.

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65

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46 CONTINUED

46

SCHIFF
(bittersweet)

Who knew?

They go out. The door shuts behind them.

FADE OUT

THE END