

SHANE & TESTA CASTING

8-17-10

THE WHOLE TRUTH "Judicial Discretion" Production Draft 8/19/10 7.
CONTINUED: 6

6

6

KATHRYN
(wiping it away)
Thank you. Who at Investigations
built this case anyway?

EDGE
Mark Brown.

KATHRYN
That icky little twit wants to be
mayor someday?

EDGE
None other. Prosecuting a judge...
great way to see his name in the
papers.

KATHRYN
So I'm sure he's thrilled, thrilled
that it got taken away from him.

EDGE
Don't worry. I'm sure he'll be
cooperative.

Kathryn stops at a tchotchke stand and buys a HAMSA. Off
Edge's look --

KATHRYN
It's evidence against the Evil Eye.

7 INT. INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU - MARK BROWN'S OFFICE - DAY (D2) 7

MARK BROWN (30s) stands facing Kathryn and Edge.

BROWN
I'm gonna call the D.A. personally.
This case should be mine.

EDGE
Fine. Why don't we call him now?

He checks his watch, then starts to dial.

EDGE (CONT'D)
Although he won't be in his office.
His daughter's got a horse show.
I'll try his cell.

As the number rings, Edge hands the phone to Brown.

MARK
BROWN
#1

(CONTINUED)

1045

The Whole Truth - Judicial Discretion

EDGE (CONT'D)

Make sure to tell him Judge Wright got bail because you wouldn't send us the case file. And remind him I'm looking forward to having him as my guest at the Carlyle tonight.

Defeated, Brown clicks off the phone, hands it back to Edge.

BROWN

This case should be mine.

KATHRYN

We heard. Now would you please enlighten us as to what the case actually is?

BROWN

You know Eric Santiago?

KATHRYN

Lower East Side drug lord. Bad guy.

BROWN

His in-house lawyer was Murray Rothstein.

Brown hands them a mug shot of Rothstein, in a pricey suit.

BROWN (CONT'D)

Rothstein got busted two weeks ago for heavy possession -- he was screwing around with drugs himself. He knew he was looking at ten years' hard time so he sent out word -- he'd make a deal. He'd give us Santiago and a judge. Santiago's been bribing for years.

KATHRYN

Judge Wright?

BROWN

According to Rothstein. Whenever one of Santiago's people got busted and ended up in Judge Wright's courtroom, Santiago gave money to Rothstein, who gave the money to Wright, and the case would go Santiago's way.

KATHRYN

So you had Judge Wright for Corruption?

(CONTINUED)

2065

7

BROWN

Dead center. With Murray Rothstein as star witness. Only thing is, Rothstein suddenly got out of jail and Santiago had him killed.

EDGE

Santiago -- not Judge Wright -- had Rothstein killed?

BROWN

(nods)

We've got Santiago on tape ordering the hit. So we arrest Santiago and now he makes a deal. Yes, he ordered the hit, but Judge Wright told him to do it. Judge Wright even got Rothstein out of jail so the hit man could get to him.

He picks up a massive file and tosses it on his desk in front of Kathryn.

BROWN (CONT'D)

Case is a ground ball. Don't screw it up.

8

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE - DAY (D2)

8

Kathryn's hamsa hangs from a lamp on her desk. She and Chad are looking over PHOTOS and DOCUMENTS from the Santiago file.

CHAD

So... we're prosecuting a respected judge for killing him on the word of a notorious drug dealer?

KATHRYN

Yes. Which will make us as popular in this courthouse as Romeo at a Capulet family reunion.
(off his blank look)
They don't get along.

CHAD

At least we'll have each other.

KATHRYN

Right. Okay. The police had a wiretap on Santiago as part of a drug investigation. After Rothstein was shot, they dug up this untranscribed tape.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 of 5

MARK BROWN

#2

33 INT. COURTROOM - DAY (D5)

33

The trial has begun. Judge Hampton on the bench, jury in the box, Jimmy and Alejo at the defense table, Chad and Edge are at the prosecution table while Kathryn questions Mark Brown.

BROWN

Mr. Rothstein indicated that he had participated in the bribery of Judge Wright by Mr. Santiago. I made plans to meet him at Rikers Island on the morning of September ninth.

KATHRYN

What, if anything, occurred to Mr. Rothstein before that meeting took place?

Brown uses a LASER POINTER to point to a TIME CHART as --

BROWN

At 4:15 p.m. on September eighth, Santiago called Judge Wright. At 4:19 Wright called Arraignments and had Mr. Rothstein released from custody. Two hours later a hired assassin shot and killed Mr. Rothstein.

JUMP TO Jimmy crossing --

JIMMY

Quite a feather in your cap, going after a judge, isn't it?

BROWN

I wasn't going after a judge. I was investigating a drug dealer and stumbled across evidence that connected him to Judge Wright.

JIMMY

And you were going after that drug dealer because he is a major criminal, right?

BROWN

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

4045

33

JIMMY

But then you decided to rely on the statements of that major criminal to make a case against Judge Wright?

BROWN

There is other evidence.

JIMMY

How many murders do you believe Eric Santiago is responsible for, before this one?

BROWN

I don't know.

JIMMY

Three or four?

BROWN

None have ever been proven.

JIMMY

But instead of trying to prove those you're taking Santiago's word that Judge Wright is a killer?

KATHRYN

Objection.

JIMMY

Withdrawn. I'm done.

34

INT. COURTROOM - DAY (DS)

34

Edge questions Arraignment Clerk Mikey Cataldo.

EDGE

How long have you been the night Arraignment clerk, Mr. Cataldo?

MIKEY

Twelve years.

EDGE

And did you get a call from the defendant on the night of August twentieth?

MIKEY

Yeah. Judge Wright called me and asked me to take care of his friend Murray Rothstein.

(CONTINUED)

50f5