

BATTLE
IN
SOUTHB

"SAM" 116.
SC. 2

138

INT. MAYOR SCHELL'S OFFICE. -- MOMENTS LATER

138

SAM enters and begins talking rapidly.

START

SAM

Hi. My name is Samantha Clayton.
I am here on behalf of the
protesters who have been unlawfully
detained.

The MAYOR says nothing. He sits behind his desk studying
SAM calmly. Finally he breaks the silence.

MAYOR

Please, take a seat. A big
responsibility handling, what is
it, six hundred people?

SAM

Six hundred innocent people.

MAYOR

I'll be the first to admit that
mistakes have been made. But the
people in jail are there because
they broke the law.

She doesn't take the bait.

SAM

Is incarcerating people who'll
never stand trial going to improve
things?

MAYOR

Perhaps. Maybe not. We have a
list of people who we know are in
prison.

He hands her a sheet of paper with names and photos of many
well known activists. The surveillance photo of JAY and SAM
is among them.

MAYOR

If these people agree that for two
years they won't demonstrate, we'll
release everyone immediately.

SAM considers JAY'S situation but decides to play hardball.

SAM

They won't agree to having their
civil liberties eroded further than
(MORE)

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6

SAM (cont'd)
they already are. And neither do I.

MAYOR
I think you should at least give them the choice, considering the consequences.

SAM
Which are exactly?

MAYOR
Miss Clayton. The Municipal Judge has ruled, those arrested must identify themselves or they'll be denied bail. Your clients are in a precarious position ... especially those with criminal records.

SAM goes silent. She averts the MAYOR'S gaze and looks at the card with JAY'S name on it. Finally

SAM
Mayor Schell. Sir. Firstly, court rules have already been violated by not providing the prisoners with counsel. Secondly, access to counsel is not contingent on answering police questions including "what is your name". And lastly, you don't have the resources to provide a public defender and a jury for everyone. So let's not bother bluffing anymore. Want my clients freed with no fines, no restitution orders, and no criminal charges.

MAYOR
It's hard to help your clients when they won't speak.

SAM
They're voices must have been taken away when they're rights were.

It's a stand-off.

SAM
I wish to see the prisoners.

MAYOR
I suggest you come back in a couple of days when it's quieter.

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SAM is at a loss for words. She looks around the room uncomfortably searching for something to say. Suddenly she hears a faint, but growing sound. A mass of people making noise. The MAYOR begins to hear it also. SAM stands up and walks over to the window where she sees hundreds of people marching down the street toward the jail. She turns to the MAYOR

SAM
I don't think it's going to get any
quieter ...

She walks up to his desk. Takes out a pen and paper and writes "Samantha Clayton. Attorney at Law".

SAM
... especially for you.

She puts the card on a miniature "scales of justice" on his desk. As she walks out it tips in her favor.

Close on the MAYOR who looks deeply worried.

CUT TO

139 INT. HOLDING CELL -- LATER

139

The women prisoners are in their cell.

CLOSE UP on JEAN staring at all the frightened faces.

140 INT. PRISON SECTION F -- NIGHT

140

JAY hears someone crying in the cell beside him.

JAY
You okay in there? Hey...

LOU
Jay.

JAY
Lou. Lou what's happened?

He moves to the edge of his cell where it joins LOU'S. They are separated by a slab of concrete.

LOU
Nothing. I was worried about you.

JAY
That's new.

END

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