

Eileen March

ACT FIVE:

Vijay

SC. 1

We went too far...

start

INT. OTIS AND EILEEN MARCH'S WINE CELLAR

These words have been spoken by Vijay Patel, the bespectacled man in his thirties we met earlier. Here is where we understand that this is a meeting of the WATCH TRUST, the secret group within the WATCH. We can see that the wine cellar is in fact a 50's era bomb shelter that has been converted into a very elaborate tasting room.

The membership of the Watch Trust is a closely guarded secret. Anyone can join the Watch, but you have to be invited into the inner sanctum. The camera DRIFTS slowly around the room, some of the twelve members are obscured from us when the scene begins. At the outset we can make out Vijay, Otis and Eileen, Craig and Luanne, Jenny and Brian.

As the flashbacks have demonstrated, Otis and Eileen are the FINANCIAL and POLITICAL power behind the Watch Trust. Something about being shackled to a wheelchair has freed Eileen from every filter of polite behavior.

EILEEN

(explodes at Vijay)

Oh, give me a goddamn break you sanctimonious prick!

From his years in courtrooms and boardrooms, Otis is able to dominate without having to lose his cool.

OTIS

(to Vijay)

You're claiming Garner Austin deserved to live?

VIJAY

I'm claiming that if we act as both the judge and the executioner, we are no better than Austin.

EILEEN

(hissing)

You want to ask Ramon Alvarez to weigh in on your little wash-your-clothes-in-the-Ganges philosophical debate?

1-HR. Pilot / FMW / casting

THE WATCH

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VIJAY

We should have simply forced Austin out of town!

BRIAN

So he could kidnap and rape other people's children?

~~ERIE~~

~~Or should we have just waited for him to re-offend?~~

OTIS

Possibly harm one of our children.

EILEEN

Maybe it would have been one of your sons, Vijay.

VIJAY

That's disgusting.

EILEEN

You bet. What's the matter? You don't want to think about finding little Raneesh in a basement with duct tape over his mouth?

VIJAY

Stop it!

EILEEN

See, now it's personal. Now you know how Lucinda Alvarez feels.

VIJAY

We should have let the police--

Vijay is cut off by someone at the far end of the table. It is Lt. Thomas Burkheart. We now discover who the Trust has a man deep inside the department.

BURKHEART

The police failed us. They failed us miserably.

This has extra weight coming from Burkheart. By distancing himself from the department we can see where his allegiance lies...

BURKHEART (cont'd)

Did the police come when your warehouse was vandalized and your brother was beaten with a baseball bat?

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Vijay remembers this moment.

OTIS

(calmly to Vijay)

After those street racers paralyzed Eileen, you were one of the first people to express disgust that those young men would only spend a year behind bars. That's when Eileen and I decided to form the Trust -- to insure that their one year in prison would feel like a lifetime without legs. You were there at the beginning Vijay. So don't pretend that the scales of justice have suddenly changed.

VIJAY

(his resolve weakening)

Justice above the law?

JENNY

What would you have us do, Vijay, sit around waiting and hoping for the system to work? Because, I'm here to tell you that the system does not work. It does not stop some monster from trapping you in a dorm stairwell and taking away your innocence and your dignity. That monster still roams the earth, all because the system didn't work then and it doesn't work now.

VIJAY

(looks down)

I'm sorry for what happened to you.

JENNY

This isn't about me. This is about Ramon Alvarez.

VIJAY

Is it? How does what you did... what we all did... help Ramon Alvarez?

JENNY

Now that little boy knows he's safe.

VIJAY

I wish that was true.

Vijay stands, a man pushed to the brink.

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VIJAY (cont'd)

What if I don't want to be a part of this anymore?

OTIS

You understood the rules of membership when you joined the Trust.

VIJAY

I'll go outside the Trust if I have to.

EILEEN

Not going to happen, sahib. Like it or not, you're part of us. Now sit your skinny brown ass down.

Stop

Vijay looks around the room, every eye glaring at him. There is a tense silence. Vijay's moment of defiance has passed, he slowly lowers back into his chair.

OTIS

Fine. Let's move on to the next order of business. There' been some follow home robberies....

T. CRAIG AND LUANNE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We see Craig moving the Watch sign from the strip of grass near the street to a spot near his front door. Now we get it, this is a signal to call a meeting of the Watch Trust.

INT. MILWAUKEE CITY HALL TOWER - LOBBY - EARLY MORNING

As Lonnie heads into the building, he finds Chief Eagleton (dressed in sweat pants and a sweat shirt that says "Milwaukee P.D. lacrosse") kneeling down and lacing up a pair of running shoes.

LONNIE

Morning, Chief.

CHIEF EAGLETON

This isn't a coincidence. Run with me.

Eagleton, picks up a lacrosse stick and begins jogging out the doors and onto

LONNIE (cont'd)
(to Allegra)
San soo?

ALLEGRA
Bando Thaing.
(with venom)
No one's going to friggin' touch me.
(odd smile)
Unless I want them to.

The group cheers, this has been the best demonstration ever.
Lonnie limps over toward Otis and Eileen March. Eileen's
wheelchair looks out of place on the patio.

Like many people, Lonnie politely bends over when speaking to
Eileen.

LONNIE
Your daughter packs a mean wallop.

EILEEN
She was bullied as a child.

LONNIE
So she took up Burmese street fighting?

EILEEN
You don't have to bend over for the
cripple.

Lonnie immediately straightens. Eileen finds this funny.

EILEEN (cont'd)
Relax, Garrison. Just some gimp humor.

OTIS
Not everyone finds it as amusing as you
do, dear.

Eileen slugs back a drink.

EILEEN
Ask me if I care.

Caroline approaches with two beers, hands one to Lonnie.

CAROLINE
(playfully)
Mr. G., you're not gonna make our new
friends feel protected if you get your
butt whapped by a teenage girl.

Start

Stop