

12 CONTINUED: (3)

SADIE
Do you have any idea - either of you -
why the DA wants her to testify?
Any idea what she might say?

For the first time, Margaret and Billy are in agreement.

MARGARET
No idea. There's nothing.

SADIE
Molly's already refused to speak to
me. I could try again but they've
tucked her away someplace -

ALBERT
We'll re-file a discovery motion to
compel them to tell us what they
have. But that'll take a few days.
In the meantime, let us know if you
think of anything that could be
helpful.

(beat)
Now I need to get to court.

SADIE
Me too.

MARGARET
Billy, can we talk?

BILLY
I'm meeting a friend Uptown.

And he's gone. It's just Isaiah and Margaret. He notices
the stricken look on her face.

ISAIAH
I can only imagine how hard this is
for you, Maggie.

MARGARET
I lost my daughter. I can't lose my
son too.

ON her resolve...

13

INT. COURTROOM #2 - DAY 2

Sadie, Tiffany, Scott, and Connie Hollander are at the
plaintiff's table; JOHN ROGERS, a tough, sharp attorney in
his 50's, is at the defense table with CHUCK ENSLER, 45,
director of New Testament Rehab. JUDGE SARAH BARR presides.

JUDGE BARR
I understand the parties have agreed
to settle.

(CONTINUED)

13 *

*

*

13

CONTINUED:

13

SADIE

Actually, your Honor, the Hollanders have changed their mind and would like to pursue a wrongful death claim against the New Testament Rehab.

*

ROGERS

They can't. This court has no jurisdiction.

Rogers picks up a file.

ROGERS (CONT'D)

Your Honor, may I approach?
(hands the judge a piece of paper)
It's the standard admission form to New Testament Rehab. Signed by the Plaintiffs.

*
*

SADIE

We don't have a copy of that form.

JUDGE BARR

"All disputes between parties are to be solved by religious arbitration as set forth in the attached..."

SADIE

Religious arbitration?

ROGERS

Therefore, Your Honor, we respectfully request that the case be dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

TIFFANY

(to the stunned couple)
Did you guys sign it?

Even as she says this, Rogers is handing the Hollanders and Sadie a copy of the agreement.

*

SCOTT

That's our signatures. But I didn't realize what it was we were signing.

CONNIE

It was his second DUI. They were saying it was this or prison. We didn't read the fine print.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

SADIE

(scrambling)

They were clearly under duress - I would ask that the court declare the contract null and void --

SMASH CUT TO:

14 INT. ISAIAH ROTH & ASSOCIATES - BREAK ROOM - DAY 2

14 *

Sadie is annoyed and is letting it show as she puts together lunch - opening the fridge, sawing off chunks of cheese. Cameron and Tiffany are there, trying to steer clear of the knife.

SADIE

"Religious arbitration"?! A couple of ministers judging questions of fact and law! How is that even legal?

Isaiah pops his head in.

ISAIAH

Leave in an hour, get up to Bedford by four?

SADIE

Yeah, fine.

ISAIAH

Go easy on that cheese.

TIFFANY

She's upset that our clients signed a religious arbitration clause and the judge upheld it.

SADIE

It's absurd! What about the establishment clause? Separation of church and state?

ISAIAH

Goes both ways, Sadie. If two parties willingly agree to settle their dispute within the confines of their chosen religion the government has no right to interfere.

SADIE

I hate it when you make sense.

Grabbing her food and starting to leave.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I guess I'll be cramming tonight. Black coffee and the Bible. Fun.

(CONTINUED)

30

INT. ALLENTOWN PARISH HALL - DAY 3

30 *

Sitting in the "witness" chair is Chuck Ensler, the director of the New Testament Rehab. He's nervous. *

ENSLER

Eddie came to me the day before he died. He'd been having thoughts. Said he'd been thinking about ... it. *

ROGERS

Thinking about what Chuck? Say the words.

Ensler is hesitant but pushes on:

ENSLER

Ending his life. Suicide. He knew he was a disappointment to his parents. He was so ashamed. He just wanted it to be over.

SADIE

You controlled everything there. The locks on the doors, the access to food, prayer time, bed time, but somehow you let him get into the pharmacy?

ENSLER

The pharmacy was locked. He got in despite all our safeguards.

SADIE

Tell me about all your safeguards.

ENSLER

(avoiding the question)
Look, we can't always protect people from themselves...

CONNIE

You looked into my eyes when we dropped him off and said, don't worry Connie, we'll take care of him! We trusted you!

Her pain is so raw, Tiffany looks to Scott, is he going to comfort his wife? He doesn't because he's too lost in his own pain, so Tiffany takes her hand. *

SADIE

Mr. Ensler, were there locks on the doors to the pharmacy?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

ENSLER

Yes.

SADIE

What kind of lock?

ENSLER

A padlock.

SADIE

And the door, six feet from the entrance to the pharmacy - what did that lead to?

ENSLER

A room of tools and supplies.

SADIE

Where there was a crowbar?

A pause from Ensler. Ensler looks at Rogers.

SADIE (CONT'D)

I'm asking you, not your lawyer.

ENSLER

Yes. There was a crowbar.

SADIE

You had a room full of drugs, a six dollar padlock and a crowbar? And you still claim that you had appropriate safeguards in place?

ENSLER

Look, I'm not saying ...
 (he stops himself,
 then a stiff, prepared
 response)
 It's the position of the New Testament Rehab that Eddie Hollander broke into the pharmacy to take his own life.

*
*

Connie Hollander stands up.

CONNIE

No! No! He wouldn't have killed himself! He didn't! It was an accident! Take it back, please!

Connie is sobbing, Scott goes to his wife.

*

SCOTT

Connie --

*

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

SADIE

Okay, Reverend, could we...

REV. MULLER

Yes, I think we should leave it here
for now. Let's close with prayer
and pick up tomorrow at ten.

31 ~~INT. ISAIAH ROTH & ASSOCIATES - ALBERT'S OFFICE - NIGHT 3~~

31 *

~~Nick comes into Albert's office with his laptop, excited.~~

NICK

~~Full-res version of the surveillance
tape.~~

~~Both Nick and Albert lean in close and Nick presses Play.~~

NICK (CONT'D)

~~Here. Look. They fight. Sokas
turns and walks away ... and then,
he turns and yells something at
Delilah before he keeps walking away.
He yelled something. His mouth is
moving.~~

ALBERT

~~What's he saying? Play it again.~~

~~As they study it, Albert gets an idea, he picks up the phone
as he continues to look at the tapes...~~

32 ~~INT. ALLENTOWNER MOTOR COURT - SADIE'S ROOM - NIGHT 3~~

32 *

~~Sadie comes back into her room through the door to Tiffany's.
Cameron's changed into pajamas. The room is a mini-disaster
area of legal files, Tiffany's Tupperwares, a wine bottle or
three...~~

SADIE

~~Poor Tiffany. She passed out on top
of the bedspread. She's gonna freak
out tomorrow when she wakes up.~~

CAMERON

~~Two glasses of chardonnay. Girl
can't road trip like we can.~~

~~Cameron pours more wine into Sadie's glass.~~

CAMERON (CONT'D)

~~Anyone call you today?~~

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

HAMILTON

Jokes, stares, heckling, constant social humiliation - with all that her fight-or-flight response was, to put it clinically, really messed up.

ALBERT

How did that messed-up fight-or-flight response manifest itself on the night she encountered Mr. Sokas?

HAMILTON

Hearing those words, words that undoubtedly echoed the words she heard during those earlier beatings - her adrenal glands would have flooded her system with adrenaline, cortisol and - to her, it would have been just like she was being attacked all over again.

The truth. Off Delilah: finally understood.

34 OMITTED

34

35 INT. ALLENTOWN PARISH HALL - DAY 4

35 *

Cameron and Ensler, picking up from the day before:

CAMERON

Just a few questions left over from yesterday, Mr. Ensler. You're a former minister, aren't you?

ENSLER

Yes.

CAMERON

I have a lot of affection for ministers. I actually had a conversation with my minister when I was younger that was very much like the one you described yesterday with Eddie. I told him I had thoughts about suicide. And do you know, he wouldn't let me leave his study until I swore to him, on the Bible, that I wouldn't act on those thoughts? Does that surprise you?

*

ENSLER

No.

CAMERON

But, you didn't do that with Eddie?

*

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ENSLER
(uncomfortably)
Naturally, I counseled him.

CAMERON
I'm going to ask you a question, Mr. Ensler, the kind of question we lawyers are told we should never ask, because I don't know the answer. As Ephesians 4:25 says, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members of one another." I'm your neighbor today, and so are the Hollanders and everyone here. So tell me truthfully: did you let Eddie leave your office without his promise that he would not take his own life? Is that your truthful claim today, before your neighbor and God?

Ensler looks at Rogers, clearly struggling. Seems like he wants to go off script.

ENSLER
(struggling)
I ... this is hard ... This has been really hard ...

CAMERON
Mr. Ensler is there something you want to say? It's okay.

ROGERS
Mr. Ensler has already testified that the position of the New Testament Rehab is that Eddie Hollander -

He can't take it anymore, the floodgates open.

ENSLER
No, that's your position. My position is ... I talked to Eddie. We talked for hours. About his childhood, his friends, what he wanted to do when he got out of rehab. He was making plans. He didn't want to end his life, he wanted to live his life.

ROGERS
May I have a moment to speak with my client, Reverend?

ENSLER
This work is important to me, Mr. Rogers and I won't continue to lie -

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

ROGERS

Mr. Ensler --

But Ensler's not stopping --

ENSLER

I don't have kids of my own because these are my kids. They come here all screwed up and mad at their parents and the world, just mad about everything and then you see them start to let down their guard and share their pain. And it's ... they inspire me. And yes, some of them commit suicide, intentionally, but mostly they o.d., accidentally. In a moment of weakness, simple human weakness, and it's fatal and it's sad, but it's not suicide.

(directly to the
Hollanders)

He didn't kill himself! He wanted to come home and make you guys proud of him again.

CAMERON

Why did you --

ENSLER

I was scared. I always tell the kids the alcohol kills their body and the lies kills their soul and then I get up here and ... my lawyer told me I'd lose this whole place if we lost this. And ... I ... we do good work. We try to ... I'm sorry.

The Hollanders are sobbing now, and even in their grief they are relieved to hear him say this.

CAMERON

Thank you for being honest.

ON Sadie's complete respect...

36 ~~INT. COURTROOM #1 - DAY 4~~

36 *

~~Albert's direct of Delilah. She's clearly petrified on the stand.~~

~~ALBERT~~

~~You don't remember Mr. Sokas saying those words to you, do you?~~

~~DELILAH~~

~~No. It's all a blank.~~

(CONTINUED)