

Blind Badges

INT. KRISTEN'S HOME - MORNING

Kristen's land-line phone rings several times before an irritated Kristen enters. She goes to the phone, lifts the receiver, then hangs it back up.

There's a knock at the door. She turns and faces the door. She takes in a deep breath, ready for a confrontation.

She answers the door. It's Janet Peterson, holding a large bowl of salad. Kristen is confused.

JANET

Hey, Kristen.

KRISTEN

(defensive)

Peterson? What's this about?

JANET

Call me Janet, please. I thought you might like a Waldorf salad.

KRISTEN

(dubious)

Seriously? Salad?

JANET

I made it myself. It's good, trust me.

Kristen peers out the door, scanning the front yard.

JANET

Relax, I'm not here to bust your chops. I'm on your side.

KRISTEN

Um, okay.

Janet waits for Kristen to invite her in.

JANET

I'm starving, and I didn't bring any forks.

KRISTEN

Oh, come in.

She lets Janet in.

(CONTINUED)

Blind Badges

JANET

I was invited to Houser's annual barbecue party today, that's what this was meant for. But when I found out last night what was really going on, I decided you deserve this more than that arrogant prick, Houser.

(beat)

How you doing?

KRISTEN

Besides the persistent phone calls from the press and the not-so-subtle text threats, not bad.

(beat)

Have a seat.

Janet sets the bowl on the dining room table and sits. Kristen heads to the kitchen.

JANET

This has mayonnaise and walnuts in it. You're not allergic, are you?

KRISTEN (O.S.)

(calling out)

No, it sounds good.

Kristen returns with two plates and utensils.

JANET

I gotta be honest, you broke the code and I'm damn glad you did.

Janet dishes salad onto the plates.

KRISTEN

How long have you been on the department?

JANET

Eight years.

KRISTEN

Has this ever happened to you?

JANET

No, but I've seen it before. It happened to my Training Officer. He filed an account of what down with another officer. He was suspended for three days only to come back to a regular patrol. Solo.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Blind Badges

JANET (CONT'D)

The heat got so bad, he eventually had to transfer out.

KRISTEN

Are you kidding me? A Training Officer?

JANET

Yeah. One of the good ones too.

KRISTEN

Well, Internal Affairs has my statement. I trust they'll do the right thing.

JANET

Don't count on it. Houser will have his buddies cover for him and your account will be considered a misinterpretation of events.

KRISTEN

It was on my body cam.

JANET

You forgot to turn it on.

KRISTEN

No I didn't.

JANET

Okay then, the tape was lost. Believe me, it's that easy.

KRISTEN

I saw what I saw. Houser shot an unarmed man without even a warning. He planted that gun.

JANET

Look, there's a culture with some cops. It's not taught anywhere. It seems to occur naturally. It comes from having power and authority. You can split them into two categories; what I call the Loyal Blues and the Blind Badges. The Loyals follow their code and the Blinds look the other way. If not, they don't belong.

KRISTEN

You said you were glad I broke the code.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Blind Badges

KRISTEN (CONT'D)

I might lose everything I've worked for, maybe even my life. Why are you glad?

JANET

Because, there's another officer who's been sitting on a mound of evidence against Houser and his buddies, but didn't want to risk anything until at least one more officer was willing to come forward.

KRISTEN

Who is this other officer? I want to talk to him.

Janet breaks eye contact for a moment with Kristen.

JANET

I can't say right now, but I can assure you, they will have your back.

KRISTEN

But without my body cam footage?

JANET

*"Oh look, we found it".*

(beat)

You have to stick to your story and fight this. Don't let them push you down.

Kristen takes that in as Janet munches down on salad.

JANET

You gotta try the salad, it's really good.

CUT TO: