

CRAIG

SC.1

REVISED

6/22

~~SANCHEZ~~~~All right, then. If you're really
so innocent, you'll decipher this
code for us. Now.~~~~TAO~~~~Starting with the first number, and
working your way down. We need to
know what everything here means.~~

START

Pearl looks between Tao and Sanchez - and back down...

CRAIG CURTIS (PRE-LAP)

I guess you guys are having trouble
figuring out...

36

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM #1 - LATER

36

...CRAIG CURTIS, 40's, ruggedly handsome and exceedingly self-
confident, faces Paige and Sykes.

CRAIG CURTIS

...which of the hundreds of people
Bonnie Pearl pissed off was willing
to go the distance. Gotta admire
her though. Tough lady.

SYKES

She was. Though it's surprising you
seem to like her, considering she
was threatening your livelihood -

PAIGE

And referred to you on multiple
occasions as a "sexist pig."

CRAIG CURTIS

That was the game! She'd say
things, I'd respond. It's all about
publicity. For both of us.

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INT. ELECTRONICS - INTERCUT

37

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)

Every time she trotted out those
girls - and they're still hot - I
bet guys thought, "If this is who
Tackles fires, can you imagine what
the women they keep look like?!"Sharon watches with Buzz, Flynn, Provenza and Nolan. Mason
enters and reacts to Curtis on the monitor. On the other set
of monitors, Stan Pearl continues breaking the code for Tao
and Sanchez. *

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CRIMES
MAJOR

~~MASON~~~~Wow. Craig Curtis. Man. What a career he was supposed to have.~~CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
I even made sure she knew my schedule, so we could respond to each other in real time.~~NOLAN~~~~Yeah. We don't grill a guy who made two Superbowl touchdowns every day.~~CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
Don't forget, I spent a lot of my life having to play against people I liked. People who felt it was their job to hurt me.↓
FLYNN

Though the way he treats women is despicable. Despicable.

Sharon tries not to smile as Provenza looks at Buzz: "How long, oh Lord?"

SYKES (ON MONITORS)

You weren't concerned about the impact her protests might have on the company - and your reputation?

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INT. INTERVIEW ROOM #1 - INTERCUT

38

CRAIG CURTIS

Just the opposite. Our newest place opens tonight in Hollywood - consider yourselves invited, ladies - and I'm counting on a big, noisy protest to drum up publicity. As for when Bonnie and those rejects call me sexist, I laugh - because nobody appreciates women more than me. And my customers.

SYKES

So the culture you promote - the outfits, the physical flirting -

CRAIG CURTIS

Look, if men wanted beer served by old ladies in head-to-toe burlap, I'd do that. They don't. Everyone gets it - including my investors who are some of America's most influential citizens.

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INT. ELECTRONICS - INTERCUT

39

Tao enters with the call logs.

MAJOR CRIMES

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TAO
 Cmdr., I've been going through the logs with Mini-Pearl and something jumped out: Over the past month there were dozens of incoming calls about Tackles designated by the cities "Burbank/Dallas SA"- with no phone number listed.

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
 We're not a porn team. We're a fantasy league. When guys just want a good time? And a menu that doesn't care about their health? And servers who don't want to be their wives? I'm who they come see.

SHARON
 How does Stan Pearl explain that? *

TAO
 He isn't sure, but says maybe it's a whistle-blower who worked at the Tackles in Dallas and Burbank, and that the initials SA probably mean Settlement Agreement. But. Can't find an employee from both places.

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITOR)
 ...Charles Barkley partnered up with me. Bill Landon - self-help guide to millions - The Method is a genius way of looking at life - Bill has a sizable financial stake. You think guys like that'd stand with me if I were sexist? No way. *

TAO
 Wait. Did he just say Bill Landon is one of his investors? *

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
 The whole concept of fun is being buried by the politically correct. *

MASON
 Are you a Bill Landon devotee, Lt.? *

TAO
 No, but his Method has tons of fans on "Badge of Justice."

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
 And let's face it. If there wasn't a market for what I'm doing? I wouldn't be a success.

MASON
 You work on "Badge of Justice?"

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
 And the jobs I created?

As Flynn mutters under his breath...

TAO
 Well, I consult and write for them a little, yeah. You watch?

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
 Wouldn't be worth suing over.

MASON
 No, but my mother loves that show!

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)
 Bonnie wouldn't have bothered suing me in the first place if she didn't know my restaurants were super successful.

MAJOR CRIMES

3/7

TAO

Would she like to visit the set?

FLYNN

(reacts, then re: monitor)

Do you mind? Some of us are trying to solve a murder.

SYKES (ON MONITORS)

You claim to hire women as 'models' - but your company's W-2 forms list them as 'servers.'

40

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM #1 - INTERCUT

40

CRAIG CURTIS

A clerical error. Look, I can't imagine being questioned by two more lovely ladies, but why are you wasting time on me when Bonnie's ex-husband is such an obvious suspect?

SYKES

Bonnie's ex? How do you know Jerry Pearl?

CRAIG CURTIS

He spends a lot of time at Tackles. As my guest. Okay. I won't lie - he's a pain in the ass - but it was a cheap way to drive her crazy.

Curtis checks his watch, then pushes his chair back.

SYKES

We're not done here.

CRAIG CURTIS

We are.

PAIGE

One second, sir. You want the LAPD off your back? Pick up the phone and invite your good friend, Jerry Pearl, to the opening of your Hollywood restaurant tonight.

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INT. ELECTRONICS - INTERCUT

41

CRAIG CURTIS (ON MONITORS)

He's already coming. See. I'm way out ahead of you guys. Now, if you'll pardon me...gotta run.

STOP

4/7

MAJOR CRIMES