

Valez CB

START

DET. VALEZ

My husband and I just adopted a baby girl.

STRUTT

Congratulations.

DET. VALEZ

They took her away from us last night. Her Grandmother got a court order; she says she had no idea her Daughter gave her up.

STRUTT

Did the Mother sign off on the adoption.

DET. VALEZ

No. The Grandmother says she's a crack head who didn't know what she was signing. Now our baby's back in Social Services.

STRUTT

What do you know about Grandma?

DET. VALEZ

She has no record. But both her kids do.

STRUTT

Do they live with her?

DET. VALEZ

I don't know.

STRUTT

Find out. If they're out of the house it won't matter.

DET. VALEZ

We have to get her back. We love this girl.

STRUTT

How long have you had her?

DET. VALEZ

Three days.

STRUTT

You don't have an appeal, Detective.

DET. VALEZ

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I dug up the Grandmother's address and drove by this morning. She lives in a falling down house in Riverhead. Even the Department treats Riverhead like a dump for cops they want to force into retirement. If she stays there, our baby will be following in her Family's footsteps.

STRUTT

You don't know that.

DET. VALEZ

I've been on the job six years.

STRUTT

I used to have one chin.

DET. VALEZ

Grandma's all of 31.

(DET. VALEZ puts down some bills)

That's a binder. Take it and we have a legal contract.

STRUTT

(Takes one) One buck. Probably all I'll be worth to you. What else have you got?

DET. VALEZ

I knocked on Grandma's door today to tell her there's been even more robberies than usual in her neighborhood, so keep her doors locked.

STRUTT

I'll assume you weren't in uniform, since, if you were, you could be put up on criminal charges.

DET. VALEZ

She wouldn't let me in.

STRUTT

Good thing. Did she know you adopted her granddaughter?

DET. VALEZ

We never met and the records are sealed. I had to threaten her to open the door and even then she kept the chain on.

STRUTT

Cop hater? I'm shocked.

DET. VALEZ

I could see part of her living room. She's got cartons piled up, mostly electronics. They've got to be stolen or fell off a truck. Either way, she'd be charged.

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STRUTT

You shouldn't have been there. Officially, you saw nothing.

DET. VALEZ

What if someone called in an anonymous tip: If Grandma has a record, can I get her back?

STRUTT

Detective-

DET. VALEZ

Aleece.

STRUTT

Aleece. There are so many things wrong here. Do you really want to put your career on the line?

DET. VALEZ

I want this kid more than this job.

STRUTT

Three days you've had her.

DET. VALEZ

Have you ever had a baby?

STRUTT

(A moment pause) No.

DET. VALEZ

Then you can't know what it feels like.

STRUTT

Forget feelings for now, think with your head.

DET. VALEZ

You think I became a cop because I used my head? I have a Masters in Education. I could have sat behind a desk instead of thanking God every day I survived my shift.

(STRUTT signals the Bartender)

How long would she serve if she was busted?

STRUTT

Could be no time. Granny's first, two or three year's probation. But to get that she'll have to give names. The more relatives who have records the better.

DET. VALEZ

If they don't they will.

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END