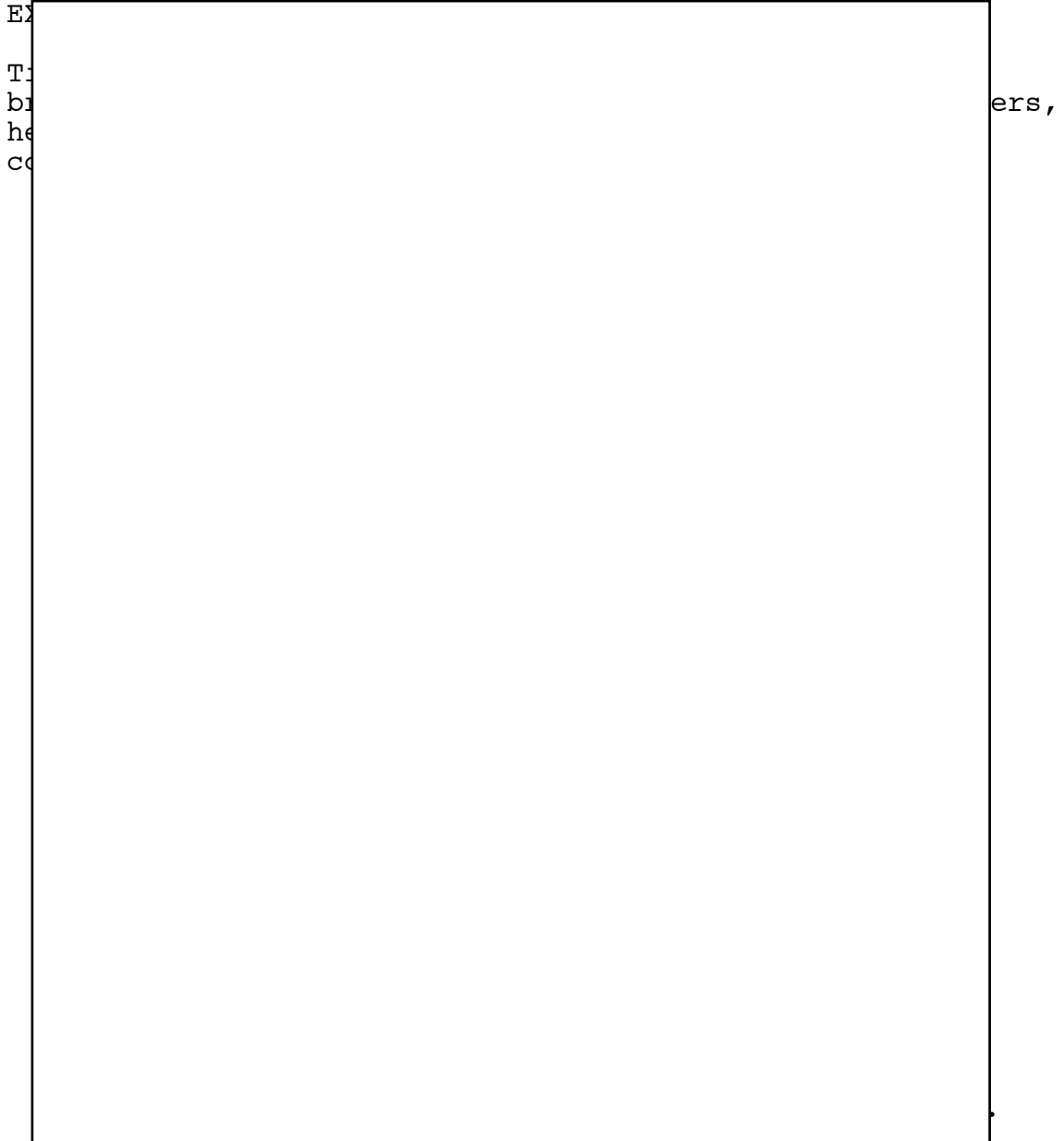




EPISODE 22 - "THE ULTIMATUM"

## START



INT. WHITFIELD & ASSOCIATES - TIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tim's office. Hal, uninvited, at Tim's window like he owns the view - he does. On Tim's desk: a tabloid - "TOWNSEND TRIAL LOOMS" - and a private investigator's report, laid out like evidence.

HAL  
My investigator watches OUR  
witnesses.  
(MORE)

## CONT...

HAL (CONT'D)

Imagine his confusion, Timothy,  
finding our own lead counsel –

(reading)

– "sorting donated clothing with  
the state's witness, approx. two  
hours." "Visiting Grace Chapel of  
Franklin. Twice." "Altercation with  
client in witness's parking lot,  
5:40 a.m."

(turning)

Have I lost my mind, or have you?

TIM

Chad was intimidating her. I  
stopped a felony. You're welcome.

HAL

You stopped BILLING is what you  
stopped. You know what the label's  
counsel asks me weekly? Whether my  
closer's still closing.

(circling the desk)

So. Here is the firm's position,  
and Timothy, hear the love in it,  
because there's a partnership over  
it and a trapdoor under it: you  
will try this case. You will use  
the file – ALL of the file. The  
club, the website, the checks, APS.  
You will be the surgeon I hired.  
And when Townsend walks, you make  
partner, and Danny finishes school  
debt-free, law school too if he  
wants it.

TIM

And if I try the case my way?

HAL

There IS no your way. There's the  
firm's way and there's the lobby.

(sitting; steepling; the  
devil's best voice,  
reasonable)

You're the best cross-examiner in  
this state. You were BUILT for that  
courtroom. Don't let nine months of  
somebody else's religion cost your  
son his future.

A beat.

CONT...

HAL (CONT'D)  
This is your sworn duty as an  
officer of the court!!!

A long silence. Tim stands. Buttons his jacket — that old  
gesture, the armor going on. Hal relaxes; he's seen the  
closing of the deal.

TIM  
I'll try the case.

HAL  
There he is.

TIM  
(at the door; without  
turning)  
You should come watch, Hal. It'll  
be educational.

He's gone. Hal — a lifetime of reading men — stares after him  
with the first flicker of doubt he's felt since the Nixon  
administration.

HAL  
(to the empty doorway)  
...Educational how?

**END**

SMASH TO BLACK.

