

RUSSELL- scene 1

CANTERBURY'S LAW

46.

ELIZABETH

I roll loaded or not at all.

RUSSELL

The search moves to the woods now --
they will find the rest of him.

INT. PROVIDENCE COUNTY JAIL - MEN'S ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

As Russell is shoved into the room. The same pudgy PUBLIC DEFENDER is there, slicking his hair at the sink, but --

ELIZABETH

Get out! Out!

The guy runs. Elizabeth's face is red, eyes bulging white --

START

ELIZABETH (cont'd)

Why you sanctimonious, self-righteous
shit -- you compromised the firm,
you compromised your client --

RUSSELL

You pay me to stay tight with my old
colleagues. You think they talk to
me because I'm pretty -- ?

ELIZABETH

Zach played you --

RUSSELL

I have to actually say things, Liz --
communicate -- so they don't slam
the door in my face. I have --

ELIZABETH

You're supposed to play him and he
played you --

RUSSELL

I have to keep him on the hook -- !

ELIZABETH

You screwed up -- !

RUSSELL

You left me no choice! You're losing
this case and you refuse to cut your
losses. That damages Ethan, it could
damage you -- I want to prevent that!

He shouts the last line and spins away, pacing the room...

RUSSELL (cont'd)

Liz... I know juries. Ethan's right.
You've lost this one.

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SUE TYLER CASTING - CANTERBURY'S LAW

ELIZABETH
I disagree.

RUSSELL
Take a continuance, wait on the DNA.

ELIZABETH
He can't wait. You know what happens
to kiddie killers in gen-pop --

RUSSELL
It's a month, maybe less -- !

ELIZABETH
It won't be a month! We'll get shoved
to the back of the line -- it'll be
two, three, six, a year -- and you
know that, Russell!

RUSSELL
Let Ethan tell his story then -- put
him on the stand and show --

ELIZABETH
Are you nuts? No. He's too fragile --

RUSSELL
Let the jury see that. Show them how
fragile he is, demonstrate why you
think Ethan's innocent --

ELIZABETH
It'll hurt him and earn us nothing.

RUSSELL
Then -- Jesus, Liz, I don't know --
(throws up his hands)
-- work a plea. Sit down with Zach --
stop thinking about Nancy Grace and
salvage something, anything.

ELIZABETH
First of all, I'm a van Susteren girl.
Second, I...
(she exhales, exhausted)
...I have contingencies. More than
that, I have faith. I have faith in
our system. I trust in it. I believe
in innocent until proven guilty...
(beat)
...and then some.

END She nods once -- that's that -- and walks out. Russell stares
at the door, then turns to the mirror, stares at himself...

SUE NARE CASTING - CANTERBURY'S LAW

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