

A TIME TO KILL

CARL LEE

Didn't think I'd do it, did you?

JAKE

How you hold'n up?

CARL LEE

I ain't had nothing against them boys till they messed with baby. And I feel sorry for their mamas and daddies but...ain't sorry for what I done. How's Looney?

JAKE

You blew his knee right off his leg. Doctors are still with him.

CARL LEE

What's gonna happen to me now?

JAKE

There's gonna be a preliminary hearing. Probably tomorrow. After that Buckley'll push for a fast trial.

CARL LEE

Who's Buckley?

JAKE

Rufus Buckley... the district attorney. He's mean, he's ambitious and he's gonna eat this up because of the publicity.

CARL LEE

But you've done beat him, ain't ya?

JAKE

Yeah. Not in a murder case.

CARL LEE

Think I can win?

JAKE

All depends on the jury, Carl Lee. Pick the right jury and you'll walk. DA picks the jury and...you get the gas.

CARL LEE

Not a... lot of white lawyers would've took my brother, Lester's case. You did and got him off. I figured there's a lot of people out there.. tired of all the raping and killing and... they'd be sympathetic to a man who took the law into his own hands...even if he is black. You said you'd help me out if I was in a jam, Jake. Well I'm in one now. What do you say?

Hands Jake a wad of money.

JAKE

There's \$900, Carl Lee. We said \$1000 down.

CARL LEE

My kids gotta eat.

JAKE

...hmm mine too.

When do I get the rest?

CARL LEE

Them folks at the bank, they won't lend me no money on my house.

JAKE

Why not? Your house is almost paid for. You borrowed on it before Lester's trial.

CARL LEE

Said I wasn't in jail before. Said to Gwen, how I'm gonna pay if I'm sitting on death row... and I lost my job at the mill. They called Gwen. Worked 20 years, I'm out 5 days and they fire me.

JAKE

Carl Lee. I can't try a capital murder case for \$900 Carl Lee, I need to live.

CARL LEE

Me too, Jake. I need to live too.

JAKE

We're gonna lose this case Carl Lee. There'll be no points of law to argue here. We should cop a plea, maybe Buckley will cop us a second degree murder and we can get you life in prison.

CARL LEE

Jake... I can't do no life in prison. You gotta get me off, now if it was you on trial...

JAKE

It's not me! We're not the same Carl Lee. The jury has to identify with the defendant. They see you, they see a yard worker. They see me... they see an attorney. I live in town, you live on the hill...

CARL LEE

You white and I'm black! See, Jake? You think just like them. That's why I picked you. You're one of them, don't you see? Oh, you think you ain't cause you eat in Claude's and and..and you're out there tryin to get me on TV talkin about black and white. The fact is... you're just like all the rest of them. When you look at me, you don't see a man. You see a black man.

JAKE

Carl Lee... I am your friend...

CARL LEE

...we ain't no friends! We're on different sides of the line. I ain't never seen you in my part of town. I bet you don't even know where I live. Our daughters, Jake... they ain't never gonna play together...

JAKE

What are you talk'n about..

CARL LEE

America... is a war...and you on the other side. How a black man ever gonna get a fair trial with the enemy on the bench and the jury box? My life in white hands. You, Jake. That's how. You're my secret weapon, cause you're one of the bad guys. You don't mean to be, but you are. It's how you's raised. "Nigger, nigro, black, african-american," no matter how you see me...you see me as different. You see me like that jury sees me. You are them. Now, throw out your points of law, Jake. If you... was on that jury...what

would it take to convince you... to set me free. That's how you save my ass. That's how you save us both.