

TRIAL & ERROR

"Pilot"

Written by
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Directed by
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Shooting Script: 03/17/16
Blue Revisions: 03/18/16
Pink Revisions: 03/23/16
Yellow Revisions: 03/23/16

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TRIAL & ERROR

"Pilot"

Pink Revisions

March 23, 2016

CAST LIST

LARRY HENDERSON
JOSH SEGAL
CAROL ANNE KEANE
ANNE FLATCH
DWAYNE REED
SUMMER HENDERSON

John Lithgow
Nicholas D'Agosto
Jayma Mays
Sherri Shepherd
Steven Boyer
Krysta Rodriguez

JEREMIAH JEFFERSON DAVIS
JOSIE DAVIS
HEIDI BAKER
TAXIDERMIST
WAITRESS
AIRLINE REP
911 OPERATOR [VO]

Bob Gunton
Cristine Rose
Angel Parker
Dave 'Gruber' Allen
Del Hunter-White
AJ Achinger
TBD

OMITTED:

JANITOR

VO: Voice-Over Only

TRIAL & ERROR

"Pilot"

Blue Revisions

March 18, 2016

SET LIST

INTERIORS

AIRPORT BAGGAGE CLAIM (DAY)
CAROL ANNE'S OFFICE (NIGHT)
COURTHOUSE MEETING ROOM (DAY)
COURTROOM/HOUSE (DAY)
DINER (DAY/NIGHT)
HENDERSON HOUSE (DAY/NIGHT)
PLANTATION HOUSE (DAY)
LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST (DAY)
WAREHOUSE (NIGHT)

EXTERIORS

EAST PECK REGIONAL AIRPORT (DAY)
HENDERSON HOUSE (DAY)
LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST (DAY)
ROAD (DAY)

OMITTED:

EXT. CAFE *

COLD OPEN

1 OVER BLACK --

1

The following plays out with subtitles:

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
911, what's your emergency?

We hear a man's voice, frantic, panicked. The kind you'd hear at the start of a murder mystery...

MAN (V.O.)
It's my wife... There's blood everywhere... I think she might be dead. You need to send an ambulance right away--
(SFX: call waiting beep)
I am so sorry. I need to grab that.

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Sir?

MAN (V.O.)
It's the cable company. I've been waiting for them all day. They're impossible to pin down. But my wife is genuinely injured, maybe dead -- I just really need to take this.
(he CLICKS OVER; less panicky more irritated)
This is ridiculous. I was promised someone would be here between 12 and 5-

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)
Still 911.

MAN (V.O.)
Uck. This day is turning into a total disaster. Just send an ambulance.

Click. Dial tone.

FADE IN:

2 EXT. HENDERSON HOUSE - DAY (D1)

2

NEWS VANS are parked outside the tasteful colonial home of LARRY HENDERSON. Local newscaster HEIDI BAKER (30s; attractive) reports from the scene.

HEIDI

Larry Henderson, a local poetry professor at Carolina's own, East Peck Community College was arrested today for the brutal murder of his wife, Margaret, who was found dead in front of a plate glass window. The murder has sent shock-waves through this otherwise sleepy --

The front door opens and LARRY HENDERSON (50s; harmless) steps out escorted by several POLICE who guide him to a police car. He holds a MALTESE DOG in his cuffed hands.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

There he is!!!

HAND-HELD CAMERA FOLLOWS as Heidi and a SLEW of REPORTERS race over to Larry and thrust their microphones in his face.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

Heidi Baker, WPFK news. Mr. Henderson, do you have anything to say?

LARRY

Yes: I didn't do it. I wouldn't hurt a thing. Please watch my dog, he's all I have left.

Larry hands the dog to Heidi as he is placed in the back of the police cruiser. Heidi cradles the dog in her arms.

HEIDI

Aww. What's your name little fella?

The Police car takes off with the leash still stuck in the back door. The dog is YANKED from Heidi's hands. We hear a DOG SCREECH and someone yells, 'CALL 911!'

We FREEZE on Larry's horrified look out the back of the police car.

TITLE UP: "TRIAL & ERROR"

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE3 INT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DAY (D2)

3

JEREMIAH JEFFERSON DAVIS (60s; Southern) and his wife JOSIE (60s; always silent, always with a drink) sit side by side on a couch in their enormous living room, talking to CAMERA. Jeremiah holds a long lit cigarette. CHYRON: "MARGARET'S BROTHER AND SISTER-IN-LAW."

JEREMIAH

Larry Henderson loved my sister and she loved him. Because we believe in Larry's innocence, we have agreed to finance his defense. As my grandpappy said when you find yourself on the wrong side of the law, hire yourself a--
(gestures to his nose)
Northeasterner. They seem to be slyer than the rest of us.

4 INT. EAST PECK REGIONAL AIRPORT - BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY (D2)

4

CLOSE ON JOSH SEGAL (25; good-looking; energetic; slightly Northeastern) having a heated legal debate. CHYRON: JOSH SEGAL -- DEFENSE ATTORNEY, "NORTHEASTERNER"

JOSH

We have a number of potential legal issues here: gross negligence; loss of property; possible malfeasance--

PULL BACK TO REVEAL -- he's talking to a TEENAGE AIRLINE REP from "South CarolAirlines" who stands behind the customer service desk.

AIRLINE REP

Am I in trouble?

JOSH

No. I just want my luggage back. Look, I just got off a twelve hour flight from New York --

AIRLINE REP

We don't offer service to New York.

JOSH

Technically it was 12, 1-hour flights. Last time I saw my bag was on the tarmac in either Canton or Scranton, it's all kind of a blur.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

But it contains two clean suits,
several shirts and some legal
documents I will definitely need
before I go back to New York.

AIRLINE REP

Sir... we don't fly to New York.

Josh takes a deep breath and forces a smile.

5 INT. EAST PECK REGIONAL AIRPORT - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D2)

5

JOSH

(into CAMERA)

No, I've never been to this part of the country before, but I'm super excited to be here. My boss sent me down to prep the case because... well, he's a huge attorney and he didn't want to. I'm totally up for it, though. My biggest case was probably The People versus Wang.

INSERT CLIPPING: Josh beside MR. WANG in front of a CHINESE restaurant, health department tape across the window.

JOSH (CONT'D)

I wouldn't eat there, but the point is, Mr. Wang is not doing jail time. Anyway, a murder trial is a great opportunity for me. I get my own team, an office, apparently they're sending a car for me. Kind of feels like I've arrived.

6 EXT. EAST PECK REGIONAL AIRPORT - DAY (D2)

6

Josh exits and glances around the empty airport. A lone guy holds a handwritten sign on a piece of cardboard that reads, "LAWYER." This is DWAYNE REED (30s; military type; loyal puppy dog). Josh waves. Dwayne nods back, continues to hold the sign, oblivious this is the person he's meeting.

JOSH

Think that's me. Josh Segal.

DWAYNE

Oh hey, Dwayne Reed.

JOSH

Funny there's a drugstore called Duane Reade in my building in New York.

DWAYNE

Guess there's something for me to see if I ever get to New York.

JOSH

Few other points of interest, but the drugstore is nice.

DWAYNE

Got any bags?

JOSH

They're somewhere in the Midwest.

DWAYNE

What a drag. You'll probably need some essentials. Like underpants.

JOSH

Good idea. Thanks, Dwayne.

DWAYNE

What size are you? You can borrow some of mine.

JOSH

I think I'll be okay. Mind if we swing by the office? I'm supposed to meet the lead investigator. New York said they hired East Peck's finest.

DWAYNE

That quote was from me. About me. I'm your lead investigator. I know everyone down here. Used to work for local PD until I retired.

JOSH

You look kind of young to be retired. How long were you on the force?

DWAYNE

Four days. There was an incident.

7

EXT. EAST PECK REGIONAL AIRPORT - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D2)

7

DWAYNE

That half week on the force was the best time of my life. I was in the show. Then I responded to a routine traffic stop and... the rest is Youtube history.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. ROAD - DAY (FB1)

8

POLICE CAR DASH-CAM FOOTAGE: DWAYNE APPROACHES A STOPPED VEHICLE. THE DASH-CAM PULLS AWAY AS THE CAR BACKS UP. DWAYNE NOTICES HIS CAR IS MOVING, AND INSTINCTIVELY DRAWS HIS FIREARM AND SHOOTS, WITHOUT HESITATION, FIVE SHOTS INTO THE WINDSHIELD. THE SCREEN GOES BLANK.

SMASH BACK TO:

JOSH

Great to meet you, Anne. I have to be at court in an hour for the bail hearing. Can I get all the files we have on the Henderson case? Also, could you please check with the airline about my luggage and... maybe lose some of these dead animals? You're just staring at me.

ANNE

Sorry. I like the way you talk.

JOSH

Maybe we start slower. Can I get some pencils?

She smiles at him. Josh smiles back then heads into his small office. Closes the door. Finds himself face to face with a stuffed bear.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Gahh!

(to CAMERA)

You know what? This is going to be fine. Look, finally got my corner office. With a window.

He yanks open the blinds revealing -- a TAXIDERMIST sawing open a DEAD SQUIRREL. Josh drops the blind.

JOSH (CONT'D)

We're gonna keep that closed.

Josh steps out of his office and approaches Anne.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Anne, I'm getting a strong formaldehyde vibe, is there a fan --

ANNE

(as if for first time)

May I help you?

JOSH

Josh. We met forty-five seconds ago.

ANNE

I suffer from a condition called facial amnesia. I can't recognize anyone by their face. It's completely blank. Does have its perks. With my husband it's like sleeping with a different man every night.

(she smiles; then)

(MORE)

ANNE (CONT'D)
I do recognize penises though.
(uncomfortable)
Did I tell you this already?

13 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONTINUOUS (D2)

13

JOSH
Dwayne, when you said 'team' before,
is this the whole lineup...?

DWAYNE
Yep. Me, you and Anne.

JOSH
Great. I'm gonna head to court to
meet Mr. Henderson.

DWAYNE
Want me to come for protection? Guy's
a killer.

JOSH
No, Dwayne. He's not.
(to Camera)
Our position is that he is not.

14 INT. COURTHOUSE MEETING ROOM - DAY (D2)

14

LARRY HENDERSON sits shackled across the table from Josh,
while Josh pulls folders from his briefcase.

JOSH
Mr. Henderson, we're gonna get you out
of here as soon as we can. How you
holding up? They treating you okay?

LARRY
It's certainly been an experience. My
cell mate is a serial rapist. That
said, he keeps an immaculate bunk,
stays to himself, and is gluten-free
so he gives me all of his pastries.

Both Josh and Larry realize they're being filmed.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Let me clarify. Terrible human being.
Terrific roommate.

JOSH
So... what's happening now is the
arraignment. This not the trial--

LARRY
You realize, of course, I'm innocent.

JOSH

This is not about guilt or innocence.
Just about setting bail--

LARRY

This whole thing is absurd. I loved
my wife. I had just made us a nicoise
salad with a mango chutney--

JOSH

Sounds delicious. If we could just get
back on track--

LARRY

Of course. So, after lunch I was
waiting for the cable guy to show, so
I went into the yard to roller-cize --

JOSH

You mean roller-skate?

LARRY

No. Roller-skating is for children.
Roller-cizing is a very graceful form
of self-expression.

Larry tries to stand, but he's shackled.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Much easier when you're not shackled.
And when I came back inside I found
Margaret dead.

JOSH

I am so sorry for your loss. And
we'll get into all that before you
testify on the stand --

LARRY

And the icing on the cake? Cable guy
never showed.

JOSH

Or maybe you won't take the stand.

15

INT. COURTROOM - DAY (D2)

15

CHYRON: "*Bail Hearing; People vs Larry Henderson.*" The
courtroom is packed. Larry and Josh sit behind the
defendant's table. Behind them JEREMIAH studies Josh.

JEREMIAH

I was expecting someone older.

JOSH

I'm just prepping the case. My boss, Mr. Mankowitz will be down here for the actual trial. Don't worry, you're in good hands. I'm kind of a hero in the low-end dumpling business in Manhattan.

Josh smiles. Jeremiah does not.

JEREMIAH

But you are, in fact, *Northeastern*?

JOSH

Well, I'm from New York.

JEREMIAH

Mm hm. And your parents, they're also... *Northeasterns*.

JOSH

Ah. Yes. My father was born Northeastern and my mother was from Arizona but converted to... *Northeastern-ism*.

JEREMIAH

(satisfied, to Larry)
You're in good hands.

JOSH

(at a loss)
Great. I'm gonna...

Josh excuses himself and approaches the Assistant D.A., CAROL ANNE KEANE (30s; Southern; tough as nails.)

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hi. Josh Segal, defense counsel.

CAROL ANNE

(quickly without looking up)
Carol Anne Keane.

JOSH

Sorry. CarolAnne Keane? Or Carol Anne Keane?

CAROL ANNE

(faster)
CarolAnneKeane.

JOSH

Still not getting it. Is it two names or three?
(Carol Anne stares daggers)
I'll call you, "Counselor."

16 INT. COURTHOUSE - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D2)

16

CAROL ANNE
This case is a big opportunity for me. I'm running for District Attorney of East Peck. And some in this town might not be ready for a female DA, so I need to be a touch more assertive. That way people will remember my name.

17 INT. COURTROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER (D2)

17

Hearing is in session. Carol Anne Keane rises.

CAROL ANNE
Your Honor, the state requests bail be set at ninety-three million dollars.

JOSH
What! That's absurd, Caroline King.

CAROL ANNE
Carol Anne Keane! And Mr. Henderson is a menace. He killed his wife and injured that poor little puppy dog.

LARRY
Great dog. I'm glad Margaret wasn't alive to see that.

JOSH
Your honor, clearly my client is under duress. He's not a flight risk. We request bail be set at a reasonable number. Say \$10,000? As a gesture to a man who has been a perfect citizen.

Josh smiles confidently at the judge.

18 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - DAY (D2)

18

Josh addresses the team, pacing back and forth.

JOSH
So bail was set at \$7 million, which considering we started at \$93 million, I'm putting that in the win column.

Anne stands in front of the white board.

ANNE
Should I make a win column?

JOSH
No. But we are going to crack this case. Write down 'The Trial.'

22 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONTINUOUS (D2)

22

DWAYNE

Woman of Margaret's size couldn't get the velocity to kill herself. Took me four tries to even spider the glass.

JOSH

Appreciate the commitment, Dwayne.

ANNE

Dang.

She crosses a line through 'Suicide.'

JOSH

Okay, what else could have happened --
(hands go up)
Except Larry throwing his wife through the window.
(hands go down)
Anything. First idea that pops into your head.

DWAYNE

Bird! Birds fly into windows all the time.

ANNE

Good answer. Should I write it down?

JOSH

Sure. Just to get some momentum going. Other ideas? Gotta be a million things that could've happened.

They think. And think and think--

23 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - LATER (D2)

23

CHYRON: "TWENTY MINUTES LATER." They stare at the words '~~Suicide~~' and 'Bird' on the board.

JOSH

Maybe we should get some lunch. That'll get the juices flowing. What's everyone feel like?

24 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - LATER (D2)

24

CHYRON: "TWO MINUTES LATER." Anne is scribbling furiously. On the board: Pizza; Thai; Chinese; BBQ; etc...

JOSH

Okay! I'm choosing. We're having Thai! We'll eat, we'll be focused, we'll figure this thing out.

25 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - LATER (D2)

25

CHYRON: "ONE HOUR LATER." Josh finishes his lunch as Anne writes on the board. A nearly completed hangman is next to the words "L_RRY H_ND_ROSN." Dwayne guesses a letter...

DWAYNE

Hm... B?

LARRY

(pokes head in)
Knock, knock.

JOSH

There he is! Larry meet the dream team. Everyone come away from the board and meet Larry.

LARRY

Just wanted to see how it was going. I hear they may go for the death penalty. Should I be concerned?

JOSH

That's just legal posturing. We're working on your defense as we speak.

LARRY

Fantastic. Let's see what we got.

Larry puts on his glasses and reads the board. Sees 'Bird' and ~~'Suicide'~~ and lunch options and the hangman game.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I'm going to die, aren't I?

Josh takes him by the shoulder and leads him back out.

JOSH

Nooooo! We're off to a great start. Trust me, you are not going to die.

Larry gives Josh a hug and leaves. Josh re-enters.

ANNE

(no idea who he is)
Can I help you?

JOSH

(to Camera)
He may die...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO26 INT. DINER - NIGHT (N2)

26

Josh studies the menu in this small town diner. The WAITRESS (40s) lingers.

JOSH

I'm looking for something light.

WAITRESS

Biscuits and gravy?

JOSH

Even lighter. Any vegetables?

WAITRESS

Potatoes and gravy?

JOSH

I'll have a cup of coffee. Hold the gravy.

Josh rubs his eyes. Stares at some legal documents, a stress crease runs down the center of his forehead.

SUMMER (O.S.)

I can fix your face.

Josh turns to see Summer (20s; quirky; cute, free-spirited) in the booth behind him.

JOSH

Wow. That's surprisingly mean.

SUMMER

You have a stress crease down the center of your forehead. Here.

She rubs her thumb down the center of Josh's forehead.

JOSH

Okay, I'm not great with other people's fingers on my-- Wow. That feels so good.

SUMMER

I'm studying to be an acupressurist. You should come by my office.

JOSH

Where do you work?

SUMMER

Bangor, Maine.

JOSH

I think I may have flown through there
on my way down from New York.

She smiles. A small connection.

SUMMER

I'm Summer.

JOSH

Josh. Can I buy you a cup of coffee?

SUMMER

No, thanks. I just read that coffee
has mycotoxins that can kill you.

The Waitress arrives, dropping off Josh's coffee.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

But, if you want, I'll stay and watch
you slowly die.

JOSH

I'd like that.

She sits and then gestures to CAMERAS.

SUMMER

So you must be the new celebrity
lawyer in town.

JOSH

I guess.

SUMMER

You seem so humble.

JOSH

It's easy because I'm wearing my lead
investigator's underpants.

SUMMER

(laughs)
So how's the case going? Ya think he
did it?

JOSH

With this stuff you're not supposed to
ask because you don't want to get
emotionally attached. Between you and
me, he's kind of a kook but this is my
first murder case so as long as I get
it to trial it's good for my career.
How about you? What brings you down
here?

SUMMER

Well, my dad is accused of killing his wife, but his lawyer's never tried a murder case and between you and me, he thinks my dad's kind of a kook.

JOSH

(oh, shit...)
What an incredible coincidence.

SUMMER

Enjoy your coffee.

Summer leaves. Josh sits alone feeling like a total a-hole.
CAMERA PUSHES IN...

JOSH

(bleeped)
Shit.

27

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE - DAY (D3)

27

Summer, Josie and Jeremiah are gathered around the kitchen island drinking wine and laughing as Larry cooks.

LARRY

Ooh, maybe a guillotine? That's not a bad way to go. Quick and French.

JEREMIAH

How 'bout a good old fashioned hanging?

SUMMER

Okay, stop it. No one is dying.

LARRY

Honey, it's gallows humor. I lost the love of my life. And there are subtle reminders of Margaret everywhere.

The camera notices the window that Margaret smashed through, still covered by CARDBOARD and POLICE TAPE.

LARRY (CONT'D)

I welcome anything that can distract me from the hollowness I feel inside.

Off everyone's sympathetic look, the doorbell BUZZES.

LARRY (CONT'D)
(re: doorbell)
Ooh, electrocution! That's not bad.

Larry mimics being zapped. Jeremiah laughs. Summer goes to the front door. She opens it to find Josh.

JOSH
(fumbles)
Oh. Hey. Glad you're here. I have a twin who is in town saying awful things I'm sure he really regrets. In summation: I'm an ass.

Larry peers around the corner. Apron on, knife in hand.

LARRY
There he is! The man who holds my fate in his hands. Josh, have you met my daughter, Summer?

JOSH
Actually we --

SUMMER
Nice to meet you, Josh.

Josh, confused, shakes her hand.

LARRY
Come on in. I made a delightful paella and we're talking about how I'm going to die. Hey, you'll know this. Can you make your own final meal? I'm on a low sodium diet.

JOSH
I'll... file a motion.

LARRY
That's my guy!

Larry heads back into the kitchen.

JOSH
You're amazing, thank you so much for covering for me.

SUMMER
I didn't do it for you, I did it for my dad. He's been through enough with Margaret dying.

JOSH

Why do you call your mom, Margaret?

SUMMER

She wasn't my mom. He married her like five years ago. Larry adopted me and practically raised me himself. He supported everything I've ever done: he paid for me to go to Colombia--

JOSH

You went to Columbia? When did you graduate?

SUMMER

I worked for a hemp co-op in Bogota. You don't really graduate, you just sort of get kidnapped.

JOSH

Different Columbia.

SUMMER

When I decided to go into acupuncture, he was my Guinea pig. He still hasn't regained feeling in his left hand, but not once did he complain.

ANGLE ON -- Larry pulling a sizzling hot pan off the oven with his left hand, laughing while he talks with Jeremiah.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

Because he loves me, just like he loved Margaret, and there is nothing more important to him than family...

Josh watches as Larry offers Josie a taste of paella from a wooden spoon, then offers a taste to the dog, who's wearing a neck brace and leg cast.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

There's no way he could've done it, Josh.

She looks at Josh. A beat, then, she breaks the tension.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

I think the dog's allergic to shellfish, I better get in there.

Summer smiles and crosses off to join her dad.

JOSH (PRE-LAPPED)

That's our defense...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

28

INT. HENDERSON HOUSE - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D3)

28

JOSH (CONT'D)

This case is about family. Larry Henderson is a devoted husband and father. He loved his wife. There's no motive. I feel very good about this right now.

Dwayne POPS his head into FRAME.

DWAYNE

Hey, dude!

JOSH

Dwayne, we're kind of in the middle of something.

DWAYNE

It's urgent. I just found out from my brother who works for the police department there's been a big break in the case.

JOSH

Why didn't you call me?

DWAYNE

I wanted to keep it private.

Josh eyes the CAMERA. He pulls Dwayne aside. CAMERA PANS with them, recording their conversation from a distance.

JOSH

What's the big break?

DWAYNE

I don't know. My cousin wouldn't tell me.

JOSH

Thought you said he was your brother?

DWAYNE

He is. He's also my cousin. My dad messed around with my mom's sister.

JOSH

Did your brother-cousin give you any idea what it was?

DWAYNE

No. He's kind of a dick. He's a cop, I used to be a cop. Family reunions are the worst. This is why they tell you not to sleep with relatives.

Josh looks at him, baffled. Then --

SUMMER (O.S.)

Dad! You're on TV!

Josh and Dwayne head into the living room where everyone is gathered around the TV.

ON TV: News reporter Heidi Baker talks to camera.

HEIDI

There's been a twist in the Larry Henderson murder investigation. Apparently Mr. Henderson wasn't the faithful husband he appeared to be.

All eyes look to Larry.

LARRY

That's nonsense. Sensational journalism. Baseless slander. There's your lawsuit, Josh.

HEIDI

WPFK has learned that Larry's cell phone contained over 200 texts to this man... Alfonzo Prefontaine.

ON TV: a photo of ALFONZO PREFONTAINE (40s; black; ripped), along with the graphics of several texts sent back and forth.

LARRY

Well, he's my trainer. You know how important fitness is to me. You've seen me rollercize.

HEIDI

We recovered these photos taken from the surveillance camera in the gym.

ON TV: BLACK AND WHITE HIGH-ANGLE PHOTOS OF LARRY AND ALFONZO WORKING OUT, IN INCREASINGLY EROTIC POSITIONS.

LARRY

That was a leg day. Easily explainable.

THE FINAL PICTURE IS OF LARRY, WITH HIS LEGS WRAPPED AROUND A SHIRTLESS, ALFONZO, AS THEY KISS.

LARRY (CONT'D)

That's a bit harder to explain.

This bombshell changes everything. Summer looks befuddled; Josie slowly shakes her head; Jeremiah looks pissed and takes his arm off of Larry's shoulder. Dwayne then turns to Josh:

DWAYNE

You think that's the big break?

JOSH

Yes, Dwayne. I do.

END OF ACT TWO

JOSH

Did you get his name?

ANNE

No. He was yelling and I got nervous and I'm so stupid!

JOSH

Anne, you're not that... nervous. Do you remember what he looked like?

ANNE

Of course. I can draw him for you.

Anne sketches on a pad. Dwayne tilts his head to watch.

JOSH

Okay guys, let's stay focused. We're a professional law office here.

The Taxidermist enters dragging a large bagged animal carcass by the horns. Josh and Dwayne watch as he slowly passes.

ANNE

Here ya go!

Anne turns the pad around to reveal -- a sketch of a FACELESS MAN, holding a long lit cigarette.

DWAYNE

Well, we know he has no face.

32

INT. PLANTATION HOUSE - DAY (D4)

32

Josh paces while Jeremiah holds a long lit cigarette and Josie sips her usual gimlet.

JEREMIAH

Look, son. I was in the army. So I know a thing or two about male camaraderie.

CAMERA PANS black and white photos of YOUNG JEREMIAH and his ARMY BUDDIES, in their underwear, arms around each other.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

What Larry and this other fella did was more than just horseplay. I've never seen my wife this upset.

Josie stoically sips her drink.

JOSH

I understand and I empathize, but you can't pull your money out of the case--

JEREMIAH

Oh, I'm not pulling my money out of the case. I'm donating it to the prosecution. When you've been in the tobacco business for as long as I have, you know a thing or two about killing people. Larry Henderson is gonna pay for what he did.

Josie smiles and sips her drink.

INT. DINER - DAY

Josh joins Summer at a booth where she sits, sipping tea.

JOSH

Hey. Thanks for meeting me. So, I just spoke to your step-uncle. Turns out, not a nice man.

SUMMER

Hold on, your face is doing that thing again...

JOSH

It's okay, you don't have to--

(she rubs his forehead)

Oh my god, that's so good.

(then)

Jeremiah has stopped financing your father's defense, which means my firm is no longer being paid which means my boss won't be representing your dad.

SUMMER

So? We don't need your boss. We have you.

JOSH

I appreciate your confidence Summer, but I can't do it myself. I've never tried a murder. My biggest case before this was defending a guy who was serving mu-shu rat. Trust me, your dad can do a lot better than me.

SUMMER

With who? The court appointed lawyer from a town that has already basically hung him? He'll never get a fair trial. He needs someone who believes in him. Like you! You do believe he's innocent, right?

JOSH
 (avoiding the question)
 That's not really the point. It only matters what you can prove.

SUMMER
 It matters to me. Do you believe in him?

*
*

Josh stares at her. She's not going to let this go.

JOSH
 I... don't know.

Summer stands. Grabs her bag.

SUMMER
 Well he believes in you.

*

She leaves. Josh watches her go. A moment later, the waitress comes by with a check.

WAITRESS
 Aw. She's just upset because her Daddy brutally murdered her Mom.
 (dropping off check, sweetly)
 Here you go, dear.

The waitress crosses off. Josh glances at the camera.

34

INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - NIGHT (N4)

34

The mood is sober, Anne and Dwayne are packing the office as Josh clicks through photos on his laptop.

ANNE
 I just want to say... this is the best job I ever had and... Shoot, I promised myself I wouldn't cry.

JOSH
 You're not crying.

ANNE
 I am. I was born without tear ducts.

JOSH
 Thanks, Anne. I'll never forget you.
 (off her look, re: himself)
 Josh.

Anne nods sadly and crosses off. Dwayne enters from Josh's office, pushing the bear.

DWAYNE
(re: computer)
Watcha' looking at?

JOSH
Crime scene photos. They just came
in.

DWAYNE
(as Josh looks through them)
Hey, there's something I've always
wanted to ask you.

JOSH

You've known me for two days. Go on.

DWAYNE

As a Hebrew, how come you can work after the sun goes down?

JOSH

Well, today is Wednesday and that's only on weekends. Plus, I wasn't really brought up that way, so...

DWAYNE

Gotcha. But you can't work when the sun comes up, right?

JOSH

You're thinking of vampires.
(then off photo)
Look at this. What are these stripes on the floor around the outline of Margaret's body?

DWAYNE

(looking at photo)
Oh, those are Larry's roller-skating tracks through her blood.

From the other room ANNE giggles. Josh and Dwayne peer into the other room, where Anne looks back, sheepishly.

35

INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONFSSIONAL - NIGHT (N4)

35

ANNE

I also suffer from involuntary emotional expression disorder. Sometimes I react inappropriately when something awful happens. I found out when I was a little girl and my grandmother fell off the balcony and landed on our car.

She giggles.

36

INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONTINUOUS (N4)

36

DWAYNE

Now hold on a sec... when the police arrived, Larry had on his skates, but look at here...

JOSH

(looking at photo)
There's a bloody print on the wall across the room.

Off-camera, Anne giggles.

ANNE (O.S.)
My bad. I'll put in my ear buds.

DWAYNE
But the skate marks end here.

JOSH
So, either Larry killed her, took off his skates, walked across the room, then put them back on and skated through her blood. Or...

DWAYNE
Someone else was in that room. Which means...

JOSH
I don't think he did it... He didn't do it!

DWAYNE
Way to go, Hebrew!

They high five.

37

INT. CAROL ANNE'S OFFICE - NIGHT (N4)

37

Carol Anne Keane works alone in her dark office, jacket off, leaning over her desk looking at the pictures on Josh's laptop. Josh is across from her.

CAROL ANNE
What is this supposed to mean to me?

JOSH
Means you don't have a case.

CAROL ANNE
All I know is Larry Henderson is a known homosexual.

JOSH
Um... yeah. As far as I know, being gay isn't a crime.

Carol Anne drops an old dusty law book down onto the table.

CAROL ANNE
Perhaps you should brush up on the law in this county.
(thumbs through book, then hands it to Josh)
The Buggery Act of 1789 has never been repealed.

CLOSE ON a law book. Under '*Buggery Act*' is an ink drawing of a man in a powdered wig, trousers around his ankles, peeking back over his shoulder with a guilty, naughty look.

JOSH

Huh. Come on, Carol... Annekeane. You're not going to convict him on a 225 year old law.

CAROL ANNE

It's an issue of character. And I'll bet I can find twelve men and women that feel the same way.

JOSH

If you're saying he's not going to get a fair trial, we'll motion for a change of venue.

CAROL ANNE

"We?" You're off the case. Why do you even care?

JOSH

Because we're talking about a man's life! Sure, he's... kooky: the roller-cizing and this odd sort of detachment from the murder itself, but I think he's innocent.

CAROL ANNE

Doesn't matter what you *think*, it matters what you can prove. Any experienced lawyer knows that. Go back to New York, counselor. Not your problem anymore.

Josh takes this in. Makes a decision...

JOSH

Actually, it is. And it's going to be your problem too, because I'm staying.

Josh grabs his laptop.

CAROL ANNE

In that case, you're welcome to spend the night with me. You should know, the Buggery Act is seldom enforced.

JOSH

No.
(considers, then)
No.

38-39 OMITTED

38-39

40 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - DAY (D5)

40

Larry looks through the window at the taxidermy office, as the Taxidermist finishes sewing a stuffed OWL. Josh puts a supportive arm around Larry and closes the blinds.

JOSH (V.O.)

*I may not have the most experience.
But it turns out, I'm Larry's best
hope for a fair trial. So, I told my
boss I wanted to stay. He said, if I
did, I'd be on my own. Then I
realized, I'm not on my own...*

Dwayne and Anne enter, wheeling the six foot bear back into the office, with Dwayne "riding" as Anne pushes, knocking files over as they go.

JOSH (V.O.)

I'm working with East Peck's finest...

Josh bends over to pick up a file. Summer helps him, then smooths out a crease on his forehead. They lock eyes.

JOSH (CONT'D) (V.O.)

And I actually see potential here...

A41 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D5)

A41

SUMMER

Do I like him? Josh? Wow. I hadn't really thought of it--
(smiles, then)
Oh, you meant for my dad. Yeah. He seems fine.
(then, embarrassed)
Can you cut this part out?

41 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D5)

41

DWAYNE

The six hours I was off this case was the hardest time of my life. I love Josh. I'd take a bullet for that guy.
(then)
I really hope I get to take a bullet for that guy.

42 INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - CONFSSIONAL - DAY (D5)

42

Anne writes NAMETAGS as she talks to camera:

ANNE

It's nice to work at a job where you
feel like you make a difference.

43

INT. LAW OFFICE/TAXIDERMIST - DAY (D5)

43

Anne puts nametags on everyone. '*Dwayne: Investigator*',
'*Josh: Lawyer*', '*Larry: Murderer*', and '*Bear*.'

Josh quickly rips the tag that says 'Murderer' off Larry's
chest and addresses the team:

JOSH

We're back in business. We can't have
any more surprises. Because if I lose
this case, I get fired.

LARRY

And I die.

Anne instinctively laughs, then composes herself.

JOSH

Now think, Larry. Is there anything
else that might incriminate you?

LARRY

Nope. Can't think of anything.

Dwayne hangs up and enters, slightly panicked.

DWAYNE

Hey! I just spoke to my brother/
cousin who said there's a new break in
the case. Turn on the news.

Anne turns on the office TV. They all gather around.

ON TV: Heidi Baker stands in front of Larry's house.

HEIDI

*In a WPFK exclusive, we have just
learned that Larry Henderson's first
wife was killed after being thrown
through a plate-glass window...*

All eyes turn to Larry.

LARRY

Okay, I can think of one thing...

As the CAMERA PUSHES IN on Josh's creased forehead...

END OF PILOT