

CALDWELL stands beside his car, jacket folded over his arm, phone in hand.

DET. STERLING steps out of the shadows.

CALDWELL
You're persistent.

STERLING
You're careful. That's why you picked
this place.

Caldwell doesn't deny it.

CALDWELL
If you're here to talk about Chloe---

I already know she's dead.

STERLING
Then you know it wasn't random.

CALDWELL
I know it became inconvenient.

Sterling holds that beat---then produces a thin folder.

STERLING
County Line Bill.

Caldwell sighs.

CALDWELL
That again?

STERLING
Check it. Draft history.

Metadata. Revisions.

Caldwell takes the folder this time. Opens it.

STERLING
Not authored by the Senator.

Caldwell flips pages faster now.

CONTINUED:

STERLING
Written on a private server.

By non other then Vanessa Vaughn.

A beat.

STERLING
Final legal notes--- all written and
approved by Captain Reed.

Caldwell closes the folder slowly.

CALDWELL
That bill was supposed to buy time.

STERLING
It bought you exposure.

CALDWELL
This stays buried if the bill passes.

STERLING
It won't.

Caldwell looks up---sharp.

CALDWELL
You're sure?

STERLING
Committee stalled it.

Someone panicked.

CALDWELL
And now I'm standing next to a murder.

STERLING
A cover-up. Accessory after the fact.

CALDWELL
They used my office for political gain
and corruption...And if this surfaces
-

STERLING
---You're the only name that makes
sense to indict.

A long silence.

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