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Episode 16: On Trial
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The next day, Christopher got through serving his two-day suspension for attacking some unruly customers at Rocky's Super Gourmet. It was 8 AM; he turns on the TV to see what has been going on in the news. Unlucky for him, on the news station, he sees that Olivia Howell got out of prison. He was surprised and shocked to hear that.

Ruth: What's wrong, Christopher?

Christopher: Olivia's out of prison.

Ruth: She is?

Christopher: Yes. I'm sorry if you're surprised by these terms of events; just try to stay away from her at all costs.

Ruth: How could you say that? She is - - -

Christopher: No, she's not! My mother died five years ago; you may have sentimental values with her, but she's not my mother. I left Delaware because of her; I was almost killed by her because she failed to help me out. She had a shitload of money to burn for those designer dresses and cocaine.

Lisa: Christopher.

Christopher: Just listen to me; DO NOT associate yourselves with Olivia Howell. She's far beyond help and I fucking mean it, too. (goes to the bathroom to shower himself.)

Then, Maxelle and Iris appear.

Iris: What's with him?

Lisa: Olivia got out of prison and he's mad at that.

Maxelle: I don't blame him. Anyway, try not worry about his anger between his mother. He needs to realize that Olivia "is" his mother - instead of an invalid.

Lisa: Maxelle, I'm scared of what will boil over with Christopher.

Christopher was feeling really angry with himself for not killing Olivia when he had the chance. In his flashback, Derek was able to bail Christopher out of prison. But Olivia was chopping vegetables in a menacing way.

Christopher: I'm sorry, mom.

Olivia: You damn right you are. What the hell were you thinking?!! I can't believe I wasted all my money on a dropout.

Derek: It wasn't his fault, Olivia.

Olivia: Derek, shut up! Christopher, why did you do that? Did you actually think you could get away with this without going unpunished?

Christopher: What did you want me to do?! Starve to death?! I needed money from you and you didn't give me any. I had to do the unthinkable in order to pay off some of my student debt.

Derek: Olivia, why didn't you help him out?

Olivia: He needs to learn on his own two feet what "the real world" is like. Better yet, why won't I show it to you!

Olivia tried to attack Christopher with a carving knife. Derek tried to stop her from approaching him, but had his wrist cut by the knife. Out of fear and anger, Christopher's Raiken powers awoke and Olivia was blown out of the house. Christopher was feeling angered with himself; he knew he had to move on from that incident, but it was hard. He began to cry in the shower.

Hours passed, it was 9 AM. Christopher is preparing to go back to work, but his iPhone rings. It was Hilda Quinn.

Christopher: Hilda? (he answers the iPhone.) Hello, Christopher Mason speaking.

Hilda: Hi, it's been a long time. So, how's life treating you?

Christopher: I have been trying to find myself for the past 5 years. It's a good thing I can finally put what happened at Delaware behind me. Why have you called me?

Hilda: It's Michael Lane Ross. We arrested him for racketeering.

Christopher: Racketeering? Wow! I think that's good news I like to hear.

Hilda: The problem is that he's on trial for those charges.

Christopher: Ok, what do you want me to do?

Hilda: Testify against him. You're the only person who can bring him down.

Christopher: Ok, I'll do it. But me testifying isn't going to bring down Michael Ross.

Hilda: Ok. Bye.

Christopher: Bye. (hangs up the phone.)

Then, Ruth appears.

Ruth: Who was it?

Christopher: It was my old classmate from Delaware University, Hilda Quinn.

Ruth: She was a star on Delaware's basketball team. I think she played point guard and I was the power forward on that team.

Christopher: I see. I'll go on ahead and bring my crew over to the Providence Courthouse; I'm quite positive that bastard's going to roast in prison. That will definitely make my day.

Ruth: (looks at him angrily.)

Christopher: What?! Why are you looking at me like that?!

Ruth: I can't believe you, Christopher. Why do you have an ill heart towards Michael Ross?

Christopher: I don't; I just don't like him, that's all.

Ruth: (slaps Christopher. she was mad.) Christopher, I'm ashamed of you. You say that you're finding out who you are, but your pride and ignorance is overshadowing it.

Christopher: And what's that supposed to be?! (Ruth walks away from him.) Hey, I'm talking to you, idiot!!

Maxelle: Christopher, that's enough. You need to chill out.

Christopher: (tries to hold back his anger.) Sorry, Maxelle; I guess my supplements for controlling rage isn't working. I'm heading to the Providence Courthouse to see Michael Ross go to jail. Did you call the others about this?

Maxelle: Ruth and Lisa were able to send text messages to the Meguras and Koya; they were unable to reach the Myles.

Christopher: Seems fair enough.

Christopher and his crew appear at the Providence Courthouse; his crew consists of Maxelle, Ruth, Iris, Hanna, Lisa, Kori, Koya and the Meguras. He was surprised to see Hilda Quinn near the entrance to the courtroom.

Hilda: Hi, Chris.

Christopher: Hello. Where's Michael Ross?

Hilda: He's inside to give the judge his plea.

Christopher: Ok, let's go inside, you guys.

Christopher and his crew enter the courtroom. Inside, Michael Ross, along with his younger brother, Glenn Ross, and his lawyer, Violet Milton approach the judge to give his plea.

???: Michael Lane Ross is charged with racketeering. How does the defendant plea?

Michael: Not guilty, your honor.

Judge: Ok. Do you have a settlement?

Violet: No, your honor.

Christopher and the judge was surprised by them not accept a settlement with their case.

Judge: This is a first in my courtroom. Are you sure you want to go through with this, Ms. Milton?

Violet: Yes, I spoke with Michael Ross about this agreement.

Judge: Ok. The case against the people versus Michael Ross will begin at 10 AM today. Court adjourned.

Christopher was shocked that Violet did that. But Michael Ross was looking at him as he was walking along with Violet.

Ruth: What's wrong, Christopher?

Christopher: Nothing, I guess. I can't believe I entered the courtroom without appointing a lawyer for myself.

Kori: I can be your lawyer.

Christopher: You? Ha, don't be ridiculous.

Kori: I don't know why your laughing at me; I quite positive the Providence Police may come after you for what happened at Delaware - they may charge you with racketeering as well.

Christopher: I'm sorry for questioning you; how long have you been studying the law?

Kori: Two years.

Christopher: Ok, I'll take your word for it. I'm counting on you to help me bring down Michael Jackson.

At 10 AM, the trial of "The People versus Michael Lane Ross" is in session. Kori had some questions to ask Glenn Gary Ross about his ties with his big brother.

Kori: Is it true that you were in Delaware University the same time my client and Michael Ross were?

Glenn: Yes, I was a sophomore during that time.

Kori: What were you doing? Were you involved with betting against your respected university?

Violet: Objection.

Judge: I'll allow it. Answer the question, Mr. Ross.

Glenn: Yes, I did, but I didn't accept the money.

Kori: (sees that Glenn was telling the truth.) No further questions.

Judge: Ms. Milton.

Violet: No questions, your honor.

Next, Michael Ross was on the stand. Kori had some questions to ask him about his betting scandal that derailed Delaware University's Athletic Department. They faced the death penalty - a year after Michael and Christopher were expelled.

Kori: Mr. Ross, is it true that you were expelled along with my client for betting against Delaware University?

Michael: I spent two weeks in that hellhouse for what I did. Ha, I was even your client's cellmate.

Kori: Ok. Do you mind telling me what sports you betted on?

Michael: Football, basketball, lacrosse and even soccer.

Kori: How much did you earn from those bets against Delaware?

Violet: Objection. Argumentative.

Judge: Sustained. Rephrase the question, Ms. Hamatsu.

Kori: Ok. How much did you earn from those bets? From what I heard, you happen to be a multi-millionaire from stealing from a university like Delaware.

Violet: Objection, your honor. She's harassing my client.

Kori: Ok. No further questions.

Judge: This court will have a short recess; we will continue at 1 PM. Court adjourned.

Christopher knew that something was up; he had to take the stand and he knew that the Ross brothers were scheming something against him. Then, Lisa appears along with Hanna, Ruth, Koya, Kori and the Meguras.

Lisa: What's wrong, Christopher?

Christopher: Nothing, at the moment. I'm becoming suspicious of what the Ross brothers are planning. The jury is visibly on their side.

Kori: How? I was able to see that Glenn was telling the truth, but Michael - - - I have no idea.

Christopher: I guess I'm going to have to take the stand; I have to end this today.

Then the Ross brothers appear with Violet to see how Christopher was feeling. As you can see, he was angry with them.

Michael: Well if it isn't the ugly duckling. How are you feeling today? It seems like you're bent out of shape for having the jury on our side.

Christopher: What the hell are you talking about? I'm just fine.

Michael: You sure don't look like it. Is there a problem with how we're handling this?

Christopher: No. I suggest you get away from me; I'm about to take the stand to bring the jury on our side.

Michael: Yeah, right. Are you're having a Sociology 101 moment? Too bad you don't have a degree to show for it.

Christopher got mad and tried to attack him; Koya and Ruth had to hold him back.

Christopher: You should feel lucky, you skanky-ass firecracker. I should just kick your ass right here.

Lisa: Please, Christopher, stop.

Michael: I suggest you listen to your pet, coon.

Christopher was getting angry with Michael for saying that. The police had to detain Christopher from attacking Michael Ross. Kori was seeing through Michael's mischief; she knew that he was getting inside his head. After lunch break was over, everyone was in the courtroom and the trial continued.

Kori: Your honor. I would like to have Christopher Louise Mason on the stand.

Judge: Alright. Mr. Mason, come to the stand.

Kori had some questions to ask on his ties with the Ross brothers and the betting scandal that almost created havoc from the Delaware University's Athletic Program.

Kori: So, Christopher. I heard that you were involved in a betting scandal that almost made Delaware University's athletic program defunct.

Christopher: Yes, I was involved.

Kori: How long were you doing this? Betting against your own team?

Christopher: I did it during my sophomore years in college; after we beat Providence's basketball team - I believe that was the final game of the season; I never bet against Delaware's athletic sports again.

Kori: No further questions.

Violet had some questions to ask him.

Violet: You have some nerve saying that; how much money you were able to rake up during your sophomore years in college?

Christopher: I only got \$200 from those winnings.

Violet: Why? Why didn't you get more money from them?

Kori: Objection.

Judge: Sustained.

Christopher: I felt like I was causing your client enough trouble than he's already in. After that loss, I disassociated myself with the Ross brothers.

Violet: Is that so? Were you angry with them for losing those winnings against your own school?!

Kori: Objection!

Violet: You sold out my client; how much money you REALLY got from the Ross brothers?!

Kori: Objection!!

Christopher: That's none of your fucking business, Ms. Milton. I said I gained \$200 from those winnings and I meant that.

Judge: Mr. Mason! Refrain from using profanity in my courtroom! Another outburst like that I'll hold you in contempt of court!

Christopher: I hold myself in contempt for trusting Michael Ross! He's screwing with you guys and you don't even know it!

Violet: No further questions.

At 4 PM, the jury has reached a verdict for Michael Ross's racketeering charges.

Judge: Has the jury reached a verdict?

Jury Member: We have your honor.

Judge: In the case "The People vs. Michael Lane Ross", charges of racketeering, how do you find the defendant?

Jury Member: We find the defendant, Michael Lane Ross, not guilty.

Christopher was not surprised by the verdict.

Kori: What?!! This is bullshit, your honor! How the hell did you not find the defendant guilty of these crimes?!!

Koya and Christopher had to hold Kori back; she was angered that she lost the case.

Judge: There just wasn't enough evidence to overturn it. The next time you use any profane language in my courtroom, you - - - well, you know the rules. Case dismissed.

???: I think this court's in session.

The person had a loaded gun and she shot the judge in his left shoulder. She was just about to shoot at the Ross brothers until somebody shot her from behind. The Ross brothers left the courtroom.

Christopher: Are you alright, Kori and Koya?

Kori: Yeah. (sees the judge.) I'm sorry for losing the case for you.

Christopher: It's alright.

Ruth sees that the assailant was no other than her and Hilda's friend, Calisto Eubanks. This made Christopher really angry with the Ross brothers.

Hanna: You need to calm down.

Christopher: What are you talking about? The Ross brothers got what they wanted.

Ruth: Christopher, wait.

Christopher: Come on, Ruth. Let's just go home; I wasted enough of my fucking time here. (leaves.)

Lisa: Christopher.

Christopher was really upset with the Ross brothers for running away. In the end, he was almost killed all because of his pride and he has no regrets for what happened today; it was a dog-day afternoon for him. Ruth and the others followed him back to his apartment.