

ACT TWO

12 INT. RANGER HQ - DAY

12

Walker gives Denise the tour of Ranger HQ, mid-conversation --

START →

DENISE

That's what I hear. Any casework
you need to keep me in the loop on?

WALKER

In Travis County?

DENISE

That *is* my jurisdiction.

WALKER

Yeah... wrapped up helping Austin
PD on a few things. Working with
your office on prepping for the
Stan Morrison trial.

DENISE

That's what I hear.

WALKER

Sounds like you've already done
your homework. So why ask?

DENISE

I like to have multiple sources.
Different takes.

WALKER

Or maybe you're just here for old
time's sake.

DENISE

(moving on)

Tell me about Ranger Ramirez.

WALKER

She's working a case out of town.

DENISE

You know what it is?

WALKER

Captain has been keeping me in the
dark about it so --

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DENISE

I'm sure you still have a guess.

WALKER

You heard about the assassination attempt on Stan Morrison?

(off her nod)

Safe to say it's connected to that since she left town the next day. Been gone almost three months.

DENISE

Heard you were gone almost a year.

(before he can respond)

Did you two get close?

WALKER

Do you mean --

DENISE

I'm trying to decide if you should be involved with Ranger Ramirez's case in the event it does in fact involve Stan Morrison and North Side Nation.

WALKER

Well, Micki's my partner. We've been through a lot. I've gotten to be good friends with Trey, her boyfriend, since she left. Making sure he's alright --

DENISE

Sounds like you are close. We'll have to keep that in mind if you're going to continue to work together.

WALKER

What about you and me? We've known each other whole lives and I'm pretty sure the DA's office and the Rangers will be working together.

Denise smiles. Then --

DENISE

A lot's happened since we were kids. So, why don't we both try our best to leave all that behind us.

(moving on yet again)

Looking forward to working together, Ranger Walker.

← END

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EXT. SIDE STEP - NIGHT

22

It's safe to say the Side Step closed early tonight. In the background, Geri ushers out the remaining customers and staff as Trey helps her lock up.

GERI

Drive safe. Catch you next time...

We spot Liam -- who might still be swaying a little, in the passenger seat of Walker's truck -- and Dan, sitting in his truck. Denise and Walker stand somewhere in the middle, occasionally glancing to their respective sides.

START →

WALKER

Well, he certainly takes pride in the Davidson name.

DENISE

He didn't come from much. Family means a lot.

Walker nods, respect. Denise gives a small smile.

DENISE (CONT'D)

Of all the honky tonk bars in all the towns in all the world...

WALKER

I know. I know. With the kids at school before, and now tonight... doesn't look like anyone's flying a peace flag soon, does it?

DENISE

Not as such.

(re: Liam)

How much does your brother know? About that night?

WALKER

The fire? I'm not sure. He was, what, 8, 9? Sometimes I'm not sure what I remember. Do you?

DENISE

Like I said. A lot has happened since we were kids.

(considers)

I remember what I was told.

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WALKER

Same.

They share a look. Denise turns, ready to leave at that when -

WALKER (CONT'D)

Maybe we should get ahead of all this. The problems. Between our families. Try and move on. Maybe we could all meet? Clear the air.

DENISE

A peace summit? Meet on neutral ground?

WALKER

Why not the Side Step? Erase some bad memories, start some new ones.

As if on cue, Liam hollers:

LIAM

Is she gonna file charges? Take advantage of being the new DA?

DENISE

(smiling)

Abuse of power? Seems more like a Walker move.

Liam musters a smile. Denise faces Walker --

DENISE (CONT'D)

Sorry, cheap shot but... the olive branch. Let's do it.

WALKER

I'll tell my family now. See you then.

←END

Denise flashes a smile and turns away as Geri approaches.

WALKER (CONT'D)

Not the way I wanted to run a business. Sorry. You're not really taking down that deer, are you?

GERI

God, no. We were stupid to name her that, but she was a gift from Em. Denise stays.

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