

Both Sides of the River

Leonard Searcy

Shilana is in the OR. She stands over a body finishing a Coronary bypass surgery.

she has perfectly steady hands and exceptionally accurate cuts.

SHILANA

Done, he's gonna make it. Chase, can you handle the closing?

RHONDA

Doctor Starks he's too wet behind the ears.

SHILANA

He can handle it. Can't you Chase.

CHASE

Yes, Ma'am.

Chase nods. Shilana removes protective gear and leaves the room to wash her hands.

Washes her faces.

She sits in her office contemplating. A knock at her door. It's the wife of the man on the table.

PATRICE SWANSON

Doctor Starks?

SHILANA

Mrs. Swanson? IS everything ok?

PATRICE SWANSON

Patrice is fine.

SHILANA

What can I do for you Patrice?

PATRICE SWANSON

I just wanted to come in and personally thank you. You know Robert's mother was a vegetarian. I tell Robert eat like your mother or end up like your father. His father had the same surgery, but he didn't make it. I was afraid Robert wouldn't make it either Dr. Starks.

SHILANA

Shilana.

PATRICE SWANSON

You saved my family. I'm glad you didn't take your vacation and decided to stay.

Thinking about her own family. Shilana says nothing.

PATRICE SWANSON

Mrs. Starks?

Shilana, snaps out of it.

SHILANA

Of course, Patrice. I'm glad everything worked out for your family. Please make sure Robert comes to see me tomorrow before he checks out.

CAMERA STAYS ON SHILANA'S FACE THEN, JUMP CUT OR MATCH CUT

She's checking charts, writing notes, moving on auto-pilot, until she breaks down, crying. A co-worker comes into her office. The co-worker is a division chief. Shilana packs her things and walks out the door.

25 INT. MOTEL ROOM NIGHT

We see a phone on the night stand buzzing, someone is calling.

CALL GIRL

Yes, Daddy. Yes, Daddy, Yes!

We see a young call girl lying on the bed while Detective Fuller is on top of her. We hear him groaning to a finish.

Call girl is getting dressed while Fuller is fully dressed smoking a cigarette sitting on the bed, finishing tying his tie.

CALL GIRL

So, are you going to pay me this time or stiff me again?

The phone rings, but before he answers.

FULLER

If I stiff you again I'll have to pay

Starks had an affair with as well as Starks being the lead detective on the case. She's wearing scrubs.

SHILANA

So, how are you doing?

STARKS

What do you mean?

SHILANA

The woman you had an affair with was murdered John, and you're the lead detective. Why wouldn't you tell me?

STARKS

Lana, it isn't like that. I hadn't spoken to her in months. I've been completely devoted to you and Keena, I messed up Lana, but I would never do anything to lose you.

SHILANA

You wouldn't have told me about this Case John, if I hadn't learned about it watching the damn tv... Even now you choose to hide her from me? I can't get a break.

STARKS

Lana I didn't...

SHILANA

Get out John... Get out and go solve your case.

Shilana walks to take his plate and open the door for him. John puts on his jacket and leaves the house. We see Starks get into his car, has a moment and releases all of the pent up emotions. The camera goes back into the house with wife in tears also.

48 EXT. DAY POLICE STATION

ESTABLISHING SHOT OF THE POLICE PRECINCT, AND A BIRDS VIEW OF JOHN'S CAR PULL UP TO THE POLICE STATION. STARKS HOPS OUT OF THE CAR AND WALKS INTO THE BUILDING.

JOSEPH PULLS UP, IN HIS PASSENGER SEAT IS ELAINE. OUTSIDE IS A CROWD OF PEOPLE WITH SIGNS "JUSTICE FOR AUDREY AND SARAH." "#AUDREY." PEOPLE ARE CHANTING "SOLVE OR DISSOLVE."

FULLER
Detective Fuller, SPPD.

Shows his badge.

STARKS
Why are you here, Detective?

FULLER
I came here to talk to you. (Smiles) I
uh, have information on a suspect who
may have done this. I heard you
praying and didn't mean to disturb.

STARKS
How'd you come about this
"information?"

FULLER
My CI said he saw your partner and
some girl fighting with a Rocko aka
Ronny Brocker, a pimp, at a club last
night.

STARKS
The girl.

FULLER
Elaine Pierce. A whore, prostitute.
One of Rocko's. Did you know your
partner was in any kind of trouble?

STARKS
Trouble? Joseph wasn't the type to
have trouble, Joseph was trouble.

FULLER
Apparently not for this guy, Rocko.

Starks gives Fuller a look.

STARKS
Rocko, where is he now?

FULLER
He'll be at Seven tonight. Hey uh, I
can't imagine what you're going
through. I know we're from different
sides of the river but I want to help.
(Studying Starks)
I can't stand to see a cop killer

walking the streets no more than you can stand to look at your friend now. I'll come with you tonight, back you up.

STARKS
I'll handle it.

FULLER
You seem like a really good guy, but you don't know how these guys roll. You want Rocko, you need me there to back you up. With you running the show of course.

Starks deliberates.

STARKS
Ok... don't touch Rocko. He's mine.

FULLER
Of course, It's a date. I'll see you tonight.

Fuller leaves, Starks looks long at his partner. Eyes filled with vengeance.

56 INT. STARKS' GARAGE DAY

We see Starks in his Garage, punching bag next to him, multiple guns on the tool box. Has a gun in his hand. A car pulls up, we see Shilana walk into the house.

57 EXT STARKS' HOME DAY

SHILANA
Hey!

STARKS
In here.

SHILANA
Not used to you being home so early. Where's Keena?

STARKS	SHILANA
Sleepover at (together)	Alana's.
Alana's.	

She enters the Garage.

SHILANA

Hmm. how you doing? (sees gun) I know you. I know what Joe means to you, but this isn't the way to handle this John, you have a family.

STARKS

He's my family too! I'm the only family he's got.

SHILANA

Ok baby, Ok.

Shilana Strokes his hair, comfordingly.

STARKS

How's he doing?

SHILANA

I checked in on him, he looked angrier than usual. But he's going to be ok.

Starks smiles a little.

SHILANA

I asked doctor Hamilton. He says surgery went well, it's a miracle the bullet never made it pass his skull. But there's still no telling how long he'll be in that coma.

STARKS

Just like Joe, hardheaded; even for a bullet.

SHILANA

He also said you came to visit him.

STARKS

Look, I'm sorry I didn't come see you. I didn't think you wanted me to.

SHILANA

You're probably right... Starks, did you love that woman?

STARKS

No...

SHILANA

You did.

STARKS
Shilana I didn't.

SHILANA
Is there something wrong with me?

STARKS
no, of course not! Something was wrong
with me, I was stupid. I made a
mistake.

SHILANA
I'm sorry to bring this up now, I'm so
selfish.

STARKS
No you aren't, you're the most
selfless person I know. You're a
doctor, you take care of your family,
and your parents, you volunteer with
our daughter. I'm selfish, we took
that trip up north to salvage our
marriage. I cut it short, I made the
decision to come back so that I could
work this case. I'm sorry.

Shilana Stands, wipes her tears

SHILANA
Make sure to sleep in the bed tonight.

STARKS
The bed?

SHILANA
I'm not saying your getting anything,
you need to be comfortable and the bed
is better than the couch... So there.

Shilana smiles, then Leaves.

Starks sits alone in his garage loading his Magazine.

Starks' phone alerts him of a text.

FULLER
front @ 10.

CAMERA CUT