"LIKE SWEET AND SUBTLE FIRE"

The Sheridan Tapes - Season 02, Episode 37 Recording Draft - February 27, 2021

by

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Based on story and characters from "Homestead on the Corner" By Trevor Van Winkle

Copyright 2021 Homestead on the Corner 1. INT. BILL TYLER'S APARTMENT - EVENING - OCTOBER 31, 2019

A small police radio crackles to life on the living room table.

DISPATCHER

(over radio)

All units be advised, 10-53 at Second and Braddock.

NED LEROUX

(over radio)

10-4 Dispatch. They need any more help over there?

DISPATCHER

(over radio)

Negative 2-21, just a bit of a fender bender.

NED LEROUX

10-3, I'll check it out.

A wash of static.

DISPATCHER

All units in the vicinity of North Walford, 10-70 reported, repeat, 10-70 in the North Walford vicinity.

Bill stirs slightly in his seat, turning the radio down nervously.

ROBERT QUINCY

(calling from next room)

Bill? Could you come help me with my costume? I can't get this last zip up.

BILL TYLER

(calling back)

I'll be there in a minute!

ROBERT QUINCY

(slightly annoyed)

Are you still listening to that thing? Come on -- it's Halloween night, just leave it!

BILL TYLER

(calling back)

I'm still on call for another three minutes. After that, I'm all yours.

ROBERT QUINCY

(giving up)

Well... Alright. Guess I'll figure this out myself...

Bill settles back into his seat. He checks his watch quickly, THEN SIGHS.

BILL TYLER

(muttering to himself,

scolding)

What the hell are you doing, Bill? You've got the night off for the first time in weeks. They're not going to call you in now.

Bill stands up and starts to walk towards the back bedroom. Someone knocks sharply on the door, stopping him.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

(slightly annoyed)

What? Trick or treaters already? I don't even have my costume on yet. Guess I'll just have to say I'm dressed up as a cop again this yea--

Bill opens the door, cutting off when he sees who's there.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

(confused)

Ned? What are you doing here?

NED LEROUX

(slightly excited)

Just got a call from Morrison. Another Code Grey, up near Shamson. He wants us to handle it personally.

BILL TYLER

Us?

NED LEROUX

Yeah, he asked me to come get you. Why, is that a problem?

BILL TYLER

I'm off the clock in like...

(checks watch)

30 seconds. Rob and I are spending Halloween together.

NED LEROUX

(suddenly awkward)

Oh. Well, I wouldn't want to interrupt your plans.

BILL TYLER

(relieved)

Thanks.

NED LEROUX

(slightly pressuring him)
But uh... I don't really know who
else to take with me.

BILL TYLER

(trying to wiggle out of this)

Well, Sergeant Nichols has been out on a couple of these calls. And Martinez -- well, she hasn't, but I'd trust her with just about --

NED LEROUX

(trying to clarify)
What I mean is... I don't want to
go out there with anyone else. If
something... Weird happens out
there -- I want to know you'll have
my back.

BILL TYLER

(trying to back away)

Ned, I really --

NED LEROUX

(flat)

15 seconds.

BILL TYLER

(confused)

Huh?

NED LEROUX

(final offer)

You've got 15 seconds 'til your shift ends. You don't say yes, then I'll go out there on my own.

BILL TYLER

(conflicted)

I -- Okay, fine.

(calling back to Rob)

Rob! They called me out again, I need to go!

ROBERT QUINCY

(emerging from bedroom)

Seriously? Isn't your shift...

(sees Ned, awkward)

Oh. Uh -- Hi.

NED LEROUX

(charming)

Hi. Robert, right? You work in dispatch?

ROBERT QUINCY

Uh... Worked. I quit last week.

NED LEROUX

(casual)

Huh. That's a shame. Bill didn't say anything about that.

BILL TYLER

(trying to defuse this)
We just got another -- another

weird call to check out. I should be back in less than an hour.

ROBERT QUINCY

(concealing worry and

jealousy)

Yeah... Okay. Be safe out there.

BILL TYLER

(awkward, a little too

chipper)

Always am!

Bill steps outside with Ned, closing the door behind him.

NED LEROUX

(slightly mocking)

He seems nice.

BILL TYLER

(annoyed, tired)

Knock it off, Ned. Let's just get this done.

CT.TCK.

2. EXT. SHAMSON MINE STATE PARK - PATH - LATER

Bill's body-cam starts rolling. A wash of static fades into the cold, windy night out in the desert.

(worried)

What are you doing out here? I thought you were staying in town?

KATE SHERIDAN

(making excuses)

I'm just -- chasing down some leads. I think Anna might have been out here at one point.

BILL TYLER

(slightly scolding

worried)

So you came out into the middle of the desert after dark? Do you have any idea how dangerous that is?

KATE SHERIDAN

(done with this)

I can handle myself, Lieutenant Tyler.

NED LEROUX

(trying to end this

discussion)

Be that as it may — the mine is closed to the public. I'm sure you have a good reason to be out here this late, but it'll have to wait until tomorrow —

KATE SHERIDAN

(incredulous)

Are you kidding me? I've been trying to chase Bill down all week! You think I'm just going to leave now?

NED LEROUX

(flat)

Yes, you are.

BILL TYLER

Come on Ned, I should probably just talk to her for a --

Bill is cut off by a keening howl/wail in the distance... An almost human sound, and definitely not a coyote. All three of them fall dead silent.

KATE SHERIDAN

(whispered, terrified)

What the hell was that?

(trying to make her understand without sounding crazy)

Shit -- Mrs. Sheridan, I don't know quite how to tell you this, but... There might be something out here that -- isn't quite normal. A hiker called 911 about a creature they saw out here, and --

KATE SHERIDAN

(realizing)

You're out here hunting ghosts, aren't you?

BILL TYLER

(flustered, nervous)

What? No, no, of course not, don't be silly -- it's just that --

NED LEROUX

(rolling his eyes)

Give it a rest, Bill. She knows.

BILL TYLER

(confused)

You do?

As if in answer, another howl echoes between the canyon walls.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

(trying to take charge)

Dammit -- Sheridan, get behind us. Ned, we need to get her out of here, now.

NED LEROUX

(nodding)

Agreed.

Ned and Bill draw their guns, cocking them. A moment later, a third pistol is cocked.

BILL TYLER

(surprised)

What the hell -- Where did you get that?

KATE SHERIDAN

I bought it here in Oslow -- and before you ask, yes, I do have a concealed carry permit.

(skeptical)

In Nevada, or --?

NED LEROUX

(taking charge)

Bill, focus, Mrs. Sheridan, we're going to move back down that canyon and make our way towards the trailhead. Can you cover our 6?

KATE SHERIDAN

(slightly unsure)

I think so.

NED LEROUX

(making sure she's ready)
You think, or you know?

KATE SHERIDAN

(momentary hesitation)

I've got it covered.

BILL TYLER

(worried muttering)

Oh, Jesus Christ --

NED LEROUX

(order)

Let's move.

The three begin to walk back down the canyon when another howl comes from that direction. All of them freeze mid-step.

BILL TYLER

Shit, what was that --?

NED LEROUX

That way's no good. Bill, do you know if any of these other trails lead to the parking lot?

BILL TYLER

I -- No, I don't.

NED LEROUX

(problem solving)

Mrs. Sheridan, where did you park your car?

KATE SHERIDAN

What? Oh, uh -- just past the mine, down that way.

NED LEROUX

Can you get us back there in the dark?

KATE SHERIDAN

(slightly insulted)

Of course I can.

NED LEROUX

Okay -- Sheridan, you lead. Tyler, you stay up front with her, and I'll watch our 6. How far is it?

KATE SHERIDAN

About a ten minute walk, give or take. I was going pretty slowly.

NED LEROUX

Alright. Lead the way.

All three of them begin marching down the canyon. A faint static slowly rises on the tape, along with the wind.

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

Canyon up ahead. Check your corners.

BILL TYLER

(looking down the canyon)

Clear.

KATE SHERIDAN

(uneasy)

Yeah, same over here. Anything behind us?

NED LEROUX

Not yet -- just keep moving.

They continue down the canyon. After a few moments, a small rockfall breaks the silence. Sharp movement as Bill raises one hand, and their footsteps stop.

KATE SHERIDAN

(whispered)

What is it?

BILL TYLER

(whispered)

Rockfall, just down the canyon. I think there's something up on the ridge.

KATE SHERIDAN

(whispered, confused)

I don't see anything.

BILL TYLER

(whispered)

I only saw it for a second. Maybe it --

Another howl, closer than before.

NED LEROUX

(yelled)

Run!

All three of them break into a sprint, scrambling slightly in the loose sand. Kate fires blindly behind her.

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

(angry)

Watch your fire, goddamnit!

KATE SHERIDAN

(panicked)

Sorry, sorry!

BILL TYLER

I can see the mine up ahead! Which way is your --

Bill suddenly stops, causing Kate to run into him. A faint crackling is heard.

KATE SHERIDAN

(annoyed)

Oof! Hey, what's going on? Why did

you --

(sees what he sees)

Oh, shit.

BILL TYLER

(horrified, stunned)

It's... It's burning. It's just

standing there, burn --

NED LEROUX

(urgent)

What are you waiting for Tyler, an invitation? Just shoot the damned thing!

Bill shakes off his stupor and starts firing, along with Ned. THE CREATURE HISSES, then scampers back, either crawling on four legs or limping badly.

(stunned)

What the hell was that thing?

KATE SHERIDAN

(stunned, quoting Anna)

"Creatures of fire, stone, and redhot iron --"

NED LEROUX

(confused)

Excuse me?

KATE SHERIDAN

Oh, just -- it's from something my sister wrote about this place. Something the old miners used to see in the dark.

NED LEROUX

(slightly dismissive)

Ri-ight. Are we close?

KATE SHERIDAN

Yeah -- my car should be just over that ridge over --

Another howl. The second creature stumbles out of the dark, flesh burning and sizzling.

BILL TYLER

Shit, it's the other one --

NED LEROUX

Sheridan, clear the line of fire, now!

Kate scrambles out of the way, and Ned and Bill start shooting again, emptying their weapons. This time, however, the creature doesn't flee.

BILL TYLER

(worried)

Uh, Ned... It's not running.

NED LEROUX

(starting to sound afraid)

Reload!

Both of them eject their magazines and load a new one before firing again. Just as they do...

KATE SHERIDAN

(urgent, panicked)

Bill!

BILL TYLER

(worried)

What?

(sees it)

Shit -- Ned! Ned, look!

NED LEROUX

(fearful, but almost

annoyed)

Oh, fuck me. I thought we scared that one off?

BILL TYLER

Apparently not!

NED LEROUX

Sheridan, is there another way to get to your car?

KATE SHERIDAN

(shaking her head)

Not with these things blocking the trail.

NED LEROUX

Dammit.

(notices something)

What's that building over there?

KATE SHERIDAN

What? Oh, that's the entrance to the mine, where the elevator used to be.

NED LEROUX

Would they keep explosives in there?

KATE SHERIDAN

(surprised)

Explosives? Well... Maybe? I don't know.

NED LEROUX

(to himself)

Not like we have a lot of options.

(order)

Sheridan, Tyler, go get that door open. I'll cover you.

Got it. Come on!

Bill and Kate run towards the entrance to the mine. Ned takes the occasional potshot at the creatures in the distance.

KATE SHERIDAN

Dammit, they've got it chained shut. I wonder if --

BILL TYLER

Hold on -- the wood looks pretty old. I should be able to just --

Bill grabs the handle and GRUNTS as he pulls the door. The wood holding the chain to the door splinters, and the rusty hinges squeak open.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

(yelled)

Ned! Get in here!

Ned takes two final shots and then runs, PANTING AS HE enters the ${\tt room.}$

3. INT. SHAMSON MINE STATE PARK - MINE - CONTINUOUS

BILL TYLER

Now what? They're still coming!

KATE SHERIDAN

(urgent)

Get back from the door!

BILL TYLER

What are you -- Whoah!

Bill jumps back just as Kate topples a nearby shelf across the doorway, creating a makeshift barricade.

KATE SHERIDAN

Come on, help me move more of this stuff! We've got to block the door!

BILL TYLER

Are you crazy? We'll be trapped in here!

KATE SHERIDAN

Would you rather have them get in here?

Both beasts howl from just outside. All three of them fire a handful of rounds, and the creatures scamper away, frightened by the sound.

NED LEROUX

Sheridan, help me with this thing --

KATE SHERIDAN

Yeah, I've got it -- one, two, THREE!

KATE AND NED GRUNT WITH THE STRAIN AS THEY LIFT, then toss the cabinet in front of the door. Bill grabs a bundle of metal tools, clattering them down onto the pile to fill the gaps.

NED LEROUX

(slightly out of breath)
Alright -- that should hold them
for now.

KATE SHERIDAN

(worried)

For now?

BILL TYLER

(at the same time)

Should?

NED LEROUX

(annoyed)

Best case, it keeps them out of here until dawn. Whatever these -- things are, I doubt they'll stick around during the daytime.

BILL TYLER

(angry)

Great. Great! So much for Halloween with Rob. Thanks, Sheridan.

KATE SHERIDAN

(confused, hurt)

How is this my fault?

NED LEROUX

(not wanting to listen to them argue)

Look, Bill, ease off --

BILL TYLER

(growing anger)

You know what? No. No, I don't think I will.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

I've got every right to be pissed off at her. You came out here in the middle of the night when you knew full well something like this might happen, and you just assumed you'd -- what, that you could shoot your way out of it with your little .22 like Annie fucking Oakley?

KATE SHERIDAN

(firing back)

Don't take that tone with me. This isn't my first time dealing with shit like this. I know what I'm doing.

BILL TYLER

(firing back)

And what makes you think this one couldn't have gone wrong? Just because your sister walked away from stuff like this all the time, you think you can --

KATE SHERIDAN

(snapping)

Don't you dare bring my sister into this! You have no idea who she was, and you don't know anything about me!

NED LEROUX

(tired, commanding)

Okay, enough! God, you two are starting to give me a headache. Bill, am I missing something here?

BILL TYLER

(trying to conceal)

Oh, uh -- No. Nothing important, anyways.

NED LEROUX

(unconvinced)

Uh huh. Kate?

BILL TYLER

(sudden alarm)

You -- you don't have to tell him anything, Kate.

KATE SHERIDAN

(SCOFFS)

Oh now you're worried.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)

Why shouldn't I tell him? I have as much reason to trust him as I do you.

(to Ned)

I'm here looking for my sister.

NED LEROUX

(surprised)

Anna?

KATE SHERIDAN

Yeah. She disappeared somewhere outside Oslow about a year ago. And I think she's still alive.

NED LEROUX

(confused, to Bill)

Why didn't you want her to tell me that?

BILL TYLER

(giving up the pretense)
It's not that. She's also looking
for --

(beat, hesitation)
She's looking for Sam Bailey, too.

NED LEROUX

(surprised)

Oh.

KATE SHERIDAN

Oh, what? What aren't you telling me? And why is everyone so scared to talk about him?

NED LEROUX

(hesitant)

Mrs. Sheridan -- Sam Bailey was the detective assigned to your sister's case when.. Well, when an entity calling itself "the Echo" tried to impersonate Anna and take her place. When he figured it out, Bailey went AWOL and made some kind of deal with another power to destroy it. We still don't know what the terms of that deal were, but since then, the rate of supernatural incidents has massively increased.

NED LEROUX (CONT'D)

If we could find Bailey we might have a clue, but as far as anyone in the department knows, he skipped town six months ago and hasn't been seen since.

KATE SHERIDAN

(stunned)

You're sure the Echo's... That he destroyed it? Completely?

NED LEROUX

(confused)

You knew about it?

KATE SHERIDAN

Anna and I ran into it a couple of times. The last one was... (notices Bill's face)

Bill? Are you okay?

BILL TYLER

(distracted, obvious lie) What? Oh, yeah -- I'm fine.

NED LEROUX

(curious)

Sam was your last partner before I got here, right? I hear you two were pretty close.

BILL TYLER

(nervous lie)

Not really -- I mean, he was kind of an asshole, and I tried to make friends with him, but he... He, uh -

KATE SHERIDAN

(comforting)

It's okay, Bill. You don't have to
talk about it if you don't want to.
 (to Ned)

Ned, could you give us a moment?

NED LEROUX

(unsure)

Uh... Sure, yeah. I'll -- I'll go check around back, make sure there's no other way in.

Ned walks off further into the building. After a moment, Kate leans in.

KATE SHERIDAN

(urgent whisper)

What happened to Sam?

BILL TYLER

(surprised)

Huh?

KATE SHERIDAN

(insistent)

What happened to him?

BILL TYLER

(SCOFFS)

What happened to "you don't have to talk about it?"

KATE SHERIDAN

(pushing, needing answers)
That was to get Ned out of the
room. You clearly have something
you need to say. And you clearly
don't trust him half as much as you
pretend to.

BILL TYLER

(slightly insulted)

I do trust him. He's a good cop. I know he's got my back.

KATE SHERIDAN

That might be true, but that just means there's something you know that you don't want him to tell your boss. Something about Sam.

Bill hesitates, THEN SIGHS, resigned.

BILL TYLER

(slightly hesitant)

Morrison turned on him. After what happened with the Echo, he and I and a couple other officers raided his apartment to look for Anna's tapes. He told me to get rid of Sam, so... I did.

KATE SHERIDAN

(stunned)

Did you... Did you kill him?

BILL TYLER

(surprised)

What?

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

No, no -- I mean, I'm guessing that's what Morrison wanted me to do, but I just... Got him out of there. Hid him somewhere safe.

KATE SHERIDAN

(hopeful)

Where?

BILL TYLER

I -- I can't --

Before Bill can finish, Ned runs back into the room, PANTING AND COUGHING SLIGHTLY.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

(worried)

Ned? Ned, are you alright?

NED LEROUX

(BETWEEN COUGHS)

We need to get out of here. Now.

KATE SHERIDAN

What's wrong?

NED LEROUX

Can't you hear that?

All three of them go silent. It's faint, but there -- the sound of dry wood crackling in a fire.

BILL TYLER

Shit.

NED LEROUX

The fire's already spread through the back half of the building. We need to move this stuff, now!

Without another word, all three of them turn and start pushing the debris away from the door, GRUNTING AND GROANING WITH THE EFFORT.

BILL TYLER

Ned, get on the other side of this case!

NED LEROUX

Got it, I've got it! One, two, three --

The creatures howl from just outside. Kate, Ned, and Bill drop what they're holding and retreat further into the room.

(terrified)

We're trapped!

NED LEROUX

(growing worry)

There's got to be another way out of here. Sheridan, you read about this place. Anything that might help?

KATE SHERIDAN

(uncertain)

I think the only other way out of here is -- down there.

BILL TYLER

(FEARFUL, WILD LAUGH)

Down the mineshaft? Are you crazy?

KATE SHERIDAN

(snapping back)

I didn't say we should go that way, I just said that it's --

Kate trails off, realizing something.

NED LEROUX

(concerned)

What? What is it?

KATE SHERIDAN

(quoting, realization)

"Still trying desperately to return to their posts and pay off their debts..."

BILL TYLER

(dismissing Kate)

Come on, Ned -- if we move fast enough, we might be able to shoot our way out of here.

NED LEROUX

Did you see how many rounds they already took?

BILL TYLER

(desperate)

You have a better idea?

KATE SHERIDAN

(a little softly)

I might.

Bill and Ned turn to look at her, surprised.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)

(hesitant)

I think we should let them in.

BILL TYLER

(incredulous)

Let them in? Jesus, are all you Sheridans completely nuts?

KATE SHERIDAN

(getting excited)

I know what they're trying to do now! We thought they were trying to stop us from getting out, but what if they're just trying to get in here!

A momentary pause.

NED LEROUX

(urgent)

Talk fast -- We don't have much time.

BILL TYLER

You don't seriously think --

KATE SHERIDAN

(explaining quickly)

Anna said that the miners who were trapped in the caves are still bound to Shamson, trying to pay off their debts to the mining company. And those things were always behind us, moving towards the mine. What's behind that canyon we started in?

BILL TYLER

(realizing, stunned)

The ruins of Shamson.

KATE SHERIDAN

(nodding)

Where the miners used to live. Don't you see?

NED LEROUX

(unsure)

There's a lot of suppositions in there, Mrs. Sheridan --

KATE SHERIDAN

(challenging him)

As opposed to your plan, which assumes bullets will magically start hurting them now?

Neither of them answer.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)

(taking charge)

Bill, help me move this last shelf, then get out of the way as fast as you can.

BILL TYLER

(confused)

But if they're not trying to hurt us --

KATE SHERIDAN

Doesn't mean they won't if they feel threatened -- or that they can't burn us on accident. Ready?

BILL TYLER

(definitely not)

R -- Ready.

KATE SHERIDAN

One, two, three, lift!

KATE AND BILL GRUNT AS THEY LIFT THE HEAVY SHELF, then drop it to the side and scurry out of the way. Outside the door, THE CREATURE WHIMPERS SLIGHTLY IN CONFUSION -- and then they both shamble in, the sound of burning skin filling the room.

NED LEROUX

(hushed, urgent)

Steady... No sudden moves,

anyone...

The creatures pause, GROWLING LOW IN THEIR THROATS.

KATE SHERIDAN

(urgent whisper)

Ned! Ned, put your gun down!

NED LEROUX

What?

KATE SHERIDAN

You're scaring them!

NED LEROUX

I'm scaring them?

BILL TYLER

(whispered command)

Ned, just do it!

Ned hesitates, then holsters his sidearm. The creatures stop growling, then continue shambling towards the mineshaft. They pause at the edge of it -- then step over, vanishing with a rush of fire.

BILL TYLER (CONT'D)

(stunned)

Holy shit, did they just --

KATE SHERIDAN

(quoting)

"Return to their posts?" Yeah...
The only way they can with the elevator broken.

NED LEROUX

(nervous)

Uh, Sheridan...?

The crackling of the fire is louder now, and a burning timber suddenly falls from the roof nearby.

BILL TYLER

Everybody move!

KATE SHERIDAN

Come on, my car's this way!

4. EXT. SHAMSON MINE STATE PARK - PATH - CONTINUOUS

All three of them sprint out of the mine, the sound of fire even louder outside.

BILL TYLER

(as he runs)

Should we call someone, or --

NED LEROUX

(calling back, running)

Too late -- no way to get an engine out here in time.

KATE SHERIDAN

(urgent, running)

Less talking, more running!

Behind them, the elevator tower cracks and falls with a thunderous crash of metal and wood. A moment later, Kate pulls out her keys and unlocks her van, climbing inside and starting the engine.

5. INT. SHAMSON MINE STATE PARK - KATE'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Bill and Ned scramble into the backseat, slamming the doors.

NED LEROUX

(urgent)

Go, go!

Kate puts the car in reverse and backs up quickly, then shifts to drive and accelerates away.

KATE SHERIDAN

(winded)

Everyone okay?

After a moment of silence, BILL STARTS LAUGHING, wildly. NED CHUCKLES, content but reserved. Kate holds out for a moment, then STARTS LAUGHING WITH THEM.

BILL TYLER

(deliriously relieved)

We're alive! How the hell are we still alive?

NED LEROUX

(quietly happy)

Luck... And no small measure of quick thinking on Mrs. Sheridan's part. Much obliged to you.

KATE SHERIDAN

(happy)

Please, just call me Kate, Ned. Mrs. Sheridan makes me think of my mother.

NED LEROUX

Well -- we both owe you one, Kate. Thank you.

KATE SHERIDAN

(hopeful)

Could that "one" count towards help with my investigation, by any chance?

NED LEROUX

(nodding)

Absolutely. Whatever help I can be, that is.

KATE SHERIDAN

What about you, Bill?

BILL TYLER

(too grateful to say no)
Abso-frickin-lutely. If you hadn't
been there, then I'd be a...

(realizing)

Oh, shit -- Rob must be worried sick about me. I should... I need to go home.

NED LEROUX

(mood souring)

And Morrison will be wanting me to report in. Damn. You mind a rain check for sometime this weekend? Maybe... Saturday?

KATE SHERIDAN

(masking disappointment)
I guess I can wait until then. What
are you thinking?

BILL TYLER

(excited, almost
 mischievous)

Karaoke, anyone?

BEEP. The recording ends.

ROLL END THEME AND CREDITS