

VERMONT AUDIO DRAMA PODCASTING
presents

OPEN SEASON: EPISODE 2

By Archer Mayor
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CAST:

OPEN SEASON - EPISODE 2

GUNTHER	Detective in Brattleboro, Vermont
MAXINE	Receptionist at Brattleboro PD
MURPHY	Chief of Detectives, Joe's buddy
WOLL	Upstart cop in an embarrassing bind
KATZ	Pushy local reporter
CLERK	Flirty clerk at PD records
MANAGER	Manager of PD records
DELFORIO	Another Brattleboro Detective
WODISKA	Framed man, blue collar

25 GUNTHER: (CONT.) it was now ten AM and I was headed
26 to the police station, located in a hundred-
27 year-old converted high-school building
28 perched on a slope overlooking one of the
29 town's several malfunction junctions -
30 notorious traffic quagmires that the Board
31 of Selectmen never had the will, the money,
32 or the wisdom to straighten out.

33
34 The building always reminded me of Norman
35 Bate's gothic pile in Psycho - dark, ugly,
36 and prickly with spires. It's one of the
37 few pieces of architecture that I know of
38 without any redeeming value. The heating is
39 satanic, the parking lot a bedlam, its
40 toilets a throw-back to medieval times, and
41 its lighting a credit to Dickens. It is,
42 however, cheap, so that's where we lived,
43 occupying several rear offices on the ground
44 floor, with five cage-like holding cells in
45 the basement.

46 MUSIC: THEME FADES...

47 GUNTHER: I've always liked the old dump.

48 **SFX:** CAR PULLED UP TO A GRAVELLY/ASPHALT
49 DRIVEWAY. GET OUT OF CAR, WALK ACROSS THE
50 PAVEMENT, UP A CONCRETE STEP AND PUSH OPEN A
51 HEAVY METAL DOOR. ENTER INDOOR AMBIENCE OF
52 POLICE STATION - LOTS OF VOICES, PHONE
53 CALLS, A BOOMY AMBIENCE.

54 **MAXINE:** Joe! Where the hell have you been?

55 **GUNTHER:** Up half the night with that shotgun killing.
56 What's wrong with you?

57 **MAXINE:** Nothing. Forget it. Murphy wants you.

58 **GUNTHER:** Come on, Max. What's cooking?

59 **MAXINE:** (CONFIDING) I just don't need everybody
60 else's crap, is all. I'm a glorified
61 receptionist. It's not my fault when all
62 hell breaks loose. If somebody is pissed
63 off at somebody else, they ought to wait to
64 unload until that person gets on the line.
65 They don't have to fill my ear with it.
66 There's nothing I can do about it.

67 **GUNTHER:** About what?

68

68 MAXINE: While you were playing with bodies, John
69 Woll got mugged last night. Somebody
70 handcuffed him to a telephone pole and stole
71 his patrol car. Now everybody and his uncle
72 is all over me on the damn phone because
73 either the chief hasn't come in yet, or he
74 won't call 'em back.

75 SFX: SWITCHBOARD RINGS

76 MAXINE: (MUTTERS UNDER BREATH) - Go see Murphy, he's
77 one of the yellers.

78 SFX: FOOTSTEPS DOWN THE HALL BED UNDER NARRATION

79 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) Frank Murphy was one of the
80 police force's two captains, and the head of
81 Support Services, our name for the detective
82 division. I leaned against the doorway of
83 Frank's office, a tiny, high-ceilinged room
84 opposite mine. Frank was on the phone, but
85 covered the receiver with his hand when he
86 saw me.

87 MURPHY: Go to your office. John Woll's hiding out
88 there. You hear about him?

89 GUNTHER: Just did, thanks.

90 MURPHY: (STARTS TO TALK ON PHONE AGAIN - DISTANT AS
91 GUNTHER WALKS OFF)

92 SFX: GUNTHER STEPS ACROSS HALL TO HIS OFFICE.
93 PUSHES DOOR OPEN

94 WOLL: (EMBARRASSED) Hi Joe.

95 GUNTHER: Sit down, John.

96 SFX: GUNTHER STEPS ACROSS THE ROOM AND SITS DOWN
97 IN A CREAKY CHAIR

98 GUNTHER: So, rumor has it you got personal with a
99 telephone pole.

100 WOLL: This is really embarrassing.

101 GUNTHER: It sounds it. What happened?

102 WOLL: I was making my patrol, like always, and I
103 saw something weird on Estabrook. I knew it
104 was a man - I could make out his profile,
105 but I couldn't see his face and I couldn't
106 figure out what he was doing. He was sort
107 of bunched up and leaning on a garbage can,
108 like he was really hurting, you know? He
109 waved me down -

110 GUNTHER: Without showing his face?
111

111 WOLL: Yeah. He just sort of lifted an arm, but
112 most of his back was turned so I couldn't
113 see much. I stopped and got out and walked
114 over, a little worried he was drunk and
115 would barf all over me. I poked him a
116 little and asked him if he was all right.
117 Then he straightened up, pulled out a sawed-
118 off shotgun, and shoved it under my nose.

119 GUNTHER: You must have seen his face then.

120 WOLL: No. He was wearing a ski mask. He told me
121 to turn around -

122 GUNTHER: What was his voice like?

123 WOLL: A whisper. I couldn't make it out.

124 GUNTHER: So he turned you around...

125 WOLL: Yeah, then he pushed me over to the pole,
126 took my cuffs, told me to hug the pole, and
127 locked me up. And that was it. He got into
128 my car and drove off.

129 SFX: STEPS APPROACH

130 MURPHY: Guys? We just got something on this. Keep
131 going, though.

132 GUNTHER: Thanks, Frank. So, who finally found you?

133 WOLL: That's the embarrassing part. It was a
134 reporter from the Reformer. She drove up
135 about ten minutes later and started asking
136 me questions. I felt like a total jerk.

137 MURPHY: (BUTTS IN) Pretty girl, too. Alice Sims.
138 She called us after she found him.

139 GUNTHER: And presumably Ski Mask called her to tell
140 her where to find John.

141 MURPHY: (SARCASTIC) Top of the class.

142 GUNTHER: John, is there anything you might have
143 missed? Something about his hands, maybe or
144 his eyes, or the way he walked? His
145 clothes? What about the weapon?

146 WOLL: Nothing I knew. Looked like an old single-
147 shot. It was a do-it-yourself custom job,
148 though, because I could see the burning
149 around the barrel where he'd cut it off with
150 a hacksaw. That part looked new - it was
151 still shiny.

152 GUNTHER: (GROANS) What a mess. So, what did you dig
153 up, Frank?

154 MURPHY: The sheriff just called - said one of his
155 people found our cruiser in some clueless

178 GUNTHER: You read George's report yet?

179 MURPHY: Yeah.

180 GUNTHER: Then you know what we found at the scene.

181 Tyler and some uniforms are going over the

182 house today, dusting for prints and the

183 rest. I doubt they'll find much. And we'll

184 re-interview Reitz once she gets back on

185 keel.

186

187 I visited Jamie Philip's house and talked to

188 his wife. She had this wild story about

189 their dog being kidnapped and held for

190 ransom - a thousand bucks to be paid at the

191 old lady's back door. The message was,

192 "Don't knock - walk right in." It was a

193 perfect setup to have him blown apart by

194 Reitz.

195 MURPHY: And you believe her?

196

196 GUNTHER: No reason not to, yet. I have someone
197 looking into the Philippses as an item:
198 whether they got along, if they had any
199 money problems, possible insurance angles,
200 stuff like that. He was a little strange -
201 had a real thing for the dog. And she was
202 the one who let it outdoors the day it got
203 snatched. There might be something there,
204 but again I doubt it. There is one
205 interesting tidbit, though: both Philips and
206 Reitz served on the Kimberly Harris jury.

207 MURPHY: (STIFFENS) Are you kidding?

208 GUNTHER: Nope. I was just about the pull the jury
209 list when you sidetracked me with John Woll.

210 MURPHY: Christ, not Kimberly Harris again. Once was
211 bad enough. Look, do what you will, but
212 keep that part under your hat, okay? No
213 mention of it in the daily reports, no
214 chitchat with anyone but me. The last thing
215 we need is anyone catching sight of you
216 digging up Kimberly Harris. You got that?

217 GUNTHER: Oui, mon capitaine.

218 MURPHY: I mean it, Joe.

219 **SFX:** MURPHY WALKS OFF

220 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) I'd never never described Murphy
221 as a laid-back, laconic type, but his
222 reaction surprised me. The Harris killing
223 had been sensational, but its solution had
224 been quick and easy and the legal rigmarole
225 had been smooth from start to finish.

226 GUNTHER: (LONG SIGH, THEN GETS OUT OF CHAIR) Alright,
227 I'll be doing a little homework upstairs, if
228 you need me.

229 **SFX:** GUNTHER WALKS OUT OF HIS OFFICE, THEN DOWN
230 THE HALL. ANOTHER PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS JOINS
231 HIS

232 KATZ: Hi, Joe. Running for cover?

233 GUNTHER: Meaning what, Stanley?

234 KATZ: Just a joke. I thought you guys might be a
235 little shy of the press right now.

236 **SFX:** BOTH STOP WALKING

237 GUNTHER: Stan, I'm always shy of the press, you know
238 that.

239 KATZ: True. You could never be accused of being
240 one of my prime sources.

241 GUNTHER: So why do you keep trying?

242 KATZ: It's the job. Tell me about John Woll?

243 GUNTHER: We're working on it. We'll let you know.

244 Why are you on this, anyhow? I thought it

245 belonged to Alice Sims.

246 KATZ: She answered the phone, that's why she went.

247 This is my beat.

248 GUNTHER: So you hip-checked her? Nice.

249 KATZ: I'm cops-'n'-courts. She's not. What about

250 last night's shooting?

251 GUNTHER: What about it?

252 KATZ: Who's the stiff?

253 GUNTHER: We'll let you know, Stan, along with

254 everybody else.

255 KATZ: What was a guy like Jaime Philips doing on

256 Clark avenue in the middle of the night?

257 It's sort of off his beaten track, isn't it?

258 GUNTHER: Stanley, while your brilliance may be enough

259 to dazzle small children and your editor, I

260 guess, stupid games like that won't make me

261 spill my guts. So back off. Do what you've

262 got to do, but save the Woodward-Bernstein

263 imitation for the other guys, okay?

264 KATZ: Okay. Well, have it your way, Joe.

265 SFX: KATZ WALKS OFF

266 GUNTHER: (MUTTERS SOMETHING UNDER HIS BREATH)

267 SFX: GUNTHER ASCENDS THE STAIRS - HEAVY CONCRETE

268 IN A REALLY BOOMY CHAMBER

269 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) If the average waist-level
270 temperature downstairs was seventy degrees,
271 as it probably was today, the second floor
272 was eighty-five. I walked slowly down the
273 corridor to avoid working up a sweat and
274 went through a door marked CLERK OF COURT.

275 SFX: DOOR OPENS

276 CLERK: Hi, Lieutenant. We haven't seen you up here
277 in a while.

278 GUNTHER: (MIMES PATTING HIS HEAD) People my age have
279 to watch what they do. The stairs you dance
280 up without a thought could kill me.

281 CLERK: From what I've seen, they'd have to be
282 loaded with dynamite to do it. You're tough
283 as a rock. And cute, too. (GIGGLES) And
284 I'm not the only one who thinks so.

285 GUNTHER: All right, enough. I'm supposed to be
286 flattering you - could you do me a big
287 favor?

288 CLERK: Shoot.

289 GUNTHER: Get me the jury list for Vermont Versus
290 Davis.

291 CLERK: When was that?

292 GUNTHER: About three years ago, maybe a little more.
293 It was that big murder thing.

294 CLERK: Oh - the black guy. God, I remember that.
295 Um (LEANS IN, STRONG WHISPER) And you want
296 that right now, of course - a dire
297 emergency.

298 GUNTHER: What? Well -

299 CLERK: (URGENT) I mean, it CAN'T wait, right?
300 That's what I'm hearing? No time for
301 *normal* channels.

302 GUNTHER: (GETS IT - THEN AFFIRMATIVE) Absolutely not.
303 Total emergency.

304 CLERK: (RAISES HER VOICE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S
305 BENEFIT) Boy - you guys, pushy, pushy.

306 SFX: CLERK GETS OFF - WALKS OFF MIC, WHISPERS
307 SOMETHING OFF

308 MANAGER: Get it in writing.

309 SFX: CLERK WALKS BACK

310 CLERK: Alright, you got it.

311 SFX: SCRIBBLES SOMETHING - FILLING OUT A FORM.

312 CLERK: You can fill out the request later. Follow
313 me - you're in for some more exercise.

314 SFX: TWO SETS OF STEPS ASCENDING STAIRS. ADD A
315 VERY LOUD HEATER HUM TO THE AMBIENCE.

316 GUNTHER: (WHISTLES) Hotter than hell up here.

317 CLERK: My husband says they ought to sink a shaft
318 down the middle of the building and put a
319 fan in it to suck some of this heat
320 downstairs. It wouldn't be much to look at,
321 but it sure would be cheaper than anything
322 else they've come up with.

323 GUNTHER: Nothing's cheaper than doing nothing.

324 CLERK: (LAUGHS, WALKS OFF-MIC)

325 SFX: CLERK CONTINUES TO WALK IN DISTANCE - BOOMY
326 AMBIENCE, ROOM WITH HIGH CEILINGS.

327 CLERK: (DISTANT) I know it's somewhere around
328 here...
329

329 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) The scene reminded me of a book
330 I read years ago - My Brother's Keeper -
331 about two hermit brothers in New York who
332 slowly fill their brownstone with
333 newspapers, magazines, and junk until
334 they're reduced to crawling through tunnels
335 of the stuff just to get around. A cave-in
336 ends the story AND the two brothers. This
337 place was just a few days shy of the same
338 punch line.

339 CLERK: (DISTANT) Okay! Here we are -

340 SFX: FLICKS A LIGHTSWITCH, HUMMING FLUORESCENT
341 LIGHTS TURN ON

342 CLERK: - the whole kit and caboodle. My Lord, it's
343 got a whole shelf to itself. Huh, we're in
344 luck - the one you want is right on top.

345 SFX: HEELS CLICK ACROSS A PORCELAIN FLOOR,
346 RUMMAGING AROUND IN A BOX

347 CLERK: (OVER HER SHOULDER) Just the jury list,
348 right?

349 GUNTHER: That's it.

350 SFX: CLERK GETS UP, TROTS ACROSS PORCELAIN AGAIN

351 CLERK: Trade it for that Request Form.

352 GUNTHER: A pleasure doing business with you.

353 CLERK: Always happy to help in a police emergency

354 GUNTHER: (LAUGHS)

355 MUSIC: SHORT TRANSITION STING

356 GUNTHER: Back downstairs in the temperate zone, I
357 found a note on my desk to go to
358 Interrogation - our fancy name for a room
359 with a table and some vending machines
360 between the squad room and the patrol
361 captain's office. There I found Murphy,
362 Dennis DeFlorio (another of our detectives)
363 and a scared-looking young man built like a
364 gas pump.

365 MURPHY: (ASIDE) Joe!

366 SFX: TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS

367 MURPHY: (LOUD WHISPER) What have you been doing?
368 You're sweating like a pig.

369 GUNTHER: (TAD WINDED) Been upstairs. Is that the guy
370 who stole Woll's cruiser?
371

371 MURPHY: Right now, he's the one in whose driveway we
372 found it. Claims he doesn't know a thing.

373 GUNTHER: Any prints on the car?

374 MURPHY: JP's doing that now, or will be soon. We do
375 have the shotgun - found it in the trunk.
376 This guy admits it's his but doesn't know
377 how it got there.

378 GUNTHER: What's his name?

379 MURPHY: Wodiska.

380 GUNTHER: Hm.

381 SFX: CRINKLE OF PAPER

382 GUNTHER: Henry A. Wodiska?

383 MURPHY: The one and only. What's that you got?

384 GUNTHER: Something you're not going to like. Wodiska
385 was on the same jury as Reitz and Philips.

386 MURPHY: (GROANS) No shi... You're right. I don't like
387 it. You want to talk to him?

388 GUNTHER: If you're finished.

389 MURPHY: I'll ask Dennis. I've assigned it to him.
390 Remember, keep the Davis-Harris thing under
391 your hat.

392 SFX: STEPS OFF. MOMENT LATER, STEPS IN.

393 DEFLORIO: Hey, Joe. What's up?

394 GUNTHER: It's something Frank's got cooking. I'll
395 let you know if Wodiska says anything new.

396 DEFLORIO: Okay. Knock your socks off. Hope you have
397 better luck than I did.

398 SFX: GUNTHER ENTERS ROOM - STEPS.

399 WODISKA: I swear I didn't steal no police car. I'd
400 have to be stupid.

401 GUNTHER: From what I understand, you're claiming to
402 be deaf.

403 WODISKA: Huh?

404 GUNTHER: Does your driveway slope up or down to the
405 house?

406 WODISKA: Up.

407 GUNTHER: So someone drove the cruiser up the
408 driveway, parked it, cut the engine, and
409 wandered off, and you never heard a thing?

410 WODISKA: The bedroom's on the other side of the
411 house. I never hear stuff like that.

412 GUNTHER: What about your shotgun? How do you suppose
413 it got in the car?

414 WODISKA: I don't know, man. I came home and I went
415 to bed, like always. I don't know anything
416 about any of this. I swear to God.

417 GUNTHER: Where do you keep the gun?

418 WODISKA: In my pickup.

419 GUNTHER: And you didn't notice it missing?

420 WODISKA: I wasn't in the pickup. I drove with a
421 friend. We switch off like that - saves
422 gas.

423 GUNTHER: A car pool.

424 WODISKA: Yeah.

425 GUNTHER: And it was his turn last night - or this
426 morning, I mean?

427 WODISKA: Yeah. I haven't touched that pickup since
428 yesterday, or the shotgun.

429 GUNTHER: You didn't cut the barrel down?

430 WODISKA: Hell no! That thing was a collector's
431 piece. It was my father's - a real nice
432 gun. I wouldn't screw it up like that.
433

433 GUNTHER: Okay. So you figure someone stole the gun,
434 maybe last night after you left for work,
435 sawed it off, did his number on our
436 patrolman, and then planted both the gun and
437 the cruiser at your house after you'd gone
438 to sleep. Is that it?

439 WODISKA: I guess so.

440 GUNTHER: How close is the next house? Can you see it
441 from your place?

442 WODISKA: No, it's not far, but there's trees in the
443 way. (BEAT) I sweat to God, I didn't do
444 none of this!

445 GUNTHER: (HONEST) Hey, I'm a believer. I don't think
446 you did either. We're going to have to
447 check it out some more, but I think you're
448 telling the truth. Like you said, you're
449 not stupid, right?

450 WODISKA: Right. I mean this is all too crazy.

451 GUNTHER: Agreed. (BEAT) Wodiska... That really rings
452 a bell.

453 WODISKA: I never done anything.

454 GUNTHER: No, no. I don't mean that. It's something
455 else. It's like I read your name in the

456 paper or something. Did you win a trophy or
457 something a few years back?

458 WODISKA: The only time I been in the paper was for
459 that trial.

460 GUNTHER: What trial?

461 WODISKA: The one with the nigger. You know, the
462 murder case. Real steamy stuff. I got
463 interviewed 'cause I was on the jury.

464 GUNTHER: Right! That's it. The Harris case.

465 WODISKA: Yeah, that one.

466 GUNTHER: Sure. I remember now. You guys didn't
467 waste any time there, did you?

468 WODISKA: He was guilty, wasn't he?

469 GUNTHER: Hey, we thought so. In fact, I remember a
470 few of the guys complaining the jury took as
471 long as it did.

472 WODISKA: That's 'cause of that little fruitcake with
473 the puppy pictures. He made a big deal
474 about making up his mind. No one else
475 swallowed it. Real pain in the butt.

476 GUNTHER: Did you ever keep in touch with any of the
477 jury members after the trial?

478 WODISKA: No. There was one good-looking girl, but I
479 never did anything about it.

480 GUNTHER: You never got hassled later? I heard one of
481 the jurors got some crank calls.

482 WODISKA: Crank calls?

483 GUNTHER: Like from people who were mad you convicted
484 Davis.

485 WODISKA: Mad? Hell, nobody was mad. They were mad
486 *at* him - a nigger flatlander up here,
487 pretending it was New York or something. He
488 got what he deserved. Everybody knows that.

489 GUNTHER: Right. (BEAT) By the way, I have a feeling
490 somebody from the press is likely to ask you
491 about this. We've been made to look pretty
492 dumb, and the news guys always love that.
493 Come to think to it, whoever did this made
494 you look pretty stupid do. Good headline
495 stuff - it'll give people a laugh.

496 WODISKA: Yeah, well the press can go screw itself.
497 I'm gonna give them squat.

498 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) And that was the best news I'd
499 have all day.

500 MUSIC: STING - TRANSITION

501 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) That evening, I headed over to
502 Frank Murphy's, who I found as usual spread
503 out on his brown vinyl sofa in front of the
504 television, a tall glass of scotch on the
505 floor by his hand.

506 SFX: TELEVISION NIGHTLY NEWS IN BACKGROUND

507 MURPHY: (TIRED) Hi, Joe. You want a drink?

508 GUNTHER: You have any tonic water?

509 MURPHY: Still on the wagon, huh? I don't know how
510 you can drink tonic without something to
511 kill the taste.

512 GUNTHER: I got enough vices as is, Frank.

513 MURPHY: (SOUR LAUGH) Take a load off. I'm finding
514 out who was dickhead of the day - at last
515 according to the TV. I've got my own
516 opinion, of course.

517 GUNTHER: John Woll?

518 MURPHY: That's not a bad place to start.

519 GUNTHER: It was hardly his fault

520 MURPHY: Oh, hell. I said 'of the day,' and the
521 day's almost up. I'll find someone else
522 tomorrow. Besides, what I think doesn't
523 matter much anymore.

524 GUNTHER: What's this? Violin music time?

525 MURPHY: Yeah. Sorry. I'm getting sick and tired of
526 being the resident lame duck.

527 GUNTHER: No one listening anymore?

528 MURPHY: Oh, they listen. They just don't pay much
529 attention. I know what's going through
530 their minds: if we just stall him long
531 enough, he'll be gone and we can trash all
532 his recommendations. I can't say I blame
533 them. It's just a lousy way to wrap things
534 up. I've given those bastards a lot of good
535 time, and what I could tell 'em is useful.

536 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) Frank was right about what
537 people were thinking. He was retiring in
538 four months after thirty-five years on the
539 job; it was the last chance a lot of folks
540 had to subtly let him know they weren't
541 heartbroken.

542 GUNTHER: (CONT) I thought that stank. He was a good
543 cop and a better friend. When I came out of
544 the Army, I was twenty years old and scarred
545 by things nobody wanted to hear about.
546 Murphy rounded me up, got me interested in
547 the police force. That replaced the

548 muddiness of my life with the welcomed
549 rigidity of rank, paperwork, and assigned
550 tasks... Good guys and bad guys, real Lone
551 Ranger stuff – even though, soon enough, I
552 figured out that most bad guys were just
553 regular slobs with a few screws loose.

554 GUNTHER: There's no reason not to leave now, you
555 know. The benefits aren't going to change
556 any.

557 MURPHY: I wouldn't give them the satisfaction. I
558 said I'll leave May first, I'll leave May
559 first. (BEAT) When are you going to call it
560 quits?

561 GUNTHER: I have years to go before full benefits.

562 MURPHY: You don't really need them, do you?

563 GUNTHER: Who've you been talking to? Besides, seems
564 a small price to pay after all this time.

565 MURPHY: (LONG PAUSE) You want to make captain.

566 GUNTHER: I don't know. Maybe. You don't get out
567 much as a captain. I'd miss that. I don't
568 want to end up playing footsy with the
569 selectmen and the chief, figuring out
570 everyone's schedule. I hate that stuff.

571 MURPHY: It has its compensations. (BEAT) I can't
572 think of them, but they gotta be there.
573 (LAUGHS) They told me so. (A LONG PAUSE)
574 Say, how about coming down to Florida with
575 Martha and me? We might could set up a
576 business or something.

577 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) In the past, during bad times,
578 we'd both thought of giving it up and doing
579 something else. But that had been pure
580 escapism. This time, there was something
581 else in his voice. He was serious.

582 GUNTHER: Why Florida?

583 MURPHY: Martha. Turns out that our entire married
584 life, she's hated the winters here.

585 GUNTHER: But she was born in Vermont.

586 MURPHY: What can I say? She has the heart of a
587 beach bunny. Going to live in Florida after
588 I retire is the eleventh of her Ten
589 Commandments. I can't say no, she's put up
590 with me through a lot.

591 GUNTHER: Do you know where you'll go?

592 MURPHY: Yeah. (BEAT) Surprised you, didn't I? You
593 thought you knew everything. (LAUGHS) It's

594 not far from St. Petersburg - a trailer
595 park, but fancy. It's near the water, has a
596 bunch of tennis courts, a pool. Stuff like
597 that. It's okay.

598 GUNTHER: I couldn't do it, Frank. Florida's not my
599 style.

600 SFX: POWER OFF TELEVISION WITH A REMOTE CONTROL

601 MURPHY: Well, hell, I'm not surprised. Just thought
602 I'd offer. You might have been nuts enough
603 to say yes.

604 GUNTHER: What are you going to do down there? You
605 know anybody?

606 MURPHY: Naw, I suppose I'll fish. There's a lot of
607 that going on. And suntans. I might have
608 to work on one of those.

609 MURPHY: (CONT) So what's on your mind? You didn't
610 come over here to shoot the breeze.

611 GUNTHER: I want to dig into the Harris case.

612 MURPHY: Why?

613 GUNTHER: Because somebody else already has. It's
614 pretty clear Reitz, Philips, and Wodiska
615 were set up. I want to find out why.

616 MURPHY: Got any theories?

617 GUNTHER: Not really. Maybe it's revenge against the
618 jury by some friend of Davis's, or maybe one
619 of the jury is after all the others. Or one
620 is the target and the rest are a smoke
621 screen. The one man who stood out during
622 the trial, who dragged his feet when it came
623 to convicting, is the only one dead so far.

624 MURPHY: And what's that tell you?

625 GUNTHER: Not a thing.

626 MURPHY: You weren't here when we busted Davis, were
627 you?

628 GUNTHER: I was on vacation. I was here for all the
629 rest.

630

630 MURPHY: Seems to me a man who's being held in
631 solitary confinement for his own protection
632 would have a tough time rounding up friends
633 to settle his scores for him.

634 GUNTHER: Davis is in solitary? Why?

635 MURPHY: Because in this state, being a black man,
636 he's on the far side of the moon. There's
637 nobody in that jail who doesn't want to take
638 a poke at him just for the novelty of it.

639 GUNTHER: What's he still doing in Vermont? Shouldn't
640 he be in some federal jug by now?

641 MURPHY: Red tape. Maybe it's crowding or something.
642 I do know the locals would love to get rid
643 of him.

644 GUNTHER: How do you know all this? I thought you
645 hated this case.

646 MURPHY: Captain's prerogative. (BEAT) You gotten any
647 word on the insurance angle yet - for
648 Philips' grieving widow?

649 GUNTHER: Yeah, he had life - a hundred thousand
650 dollars. Not much considering his assets.

651 MURPHY: Which were?

652 GUNTHER: Close to a million. I don't think there's
653 anything there, like I said before.

654 MURPHY: What about Reitz's neighbors? Anyone see
655 anything?

656 GUNTHER: They don't even admit hearing the shotgun
657 blast.

658 MURPHY: And Reitz's daughter. What about her?

659 GUNTHER: I don't know. What about her?

660 MURPHY: The report said they didn't get along. Did
661 you interview her?

662 GUNTHER: Not yet.

663 MURPHY: How about everyone living on and around
664 Estabrook? Did anyone see Woll get mugged?

665 GUNTHER: Not that we've found.

666 MURPHY: How about the guy with the mask?

667 GUNTHER: Nope.

668 MURPHY: Did you ask Woll if he pissed anyone off
669 recently?

670 GUNTHER: No. I will, though.

671 MURPHY: So you think the man who roused Woll also
672 arranged for Reitz to kill Phillips, and
673 that he did all that because he wants to

674 draw attention to the Kimberly Harris case.
675 Is that right?

676 GUNTHER: It's a possibility. The jury connection
677 goes beyond coincidence - at least, I think
678 so.

679 MURPHY: It's also possible that Reitz's daughter
680 hates her mom, that Mrs. Philips was sick of
681 playing second fiddle to a dog, and that
682 Woll rubbed some guy the wrong way, maybe
683 even Henry Wodiska. (BEAT) Did you see
684 tonight's news? At six o'clock?

685 GUNTHER: No.

686 MURPHY: They carried the Reitz shooting... The
687 ball's beginning to roll. If we don't do
688 something fast, we're going to get buried.
689 The way I see it, we've got enough on our
690 hands finding the guy who made Reitz pull
691 the trigger without digging up old news.

692 GUNTHER: Is that a subtle way of telling me not to
693 touch the Harris thing?

694 MURPHY: (GROANS) It's been a long day. Do what you
695 have to, Joe, but keep it under your hat and
696 make damn sure you keep your priorities
697 straight.

698 MURPHY: (CONT) A lot of our own people were happy to
699 see Davis go down. If they find out you're
700 digging into it, you're going to start
701 feeling the heat, even if you tie it in with
702 what's going on now. And if the press
703 catches a single whiff, we'll really be
704 screwed. You've told everyone to keep their
705 mouths shut?

706 GUNTHER: I think I convinced Wodiska. Woll's the
707 only one I can order. Will you back me up
708 on Harris?

709 MURPHY: My backing isn't worth diddly these days.

710 GUNTHER: Will you do it anyway?

711 MURPHY: You haven't convinced me yet.

712 GUNTHER: All right.

713 SFX: GUNTHER GETS UP FROM CHAIR AND TAKES A STEP

714 GUNTHER: See you tomorrow, Frank.

715 MURPHY: Hey.

716 GUNTHER: Yeah?

717 MURPHY: I'll be thinking about you in Florida.

718 GUNTHER: Sure.

719 MUSIC: GUNTHER EXIT THEME BEGINS TO RISE UP

720 SFX: TV FLICKED ON AS STEPS WALK OFF. DOOR OPENS,
721 STEPS ACROSS SNOW, THEN CAR DOOR OPENS,
722 SLAMS, ENGINE STARTS.

723 GUNTHER: (NARRATING) Florida. (LAUGHS) As much as I
724 hated to admit it, part of me was wishing
725 Frank was already there.

726 MUSIC: GUNTHER EXIT THEME UP, ESTABLISH

727 ANNOUNCER: Credits.