

Strutt CB side

STRUTT

I just sent over the stay order. I know the Clerk, she'll get it in front of Judge Howard first thing tomorrow morning.

DET. VALEZ

She's dead.

STRUTT

What?

DET. VALEZ

Sushannah's dead. You don't have to do...anything.

STRUTT

What happened?

DET. VALEZ

Not now.

STRUTT

Sit down at least. Just for a minute. (SHE does) I know there's nothing I can say and nothing you want to hear. But I can listen when you do want to talk.

DET. VALEZ

It's my fault.

STRUTT

What?

DET. VALEZ

I heard from the Sgt. Who brought in the Grandmother for questioning.

STRUTT

So the Grandmother killed her?

DET. VALEZ

Her Junkie Boyfriend did.

STRUTT

Then it's his fault.

DET. VALEZ

When the he Grandmother found out social services gave Sushanna to us she went in and raised hell. Corrine Monroe. She was family, it's her granddaughter. She would not leave until she left with her.

The clerk at the desk didn't want to give her the baby. A white woman. Perfect. Corrine starts beating her with that. She's screaming loud enough to bring the Supervisor out, who brings the clerk back to her office to talk. The clerk argued with her - the whole office could hear it. The baby was in good hands, a cop's hands! The Supervisor said they had no choice but to hand her over.

STRUTT

She was right.

DET. VALEZ

So Corrine takes my baby home and tells her Junkie that she not only got the baby, but she took her from a cop! Sooo funny. They got high, made a crib out of a cardboard box and towels, like a dog's bed, then went to sleep. My baby started crying and wouldn't stop. Corrine held her, she still wouldn't. Then her Junkie yelled at the "Fucking Cop Baby", grabbed her and shook her and kept shaking 'till she stopped crying.

Becca did the right thing, you know. It's better her baby wasn't born. She saved a kid from this world.

STRUTT

(PAUSE) The day I went in for my abortion, I promised myself not to think. All I remember is waking up in the recovery room.

A Nurse took my hand. She said, "Honey, I shouldn't tell you this. But your baby had so many things wrong with him he never could have lived." It made me feel so much better. It wasn't an abortion, it was an act of mercy.

Later, when I started working in Family Court I represented a woman who had three kids and was scared to death she was pregnant again. She wanted an abortion. I told her where I went and how good the Staff was. When she came back she told me about this wonderful Nurse who said her Baby could never have lived, she had so many things wrong with her." I was so angry. But the more I thought I realized the Nurse was just trying to make it less painful. And she did. I like to think she didn't lie to me.

DET. VALEZ

And now? Did you do the right thing?

STRUTT

I think so, most days. Some days I don't think. But that's not the same as forgetting.

DET. VALEZ

I won't do that to myself again. I do my job and that's enough. And when I think that my job means protecting Corrine Monroe, I don't want to do that, either.