

# COLD WAR

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SYNOPSIS: The war on drugs and fraud was constant in the 1990s, and Topeka, Kansas saw its share of battles. One woman and her young son find themselves in the center of the fray as their house is raided.

CAST:

Marti (F): 29 - nervous - agitated

Dan (M): 30 - angry - controlling - aggressive

Jason (M): 10 - agitated. - innocent - honest

Agent Dixon (M/F/Non-Binary): 40s - confident - law abiding - KBI Agent

SETTING: Topeka, Kansas

TIME PERIOD: 1990s

*(Lights come up in a run down kitchen in a double wide trailer in Topeka, Kansas. Marti and Dan are in the middle of an argument. Marti is standing looking frightened and Dan is pacing with anger and rage.)*

**Dan:** *(angrily)* Damn it, Marti, you've gotta stop spending money on your kids.

**Marti:** *(yelling with sarcasim)* I thought YOU were a part of this family.

**Dan:** *(yelling back)* You know what I mean.

**Marti:** They need things, Dan. School clothes...school supplies...spending money...

**Dan:** *(yelling)* You're SPENDING like we've got it. WE DON'T. You know that.

**Marti:** *(yelling)* If you had a real job, we wouldn't have to worry.

**Dan:** *(yelling)* You're kidding, right? I don't see you helping out around here. Checks are flying out of here faster than we can keep up.

**Marti:** I'll slow down.

**Dan:** *(aggressively)* You'll stop.

**Marti:** *(standing her ground)* Or what?

**Dan:** *(aggressively in Marti's face)* Don't push me, Marti.

*(A knock is heard at the kitchen door. Dan pulls back from Marti's face and opens the door. Agent Dixon and Dixon Baxter both enter flashing badges.)*

**Dan:** *(yelling)* What now? Who called you this time? I bet it was that nosey witch next door. Can't mind her own damn business. *(collects himself)* Listen, I didn't lay a hand on her. Tell him, Marti.

**Marti:** We were just talking.

**Dan:** See? Nothing for you two to worry about.

**Agent Nixon:** I'm Agent Nixon and this is Agent Baxter. We aren't here on a domestic call. *(shows the warrant)* We have a warrant to search the house for a routing machine and fraudulent checks. Our officers at at the front door.

**Dan:** *(irritated)* You won't find anything.

**Agent Nixon:** *(stoically)* We will see. Agent Baxter will let our team in, and we'll sit here and talk. *(gestures to chairs for Dan and Marti. Agent Baxter exits the kitchen.)*

**Dan:** Who told you we had those things? Look around. Does it look like we live in the lap of luxury? It's a dump. We barely get by.

**Agent Nixon:** That's not what we hear.

**Dan:** *(irritated)* Well, your informant's wrong, asshole.

**Agent Nixon:** *(stoically)* We will see.

**Marti:** Where does your warrant say you can look, Agent Nixon?

**Dan:** Shut it, Marti. Don't give this moron anything to use against us.

**Agent Nixon:** Well, THIS moron knows the two of you are have been passing hot checks all over town. So, my warrant covers the entire house.

**Marti:** You won't find anything.

**Agent Nixon:** That's what your husband said.

**Marti:** Well.... *(twitching slightly)* he's always right.

**Agent Nixon:** Interesting. Was he right when he asked you to move drugs from across the border on your "vacation?"

**Dan:** Shut it, Marti. He/She's got no proof.

**Agent Nixon:** No, you don't have to say anything, Marti, but YOU will be the one going down if we find the checks.

**Dan:** Ha. Don't fall for it.

**Agent Nixon:** Who owns the house, Marti?

**Dan:** THIS IS MY HOUSE! I TAKE CARE OF THIS FAMILY!

**Agent Nixon:** Sure, Dan, you live here with Marti and the kids, but you don't own anything. Marti inherited this house from her parents long before you came into the picture. In fact, the two of you aren't even married are you, Dan? So thinking this house is yours in another big story that no one's buying.

**Marti:** Dan's right, you've got nothing.

**Agent Nixon:** Right, Marti. We've got nothing. That's why we have a warrant to search your house. No one has reported you. No one has tracked the hot checks to this residence, and no one has mentioned that your kids need a safer home to live in.

**Marti:** Leave my kids out of this.

**Agent Nixon:** How can I leave them out? They're part of this big mess the two of you have created. Did you not think that \$100,000 worth of fraudulent checks wouldn't alert someone?

**Dan:** (aggressively) Quit talkin', Marti.

**Agent Nixon:** Good idea, Dan. Marti should just listen. But my bet is that Marti doesn't want to hear about how Beth will end up in the system until she turns 18 because no one wants to adopt a teenager. And Jason? (*laughs*) Marti doesn't want to hear how Jason is still young enough to start a new life far away from his with parents with people much better than he currently has.

**Dan:** You can't do any of that. (*looks to Marti*) Lies, Marti. All of it is lies. This idiot is trying to break out family apart.

**Agent Nixon:** I think the two of you are doing a pretty good job all by yourselves.

(*Agent Baxter enters stage right.*)

**Agent Baxter:** (*quiet so that Marti and Dan don't hear*) The house is clean so far. Agents are almost done. The youngest is on his way from school. Do you want me to keep him or bring him in here?

**Agent Nixon:** Bring the kid here.

(*Agent Baxter exists stage right.*)

**Marti:** (*anxiously*) Leave my boy out of this. He doesn't know anything.

**Agent Nixon:** In my experience, I have found that kids know more than you think they do. Trust me, if my agents to find the checks in this search, the kid may be the key to putting the two of you away for a very long time.