

ACT THREE:

INT. LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - OFFICE - DAY

Travis and June sit on a bench as Caroline fills out some paperwork. The school vice-principal, MARISOL COOMBS looks on.

MARISOL

Prada?

CAROLINE

Excuse me?

MARISOL

Your purse.

Caroline is always vivacious and charming, but she is trying especially hard to make a good impression on Marisol because she wants to get her kids into this school.

CAROLINE

(laughs)

Got it for twenty-one dollars courtesy of the outlet mall in Tuscaloosa. Remember that movie "The Devil Wears Prada?" In Alabama, they took that literally -- they couldn't give these away!

Marisol isn't amused.

MARISOL

You'll need birth certificates.

CAROLINE

Got them in my Prada. (she pulls out certificates)

My new neighbor, Jenny Krieger, absolutely raves about Liberty.

MARISOL

It doesn't matter how many PTA names you drop -- our classrooms are full. You should have enrolled your kids months ago.

Caroline didn't expect this type of brick wall. She doesn't lose her composure, however.

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CAROLINE

You're absolutely right, Ms. Coombs, but unfortunately, my husband only found out about his new job a few weeks ago. He's with the Milwaukee P.D.

MARISOL

So's my husband. But he's not the chief of detectives. Some outsider got that job.

Caroline now understands the complete picture. Undaunted she signs the application.

CAROLINE

Well, we all got our jobs to do. Mine is to get my kids into Liberty.

MARISOL

(imitating Caroline's southern accent)

We'll, I'm just wishin' you the best of luck with that, peach blossom.



YT. MILWAUKEE FUBLIC PARK -- DAI

Lonnin parks his Chevelle near the cordoned-off area alongside the rest rooms. He badges the uniforms.

INT. MEN'S ROOK - DAY

Two detectives weaking latex gloves, RICK COOMBS (Marisol's husband) and his partner LARS ANDRESSEN, hover over the body of Garner Austin (we only see Austin's head). A crime-scene tech, PIPER, is scanning the scene for evidence. They look up as Lonnie enters.

LONNIE

Lonnie Garrison.

Lonnie puts his hand out as if to shake neither Coombs nor Andressen extend a hand.

COOMBS

Coombs. Andressen.

(re: tech)

Piper.

ANDRESSEN

(re: body)

And this is Garner Austin.

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THE WATCH

DECTER/STEAUSARDINE GARTISM SC. 2

Lonnie, tired after a difficult and complicated day, sits down on the edge of the bed. He unholsters his 9mm, slides out the clip, checks the chamber and carefully locks it into a small gun safe beside the night table. Caroline speaks to him through the closed bathroom door.

CAROLINE

You check the kids?

LONNIE

Down and out.

Instead of getting undressed, Lonnie opens a POLICE FILE. There are no crime scene photos, only pictures of MILWAUKEE POLICE MEN AND WOMEN along with their personnel files. Lonnie is hunting for a rat, and isn't happy about it.

CAROLINE

Mr. G., I'm thinkin' we should join that neighborhood watch they got here.

LONNIE

(distracted)

You know we can't do that, sugar. People join neighborhood watches 'cause they think we policemen aren't doing a good enough job.

CAROLINE

These are nice people. I want it to work here.

LONNIE

Me too.

CAROLINE

Jenny told me that next month the Watch is gonna organize a day care center. Keep all the kids in the neighborhood safe...

Caroline opens the bathroom door to reveal that she's wearing her new silk teddy. Lonnie quickly closes the file. It is clear he wishes to conceal the contents from his wife.

CAROLINE (cont'd)

(re: police file)

I thought we agreed, that stuff never comes into our bedroom.

LONNIE

I know. I'm sorry.

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CAROLINE

This move up here was supposed to get us out of the craziness.

LONNIE

They got some craziness of their own up here.

CAROLINE

What's up Mr. G?

LONNIE

(small hesitation)

Nothin'.

THE WATCH

CAROLINE

Your smokin'-hot wife puts on this slinky thing and it doesn't even get a "wow?" I'd say something's up -- or not, as the case may be.

LONNIE

(takes in the lingerie)

Wow.

(off Caroline's look)

Too late?

CAROLINE

Yep.

LONNIE

(re: file)

I'll put this back in the car.

(re: the lingerie)

I hope you're in a forgivin' mood.

CAROLINE

(lounges on the bed)

I will allow myself to be persuaded.

Lonnie clicks the file into his briefcase; reclines next to Caroline.

LONNIE

How much persuading we talkin' about?

CAROLINE

I'll let you know when I think it's enough.

She pulls her husband into a kiss; two people hungry to connect. .

