

NBC



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NUDE

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: PATRICIA GREEN
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Script #8L01

L.A. LAW

"Something Old, Something Nude"

Written by

Patricia Green

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July 19, 1991
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L.A. LAW

"Something Old, Something Nude"

CAST LIST

ARNOLD BECKER
LELAND MCKENZIE
ANN KELSEY
DOUGLAS BRACKMAN, JR.
GRACE VAN OWEN
STUART MARKOWITZ
ROXANNE MELMAN
JONATHAN ROLLINS
BENNY STULWICZ
CARA JEAN LAMB (C.J.)
TOMMY MULLANEY
ZOEY CLEMMONS
GWEN TAYLOR

Susan Bloom
Billy Castroverti
Frank Kittredge
Larry Diamond (non-speaking)
D.D.A. Linda Roth
Judge Walter Swanson *
Elsa Chandler
Reporters #1-6 *
Judge Walter Green *
D.D.A. Bill Graphia
Jury Foreperson (Green) *
Ned Barron
Matthew Markowitz (non-speaking)
Detective Tom Blomquist
Police Sergeant Jeffrey Myrow
Kumar
Marta Erikson
Sandra Vosburgh
Steven Waering
Clerk (Swanson Court) *
Wyles
Zinsmeister

L.A. LAW

"Something Old, Something Nude"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

LAW FIRM:

MCKENZIE'S OFFICE
BRACKMAN'S OFFICE
CONFERENCE ROOM
OFFICE COMPLEX
VAN OWEN'S OFFICE
MARKOWITZ' OFFICE
RECEPTION
ELEVATOR AREA

CRIMINAL COURT - JUDGE WALTER SWANSON *
COURTROOM
JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
CORRIDOR
ELEVATOR
ANOTHER CORRIDOR

CRIMINAL COURT - JUDGE WALTER GREEN *
WITNESS ROOM
CORRIDOR
COURTROOM

KELSEY/MARKOWITZ HOUSE
DEN
ENTRY
KITCHEN

VAN OWEN'S APARTMENT
LIVING ROOM

EXTERIORS

VAN OWEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING

L.A. LAW

"Something Old, Something Nude"

FADE IN

1 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

1

McKenzie and Brackman.

BRACKMAN

Leland, we have to face reality. When Victor and Michael left, litigation fell off. When Jack Sollers went, it nose-dived. Now Abby's leaving and taking more business with her.

MCKENZIE

All right. The situation is serious, but not critical.

BRACKMAN

I disagree. In three months, we've lost four major corporate clients including Tammon Group. The bank is so nervous they're reviewing our line of credit.

MCKENZIE

Ridiculous. They're overreacting.

BRACKMAN

It gets worse. I got a letter today from Perry Littlefield. Because of the Shays claim, Ballantine is doubling our liability premium. Because of Ann Kelsey's suspension, malpractice is going up to half a million.

MCKENZIE

Over my dead body. We'll take our business elsewhere. I'll make a loan if I have to.

BRACKMAN

You can't keep propping up the firm with Rosalind's money. We have to consider alternatives.

MCKENZIE

I will not consider renting space to Susan Bloom.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

BRACKMAN

(quietly)

Her practice is phenomenal. She represents half of Hollywood and she's willing to pay top dollar.

MCKENZIE

They call her "Jaws", Douglas.

BRACKMAN

(almost whispering)

A rumor. Printed in the same rag that called me a bald bore.

MCKENZIE

Susan Bloom is everything I hate about entertainment law -- cheap, phony and utterly devoid of ethics.

BRACKMAN

(really whispering)

Shhh. You don't even know her. She's dynamic, she's cutting edge, she's a litigator anyone would be proud to share space with.

MCKENZIE

Why are you whispering, Douglas?

BRACKMAN

She's in my office. She's taken the trouble to stop by on her way to a very important screening.

MCKENZIE

Bloom is here? Now?

BRACKMAN

Just meet her. That's all I ask.

Off McKenzie, we:

CUT TO:

2 INT. BRACKMAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

2

McKenzie and Brackman come in to see -- SUSAN BLOOM with her feet up on Brackman's desk, calmly reading one of his files. She wears a neon caftan and puffs a cigarette. McKenzie shoots Brackman a look. Brackman pastes on a smile.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

BRACKMAN

Susan Bloom, Leland McKenzie.

BLOOM

Hiya, Leland. I hear you need
someone to save your ass.

Off McKenzie, we:

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

3 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

3

All filing in or getting coffee, including CASTROVERTI
minus Becker and Markowitz. C.J. passes Kelsey.

C.J.

Great hair.

KELSEY

Thanks.

MCKENZIE

Before we start, I have an
announcement. For those of you who
don't know, Abigail Perkins is no
longer with the firm.

KELSEY
What?!

ROLLINS
You're kidding.

MULLANEY
Is she okay?

*

BRACKMAN

She got a huge offer from McCann
Jones, we couldn't match it, she
resigned her partnership last night.
And I have to say, she couldn't
have picked a worse time.

*

C.J.

Her father had a stroke, Douglas.
She's putting him in a nursing home
which costs God knows what. She
needs some kind of security--

KELSEY

You knew about this?

BRACKMAN

Since there's nothing we can do,
I suggest we move on.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

BRACKMAN (Cont'd)

I'd like to introduce our new associate, Bill Castroverti. Some of you are familiar with his talents as a litigator.

MULLANEY

Familiar? He killed me.

ROLLINS

Welcome to our side.

CASTROVERTI

Thanks. It's weird to be here.

BRACKMAN

He'll be moving into Victor's old office. Second, a heartfelt welcome back to Ann Kelsey. Believe me, you were missed.

KELSEY

It's good to be back.

BRACKMAN

Too bad Stuart can't say the same.

KELSEY

He's with Matthew. Amalia quit two days ago and we've been going crazy trying to replace her.

She's interrupted by Becker steaming in.

BECKER

Douglas, what is this crap? I come in, I'm running late, my messages aren't picked up, my mail isn't opened and there's a bimbo outside my office telling me Gwen has jury duty. I thought you were getting her excused.

BRACKMAN

She didn't want me to. You'll just have to survive with a temp.

BECKER

I have special needs, Douglas.

BRACKMAN

Personnel is Roxanne's department. Use your influence.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED).

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

BRACKMAN (Cont'd)

(to group)

Jonathan has the Lunsford deposition today, C.J. starts People versus Manheim, I meet on the Powell trust. Anything else?

(off no answer)

One more note. We may be renting out our extra office space--

MCKENZIE

That isn't settled yet.

BRACKMAN

Then we're adjourned.

And they all disperse.

3A INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS ACTION

3A

C.J. catches up with Kelsey near the coffee area. *

C.J.

I'm sure Abby meant to tell you.

KELSEY

If she had, she would've called.

(then, softer) *

Look. I don't mean to take it out on you. It was a shock, that's all. I can't believe she didn't tell me.

C.J.

I think she felt guilty.

(then)

It would probably mean a lot if you called her.

KELSEY

I wouldn't know what to say.

C.J.

How about good luck?

Off Kelsey, we:

CUT TO:

4 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - DAY

4

McKenzie comes in -- to find Van Owen waiting.

MCKENZIE

Grace. It's good to see you.

VAN OWEN

You, too. I know I should've made an appointment.

MCKENZIE

Don't be silly. Sit down.

(as they do)

I'm so sorry about the baby.

VAN OWEN

I got your note, thanks.

MCKENZIE

How is Victor?

VAN OWEN

Victor and I... Victor and I are separated. I'm not practicing with him and Michael any more.

MCKENZIE

(after a beat)

I don't know what to say.

VAN OWEN

I'd rather not talk about it. I'm here because I took the Chandler case with me. We empanel today and I can't conduct an effective defense out of my house. I'd like to move in here temporarily and pay you a percentage.

MCKENZIE

(gently)

Grace, this has all happened pretty quickly. You've had a lot to deal with. Maybe you should move for a continuance.

VAN OWEN

I've had two. Elsa Chandler's being tried in the press, the "Ice Queen" who killed her husband. The judge won't agree to another delay.

MCKENZIE

But surely a couple of weeks--

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

VAN OWEN
(with an edge)
The D.A. would fight it, too. I'm
up against a wall, Leland.

MCKENZIE
Yes. I see.

McKenzie sees more, that Van Owen really needs support.

MCKENZIE
You know, we could use your name
on our letterhead just now. Why
not come back to the firm, of
counsel? *

VAN OWEN
After the way I left... that's very
generous.

MCKENZIE
Not at all. It benefits both of
us. You're bringing in something
high profile, we can supply a second
chair. *

VAN OWEN
I'm not sure it's necessary.

MCKENZIE
I insist. This is a capital case,
you'll need someone. It's the least
we can do.

Off Van Owen, we:

CUT TO:

5 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (SWANSON) - DAY

5

FRANK KITTREDGE defends LARRY DIAMOND, forties, flashy,
sleazy. D.D.A. LINDA ROTH prosecutes, JUDGE WALTER SWANSON
presides. Voir dire, with Gwen Taylor alone in the jury
box.

ROTH
Have you read, seen or heard any
publicity surrounding this case?

GWEN
I saw one news report on TV.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

ROTH

Did it cause you to form an opinion about the guilt or innocence of Mr. Diamond?

GWEN

No.

ROTH

Juror is acceptable to the people, Your Honor.

Roth sits and Kittredge gets up.

KITTREDGE

How do you feel about sex, Ms. Taylor?

ROTH

Objection. What on earth does this have to do with anything?

KITTREDGE

Your Honor, some people consider my client a pornographer--

JUDGE SWANSON

He is one. He admits it. *

KITTREDGE

But he's not on trial for it. Weapons and assault charges have nothing to do with pornography. I want to know if Mr. Diamond's occupation damns him in the eyes of this juror.

JUDGE SWANSON

(after a beat)

All right, I'll allow it. But watch yourself, Mr. Kittredge. *

KITTREDGE

(to Gwen)

I repeat, Ms. Taylor, how do you feel about sex?

GWEN

(cool)

Safe sex, between consenting adults -- I'm for it.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

KITTREDGE

What about explicit sex in movies?

GWEN

I don't go to see it. But I don't think it should be censored.

KITTREDGE

Should they censor magazines like Mr. Diamond publishes? Ones that show, for example, oral sex?

GWEN

I've never read one of Mr. Diamond's magazines.

Kittredge takes one from the podium and hands it to her.

KITTREDGE

Here. Does that disgust you? *

ROTH

Objection!

JUDGE SWANSON *

(furious)

You're out of line, sir. Put that away.

KITTREDGE

I was simply trying to get this juror's reaction.

JUDGE SWANSON *

I know exactly what you're doing and it won't work in my courtroom. Go on to something else. And apologize to the young lady.

KITTREDGE

Your Honor, your feelings about pornography are well known. They're obviously coloring what you see here.

JUDGE SWANSON *

If you're accusing me of bias, Mr. Kittredge -- be careful. Be very careful. I can bury you in sanctions.

Standoff. After a beat, Kittredge turns to Gwen.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

KITTREDGE

I didn't mean to offend you, Mam.

GWEN

You didn't. I wouldn't buy Mr. Diamond's magazines -- but I believe in the First Amendment. He has every right to publish them.

Kittredge studies her for a beat, then turns to Judge Swanson.

*

KITTREDGE

Defense accepts this juror.

Off Gwen, we:

CUT TO:

6 INT. WITNESS ROOM - DAY

6

Van Owen and Mullaney are with their client, ELSA CHANDLER, elegant, forties, about to brave the press outside. Van Owen's focus is on the folder containing her opening statement. Mullaney's is on Chandler.

*

MULLANEY

If they get in your way, just stop. We'll do the talking.

CHANDLER

I can stand everything but the cameras.

MULLANEY

I know but they got a right to be here. Look pleasant but don't smile too big. We'll get you in court as fast as we can.

He looks to Van Owen for similar reassurance, doesn't get it.

*

CHANDLER

I'm sorry to be a pain, Mr. Mullaney. You've been very kind.

VAN OWEN

(closes folder; to Chandler)

Are you ready?

*

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

CHANDLER

No. But let's go.

And they walk out into:

7 INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS ACTION

7

It's packed with PRESS, shouting questions. Among them:

REPORTER #1
Mrs. Chandler, how
did it feel to shoot
your husband?

REPORTER #2
The prosecution seems
very confident. Is
there a reason?

*

REPORTER #3
Did he beg for mercy?

REPORTER #4
Does being an ex-D.A.
give you an edge?

*

The relentless cameras make Chandler freeze for a beat.
Mullaney shields her as much as he can.

REPORTER #5
Is it true your
husband's business
is worth over ten
million dollars?

REPORTER #6
Given the facts, how
optimistic can your
client be?

*

VAN OWEN

(on the move)

This is a burning bed case, one of
long-term abuse. We're confident
Mrs. Chandler will be found not
guilty.

They enter the courtroom, REPORTERS nipping at their heels.

TIME CUT TO:

8 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (GREEN) - DAY

8 *

Press packs the room, JUDGE WALTER GREEN presides. D.D.A.
BILL GRAPHIA makes his opening statement.

*

GRAPHIA

Elsa Chandler is a murderer. She
put a gun in her purse, she took
it to her husband's office and she
killed him with it. It was not
self-defense. It was not the
desperate act of an abused wife.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

GRAPHIA (Cont'd)

The evidence will show that it was a well-planned, cold-blooded execution, carried out so that Elsa Chandler could inherit her husband's multi-million dollar estate. It was murder for financial gain, murder committed solely for the purpose of making Mrs. Chandler a rich woman. When you hear the facts, when you weigh the evidence, you'll reach the only possible conclusion: that Elsa Chandler is guilty of murder with special circumstances, beyond a reasonable doubt. Thank you.

Graphia sits and Van Owen gets up.

VAN OWEN

Ralph Chandler battered his wife for twelve years. A number of times, including the morning of his death, he forcibly raped her. I'm not talking about a wife reluctant to make love and an insistent husband. I'm talking about violent, forced sex. I'm talking about a husband who had to control his wife's every move, a husband who enjoyed his wife's pain, a husband who was aroused by humiliating her. This was the man Elsa Chandler shot in self-defense. A man who tortured her for twelve years, whose abuse she couldn't survive any longer. Ralph Chandler swore he would kill his wife that night, Ladies and Gentlemen. She took the gun with her because she believed him.

Off Milaney, Chandler and Van Owen, we:

CUT TO

9 INT. KELSEY/MARKOWITZ DEN - NIGHT

9

Kelsey and Markowitz are with a charming hunk in his twenties, NED BARRON. *

NED

I worked my way through Cal taking care of my advisor's kids. The first day I didn't think I'd make it. They locked me in the bathroom and had a food fight. Beefaroni, wall to wall.

MARKOWITZ

I gotta warn you. Matthew is deeply into Beefaroni. *

NED

(half-rising)
I'm out of here. *

Kelsey looks at her watch. It's not lost on Ned.

NED

Anyway, my advisor moved to Berkeley. I got a fellowship in Clinical Psych but it doesn't pay for much more than my rent.

Markowitz wants to hire Ned but Kelsey's clearly not with him.

MARKOWITZ

Well. We've got your number. We'll be in touch.

NED

Thanks for your time.
(to Markowitz)
Don't get up. I can find my way out. *

Ned exits.

MARKOWITZ

He could be my first choice.

KELSEY

You're not serious.

MARKOWITZ

What? A man can't be a good nanny?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

KELSEY

Of course he can. But Marta has more experience.

MARKOWITZ

Which one was Marta?

KELSEY

The Greenblatts' au pair. You've met her a hundred times.

MARKOWITZ

Maybe twice. She always seemed a little flaky to me.

KELSEY

Jennifer says she's a free spirit, but very responsible. If they weren't moving, they'd never give her up. Their kids love her.

MARKOWITZ

Matt liked him, his references were terrific. Maybe we should see them both again.

KELSEY

Honey, we know the Greenblatts, it's a personal recommendation, and we need to hire someone now.

MARKOWITZ

I guess a male nanny is a little strange.

KELSEY

Would you stop? It has nothing to do with that. Marta's a better choice, that's all.

MARKOWITZ

Okay. We go with the girl.

KELSEY

Good. If you call her now, maybe she can start tomorrow.

Kelsey exits. Off Markowitz, we:

CURT TOLSON

10 INT. VAN OWEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

10

Van Owen is unpacking. McKenzie comes in. *

MCKENZIE

Got a minute?

VAN OWEN

For you, I have five.

MCKENZIE

(closing door)

I wanted to tell you how happy I am to have you back.

VAN OWEN

It's mutual.

MCKENZIE

Grace, I know you and Victor are none of my business, but if there's anything I can do...

VAN OWEN

I'm fine. Really.

MCKENZIE

(after a beat)

When Rosalind... when I lost her, I thought I was fine. Went about my business, in control, no problem. Except there was no joy. I was just going through the motions.

A beat. Van Owen wants to talk about it but she can't.

VAN OWEN

I'm sorry, Leland. It's been kind of a long day. *

MCKENZIE

Of course. I should let you get back to work.

(then)

I'm here if you need me. Good night.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

VAN OWEN

Good night.

McKenzie exits. Van Owen fights a wave of emotion, then gets back to work.

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

11 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (GREEN) - DAY

11

Graphia has DETECTIVE TOM BLOMQUIST, fifties, on direct.

GRAPHIA

So Mrs. Chandler called and asked you to come to Ralph Chandler's office. What did you find when you got there, Detective?

BLOMQUIST

Mr. Chandler's body was face down on the floor, by the desk. There was a gunshot wound in his chest. Mrs. Chandler was sitting in a chair beside the body. She was holding a thirty-eight caliber handgun.

GRAPHIA

Did she tell you whose it was?

BLOMQUIST

She said it was hers, she'd brought it from home. The gun was registered to her husband.

GRAPHIA

When you first saw her, did Mrs. Chandler seem upset? Was she crying?

BLOMQUIST

No. She was real calm, real quiet.

GRAPHIA

What did Mrs. Chandler say, when you found her beside her husband's body?

BLOMQUIST

She said Ralph Chandler deserved to die -- and she killed him.

GRAPHIA

I have no more questions.

Graphia sits and Van Owen gets up.

VAN OWEN

Did it appear to you that Mrs. Chandler was in shock?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

GRAPHIA

Objection. Witness isn't qualified to make that judgment.

VAN OWEN

He's been a police officer for twenty-five years. He's seen people react to severe trauma.

JUDGE GREEN

Overruled.

VAN OWEN

You have seen shock look like extreme composure, haven't you, Detective? The same composure Mrs. Chandler showed the night of her husband's death?

BLOMQUIST

Yes.

VAN OWEN

And she had good reason to be in shock, didn't she?

BLOMQUIST

I have no idea.

VAN OWEN

You took a statement from Mrs. Chandler. Didn't she tell you her marriage was a nightmare? Didn't she say her husband forced her to come to his office that night? And didn't she tell you exactly why she killed him?

BLOMQUIST

She said he raped her, but not that night.

VAN OWEN

But didn't she tell you he had raped her, as recently as that morning, and physically abused her for twelve years? That he'd burned her with cigarettes, he'd held her head under water--

GRAPHIA

Objection!

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

JUDGE GREEN

Overruled.

VAN OWEN

Didn't she say those things,
Detective?

BLOMQUIST

Yes, but...

VAN OWEN

(to Blomquist)

And didn't Mrs. Chandler tell you
how terrified she was of her husband?
How, when he ordered her to his
office, she became frantic? That
she was afraid if she went, he'd
kill her -- and if she didn't,
he'd come home and do it? *

BLOMQUIST

That was her story--

VAN OWEN

Didn't she say that if she ran, if
she hid, he'd find her? That
that was why she found her
husband's gun and took it to his
office? To protect herself?
Because she didn't know what else
to do? Wasn't that also part of
Mrs. Chandler's statement to you? *

BLOMQUIST

Yes.

VAN OWEN

Thank you, Detective.

Van Owen sits and Graphia gets up again.

GRAPHIA

Did you see any evidence of abuse
that night? Was Mrs. Chandler's
clothing torn? Did she have any
bruises or broken bones? Were there
any signs of a struggle in her
husband's office?

BLOMQUIST

No. Nothing like that. Just the
body on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

Off Van Owen and Mullaney, we:

CUT TO:

12 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - DAY

12

Brackman, McKenzie, Roxanne.

MCKENZIE

That can't be right.

BRACKMAN

She's been calling insurance companies for two days.

ROXANNE

Only one would even consider us. Their quote was over a million.

MCKENZIE

You're telling me Ballantine is a bargain.

ROXANNE

Not exactly. Today they dropped the other shoe. They want a lump sum premium, up front.

MCKENZIE

I can't believe that. I've known Perry Littlefield for ten years.

BRACKMAN

Times are hard. The insurance business isn't what it used to be.

MCKENZIE

Neither is the law business.

McKenzie rubs his tired eyes. Brackman glances at Roxanne.

ROXANNE

(takes the hint)

Don't worry. We'll find somebody.

Roxanne exits. Brackman takes the bull by the horns.

BRACKMAN

Susan Bloom called this morning.

MCKENZIE

I don't want to hear it. She was worse than I imagined.

BRACKMAN

You spent five minutes with her.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

MCKENZIE

And in that time she managed to be vulgar, crass and insulting.

BRACKMAN

Leland, she's negotiating with a top litigator, a killer. If he's her associate, we'd have access--

MCKENZIE

Smoke and mirrors, Douglas. Hollywood hype. I doubt there is a litigator. She's probably made him up to pressure us, but it won't work. We've got Grace back. We'll get insurance. Or we'll go bare. Other firms have done it.

BRACKMAN

As a last resort. The exposure is monumental. My father would spin in his grave.

MCKENZIE

Then we'll find another way. But I won't be moved on this. Susan Bloom is not an option.

Off Brackman, we:

CUT TO:

13 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (SWANSON) - DAY

13

The jury is seated, including Gwen. Roth has POLICE SERGEANT JEFFREY MYROW, thirties, on direct.

ROTH

Sergeant, when you were dispatched to Mr. Diamond's mansion in Bel Air on June ninth, what was the complaint?

MYROW

Mr. Diamond's neighbor called us, a Mr. Seldes. He was scared out of his mind. He'd complained about party noise. Mr. Diamond responded by strafing his yard with an assault rifle--

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

KITTREDGE

Objection, hearsay. Sergeant Myrow did not see the shots fired.

JUDGE SWANSON

(he has no choice)

Sustained.

*

ROTH

What happened when you got to the mansion, Sergeant?

MYROW

Mr. Seldes said the shots came from the back yard. I got there in time to see Mr. Diamond throw the assault weapon into the pool.

ROTH

What else was Mr. Diamond doing?

MYROW

Screaming at Mr. Seldes over the fence.

ROTH

You saw Mr. Diamond throw the gun into the pool. He was verbally abusing Mr. Seldes. And "someone" sprayed Mr. Seldes' yard with bullets--

KITTREDGE

Objection, she's going for pure speculation. Sergeant Myrow did not see the weapon fired.

JUDGE SWANSON

Sustained.

*

ROTH

(to Blomquist)

But you did see the weapon in Mr. Diamond's hands?

*

BLOMQUIST

Yes.

*

ROTH

Your witness, Counsel.

Roth sits and Kittredge gets up.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

KITTREDGE

Mr. Diamond was giving a party. There were upwards of forty people around that pool, weren't there?

MYROW

I had some nut firing shots. I wasn't counting heads.

KITTREDGE

You were at the shallow end of the pool, right? And the gun was retrieved from the deep end.

MYROW

Yes.

KITTREDGE

So the entire length of the pool and most of the guests were between you and the gun. How could you possibly have seen Mr. Diamond throw it in the pool?

MYROW

I have twenty/twenty vision.

KITTREDGE

(over laughter)

Then you must've noticed most of the party guests were women. Very attractive women, a number of whom were topless. And you still say you clearly saw Mr. Diamond throw the gun in the pool?

MYROW

Yes.

KITTREDGE

Really, Sergeant. Through all those breasts.

ROTH

(over laughter)

Objection! Asked and answered, he's being totally argumentative.

KITTREDGE

I'm legitimately questioning the witness' perception. He claims not to have noticed thirty beautiful women, dressed like this.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

He gestures toward the gallery, where three gorgeous women wearing raincoats stand up. They shed them to reveal tiny bathing suits on awesome bodies. The room goes wild. *

JUDGE SWANSON *

What is going on here?

KITTREDGE

I'm proving my point, Your Honor. A bailiff has been standing by the door for most of Sergeant Myrow's testimony. I'm willing to bet that, right now, he can't tell me if it's a man or a woman.

JUDGE SWANSON *

Don't answer, Sergeant.

(to women)

Put those coats back on now.

(to Bailiff) *

I want those women removed.

KITTREDGE

Your Honor, this is interference with the defense. Perception is fair game in any trial, except, apparently this one.

JUDGE SWANSON *

You're in contempt, Kittredge. *

KITTREDGE

I move for a mistrial.

JUDGE SWANSON *

Denied. You're getting a hearing when this is over, and probably a jail cell. You're a grandstander, with no respect for the law. *

KITTREDGE

You have no respect for my client, Your Honor. You disapprove of sex and you disapprove of him because he sells it.

JUDGE SWANSON *

If you don't sit down, I'll have you hauled out, too.

KITTREDGE

I continue this trial under protest.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (4)

13

JUDGE SWANSON

So noted. Now shut up.
(to jury)

The jury will disregard Mr.
Kittredge's outburst and his bad
manners. We're adjourned till two
o'clock tomorrow.

Off Gwen and the other jurors, we:

CUT TO:

14 INT. KELSEY/MARKOWITZ ENTRY - DAY

14

Kelsey comes in from work.

KELSEY

Marta?

She picks up the mail, goes through it as she moves toward:

15 INT. KELSEY/MARKOWITZ KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS ACTION

15

Kelsey walks in -- and sees a naked stranger, KUMAR.

KELSEY

Oh, my god.

KUMAR

Oh, please.

Kumar jumps behind the island but not before Kelsey sees
his state of arousal (which of course is just below frame).

KELSEY

Oh, my god.

KUMAR

Oh, please.

KELSEY

Where's my son? Where's Marta?
(tries to shout)

Marta?

Kelsey edges back out into:

*

15A INT. KELSEY/MARKOWITZ ENTRY - CONTINUOUS ACTION

15A

As Kelsey comes out of the kitchen, MARTA ERIKSON, Swedish, twenties, rushes downstairs wearing only Kumar's shirt.

MARTA

It's all right, everything is fine--

KELSEY

It's not fine. Where's Matthew?

MARTA

He's fine. He's upstairs taking his nap.

Kumar peers out from around the kitchen door.

MARTA

This is Kumar.

KELSEY

Kumar?

KUMAR

(extends hand)

Please?

MARTA

He's teaching me Hindustani.

(weakly)

You came home early.

KELSEY

(processes, then)

Get dressed and get him out of here. You're fired.

MARTA

It was a mistake...

KELSEY

You bet it was. If you're not gone in five minutes, I'm calling the police.

Kelsey grabs a roam phone and dials as she heads up to Matthew.

KELSEY

Hi, Pam. It's me.

(then)

Stuart? We've got a problem.

CUT TO:

16 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (GREEN) - DAY

16 *

Graphia has SANDRA VOSBURGH, fifties, on direct.

GRAPHIA

You were the Chandlers' accountant. What happened when you went to their home a week before Mr. Chandler was killed?

VAN OWEN

Your Honor, I renew my objection to this witness--

GRAPHIA

Once again, Your Honor, she goes to motive. Behavior of the defendant with respect to her husband's money.

JUDGE GREEN

Overruled. Witness will answer.

*

VOSBURGH

We had to go over a tax problem. When I got there, Ralph and Elsa were arguing.

GRAPHIA

Violently?

VOSBURGH

Oh, no. Ralph never raised his voice, but he was pretty upset. Elsa had written twenty thousand dollars' worth of checks on their joint account.

GRAPHIA

Who were the checks made out to?

VOSBURGH

Some were for cash. The rest were made out to Waering Antiques.

GRAPHIA

Ms. Vosburgh, did Mrs. Chandler tell her husband what the money was for?

VOSBURGH

She said she bought things with it. A Chinese vase and some paintings. But Ralph didn't believe her.

*

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

GRAPHIA

Thank you. Nothing further.

Graphia returns and Van Owen rises.

VAN OWEN

It was a joint account, wasn't it?
Technically, the money belonged to
both of them?

VOSBURGH

Yes, but Ralph never liked Elsa to
write checks unless he approved--

VAN OWEN

In other words, he wanted total
control.

VOSBURGH

(reluctantly)

Yes.

VAN OWEN

When Mrs. Chandler told her husband
about the Chinese vase, what did
he do?

(off no answer)

He took a hammer and what did he
do, Ms. Vosburgh?

VOSBURGH

He destroyed the vase.

VAN OWEN

Thank you. Nothing further.

JUDGE GREEN

Witness may step down. Who's next,
Mr. Graphia? *

GRAPHIA

People call Mr. Steven Waering.

VAN OWEN

Objection. Witness is not on their
list. What possible relevance
could-- *

GRAPHIA

His testimony also goes to motive,
Your Honor.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

VAN OWEN

How? He was her antique dealer.

GRAPHIA

In the last twenty-four hours, we've uncovered an intimate relationship between Mr. Waering and the defendant--

VAN OWEN

Objection! Your Honor, this is a blatant attempt to blindsides the defense. I move to exclude--

JUDGE GREEN

Take it easy, Ms. Van Owen. If he didn't know about the witness, he didn't know. Mr. Graphia will provide you his investigative reports. To be fair to your client, I'll give you till tomorrow afternoon.

VAN OWEN

It's not enough.

JUDGE GREEN

In my opinion, it is.

VAN OWEN

Then I move for a stay, Your Honor. I want time to get a writ on that ruling from the Court of Appeals--

MULLANEY

(sotto)

Don't do this...

JUDGE GREEN

(to Van Owen)

You've got to be kidding. They'd throw you out on your ear. Stay is denied.

VAN OWEN

Your Honor--

JUDGE GREEN

(pissed)

I've ruled, Ms. Van Owen. We're adjourned.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

MULLANEY

(to Van Owen)

Let's take a deep breath, okay?

But Van Owen is focused on Chandler. Off Mullaney, we:

TIME CUT TO:

17 INT. WITNESS ROOM - DAY

17

Chandler, Van Owen and Mullaney.

CHANDLER

I met him at a charity auction. Ralph would sometimes let me go to those without him. Steven and I had lunch. We got to be friends.

VAN OWEN

But that wasn't all. *

CHANDLER

No. I fell in love with him. But we never... were involved.

VAN OWEN

Then why didn't you tell us about him?

CHANDLER

There was nothing to tell.

MULLANEY

(re file) *

The D.A. says you spent the night with Waering. They got a security video from his garage. You came in at one-oh-four a.m. and you left at six-fifteen. Three months before your husband was killed.

CHANDLER

(with difficulty) *

Ralph got drunk that night. When he drank, he liked to play a game. He called it... How Should I Kill Elsa? Should I beat her to death? Should I cut her throat? Maybe I should strangle her. It went on for hours, until he passed out. I had to talk to somebody. Steven said I could call him any time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CHANDLER (Cont'd)

He persuaded me to come to his apartment.

VAN OWEN

Where you slept with him.

CHANDLER

No! We only talked. He tried to get me to leave my husband, but I couldn't. After a few hours, I got scared that Ralph would wake up and find me gone, so I went home. That's the truth.

MULLANEY

It's still gonna be hard for a jury to swallow.

CHANDLER

It's none of their business--

(then)

Steven is the only good thing in my life. Ralph made me think I could never love anyone. Steven changed that. I was beginning to... want him. I hadn't felt that for so long.

*

VAN OWEN

(hard)

If the jury sees it, you'll probably go to the gas chamber.

*

MULLANEY

Grace--

VAN OWEN

(to Chandler)

If they see a woman in love, they're going to believe the prosecution. You won't be an abused wife who defended herself against a habitual rapist. You'll be a cheating bitch who killed her husband for money.

MULLANEY

(quietly)

I think you made your point.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

VAN OWEN
(to Chandler)
Not telling us about Waering was
a lie. If you lie to us again, we
drop the case.

Van Owen leaves. Off Mullaney, we:

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

18 INT. KELSEY/MARKOWITZ KITCHEN - DAY

18

Markowitz feeds MATTHEW, Kelsey goes over a list with Ned. *

KELSEY

He has play group at nine and Gymboree at one. If Laura next door is taking Chelsea, you can carpool, they love each other. Am I going too fast?

NED

Play group at nine, Gymboree at one. Try to get a date with the girl next door.

(to Markowitz)

I can do that.

MARKOWITZ

Great. We have to pick up my car.

KELSEY

Junk food is out, but yogurt is okay if it's lowfat.

Ned takes over Matthew while Markowitz puts on his jacket.

KELSEY

And I hate to be a dictator, but we really can't allow visitors. I hope you understand.

NED

No problem.

MARKOWITZ

(to Kelsey)

Are you ready?

KELSEY

(to Ned)

Sometimes when he's been out in the sun he gets a rash. There's cream for it in the diaper bag...

MARKOWITZ

You already told him that.

KELSEY

(to Ned)

If you read him The Little Pony he goes right to sleep. And he won't get in the bathtub without Kelsey.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

Markowitz hands Kelsey her briefcase, steers her to the door.

MARKOWITZ
I have to go.

KELSEY
All the emergency
numbers are by the
phone and you have
both of ours and the
cars...

MARKOWITZ
(herds Kelsey out)
See you tonight.

NED
Bye.

KELSEY
(sticks head back
in)
Don't hesitate to call, even if you
think it's stupid. We'd rather you
bother us...

MARKOWITZ (O.S.)
Ann, I could've walked by now.

Kelsey exits. Off Ned and Matthew, getting along famously,
we:

CUT TO:

19 INT. VAN OWEN'S OFFICE - DAY

19

Van Owen and Mullaney.

MULLANEY
I talked to a friend and two guys
he works with. Waering is okay.
He's divorced, loves his kids,
doesn't fool around.

VAN OWEN
His child support is always late,
his ex-wife isn't a fan and his
business is in deep trouble.

MULLANEY
Okay, it's not gonna be a picnic.
Maybe I should take it.
(off her look)
The Judge could still be mad...

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

VAN OWEN

Come on. I had to hit back.

MULLANEY

Not with a writ. You lost your temper.

VAN OWEN

I had every right. They were walking all over us.

MULLANEY

Chandler wasn't. She made a mistake but you didn't have to slap her around. *

VAN OWEN

I told her the truth.

MULLANEY

You scared the hell out of her. That's what her husband did and it made her shut down. She does that on the stand, and we're dead.

VAN OWEN

I don't have time for this. I have to be ready for Waering in two hours.

MULLANEY

(softer)
Grace, this isn't like you. Give yourself a break. Let me cross Waering. Let Green have a chance to cool off. *

VAN OWEN

It's my call, I can handle it. Just be there to back me up.

Off Mullaney, we:

CUT TO:

20 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

20

Gwen is by a bookshelf, scanning a law book. Castroverti, loaded with files, motors down the hall and collides with her.

CASTROVERTI

Sorry, all my fault.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

GWEN
(cheerfully)
You're right.

But she starts helping him retrieve things anyway.

CASTROVERTI
I thought I knew all the lawyers
here. I'm Bill Castroverti.

GWEN
Gwen Taylor. I'm not a lawyer, I
work for Arnie Becker.

CASTROVERTI
The one with jury duty.
(off her look)
Arnie was pretty vocal about it.

GWEN
He'll live.

Castroverti hands Gwen back her large law book.

CASTROVERTI
A little light reading?

GWEN
This trial is bizarre. I was trying
to find some kind of guide for
jurors.

Susan Bloom passes by in the b.g.

CASTROVERTI
Let's see. I'd start with the Code
of Civil Procedure, section two
three two. *

Gwen shows him the book he just handed back to her.

CASTROVERTI
C.C.P., section two three two.
Well, I feel like a jerk. *

GWEN
I won't hold it against you.

Gwen returns to her book. Castroverti's impressed.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - DAY

21

McKenzie's at his desk when Bloom barges in without knocking.

BLOOM

You're a stubborn old fart.

MCKENZIE

Of all the... get out of here.

BLOOM

Don't sputter at me, this is too important. We can do each other a lot of good.

MCKENZIE

I'd rather swim in nuclear waste.

BLOOM

Get over it, honey. You can't afford pride. This place is in deep financial doody and everybody knows it.

(off his look)

Just listen to my proposal. If you don't like it, then you can throw me out.

MCKENZIE

(long beat)

You have two minutes.

BLOOM

I only need one. I'm a cash cow, I've got more money than God. I'll pay whatever you want for office space and refer you my litigation overflow plus anything my clients need outside the industry. I'll even get you a deal with my insurance company.

MCKENZIE

In return for what?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

BLOOM

Your downtown connections. Your
sterling reputation. You need a
shot in the arm, I want to branch
out. Together, we're Fred Astaire
and Ginger Rogers.

(off his look)

She had the sex, he had the class.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

MCKENZIE

If you mean a merger, it's out of the question.

BLOOM

I like to cohabit before I get married. We share space and see what happens.

MCKENZIE

Trust me, nothing will.

BLOOM

But you like my offer.

MCKENZIE

(after a beat)

We'd have the right to terminate at any time, on a month's notice. You pay for office services and the use of the library. Any joint clients are fifty-fifty.

BLOOM

My name goes on the door, we put out a press release and agree to talk closer ties in six months.

MCKENZIE

A year. And this will all have to be approved by the partners. It isn't final... *

BLOOM

Small strokes, baby. Paperwork.
(big smile)
We've got a done deal.

Off McKenzie, thinking about Faust, we:

CUT TO:

22 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (GREEN) - DAY

22

Graphia has STEVEN WAERING, forties, attractive, on direct.

GRAPHIA

Once more, Mr. Waering. Mrs. Chandler visited your apartment regularly...

WAERING

Three times, over eight months.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

GRAPHIA

And at least one of those times,
she spent the night with you.

WAERING

Not the way you mean, no.

GRAPHIA

An attractive woman, who loves you,
comes to your apartment at one a.m.,
stays till dawn and you don't sleep
with her. *

VAN OWEN

Objection, he's badgering.

GRAPHIA

Witness is hostile, Your Honor.

JUDGE GREEN *

Overruled.

GRAPHIA

(to Waering)

Are you denying you had a sexual
relationship with Elsa Chandler
before her husband was killed?

WAERING

Yes! We were friends. I was trying
to help her...

GRAPHIA

Help her leave her marriage. Help
her funnel Ralph Chandler's money
into your failing business--

VAN OWEN

Objection!

JUDGE GREEN *

Sustained.

WAERING

He was beating her for God's sake.
He was raping her--

GRAPHIA

According to her. But the truth
was, Elsa Chandler desperately
wanted to get rid of her husband,
so she could be with you.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

VAN OWEN
Objection.

WAERING
No! She had to get
out--

GRAPHIA
She wanted out because of you. And
you needed cash.

WAERING
We weren't the criminals, he was--

GRAPHIA
No further questions.

WAERING
The way he treated her was
psychotic. What happened to Ralph
Chandler was his own fault!

JUDGE GREEN
That'll do, Mr. Waering. *

As Graphia sits, Mullaney leans over to Van Owen.

MULLANEY
They're not sure about him. We
gotta build up sympathy fast.

Van Owen rises.

VAN OWEN
(to Waering)
You knew Elsa Chandler was married,
didn't you?

WAERING
She told me when we met. But she
didn't tell me the kind of monster
she was married to--

GRAPHIA
Objection, nonresponsive. Move to
strike.

JUDGE GREEN
Jury will disregard the answer. *

VAN OWEN
(to Waering)
When did you realize Elsa Chandler
was being abused by her husband?

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED: (3)

22

GRAPHIA

Objection! No foundation, he didn't see any abuse--

VAN OWEN

He was with the defendant right after she was brutalized. This man is an eyewitness.

GRAPHIA

After the fact.

JUDGE GREEN

(to Van Owen)

I'll allow you some latitude. But don't push it.

GRAPHIA

I still object--

JUDGE GREEN

Don't you push it, either. You'll get your re-direct.

VAN OWEN

I repeat, Mr. Waering, when did you realize Elsa Chandler was being abused by her husband? *

WAERING

The night she came to my apartment at one a.m. She was white and shaking. Under her raincoat, her blouse was torn. Her cheek was bruised and she had blood all over her. There were cuts on her neck and her breasts. *

VAN OWEN

Who did she say inflicted those cuts?

WAERING

Ralph Chandler. With a butcher knife. He did that sometimes before he raped her--

GRAPHIA

Objection!

JUDGE GREEN

Sustained.

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED: (4)

22

VAN OWEN

Did Mrs. Chandler tell you these things easily?

WAERING

No. At first she couldn't talk at all. It took hours before she'd tell me what he'd done. When it finally came out, I wanted to kill him myself.

VAN OWEN

Had she ever said anything about her husband before?

WAERING

(emotionally)

She tried so hard not to. I knew something was wrong but I could never get her to say what. After all the sick things he did to her, she was still loyal--

GRAPHIA

Your Honor, please.

JUDGE GREEN

Confine yourself to the question, Mr. Waering.

VAN OWEN

(to Waering)

From what you witnessed that night, from the physical evidence, do you have any doubt that Elsa Chandler was severely abused?

WAERING

She was bleeding. She was terrified. You can't fake that. Of course she was abused.

VAN OWEN

Thank you, Mr. Waering.

Van Owen sits and Graphia gets up.

GRAPHIA

You don't know that Mrs. Chandler was abused by her husband. In fact, Mr. Waering, you don't know she was abused by anybody. The truth is she could have faked it.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (5)

22

VAN OWEN

Objection.

GRAPHIA

I'll rephrase. Couldn't Elsa Chandler have inflicted what were really minor injuries on herself, in order to gain your sympathy?

WAERING

It's possible. But she didn't.

GRAPHIA

The two of you are close. Maybe you agreed to back up Mrs. Chandler's story. To help her fabricate an excuse for murdering her husband--

VAN OWEN

Objection!

JUDGE GREEN

Sustained.

GRAPHIA

You're in love with Elsa Chandler, aren't you, Mr. Waering?

WAERING

I don't see what that has to do with--

GRAPHIA

Answer the question, please. Are you in love with Elsa Chandler, yes or no?

WAERING

Yes.

GRAPHIA

Would you lie to save her life?

WAERING

No.

VAN OWEN

Objection that is sustained.

JUDGE GREEN

Overruled.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (6)

22

GRAPHIA

(to Waering)

According to phone company records,
Ralph Chandler called your store
from his office on July tenth,
nineteen-ninety. He asked if his
wife was there, didn't he?

WAERING

Yes.

GRAPHIA

And Elsa Chandler was there, wasn't
she, Mr. Waering?

WAERING

Yes.

GRAPHIA

Did you tell that to her husband?

WAERING

He would've gone crazy, he would've
beatn her again--

GRAPHIA

(insistent)

Did you tell Ralph Chandler his wife
was there?

WAERING

No.

GRAPHIA

So you lied. To protect Mrs.
Chandler.

WAERING

(long beat)

Yes.

GRAPHIA

No further questions.

He doesn't need any. The damage is done. Off Van Owen
and Mullaney, we:

FADE OUT

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

23 INT. CRIMINAL COURT (SWANSON) - DAY 23 *

Judge Swanson enters on the cut. *

JUDGE SWANSON *

Come here, Mr. Kittredge.

Kittredge approaches the bench.

JUDGE SWANSON *

(quietly)

I'm putting you on notice. Any breach of decorum, even the slightest, will land you in front of the State Bar.

KITTREDGE

(full volume)

Your Honor, it's clear that you hate my guts and my client's--

JUDGE SWANSON *

Keep your voice down. That's exactly what I'm talking about. *

KITTREDGE

You're hamstringing me, Judge. You're blocking any effective defense--

JUDGE SWANSON *

I've reached my limit with you, Counsel! I will not let you demean my courtroom.

GWEN

(stands up)

Your Honor, I'd like to say something.

That stops everybody cold.

JUDGE SWANSON *

You can't. You're a member of the jury.

GWEN

I have to talk to you.

KITTREDGE
Objection!

ROTH
Objection!

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

JUDGE SWANSON

Miss, the jury doesn't address the court.

GWEN

You have the discretion to let me, Your Honor. People versus Gates. Upheld on appeal, ninety-seven Cal. App. Third, one twenty-nine.

Kittredge and Roth stare at Gwen. Off Judge Swanson, we:

TIME CUT TO:

24 INT. JUDGE SWANSON'S CHAMBERS - DAY

24 *

Judge Swanson consults a law book while Roth, Gwen and Kittredge wait. He snaps the book shut and looks at Gwen.

JUDGE SWANSON

All right. What's your problem?

GWEN

Mr. Diamond isn't getting a fair trial.

Judge Swanson glances at Kittredge, who's loving this.

GWEN

We're supposed to concentrate on the facts and we can't. All we can hear is you two yelling at each other.

JUDGE SWANSON

I instructed you to ignore Mr. Kittredge. And if you have complaints about me, you can take them to the Judicial Performance Commission after we're finished.

ROTH

Judge, this juror has obviously formed an opinion.

KITTREDGE

Wrong. She's trying not to.

ROTH

Put a sock in it, Frank.
(to Judge Swanson)
She should be excused.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

GWEN

Then you'll have to excuse the whole jury. We all feel the same.

JUDGE SWANSON

You discussed the case among yourselves?

*

GWEN

Not testimony, not anything we might deliberate. But when you're watching World War Three, you can't just ignore it.

JUDGE SWANSON

Do you know what you're saying?

*

GWEN

We took an oath, Your Honor. To give you a verdict based only on the evidence. I'm telling you that right now -- we can't do it.

Off Judge Swanson, we:

CUT TO:

24A INT. MARKOWITZ' OFFICE - DAY

24A

Markowitz is working. Kelsey walks in.

KELSEY

I have a confession, Stuart.

MARKOWITZ

Now?

KELSEY

You were right about Ned. He's wonderful with Matthew. I was being a chauvinist. I had a knee-jerk reaction to a male nanny.

MARKOWITZ

You got over it, Matthew loves him, it turned out fine.

KELSEY

Except for the Marta fiasco. That was all my fault. I took her at face value, I rushed into hiring her.

(CONTINUED)

24A CONTINUED:

24A

MARKOWITZ

Don't be so hard on yourself. She was the one with the naked man.

(off her small smile)

Come on. What's really going on?

KELSEY

(after a beat)

I love being back at work. Maybe it's not exactly the kind of law I'd like to be practicing but I get up every morning and I can't wait to get to the office. *

MARKOWITZ

And this is bad.

KELSEY

Maybe it's not fair to Matthew. After three months, he's used to having me home.

MARKOWITZ

So he'll get used to Ned.

(then)

You hated going to Gymboree. Ned likes it.

KELSEY

And Matthew knows the difference.

MARKOWITZ

Absolutely. You can discuss it with him, but I'd bet that the happier you are, the happier he is. If being here is what you want, Matthew would say go for it. If he could talk better.

KELSEY

(suddenly)

I love you, Stuart.

Off Kelsey kissing Markowitz, we:

CUT TO:

24B

INT. VAN OWEN'S OFFICE - DAY

24B

Van Owen and Mullaney.

MULLANEY

You were great. But the boyfriend hurt us.

VAN OWEN

They rest tomorrow, we put Elsa on no later than Thursday.

MULLANEY

She worries me. She could get up there and check out. Protect herself so much she sounds like the phone book. *

VAN OWEN

You have another choice?

MULLANEY

(after a beat)
No. She's the only way we prove abuse. But we gotta hit hard on temporary insanity. She wasn't herself. He made her do things she'd never have done.

VAN OWEN

(flatly)
No. I'm going with self-defense.

MULLANEY

And insanity. You filed both.

VAN OWEN

I'm not using both. I want a clean acquittal.

MULLANEY

The odds are against you. She took the gun with her, we can't prove immediate threat. We gotta have insanity to fall back on. It's still not guilty.

VAN OWEN

There's been too much publicity, the Judge will have to commit her. She ends up victimized again.

MULLANEY

Grace, you don't wanna go for broke here.

(CONTINUED)

24B CONTINUED:

24B

VAN OWEN

I don't want Elsa Chandler in a mental ward, possibly for the rest of her life.

MULLANEY

At least she'll have a life. With straight self-defense you're taking too much of a gamble. *

VAN OWEN

(flaring)

Don't second guess me, Tommy. I know what I'm doing.

MULLANEY

Yeah, so do I. You're acting out. You got a lot of anger over the baby and you're letting it cloud your judgment. As your friend, I know it's gotta be killing you and I'm sorry. But on behalf of our client, I think it stinks. *

VAN OWEN

This was a mistake. You're not comfortable with second chair, I'll ask Jonathan. *

MULLANEY

Great. Dump me, railroad the client. Do your best to screw things up. What's hurting you is still gonna be there.

Off Van Owen, we:

CUT TO:

25
thru
26

OMITTED:

25
thru
26

27

INT. CRIMINAL COURT (SWANSON) - DAY

27 *

Judge Swanson finishes polling the jury. *

CLERK

Wyles.

JUDGE SWANSON *

Are you able to render a verdict in this case based solely on the evidence?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

WYLES

No, Your Honor.

CLERK

Zinsmeister.

JUDGE SWANSON

Are you able to render a verdict
in this case based solely on the
evidence?

ZINSMEISTER

No, Your Honor.

They were the last two. After a beat:

JUDGE SWANSON

I've never seen anything like this
in twenty years on the bench. Since
the jury considers itself incapable
of an impartial verdict, I have no
choice but to declare a mistrial.

(to jury)

Ladies and Gentlemen, you're
excused. I hope I never have the
pleasure again.

Roth is pissed, Kittredge delighted. Off Gwen, we:

TIME CUT TO:

28 INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY

28

Gwen waits for an elevator. It arrives -- to reveal
Kittredge. Gwen has no choice but to get on with him. The
doors close.

29 INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS ACTION

29

KITTREDGE

Thanks. You're the reason I won.

GWEN

It was a mistrial.

KITTREDGE

Which I'll claim resulted from
judicial misconduct. In this state,
I can argue double jeopardy. I win
and Mr. Diamond walks.

GWEN

He should be tried again.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

KITTREDGE

Absolutely. But he has a very good lawyer -- and he had you.

The elevator doors open. Kittredge walks out. After a beat, so does Gwen.

30 INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS ACTION

30

KITTREDGE

Roth would've eventually persuaded a party girl to testify. She'd have convicted on assault with an automatic weapon and our friendly judge would've slapped Mr. Diamond with the six-year max. We made it all go away.

GWEN

You had no case. The fights were deliberate. You used us.

KITTREDGE

I couldn't get the Judge to bite, but you were a dream come true.

GWEN

You slimy son of a bitch.
(off his smile)
I'll go to the Judge. I'll tell him exactly what you did.

KITTREDGE

He already declared the mistrial. And you have no proof.
(then)
You're out of your league, Ms. Taylor.

Kittredge moves on. Off Gwen, we:

CUT TO:

31
thru
31A
OMITTED:

31
thru
31A

31B INT. VAN OWEN'S OFFICE - DAY

31B *

Van Owen is working. Kelsey, briefcase in hand, comes in.

KELSEY

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

31B CONTINUED:

31B

VAN OWEN

*

Hi.

KELSEY

I know it's short notice, but Stuart and I would love you to come home with us for dinner. He's making his killer pasta and I have all the stuff for a caesar salad--

*

VAN OWEN

I'd love to, but not tonight.

*

KELSEY

(after a beat)

You don't have to see Matthew. He'll probably be asleep--

VAN OWEN

I can't. Okay?

KELSEY

Okay. When you're ready.

(then)

We miss you.

Off Van Owen, we:

CUT TO:

32 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

32

Gwen and McKenzie.

GWEN

I was accepted at Loyola, but I never went. I've always talked myself out of going back.

MCKENZIE

Do you want to be a lawyer?

GWEN

I must. I can't seem to get away from them. I've covered for enough to think I'd be good. In spite of what happened today.

MCKENZIE

Then do it.

*

GWEN

It's not that easy.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

MCKENZIE

Law school at night and a full time job? It'll be hell. You might not make it. But if you don't try, you'll never know.

Off Gwen, we

TIME CUT TO:

33 INT. RECEPTION - NIGHT

33

McKenzie and Gwen are on their way out.

GWEN

I'll need more flexible hours, but I'll make sure Arnie is covered.

MCKENZIE

If you want help convincing him, let me know.

GWEN

Thanks. You've been great.

He opens the glass doors for her -- and both stop short.

34 INT. ELEVATOR AREA - CONTINUOUS ACTION

34

Movers get off an elevator wrestling a huge abstract painting. Following are Bloom and Kittredge. The painting grazes a door.

BLOOM

Hey, watch that, it's worth more than your company.

(sees McKenzie)

Leland, I'm glad we caught you. This is Frank Kittredge, my new associate. I promise a hired gun, I deliver.

(to Kittredge)

The eminent Leland McKenzie.

KITTREDGE

Pleased to meet you.

BLOOM

Damn.

Bloom goes back into the elevator to retrieve her purse.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

MCKENZIE

This is Gwen Taylor.

KITTREDGE

We've met.

Gwen just stares at him. Two movers stagger past Bloom with an enormous desk, the last furniture. One stumbles.

BLOOM

(exiting elevator)

Can you believe it? I'm paying these putzes golden overtime. See you tomorrow.

(moves off with
Kittredge)

Now the offices are tacky, but they have huge possibilities.

Gwen, trying to comprehend, moves into the elevator with McKenzie, who releases the "hold" button.

GWEN

They're moving in?

MCKENZIE

Regrettably, yes.

McKenzie looks at the elevator, sighs.

MCKENZIE

Where are you when I need you?

The elevator doors close, and we:

CUT TO:

35 EXT. VAN OWEN'S APARTMENT - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

35

36 INT. VAN OWEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

36

Van Owen is by a window, sitting alone in the dark.

FADE OUT

THE END