

The Outsider (S1 E2)

written by

Author

Address
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RALPH

Can we lose the cuffs?

GUARD

It's against protocol.

RALPH

I'll take responsibility for it.

GUARD

No sir, you won't.

PETER

Howie Salomon would probably fire me as a client if he knew I was talking to you.

RALPH

Well, it's the same on my end. You have any idea what the DA would do to me?

PETER

Tell me why you're here.

RALPH

Um, the van with the New York plates is still troubling me.

PETER

Mhm. The van I've never seen before in my life. And the last time I was in New York was sixteen years ago for my honeymoon.

RALPH

Oh, I didn't know that. I mean, I knew you hadn't been there recently. We, of course, back-checked your movements over the last six months. Couldn't find anything but a family vacation to Dayton.

PETER

And we flew both directions for that, as I'm sure you know.

RALPH

I'm as baffled by this conflicting evidence as you are. Um...

PETER

Hey, why don't you tell me why you're here.

RALPH

That TV footage puts you at the teachers' conference in Cap City at the same time as Frankie Peterson's murder sixty miles away. But I have credible witnesses. Credible witnesses who saw you walking around covered in Frankie Peterson's blood. Your prints are all over the van, the crime scene, the boy.

PETER

You want me to explain all that to you?

RALPH

No.

PETER

Good.

RALPH

Because you can't.

PETER

Right.

RALPH

Right. And no one can.

Beat.

RALPH (CONT'D)

On March 30, 2019, did you have any physical or verbal contact with Frankie Petersen?

PETER

No.

RALPH

On March 30, 2019, did you abduct Frankie Peterson?

PETER

No.

RALPH

On March 30, 2019, did you murder
Frankie Peterson?

PETER

I didn't kill that kid, Ralph. That
it?

RALPH

For tonight, yeah.

PETER

Okay.

RALPH

Thank you.

PETER

You know, Ralph, when you arrested
me in front of all those people at
that game, you asked me if I'd ever
touched your son, Derek. You
remember that?

RALPH

Be careful about what you say to me
next.

PETER

In all the years I've been coaching
Little League, your son Derek was
the best drive bunter I ever had,
and he was just a little guy. You
know, he was very small, smallest
kid on the team, but he had a lot
of guts. He was never afraid to
crowd the plate, even if there was
some great big eighth grader
throwing heat. Now, most kids that
short, you just count on 'em for
walks. That's all you can expect,
but he wasn't having that. He just
kept swinging and striking out, and
the kids even started calling him
"The Wiffer" secretly. They called
him "Wiffer." I asked them to stop,
but they're twelve and eleven. Only
time he got on base was when he got
hit by a pitch, so tough to blame
them. But when I saw that he wasn't
gonna quit, that he was just gonna
keep swinging and striking out, I
taught him how to bunt. And not a
lot of kids like to do that.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

They're afraid they drop that bat over the plate and a fastball comes in they get their fingers smashed, but not him. He never flinched. Not once. And he flew down that first baseline. You remember how many bunt singles he got? A lot more than I expected. But those kids stopped calling him "Wiffer" and they started calling him "Push It." Right? He'd come up to the plate, runners on the corners, and they'd start saying, "Push it, Derek, push it." So he had a new handle that year when we almost won district. You must've noticed the difference in him, right. Did you notice that that summer? How confident he was? How proud he was? He was a--he was a big little guy. And, you know, I don't want you to get the wrong impression. He practiced a lot, but I taught him that. I taught him how to bunt. So when you asked me if I ever touched your kid...I really hope I did.