

REYNIERS (CONT'D)

He rose when the bell rang, labored when the sun burned, and rested when permitted. By every measure this court understands, he did his job. Isidore Bakanja didn't seek trouble. He did not stir rebellion or undermine authority. What he did— quietly, consistently, without spectacle — was live according to his faith.

(a beat)

He wore a scapular. A small piece of cloth. No weapon. No banner. No threat. A private promise. A personal devotion. And for this... for refusing to remove that scapular,... Charles Van Cauter murdered him.

SLIGHT MUMMERS FROM THE COURTROOM

017 REYNIERS (CONT'D)

The defense will argue that this case is about productivity and efficiency. They will say it is about maintaining discipline. We will show that what this case is really about is power. The power to command a man's soul.

Reyniers returns to his seat.

CHAIR SRAPES THE FLOOR. BODY SETTLES IN THE SEAT.

018 JUDGE DE VOS

The court will now hear the statement of defense counsel. Monsieur Delecroix?

WOODEN TABLE CREAKS

019 DELCROIX

Your Honor, Gentlemen of the court, I am Leon Delecroix. My client, Charles Van Cauter, is a hard working man who was charged with great responsibility a tough situation: overseeing a rubber operation in the Congo. This required him to be a manager, a diplomat, and a host of other things.

(MORE)

Side 1
START >>>

DELCROIX (CONT'D)

But what he primarily was...was responsible. Not for a crime, as the prosecution would have you believe. No. The company held Monsieur Van Cauter responsible for production goals. The schedule and deliverable demands were crystal clear. When my client was met with a threat to meeting set goals, he was empowered, encouraged to maintain order and workflow. That's exactly what he did. The prosecution offers poetry. This court must deal in reality. This was a work camp. Not a church. It wasn't a forum for sermons. Isidore Bakanja distracted workers. He spread dangerous ideas. He challenged authority.

<<< END

020 VAN CAUTER

(muttering)

He was warned.

021 JUDGE DE VOS

Mr. Van Cauter you will refrain from any further outburst.

022 VAN CAUTER

Yes, Your Honor.

A beat,

023 DELCROIX

My client acted to preserve order. To prevent unrest. To maintain productivity. This trial asks you to punish this man... for doing his *job*.

MUSIC SWELLS AND FADES. GAVEL POUNDS.

024 JUDGE DE VOS

Monsieur Reyniers, call your first witness.

025 REYNIERS

The prosecution calls Iyonzwa Bakanja.

Iyonzwa walks to the stand.

WITNESS STAND CHAIR SLIDES SLIGHTLY.