

EPISODE TEN

Last Request

WARDEN FRANKLIN KELLY THE PRISON WARDEN

Warden Kelly is a no-nonsense administrator. This is his main scene, in which he tells James that the prison Guard who was killed in the riot, asked that James speak at his funeral. The full answer to why he made this last request is revealed in the next scene, when James presents his eulogy to the entire prison population.

Scene 57 “Last Request”

Graphic: “San Marcus State Prison. The Warden Clarks Office.”

SAN MARCUS STATE PRISON. WARDEN’S OFFICE. DAY.

James is sitting in front of Warden Kelly who is behind his desk. We see his name plaque and title, “Warden Franklin Kelly.”

WARDEN KELLY

So, how well did you know Christopher Howard?

JAMES

Not very well. We had one conversation in my cell.

WARDEN KELLY

I imagine it was a significant one.

JAMES

Yes. He told me about his family.

WARDEN KELLY

You know how they were killed?

JAMES

Yes. He told me.

WARDEN KELLY

By a drunk driver... just like you.

JAMES

(looking down)

Yes. Just like me.

WARDEN KELLY

How did that make you feel?

JAMES

Terrible.

WARDEN KELLY

Yes, I guess it would.

JAMES

Why did you want to see me?...

WARDEN KELLY

It's simple really. Christopher had a final request. It wasn't in a will, he didn't really have anything. We found it in his locker... just a personal note.

JAMES

What did it say?

WARDEN KELLY

He said that if he died, he wanted you to speak at his funeral.

JAMES

(surprised)

Why me?

THE WARDEN KELLY

I don't know. I thought maybe you could tell me.

JAMES

I have no idea.

WARDEN KELLY

As you know, Christopher had lost his family. The way I figure it, we were his family... the whole prison.

JAMES

Yeah, I guess that's right.

WARDEN KELLY

So we are going to hold the funeral here. Everyone will be attending. And we want you to speak.

JAMES

I don't know what I would say?

WARDEN KELLY

Well you had better come up with something. You've got three days.

James' eyes drift off as he considers this request. He looks lost and uncertain. Warden Kelly picks up a folder on his desk and hands it to James.

WARDEN KELLY

I think you should read this.

James takes the folder and looks at it. It says "Christopher Howard. Personal History". The folder has the official prison seal and logo.

JAMES

What is it?

WARDEN KELLY

Just read it. You should know who Christopher was.

James opens the folder and looks at the page. Fade Out.