

Canterbury's Law

[ELIZABETH CANTERBURY] A stunning, stylish woman, "seductive and savage in turns," she has a huge heart, but hides that fact. A high-profile defense attorney, Elizabeth is famously tough, and will go to the wall for her clients, even at great risk to her own life and reputation. Elizabeth is defending a man suspected of murdering a child -- a case that has sparked the attention -- and outrage -- of the entire nation. Convinced of her client's innocence -- and she's the only one who is -- Elizabeth will do anything to give her client a fair shake, including fracture a few rules along the way. Currently involved in an extramarital affair that causes her great guilt and confusion, Elizabeth hides a tragic secret in her past that may account for her estrangement from her husband, whom she still loves and hopes to reconnect with, if possible...SERIES REGULAR (1)

[MATT CANTERBURY] Caucasian, late 30s to late 40s, handsome, a steady, strong, warm man, he's Elizabeth's husband, a law professor who is struggling to revive his troubled relationship with Elizabeth. Matt is committed to their marriage, and doesn't yet realize that Elizabeth has been carrying on an extramarital affair. We later learn that a past tragedy has resulted in the couple's increasing estrangement, but both are struggling to overcome their trauma and reconnect with one another as man and wife...SERIES REGULAR (13)

[MOLLY MCCONNELL] Any ethnicity, attractive, late 20's, Elizabeth's associate (a mini her), she's a striking woman, a bright and inquiring attorney, Molly is so much like Elizabeth that they frequently butt horns. When Elizabeth requests her help on the Ethan Foster case, Molly is initially resentful, especially since she considers Ethan guilty. Later, however, she is dazzled by Elizabeth's amazing courtroom performance...SERIES REGULAR (15)

[FRANK] Caucasian, late 20s to mid 30s, model good looks, dark, handsome, edgy, lanky, muscular, handsome man some 5 to 10 years younger than Elizabeth, he has a swimmer's build and a yen for Elizabeth. He is grateful to Elizabeth for getting him off on trumped up assault charges -- their attraction for one another is too heated to be resisted, at least for now...RECURRING ROLE / POSSIBLE SERIES REGULAR (1)

STORY LINE: A tenacious and single minded attorney, ELIZABETH CANTERBURY is convinced that her client, who stands accused of kidnapping and murdering a child, is innocent. Despite pressure from all around her, especially her associate RUSSELL CROSS, Elizabeth refuses to consider a plea deal, insisting on trying the case in open court. In the meantime, Elizabeth is having a covert affair but hopes to patch up her failing marriage, which is still suffering from a painful past tragedy...

RUSSELL- scene 1

46.

ELIZABETH

I roll loaded or not at all.

RUSSELL

The search moves to the woods now --
they will find the rest of him.

INT. PROVIDENCE COUNTY JAIL - MEN'S ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

As Russell is shoved into the room. The same pudgy PUBLIC DEFENDER is there, slicking his hair at the sink, but --

ELIZABETH

Get out! Out!

START

The guy runs. Elizabeth's face is red, eyes bulging white --

ELIZABETH (cont'd)

Why you sanctimonious, self-righteous shit -- you compromised the firm, you compromised your client --

RUSSELL

You pay me to stay tight with my old colleagues. You think they talk to me because I'm pretty -- ?

ELIZABETH

Zach played you --

RUSSELL

I have to actually say things, Liz -- communicate -- so they don't slam the door in my face. I have --

ELIZABETH

You're supposed to play him and he played you --

RUSSELL

I have to keep him on the hook -- !

ELIZABETH

You screwed up -- !

RUSSELL

You left me no choice! You're losing this case and you refuse to cut your losses. That damages Ethan, it could damage you -- I want to prevent that!

He shouts the last line and spins away, pacing the room...

RUSSELL (cont'd)

Liz... I know juries. Ethan's right. You've lost this one.

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ELIZABETH

I disagree.

RUSSELL

Take a continuance, wait on the DNA.

ELIZABETH

He can't wait. You know what happens to kiddie killers in gen-pop --

RUSSELL

It's a month, maybe less -- !

ELIZABETH

It won't be a month! We'll get shoved to the back of the line -- it'll be two, three, six, a year -- and you know that, Russell!

RUSSELL

Let Ethan tell his story then -- put him on the stand and show --

ELIZABETH

Are you nuts? No. He's too fragile --

RUSSELL

Let the jury see that. Show them how fragile he is, demonstrate why you think Ethan's innocent --

ELIZABETH

It'll hurt him and earn us nothing.

RUSSELL

Then -- Jesus, Liz, I don't know --
(throws up his hands)
-- work a plea. Sit down with Zach -- stop thinking about Nancy Grace and salvage something, anything.

ELIZABETH

First of all, I'm a van Susteren girl.
Second, I...

(she exhales, exhausted)

...I have contingencies. More than that, I have faith. I have faith in our system. I trust in it. I believe in innocent until proven guilty...

(beat)

...and then some.

END

She nods once -- that's that -- and walks out. Russell stares at the door, then turns to the mirror, stares at himself...

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