

A FEW GOOD MEN

(Lights up on softball field)

KAFFEE

(Calls out to unseen players.)

All right, man on first, one down, let's go for two!

(To someone a little closer)

Hit a few out Sherby.

(Out to the field.)

Get your glove down, Sherby, you gotta get your glove down. Pick up some dirt with that ball.

(JO crosses toward Kaffee)

KAFFEE

Let's do it again. Man on first, one down, let's go for two!

JO

Excuse me—

KAFFEE

(Turns to her.)

One second.

(Out to the field.)

I need you to trust me, Sherby. If you keep your eyes open while the ball is coming toward you, your chances of catching the ball increase by a factor of ten.

(To Jo)

You want to suit up? We need all the help we can get.

JO

NO, thank you. I can't throw and catch things.

KAFFEE

(Crosses DRC)
That's too bad, cause—

JO

I wanted to talk to you about Corporal Dawson and Private Downey.

KAFFEE

Those names sound like they should mean something to me, but it's just not clicking in.

JO

Harold Dawson and Louden Downey.

KAFFEE

(Pause)

If you could just give me one more hint, I could—

JO

Dawson! Downey! Your clients!

KAFFEE

The Cuba thing! Yes! Dawson and Downey.

(Pause. Crosses to Jo.)

Right. I was—I don't know, for a second—but, yes.

(Pause)

Lance Corporal Dawson and.....

JO

.....Private Downey.

KAFFEE.

Yes.

(Pause)

I'm sorry. I've forgotten your name.

JO

Lt. Commander Joanne Galloway.

KAFFEE

(Pause)

I've done something wrong, haven't I?

JO

Yes. I was wondering why two guys have been in jail since this morning while their lawyer is outside hitting a ball.

KAFFEE

We need the practice.

JO

That wasn't funny.

KAFFEE

It was a little funny.

JO

Have you read the IC-1?

KAFFEE

You mean, like...actually read it?

JO

No, I mean have you read it in the abstract.

KAFFEE

No, it's on my desk. Very close to the top of the pile.

JO

Lieutenant, would you feel very insulted if I recommended to your supervisor that he assign different counsel?

KAFFEE

Why?

JO

I'm not sure how to say this without possibly hurting your feelings, but I

don't think you're fit to handle this defense.

KAFFEE

You don't even know me. Normally it takes someone hours to discover
I'm not
fit to handle a defense.
(continuing)
Oh come on, that was damn funny.

JO

(Almost confidential)

I do know you. I know you went to Harvard Law on a Navy
Scholarship and I know that you're probably just treading water for the
three years you've gotta,
just kinda layin' low til you can get out
and get a real job, and that's fine and I won't tell
anyone. But my feeling is that if this
case is handled in the same fast-food,
slick-ass ' Persian Bazaar manner with
which you seem to handle everything else,
something's gonna get missed. And I
wouldn't be doing my duty if I allowed
Dawson and Downey to spend any more time
in prison than absolutely necessary,
because their attorney had pre-determined
the path of least resistance.

(Pause.)

KAFFEE

Wow. I'm sexually aroused, Commander. I'm not kidding.

JO

I don't think your clients murdered
anybody.

KAFFEE

Well we'll just have to take their word for it, won't we?

JO

I mean, I don't think there was any intent.

KAFFEE

What are you basing this on?

JO

Instinct.

KAFFEE

Instinct? The doctor's report says that Santiago died of asphyxiation brought on by acute lactic acidosis, and that the nature of the acidosis strongly suggests poisoning. Now, I don't know what any of that means, but it sounds pretty bad.

JO

The doctor's wrong

KAFFEE

What a relief. I was afraid I wouldn't be able to use the Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire Defense.

JO

Good one, that was funny

KAFFEE

Thank you. Look. Rest assured, I'm completely on top of the situation with Dawson and Donnelly.

JO

Downey.

KAFFEE

--Downey.

JO

(Picks up attaché.)

Right. I'll speak to your supervisor.

KAFFEE

I understand. You go straight up Pennsylvania Avenue. It's a big white house with pillars in front.

JO

Thanks.

KAFFEE

I don't think you'll have much luck, though.

JO

Why not?

KAFFEE

I was detailed by JAG, remember? Somebody over there's under the impression that I'm a good lawyer.

(Pause)

So while I appreciate your interest and admire your enthusiasm, I think I can pretty much cover things myself at this point.

JO

Do you know what a code red is?

KAFFEE

No.

JO

What a pity.
(SHE exists)