

BACKSTROM Episode Guide

Episodes 001-013

Last episode aired Thursday April 30, 2015

BRILLIANT DETECTIVE
TOTAL
DOCK



FROM THE CREATOR OF BONES

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Season One

Dragon Slayer

Season 1
Episode Number: 1
Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Thursday January 22, 2015
Writer:	Hart Hanson
Director:	Mark Mylod
Show Stars:	Rainn Wilson (Det. Lt. Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Neidermeyer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars:	Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Rizwan Manji (Dr. Deb Chaman), Tiffany Hines (Cassandra), Kyle Secor (Senator Tobias Percival), Jarod Joseph (Charles Turner), Evan Jones (Gene Visser), Inga Cadranel (Chief Anna Cervantes), Gerard Plunkett (Leyland Eaton), Samantha Ferris (Rebecca Forrester), Brett Dier (Archie Danforth), Keenan Tracey (Tobias Percival III), Tori Anderson (Alyson Cox), Judith Shekoni (Lady Mah), Vendella Sonia (Dancer), Anna Louise Sargeant (Alysson's Girlfriend), Kyle Cartieri (Customer), Anne Lockhart (Policewoman), John Specogna (CSI), Anthony Welch (Cameraman)
Production Code:	1AWM79
Summary:	Crime series about the troubled but brilliant Det. Lt. Everett Backstrom, who returns from exile to run a special-crimes unit in Portland, begins with the investigation into a college student's suicide, which may actually have been a homicide. Later, Backstrom bangs head with his doctor, who promises to fail him on his physical if he doesn't start making better dietary choices.



Peter Neidermeyer.

The corpse is hanging from a bridge, but Backstrom doesn't believe it's a suicide — he declares it a homicide, and is pleasantly surprised when Neidermeyer confirms it by saying the victim, college student Tobias Percival III, had heroin shoved in his face until he died. Backstrom immediately points out African American campus police officer Charles Turner as a potential suspect. The team is mostly horrified at the racial implications, but Backstrom is unmoved, tasking Almond with questioning the young man.

Meanwhile, Backstrom and Neidermeyer talk with the victim's dad and figures out that the young man was in love.

The episode began by showing Portland Detective Everett Backstrom visiting Dr. Deb, and we learn (amongst various racial allusions from Backstrom) that the detective has been relegated to traffic duty for a few years because of his health. Deb warns him of the dangers of his physical eating and drinking habits and gives him an unusual prescription: make a friend within a week.

They are interrupted by Officer Moto, who takes Backstrom to a crime scene being worked by Portland's newly formed Special Crimes Unit, including Nicole Gravely and John Almond and Forensics

The team works the case, leading them to suspects on campus (TPIII's ex-girlfriend Alison), a local coffee shop (a rugby teammate), and a local bar where the bartender, Visser, is suspected of pushing heroin on the school's campus.

Physical altercations ensue (go Gravely!), and she and Backstrom then try to figure out why TPIII had heroin and \$1,000 in an envelope for "Cass," eventually determined to be a stripper named Cassandra who works for Visser. She and Toby loved one another, and she says there is no way he could have been doing drugs — he was too good and pure. The lead seems to have dried up until Nadia tells them that Cassandra is Charles Turner's sister. Charles is brought in for questioning, and he admits that Cassandra was working with Visser to get money from Toby — she had to pay off her debts to Visser for getting her dance career started.

Throughout the episode, Backstrom talks with his barge-mate/undercover fence/sometimes amigo Valentine, who is able to get the information about Visser and how to deal with him.

Backstrom wonders why they hurt Toby and realize that the student figured out the truth and wanted to confront Visser, bringing a gun with him. Charles admits that Visser slammed the heroin in Toby's face and then hanged him for good measure.

The Special Crimes Unit raids Visser's bar and get him. Backstrom eventually shoots Visser, but as he is bad at gunplay also shoots himself (which he later blames Visser for — questionable at best). But Backstrom can't let the case rest just yet — he wants to know where Toby's gun ended up.

Neidermeyer dives under the bridge where Toby's body was found and comes up with the gun. It was fully loaded, but had been misfired twice, on purpose — likely sabotaged. At the prison, Backstrom talks with Cassandra and accuses her of colluding with Visser. She insists she is innocent and that she didn't know the gun was broken.

Backstrom laughs and asks her how she knows it NOW. She realizes she is caught and drops the sad girlfriend act, figuring she will get her way in court because of Backstrom's behavior. But the team has been listening in, and it's enough for Gravely to join them and make an arrest.

The episode ends with Backstrom back in the doctor's office, having met his obligation of friend-hood. Dr. Deb agrees (despite being insulted again) and gives Backstrom a provisional approval on a weekly basis. They are interrupted again by Valentine, who informs Deb that without the job, Backstrom really won't have anything to live (aka get healthier) for.

Bella

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired: Thursday January 29, 2015
Writer: Joe Hortua
Director: Alex Chapple
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Det. Lt. Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Eddie McClintock (Sam D'Agostino), Matt Battaglia (Nick D'Agostino), Angelique Cabral (Samantha Orland), David Carzell (Larry Dabkey), Alison Araya (Danielle Black), Link Baker (EMT), Glen Gordon (Boy), Daryl King (Homeowner #2), Michael Meneer (Reporter), Laura Mitchell (Homeowner #1), Kurt Ostlund (Martin Phinney), James Paladino (Firefighter), Elysia Rotaru (Melinda Norburg), Marco Soriano (Robert Hodstetter)
Production Code: LAWM04
Summary: An arson investigator enlists the S.C.U.'s help after a firebug's latest crime gets escalated to attempted murder when it involves a family. Although evidence points to a local, Backstrom believes it may be someone who's the least likely suspect. Meanwhile, Valentine tries to help help Niedermayer recover stolen evidence.



The episode begins at a local house fire. The team has been brought in by Samantha Orland to help investigate for arson and to determine whether or not the crime is part of a serial arsonist's work. Immediately, we see that Backstrom has a personal history with two of the firefighters, Nick and Sam D'Agostino — the two men bullied Backstrom when he was a child. What they consider to be good-natured hazing, he still holds a grudge over.

Gravely and Backstrom investigate inside the home, and while Gravely is horrified when Backstrom drinks some of the occupant's liquor, Backstrom doesn't care and makes up a lie to use in the event she has to cover for him. He also figures out there are two ignition points for the fire, including one in a ceramic lovebird.

Back at the precinct, Niedermeyer talks to the team about green flame fires and how the accelerant is used and Nadia suggests that lovebirds come in pairs, so there must be another bird out there. Niedermeyer and Gravely track down a local woman, Melinda Norburg, known for green flame fires as art, and within a few minutes of their visit, they realize she is turned on by the fire. She flirts with Peter, and he's intrigued, but Gravely pulls him back to reality.

Backstrom becomes obsessed with the idea that firefighters, specifically Nick and Sam, are setting fires themselves in order to line their pockets with goods from the burned homes. The

team tries to convince him that he has no evidence to support that, and so he decides to make his suspicions true. He convinces Nadia to falsify a warrant to investigate the firehouse. Almond and Backstrom visit the firehouse and meet Larry Dabkey, a rookie firefighter. During their investigation, they find a dead canary in Larry's locker — a sure sign that he is being intimidated into keeping his mouth shut about something. Backstrom becomes more convinced about his firefighters as arsonists theory and decides to act further. He has a watch appraised, and then, on another visit to the firehouse, plants it on Sam, who pleads innocence even while he is arrested.

Backstrom questions Sam and then pits him against his brother, bringing up an incident from their youth regarding a girl Sam had a crush on. Later on, Larry pays Backstrom a visit on the barge (is it listed in the phone book or something??) and says that while he doesn't think Nick and Sam are arsonists, he does know they are the types to take advantage of fires to steal. Backstrom is glad for the info and asks if he's willing to testify. Larry says that he is and also talks about his father, a firefighter who died on duty. He wants Backstrom to take the information seriously, and implies he fears for his life. Backstrom is visibly moved by the entreaty and then has some sort of medical situation. The next scene involves him in an ambulance where he gets the paddles and is promptly tossed into a puddle.

Almond arrives with a coat and a beer, and they discuss friendship and giving Gravely a break on account of how smart and eager she is — and for the fact that she's probably right that the D'Agostinos are thieves but not arsonists... and the arson case is what they need to be working on. The next day at the office, Backstrom begrudgingly admits that there is a possibility that he was not right. The team is shocked, but they recover and discuss the details of the arson case. Backstrom quickly realizes that the only source for the most recent fire is the paperwork from Samantha Orland—they realize she was lying and brought the team on to assist in order to cover her own tracks as the arsonist.

They decide to find her to question her, but first, Backstrom goes to the firehouse and confronts Nick and Sam, telling them that Larry is willing to testify against them. They aren't worried about it, and tell Backstrom that what they do isn't that big of a deal—the families are getting insurance money anyway, there is no reason not to take advantage. They offer him a cut of the action, and he replies that he wants only one thing—Bella. The brothers know what he's talking about but have no idea where Bella could be. Eventually Sam remembers where it might be, and Backstrom smiles and leaves, already reneging on his offer to make them a deal. They tell him his behavior is why he has no friends and will die alone. Backstrom retorts that everyone dies alone, and they intimate that he definitely will because they plan to kill him. Good talk!

Backstrom, Gravely, and Moto catch up with Orland, who is sitting in a car photographing a family. Moto takes the camera and finds 'before' pictures of the previous house that burned down, while Backstrom and Gravely question her about setting the fires. Orland tries to defer by asking Gravely how she can handle working with someone who hates women so much, and Gravely replies that Backstrom IS the worst, he hates everyone, not necessarily women more than men. And he really hates people who try to get away with murder. Backstrom turns on a lighter and does his "I'm you" routine, and we can clearly see that Orland is visibly moved by the sight and sense of fire as Backstrom describes how each level of fire became insufficient to meeting her "needs." They find fire-starting tools in the trunk of her car, and that's enough to arrest her. As Gravely takes care of that, Valentine arrives to take Backstrom away — to find Bella.

They do find Bella, and it is a kite that Backstrom made himself when he was a child. He flies it again and is happy. Valentine is impressed and asks for a turn. Backstrom turns him down, but eventually agrees to making one for him... but most importantly, he just wants Valentine to stop talking.

Takes One to Know One

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Thursday February 5, 2015
Writer:	Hart Hanson
Director:	Randall Zisk
Show Stars:	Rainn Wilson (Det. Lt. Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars:	Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Rizwan Manji (Dr. Deb Chaman), Pat Healy (Leon Mundy), Sterling Beaumon (Ryan Durst), Inga Cad-ranel (Chief Anna Cervantes), Sarah Chalke (Amy Gazanian), Evan Jones (Gene Visser), Karin Konoval (Louise Hanley), Danyella Angel (Emma Germain), Enid-Raye Adams (Darlene Mundy), Brittany Hobson (Marissa Tunney), Artine Brown (Vince Cropper), Matt Mazur (Craig Lasalle), Meghan Gardiner (Alison Germain), Chris Shields (Security Guard), Brenda Matthews (Hilary Anders), Jennifer-Juniper Angeli (Gigi Durst), Jordan Connor (Stan Park)
Production Code:	LAWM01
Summary:	The unit investigate when a youth pastor is murdered in the church, and there is suspicion the killing could be the work of a cult. Meanwhile, the Chief of Police recruits Backstrom's former fiancée to run a newly formed Civilian Oversight Committee tasked with investigating questionable conduct within the bureau.



The team gets tagged to solve the case of a local 21 year old woman, Emma Germain, who was found dead at a local "church" known in the neighborhood for cultish and exclusive behaviors in their "Church of Edification." They are known in town as Eddys for their obsession with self-actualization and edification. Additionally, they: a) Insist they are not a cult. b) Are led by Leon Mundy, who preaches that death is not an end, but simply moving through another door. c) Believe that the human mind/spirit does not reach full adult capabilities until age 21, so members/students are restricted

from certain things, including sex, until that age. d) Are constantly reiterating their worth as internally focused beings. "I am the center!" is their rallying cry. e) Are placed in groups, or "semesters" for the purpose of confessing sins/struggles and receiving absolution through amends and penance.

Suspects include:

- Louise Hanley, a fire and brimstone protester outside of the Edification Centre. She stands outside, day and night, screaming for the retribution and justice of God to fall on the CoE. Lucky for the team, she video records herself doing this, and inadvertently provides some security footage.

- Vince Cropper, an Eddy and private investigator. He was in the building around the time Emma was killed, and he also received \$10,000 from a private account.
- Leon Mundy. When his wife Darlene comes forward and admits she paid Vince the \$10,000 to see if Leon was having an affair, Backstrom and the team try to pin Emma's murder on him.
- Emma's semester group, specifically a young man Ryan Durst, whose self-righteous attitude about his quick-rising Eddy stock rubs the team the wrong way.

Niedermeyer analyzes two mugs of tea (and subsequent tea bags) left at the crime scene, while Backstrom and Gravely question suspects. Backstrom & Gravely talk to Emma's semester group and quickly realize there are several possible suspects. Backstrom calls out Craig, a young man who was sleeping with Emma, and another woman, Marissa, runs off upset when they both insult her. Gravely goes after her and learns that Marissa and Craig had sex in Emma's office — there was a couch, a lock, and a secret way in to the building.

Moto, Valentine, and Backstrom get Craig, and he leads Valentine through a vent system into Emma's office. Valentine chides him for all of that effort just to have sex... with a girl (and provides a hilarious list of alternate locations), and also swipes a gold framed photo of Emma and her mother. He also tells Craig that with this information, he is the most likely suspect — unless he can come up with some other person who might know about the secret passageway. Craig admits that Ryan is who told him about it; the other young man liked to break in and practice preaching sermons.

Backstrom interrogates Ryan at the precinct, and after stating he was counseling Emma through a conflict, Backstrom realizes Emma was considering leaving the organization after her 21st birthday. He figures Ryan wanted to stop her and did so by killing her. Ryan admits that Emma's betrayal would have been bad; he calls himself a savior.

It looks like the case is locked up, but Backstrom still has a nagging feeling about it. He realizes that in such a self-centric society, Ryan wouldn't confess unless he was somehow persuaded to. After considering the evidence again, he figures Mundy planted the seed in Ryan's ear to get rid of Emma. He accuses Mundy, who only laughs and welcomes the team to his next sermon.

Backstrom spends the evening at the precinct looking over Nadia's case-facts and web of collected data. He and Gravely realize that Mundy's original affair with Emma began when she was only 15 years old, allowing them to arrest him for statutory rape.

Throughout the episode, we also see Backstrom suffer with insomnia and nightmares. He is also somewhat plagued (but also somewhat happy) by the knowledge that his ex-fiancée Amy is in town because she is heading up a Civilian Oversight Committee formed to investigate suspicious facts in the case proceedings regarding Toby Percival and Visser. The rest of the team seems to like Amy a lot, especially Gravely, who can't quite believe that someone like Backstrom could ever be with someone like Amy.

I Am a Bird Now

Season 1

Episode Number: 4

Season Episode: 4

Originally aired: Thursday February 12, 2015
Writer: Karyn Usher
Director: David Boyd
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Rizwan Manji (Dr. Deb Chaman), David Figlioli (David Kettering), Amy Pietz (Christina Rose), Sarah Chalke (Amy Gazanian), Paul Anthony (Marcus Lester), Zahra Anderson (Oversight Committee Member), Victor Ayala (Jason Rose), Amy Fox (Tilda Swinton with a Smartphone), Craig Erickson (Wayne Combs), Tammy Hui (Lindsay Han), Jerome Velinsky (Guy), Ash Lee (Henry Han), Jeff Schwartz (Auctioneer)
Production Code: 1AWM02
Summary: Backstrom considers the murder of a drag queen and blogger, who's a prominent member of Portland's LGBT community, a hate crime, and the case takes a surprise turn when Backstrom's gay tenant becomes a suspect. Meanwhile, Backstrom is pulled before the Civilian Oversight Committee as the result of his shooting a suspect in a previous case. To complicate matters, his former fiancée is in charge of the group.moreless



The episode begins at the committee hearing and as Amy is laying out all of the charges against Backstrom, he has a medical situation. Throughout the episode, he continues to avoid testifying, and he also pressures Moto into falsifying an eyewitness account of the night he shot Visser.

We see Moto deal with this by talking it through with Nadia, Niedermeyer, and Almond, and we also see relationship development between Backstrom and Amy, as they bicker and banter, primarily about the way he was never able to lie to her without her knowing it.

The team is tapped to solve the case of a man, Jason Rose, who was found on a beach near an abandoned classic car. The cause of death is a bullet wound, and Jason is found in a woman's wig and dress, and throughout the episode, the team analyzes his various sexual and platonic relationships with men and women to find out why he was killed... and why he had a valuable silver bottle worth over \$20,000 in the glove compartment of his car. Backstrom declares the murder a "hate crime against the gays," even though Gravely points out that it's not "the gays" and Niedermeyer points out that cross-dressing doesn't indicate sexuality. But Backstrom doesn't care—he just needs a high profile case to get him out of testifying to the civilian oversight committee.

Jason's aunt visits the precinct and tells the team that Jason referred to himself as pansexual, had started a blog as Jenna Rose, and was highly sexually active in his youth but had recently settled down into a relationship with a man named Marcus.

Suspects Include:

- Marcus Lester, Jason's partner. He knew Jason wasn't faithful but tells the team that between sexual fidelity and emotional fidelity, the latter is more important, and he had that with Jason. He also admits he and Jason were planning to adopt a baby.
- Mr. and Mrs. Han, two lawyers Jason and Marcus were using to help assist with the baby adoption. Backstrom and Almond find vintage dress clothes in their closet and wonder if Jason was trying to appropriate Mrs. Han's life. Mr. Han doesn't think Marcus could have killed Jason, but Mrs. Han says that everyone has a dark side. Backstrom (via Almond in preacher mode) also gets Mrs. Han to admit she had an affair with Jason.
- Valentine. When, at a vigil for Jenna Rose, he comes up on the suspect list as someone who was involved with the black market purchase of the silver bottle, Backstrom has to confess to Niedermeyer and Gravely that Valentine is his informant and tenant, and he has to convince Valentine that he needs to know the truth about what he knows about Jason. Valentine admits he and Jason had sex but that he definitely didn't kill him.
- David Kettering, a wealthy man who wanted to purchase the silver bottle for himself.

Nadia traces Jason's computer and Jenna's blog for frequent visitors or any other patterns. Niedermeyer works the crime scene to figure out how Jason was shot, and he determines it was the work of a calculated killer, like a sniper. If the killer just wanted the silver bottle, why shoot Jason when he ran away?

Backstrom brings David in for questioning, and David admits that Jason was his protégé. When Backstrom alludes that Jason was a prettier woman than David, we see the other man grow bitter, and he says it's because a "Japanese lawyer bitch" was paying for Jason's things. Backstrom (and the audience) realize he means Mrs. Han. Backstrom antagonizes David (unnecessarily) until he leaps over the table and tries to choke him, at which point Gravely and Niedermeyer come in and arrest David for assaulting an officer.

Later, Nadia tells Backstrom she found a recent bout of heavy traffic to Jenna's blog from an ex-military man named Wayne Combs, who served a previous sentence for assaulting a gay soldier.

Backstrom brings Wayne in for questioning, and after verbally pressuring him, realizes that he didn't kill Jason because he was a woman, he killed Jason because he was paid to. Gravely enters the room and shows Wayne several photos of possible clients: Marcus, David, Valentine are all negative. Gravely wants to give up and asks Backstrom who would want to kill Jenna? Backstrom realizes that Henry Han would want Jenna/Jason dead for having an affair with his wife. Wayne admits Henry is the one who hired him, and the team goes to the Han residence to arrest him.

Bogeyman

Season 1
Episode Number: 5
Season Episode: 5

Originally aired: Thursday February 19, 2015
Writer: Eli Attie, Hart Hanson
Director: Jeff Woolnough
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Kaylee Bryant (Amber), Fred Koehler (Wesley Lewis), Brendan Meyer (Claudio Moretti), Amy Stewart (Jennifer Lennox), Maddie Phillips (Lacy Siddon), Valerie Tian (Bethany), Catherine Lough Haggquist (Detective Francis Dunne), Fiona Hogan (Principal Larsen), Alison Wandzura (FBI Agent Cottler), Cate Sproule (Harper), Richard Keats (Spencer Morrow), Shayn Solberg (Derrick Cotton), Marrett Green (News Reporter), Donny James Lucas (Eric Ashby), Leigh Bourke (Talia Lennox)
Production Code: 1AWM07
Summary: The unit is under the gun and has only three days to rescue a teenage girl abducted by an online predator, and the case hits close to home for Backstrom, who is jarred by the girl's resemblance to a victim of an unsolved case that dogged him seven years ago. Meanwhile, Det. Sgt. John Almond's church stares down eviction after he missed the last three rent payments.moreless



While the episode begins at Almond's church (where the lights go out due to lack of paying the electric bill) and with a camaraderie scene between Backstrom and Valentine over a bronze otter, it soon turns serious as Backstrom receives an amber alert about a girl named Talia Lennox. He notices right away that Talia has different colored eyes, and he becomes frantic about getting the team together.

Backstrom and Gravely question Talia's mother, who states the girl left a note stating she was going to her dad's in California; but she also states the note can't be trusted because Talia lied all of the

time, and had control of her own cell phone — and she blocked her mother from contacting her. Backstrom is annoyed at this weakness, and we see Almond explain to the rest of the team about a previous kidnapping case of another girl named Lacey Siddon who had different colored eyes. Backstrom was unable to solve that case, and it is what made him quit the force and what pushed him into his hatred spiral.

Backstrom and Gravely investigate Talia's room and find it to be fairly typical "girl" stuff, but in her closet is a row of black clothing and some cigarettes. They visit her school, one designed to give wayward girls the freedom to make good choices, and see other girls in black hooded

sweatshirts. The girls have pills on them, and Backstrom and Gravely get the pills and the name of Talia's ex-boyfriend, but little else. Backstrom remains convinced that whoever took Lacy Siddon also took Talia.

The team brings the boyfriend, Claudio, in for questioning. He is uninformed about sex but states he broke up with her because she was a lot younger than him. He is able to provide them with Talia's phone number and says Talia told him she was going to find someone else online, someone bad, because good is good, but bad is better.

Nadia begins tracing Talia's phone activity, and after Talia's mom shows up with a ransom note, the FBI arrives to work the case as a kidnapping. Backstrom is annoyed, because he wants to work the case his way. Almond admits to him that he could possibly lose his church and also pledges his support on the case, encouraging Backstrom to let the FBI try to find Talia while the SCU team secretly works to find the online predator.

Nadia sets up shop on Backstrom's barge, Niedermeyer goes to visit the location where Talia's phone last had activity, and Almond visits Talia's room again. He notices the bottoms of her desk drawers have an acronym GIGBBIB. Niedermeyer and Moto can't find Talia's phone, but notice that someone has written GIGBBIB on a sign.

Gravely, who has been assigned to liaison with the FBI, sends them the proof of life video the FBI received from the alleged kidnapper. The team watches the film and sees that Talia had a dark tattoo on her arm. Nadia points out that the video trail ends at a local internet café. Almond arrives, and they all start putting the clues together. GIGBBIB shows up a lot of places, and the tattoo on Talia's arm matches the design on the pills Backstrom and Gravely confiscated from Talia's school friends.

Back at the precinct, a drug dealer confirms that the pills are called "Hooded Man." When Backstrom asks if that is good or bad, the dealer tells him that "Good is good, but bad is better," leading him to realize this is what the GIGBBIB acronym stands for. Meanwhile, Nadia and Niedermeyer discuss the legend of The Hooded Man — he's someone who "understands" and who looks for special kids who are willing to fall in order to rise. The fallen must prove allegiance and the reward is to be initiated in a true universe.

Almond and Nadia question Amber, one of Talia's school friends. They know that she created the ransom video; she admits she just figured Talia ran away and that they could get a little money out of it. Her father is there and is horrified at her behavior. Backstrom comes in and demands Amber take off her black hooded sweatshirt. Her dad makes her do that, and Amber is furious. Backstrom notices a matching tattoo on Amber's arm and wants to know who pays her cell phone bill. When her dad says he does, Backstrom demands the phone. Amber goes ballistic and screams "No you don't understand. If you find him through me, he'll never take me. He'll leave me here in the normal world of normal people. And I can't live here. I deserve something better. I'm going to die if I stay here."

Nadia is able to hack Amber's phone, and they find a program for The Hooded Man and learn that applicants must receive an invitation from him. Talia got one. The team sets up a meeting for Amber to meet The Hooded Man. Amber accepts, and Backstrom takes Valentine with him for the meeting. When Amber arrives, she asks the hooded man where his cane is. When Valentine and Backstrom show their faces, she is mad that it's fake. Backstrom tries to convince her to help them find Talia, insisting the girl is in danger. Amber refuses and cries, not understanding why The Hooded Man doesn't want her. Backstrom knows why; Amber eyes are the same color.

The case appears to be cold until Backstrom has another idea — figure out where the girls got their tattoos. They find the spot and stake it out and see a man with a cane entering. They apprehend the man, Wesley Lewis, and take him into custody, and the SCU and additional resources search his property. They find a cane with a hooded man on top, but little else, and they know they won't be able to keep him for long. Almond suggests pausing to pray for guidance, and Backstrom at first scoffs at the idea, but then goes along with it. As Almond prays for Talia, a young girl, to be found, Backstrom realizes they can keep Wesley locked up for 72 hours — it's illegal to tattoo minors.

Backstrom tries his "I'm you" routine on Lewis at the precinct, but it doesn't work at first. He eventually appeals to Lewis's sense, telling him that if Talia ends up alive, he'll only be charged with kidnapping, but if she is found dead, he will face the death penalty. He provides him with a photo of his property, and eventually Lewis circles the location where Talia can be found.

The team rushes to the site and is able to recover Talia and Lacy Siddon (with a baby).

Backstrom is emotionally moved and stumbles away from the group before bursting into tears. The episode ends with scenes from Almond's church, where he announces the good news of Talia and Lacy's recovery and that news coverage of the case resulted in money pouring in to keep the church open for another year. Most of the team is present at the service, but we see cuts to Backstrom alone on the barge, drinking heavily, as Almond states that good can come from all kinds of packages.

Ancient, Chinese, Secret

Season 1

Episode Number: 6

Season Episode: 6

Originally aired:	Thursday February 26, 2015
Writer:	Thomas Wong
Director:	Sarah Pia Anderson
Show Stars:	Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermeyer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars:	Mike Foy (Albert Reid), Mark Daugherty (Jimmy Fei), Assaf Cohen (Dr. Daniel Bai), Katharine Leonard (Meredith Vender), Jessica Harmon (Nurse Brittany Gottman), Michael Reilly Burke (Donald Sampson), Chris Payne Gilbert (Tad Taymor), Peter Benson (Nate Kelly), Darcy Laurie (Noel Ross), Mike Kovac (Jim), Kristen Ross (Debbie Sampson)
Production Code:	1AWM10
Summary:	The investigation into the murder of a Chinese fortune teller in Portland's Chinatown leads the unit to a laundry service that appears to be a front for illegal gambling activities.



The episode opens as Backstrom and Moto join Almond and Niedermeyer at a crime scene, where a local Chinatown psychic has been murdered at his shop. It's a gruesome and bloody murder, and after Niedermeyer takes the time to physically reenact a possible scenario, Backstrom just wants to clear up one thing — have all of the "psychic didn't see it coming" jokes been done? He'd hate to repeat anything. Ha.

The victim is Davis Gu. His death was reported by his twin sister, Celia.

Suspects: Celia Gu: She admits that unlike her brother, she has no inner psychic ability.

Backstrom wonders if their fortune telling business is part of Chinese organized crime group Triad, but Celia says they are a legit operation and that she and Davis are descendants of the Tongji, a spirit medium who can communicate with those beyond the grave. When Almond asks her to ask her brother who killed him, she performs a violent ritual with a flail and then tells the detectives that her grandfather has spoken — two worlds will collide behind a red door. It turns out she has an alibi, and Nadia traces online reviews of the Gus' business.

Albert Reid: The abovementioned angry reviewer is upset that Davis gave him bad romantic advice, but he quickly admits to Backstrom and Almond that another psychic, Lady Ma, told him that Davis was a fraud. But his story is less than plausible, especially because he reported being mugged at the same time Davis was murdered.

Margaret Ann Luttrell, aka Lady Ma: The non-Asian psychic claims she had a vision regarding Davis's death, but she is also in possession of a missing astrology wheel from the Gus' shop. She insists she purchased the wheel from Celia and that Davis's ancestors were offended by his lack of desire to learn; she states that Davis was murdered by his dead grandfather.

Dominic Chan: Niedermeyer finds three checks for \$5,000 each in Davis's wallet, each from a local laundry service. They soon figure out that a gambling ring is taking place there and then

visit the owner and learn he was an associate of Davis's. He insists he paid him money for his excellent counsel and advice. Backstrom figures Davis and Chan were in collusion — providing financial fortunes and then directing people to Chan's den to lose big. Chan points out that it would then be foolish to kill Davis and ruin the scam, after which he lawyers up.

Jimmy Fei: The young super psychic of China arrives to the police bureau just as the team realizes he may have a motive for killing Davis — after all, he is a big winner in the gambling ring. He stays one-step ahead of the team, bringing them the murder weapon and also providing each team member with a fortune to validate his abilities.

Each person reads his or her note aloud and verifies it is applicable, except for Nadia, whose foreboding fortune (combined with a change in the music) indicates she is in danger, and Backstrom, who refuses to read his at all. He returns to Jimmy and asks him if he killed Davis. His murder weapon matches the type of knife Niedermeyer thinks was used in the crime, but Niedermeyer also points out that if Jimmy is being held under suspicion for murder, he can't be sent back to China, from where he escaped.

Valentine, previously banned from Chinatown for fraud, wants Backstrom to return a scroll for him. It turns out the scroll belongs to Dominic Chan. Valentine also identifies the murder weapon as a knife frequently replicated and sold in Chinatown shops. The replicas are cheapies, but he knows a guy in a van who sells the real deal.

Niedermeyer and Moto visit "Tiny," a man who sells goods from the back of his van. They show him pictures of several suspects — Lady Ma, Dominic Chan, Celia, and Albert, and Tiny confirms he sold the knife to Albert.

They bring Reid in for questioning, and he insists he didn't kill Davis. They know he owed \$60,000 to Chan, so why kill Gu? But the evidence on the murder weapon is a match for Albert. And Moto looks further — he finds a piece of paperwork from Jimmy to Chan that says "You will be betrayed by your partner," and they realize that Chan believed in the prophecy and agreed to forgive Albert's debt if he killed Davis for him.

Enemy of My Enemies

Season 1
Episode Number: 7
Season Episode: 7

Originally aired: Thursday March 5, 2015
Writer: Andrew Miller
Director: Jace Alexander
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Ben Hollingsworth (ADA Steven Kines), Adam Beach (Capt. Jesse Rocha), Garrett Black (Drew Carver), Kaylee Bryant (Amber Morrow), Sarah Chalke (Amy Gazanian), Fiona Hogan (Principal Larsen), Richard Keats (Spencer Morrow), Catherine Lough Haggquist (Detective Francis Dunn), Brendan Meyer (Claudio Moretti), Cate Michaud (Sabine Weiss), Maddie Phillips (Lacy Siddon), Cate Sproule (Harper), Amy Stewart (Jennifer Lennox), Alison Wandzura (FBI Agent Cottler)
Production Code: LAWM03
Summary: An oil-pipeline explosion in Backstrom's childhood hometown looks to be the work of ecoterrorists, and brings back his estranged father, Sheriff Blue Backstrom, to assist in the investigation. The father-son reunion reopens old wounds, and a late-night visit from Everett's former fiancée further complicates his personal life.



Someone blew up the unfinished underground pump station connected to the Liberty Pipeline and made a huge mess. The opening footage of the explosion brings back memories of Bill Murray's goofy antics trying to exterminate the dancing gopher in classic Caddyshack-fashion. The local sheriff labels the crime, which resulted in the fatality of security guard Harlan Brand, an act of vandalism perpetrated by activist Sabine Weiss rather than a murder, and asked specifically for the assistance of Portland's Special Crimes Unit.

The Cooch County sheriff has identified that Sabine was around when this 'act of vandalism' occurred and seeks the crime unit's help in finding her and bringing her in. Backstrom, of course, finds this utterly ridiculous.

Introducing Sheriff Blue Backstrom (Robert Forster, Last Man Standing) as Everett's father. What the hell kind of name is Blue? Apparently it's the first name of the douchebag wanker who sired our fun-loving Pollyanna-esque lieutenant Everett Backstrom. How's that for extreme snarkism? Backstrom hopes daddy blows up in the next pipeline explosion and refuses to work with him despite how good it would look as cooperation between law departments. That is, until Niedermayer brilliantly recommends that Backstrom exorcize his demons by solving this case before Daddy Dearest does. Backstrom is energized by this gauntlet being thrown.

Sabine was given a scholarship by the Environmental Defense League of Women. Backstrom assumes this means she and her environmental group are lesbians.

Deering reveals that Sabine was both Indian and Jewish, which leads Backstrom to the Oxbow Indian Reservation where he assumes she must be hiding out. Moto and Backstrom head out to the reservation and run into an old acquaintance of Backstrom's from a previous case; a tussle ensues. The two are overcome by a group from the tribe and who walks in but Blue to break it up.

Backstrom and Backstrom have a bit of a pissing contest on the reservation. Blue seems to be offering some kind of olive branch toward his son. Everett is having none of it. It is clear whatever this man did to Everett has caused such corrosive acid to crawl backward up his throat that he can barely stand breathing the same air as his father. This is a major point in the Backstrom mythology in that we get to see the origin of the fully developed adult character. Through Everett's physical reaction and his comments, we get a rather colorful image of the kind of father that man was and it ain't pretty. I made a lot of mistakes, especially not respecting you.

Everett refuses to shake hands with Blue and spits his distrust as he asks if Blue is dying – for why else would he look for an opportunity to work with his son, which is what he claims to be doing. Blue agrees to give Everett 24 hours to find Sabine.

Through a brief conversation with ex-future wife Amy Gazanian, we learn that Everett and Blue have been up against each other numerous times as adults, the last time resolving in Everett landing in a drunk tank in the Yucon. Amy visits Everett under the guise of a complaint from the Oxbow reservations, but she's really there to see how he's doing since this case involves Blue.

There's no way a woman like that could have made that kind of bomb, so the team begins looking for an accomplice. Paquet uncovers a geeky techno dude by the name of Graeme Hellman who had a mad chubby for Sabine. Everett suspects Hellman designed and constructed the bomb for Sabine. Of course, Everett is correct, we soon learn.

Attempting to drag info out of the geek bomber, Backstrom holds the kid's laptop out the window threatening to drop it, but then hilariously albeit accidentally drops and destroys it when Hellman's boss, Jim Klassen (Alex Carter) enters the room. Since the Special Crime Unit now has to pay for the computer, they get to keep it and who knows what kind of juicy junk they might learn from it?

Everett allows Klassen to offer a reward for any clues that help find Sabine. This results in a huge influx of calls to the station. Out of the mess of leads, Backstrom figures out she's gotta be hiding with someone who's too loaded to want the bounty. It just so happens that environmentalist Eleanor Deering, the gal who funded Sabine's college education, has a nice home in the exact area where Sabine is suspected to be hiding. Coincidence? I think not.

Upon searching Deering's compound, Everett finds Sabine's hiding place cleverly hidden behind a fake wall in a tool shed. Derreing, of course, plays the shocked academic. Do we believe her? Backstrom doesn't. He insists Sabine is two-timing Deering with a man – lawyer Sanford Einhorn from Eagles for Enterprise, a right wing advocacy group. His goal in life is to sue the pants off the government. Sabine and Einhorn have been seen in the same locations, so this theory has merit. Everett sends Paquet to go under cover and approach Einhorn.

Paquet approaches a highly suspicious Einhorn and throws herself at him, and seeming to fail miserably, but she does manage to upset him.

Everett is tickled to death at the prospect of sending Niedermayer to get to know Blue. "My dad is going to kill Niedermayer for me," Everett tells Gravely. Niedermayer and Blue have some interesting back and forth, but they don't seem to hate each other right off the bat. As a matter of fact, they end up in an Indian sweat lodge together. Niedermayer sees Blue negotiating a trade with the people of Oxbow. This doesn't seem to be any big deal yet, but later it turns into something significant.

A second bomb is found in relation to the first pipeline bombing, but there's no way Sabine could have detonated it, supporting Everett's theory that she wasn't a lone bomber as Blue had suggested. Backstrom figures out that Sabine didn't detonate that first bomb either; he suspects it was the dead security guard Harlan Brand. He also fingers the chubby geek Hellman as the detonator of the second bomb, but then changes his opinion when the team figures out that Klassen has a grudge against the pipeline company for devaluing his family's farm.

Backstrom and Gravely visit Klassen at his lovely and lush home. While Backstrom pretends to be Klassen, Gravely stakes out the upper floor and finds Sabine escaping through a window. Gravely chases and apprehends Sabine as Everett joins them from behind and does his little

mind trick on Sabine. He proposes that Sabine realized she couldn't trust the security guard and rigged the bomb detonator to kill him as well. Per usual, this information falls on Sabine as true and she runs. Gravely gives chase while Everett tries to take aim at the backside of the criminal. Afraid he will hit Gravely instead, he fires into the air. Sabine escapes capture and the team returns to the station.

Back at the station, Backstrom illustrates how well he has figured out Gravely's thought process. Sabine got away because neophyte cop and eternal optimist Gravely wanted to believe Sabine was more redeemable than criminal. Everett and Gravely have an interesting discussion about the level of trust between them and the value of hope in the line of duty.

Bomb geek Hellman's destroyed laptop has an incriminating photo showing that Klassan has an airplane. Paquet reports that the plane was headed for the Oxbow Indian Reservation. Backstrom calls Niedermayer and everyone descends upon the reservation as the plane is about to take off. Out come Sabine and lawyer Einhorn. Sabine holds the detonator to a bomb that will blow up the entire pier and everyone there. As Gravely and Everett try to get Sabine to put down the detonator, Oxbow's Captain Rocha roars onto the scene with lights and sirens blaring. Everyone's pointing guns all over the place while Everett and Rocha have a brief jurisdiction dispute.

Enter Blue and his men. What took him so long to get here is a mystery, but there you have it. Blue pulls rank on Rocha since Sabine is now a terrorist and therefore under FBI jurisdiction which supersedes everyone else's badges.

Blue has a grandfatherly chat with Sabine and she gives up the detonator. Everett tries to take over, and Blue pulls rank on him as well, almost cackling as he drives off with the criminal booty.

As Daddy Backstrom rides off into the sunset, it is clear to everyone, especially Everett's team, that Daddy Dearest really is the a**hole they suspected he might be. He used his son to drive his own prey into his own net. Then he swooped in and took the collar right out from under Everett's nose, claiming the glory for himself. What a dick.

Everett asks if anyone checked to see if Blue really was a marshal, asserting he was most likely lying about that as well as everything else. By the end of the episode everyone wants to slay Everett's father. Now we have to question absolutely everything the man said. Was he lying about why he hit Everett in the head with his gun? Most likely. How about that he did a good job with all the other kids except Everett? Probably. What a piece of work.

Amy shows up at Everett's barge to offer solace. She's genuinely concerned, but Everett brushes her off, then kisses her. She shoves him off eventually with a look of disappointment in her eyes, then calls him an idiot and leaves. Is it because she doesn't love him anymore? No, it's because Everett doesn't get it that you can't cure 10 years of estrangement with sex and some take-out. She cares about him. That's why she's making the effort. How interesting that Everett sees straight through everyone else, but is blind to what makes Amy tick. More accurately, he suspects what makes her tick but lacks the finesse to execute a reconciliation. Perhaps it will be the threat of the final loss of her affections that will move him to make some changes in his life.

Give 'Til It Hurts

Season 1

Episode Number: 8

Season Episode: 8

Originally aired: Thursday March 26, 2015
Writer: Joe Hortua
Director: Kevin Hooks
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Rizwan Manji (Dr. Deb Chaman), Chris Payne Gilbert (Tad Taymor), Michael Reilly Burke (Donald Sampson), Assaf Cohen (Dr. Daniel Bai), Katharine Leonard (Meredith Vender), Keegan Connor Tracy (Cristin Kelly), Sarah Chalke (Amy Gazanian), Peter Benson (Nate Kelly), Theodore Borders (Dimitri Green), Jessica Harmon (Nurse Brittany Gottman), Andrea Kelly Konno (Choreographer), Mike Kovac (Jim), Darcy Laurie (Noel Ross), Thomas Newman (Mr. Vender), Kehli O'Byrne (Vanessa Taymor), Kristen Ross (Debbie Sampson), Joel Semande (Scion), Calum Worthy (Joshua Larimer)
Production Code: LAWM06
Summary: Evidence in the investigation into a hit-and-run that left a wealthy woman dead points to vehicular homicide and uncovers a controversy involving her charitable work. Meanwhile, Backstrom's unhealthy habits disturb his doctor and his ex-fiancée.



A woman's body is found in a parking garage, and Niedermeyer figures that she was run over multiple times—likely a vindictive scenario. The victim is Vanessa Taymor, a local woman known for her wealth, famous ex-tennis champion husband Tad Taymor, and extensive charity work. The team finds the info "MJ @ Ms" on her calendar and posit several scenarios, ultimately that she was scheduled to play Mahjong at her friend Meredith's house.

Backstrom and Almond visit the game and find Meredith with Vanessa's other game friends, including Kristen Kelly. They are all rich women known for being

a bit competitive with their giving. They tell Backstrom and Almond that Vanessa had already decided to quit the game. Backstrom wants them all arrested on account of bitchiness, but Almond takes Nadia's advice and does the opposite, actually asking nicely, leading to Niedermeyer hosting a tea party. They tell him that Vanessa quit Mahjong because of Donald Sampson, a wealthy tennis player who recently had a racist video leaked online. Vanessa didn't want them accepting his apologetic donations, while the others were happy to take all of his guilty pennies.

Gravely and Backstrom visit Vanessa's husband Tad in the hospital. He is in stage four lung cancer and could not have killed his wife. Gravely tells Tad that Vanessa was organizing a group

of people to reject Donald's donations, and Tad tells her that they were old friends. He is in a medical experiment and is on a wonder drug or sugar water—he doesn't care if he's on the placebo now that Vanessa is dead. He is convinced she wasn't cheating on him, and then his nurse, Larissa, comes in and encourages him to look at his dream board as he gets some blood work done.

Nadia finds an online picture of Vanessa with a very expensive purse and knows the victim would have never been without it. When the purse is not included in Vanessa's belongings, they figure whoever took it is the killer. Nadia and Niedermeyer find it in Kristen's home, but when Kristen and her lawyer husband show up at the station, they reveal that Kristen is a documented kleptomaniac. It doesn't completely absolve her, but Backstrom also learns that she can't drive—and is annoyed that they should have started with that, considering Vanessa was run over!

Almond gets word that before her death, Vanessa was in a loud argument with the director of a local homeless shelter, a man who once had a record for car theft. Almond and Backstrom visit, and Backstrom gets into a verbal and physical altercation with a homeless man, and they find out that the man sometimes works for Donald Sampson, and they learn Donald kept a room at a hotel. But it's not enough to get a warrant to search his cars, so the team decides to crash a fancy party he is hosting.

They dress up and crash the party, but don't have luck getting access to any of Sampson's cars. And Backstrom gets slightly drunk and then slyly accuses Sampson of murder, which of course he ignores. Later, Backstrom and Valentine find Sampson making out with Meredith, after she admits she's the one who leaked the video. Backstrom, now drunk and upset, tells the team they may have been on the wrong trail with Sampson and Meredith and he wants to explore other possibilities for the white car that was used to run over Vanessa.

The next day, Niedermeyer calls with info—they have found a car matching the description, but it's not registered to anyone. It's a rental car, but the rental account belongs to Vanessa. So they must figure out who had access to her credit card. Nadia presents a list of people, and Backstrom, Nadia, and Gravely discuss the possibility that someone associated with Tad could have used the card. They discover that about \$100,000 were given to Tad's doctor for research purposes.

Backstrom and Gravely visit Tad's doctor, who insists the money wasn't for bribing but to help. He also admits Tad is in the control group and is not getting the experimental drug. Backstrom goes to him and then wants to take a drink from Tad's IV. It's risky, but he does drink it and nothing happens, proving Tad is not getting any medicine. He is sad, but then tells Larissa he will need a bigger dream board. Backstrom turns to the board and realizes that the new images are dreams of being rich—not likely the dreams of someone who already is really rich. He realizes that Larissa created it—she was going to get Tad to fall in love with her and then give her money. And once he died (likely quickly), she would be rich. Sure enough, the nurse is on the list of credit card users, and she is the one who rented the car.

Inescapable Truth

Season 1
Episode Number: 9
Season Episode: 9

Originally aired: Thursday April 2, 2015
Writer: Eli Attie
Director: Michael Offer
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Lolita Davidovich (Louise 'Lou' Finster), Ben Hollingsworth (ADA Steven Kines), Faran Tahir (Dr. Alan Kobrine), Paula Newsome (Jill Chapin), Hannah Levien (Lara Hausberg), Carolyn Adair (Dancer), Garrett Black (Drew Carver), Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Jim Dreichel (Dante Trippi), Matt Ellis (Matt English), Evan Frayne (Ron Fournier), Kamran Fulleylove (Sebastian Serafian), Catherine Jack (Mindi Grundig), Jennifer Kitchen (Sarah McMurray), Nelson Leis (Woody), Brent McLaren (Chris Borden)
Production Code: 1AWM05
Summary: The S.C.U. investigates when a key witness in a drug case is murdered after escaping from a court-mandated rehab facility. Meanwhile, Backstrom suspects Valentine may be more than a tenant.



The team solves the case of a missing musician, Sebastian Serafian. He was part of a collective of musicians in Portland, and while no one technically had the title of leader, Sebastian wrote many songs and sang lead, giving him unofficial power in the group. The group prides itself on its commonalities and fair distribution of authority, but they are quick to turn on one another when it turns out Sebastian is dead. Some group members also wear animal masks, such as bear, eagle, etc.

First, the team merely searches for him after it's reported he escaped rehab. Backstrom and Gravely visit the facility,

and see footage that he escaped. They travel to a nearby bar and see more camera footage that he got into a van and sped away. Additionally, the bartender takes a shine to Backstrom and also assumes Gravely is his daughter. Win some, lose some.

Backstrom and Gravely then question Dr. Kobrine, Sebastian's doctor and the previous owner of the van. Almond interrupts them and is joined by Assistant District Attorney Steve Kines, who tells them Sebastian is a key witness in a pill pushing scandal about Kobrine. We see there's a negative history between Gravely and Kines, but they both insist it's not a romantic past. Kines also states that Kobrine couldn't have killed Sebastian, since he has been under surveillance and wiretaps for weeks.

Niedermayer listens to Sebastian's songs and works with Nadia to figure out where he might have gone after rehab. They find a blackstone quarry that features a cliff, and sure enough, the van is in the water and Sebastian is dead inside. He shows marks of being on drugs and hurt

with an instrument string until he was unconscious, but cause of death is drowning, as someone planted an amplifier against the gas pedal. They must look for a killer with string marks on his or her hands.

Nadia points out that the band's fluid nature means there are many suspects, and there is one person recently kicked out. Because it's a good enough motive, Gravely and Almond pay him a visit. He insists Sebastian asked him back into the band and that he would never ruin it, as his daughter only thinks the band is cool. Almond then realizes someone at the rehab facility must have broken protocol and allowed Sebastian to make the phone call. He and Backstrom visit and identify an employee, who confesses. He also states he saw Sebastian get into the van with a female band member.

Under questioning, she admits she gave him a ride sometimes, but that she wasn't the one driving on the night Sebastian was killed, and she didn't tell anyone, because she didn't want the other band members to be angry about it—and if they knew she was co-writing songs with Sebastian, they would be. When the team finds drugs on her, especially Oxycodone (Dr. Kobrine's speciality), they decide to get the doctor to fess up.

Backstrom and Gravely visit him on the golf course and Backstrom blackmails him into telling him who he gave the pills to, the band's drummer. Of course, Backstrom also took many pills as part of the deal, so when he questions the drummer, he's definitely under the influence. His questioning is out of control, and his usual "I'm you" tactic gets crazy fast. But it's somewhat effective, as the drummer confesses that he doesn't drive and had to take the bus to get the pills from Kobrine. It's not a murder confession, but Kines has his new material witness against Kobrine.

The team realizes they need to re-focus on the band. After associating the different members with his own teammates on the SCU, Backstrom begins to identify possible motives. Drew Carver is a band member who has a lot to gain creatively by Sebastian's passing, unofficial leadership in the band and the ability to have his songs played and sang. When the team visits the band to figure it out, they are resistant at first and agree to get a lawyer and not say anything else until it arrives. But when Backstrom and Niedermayer figure that Drew's hands might show signs of the instrument string, the group turns on Drew and collectively demands he cooperate. He does, and it's clear he used the string.

Love Is a Rose and You Better Not Pick It

Season 1

Episode Number: 10

Season Episode: 10

Originally aired: Thursday April 9, 2015
Writer: Joe Hortua
Director: Kevin Hooks
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet), Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine)
Guest Stars: Theodore Borders (Dmitri Green), Frank Collison (Norman Gilman), Ann Cusack (Sandy Hale-Cooper), John Fleck (Dr. Morton Fleck), Ben Hollingsworth (ADA Steven Kines), Lindsey Kraft (Claire McGrail), Kerry O'Malley (Janet Larimer), Calum Worthy (Joshua Larimer), Tatyana Forrest (Larissa Moscovitz), Hiro Kanagawa (Judge Hillerman), Rebecca Rifai (Sexy Svetlana), Kristen Robek (Attorney Nancy Landers), Michael A. Cheng (Sentry), John Specogna (onlooker / CSI), Andy Yu (Chinese Man)
Production Code: LAWM08
Summary: The S.C.U. investigates the death of a young female sex surrogate in Portland's Rose Garden. Meanwhile, Backstrom hears unsettling news about his mother.



Beady-eyed and mealy-mouthed Assistant District Attorney Kines is back covering the mayor's backside by insinuating himself into a murder investigation for which Backstrom quickly provides a politically friendly solve for before getting down to the business of crime solving. Gravely reminds the team that Kines is an ass, but brownie points with the politicos is never a bad thing. Moto is smelling the roses and Backstrom announces that the victim must be a hooker.

Immediately, groundskeeper Norman is nabbed for the crime, aided by the bloody shovel Niederman finds in the gar-

den tool shed. Backstrom knows that Norman is guilty of something and we shortly learn that he is not wrong in a twist that ends up solving the case.

Norman's interrogation nets only a cache of images off of his phone: Images of garden patrons' chests. This tells Backstrom that the guy isn't the murdering kind. As it turns out, the victim, Larissa Moscovitz, is a prostitute of sorts, but not the usual kind. Then things start to get really interesting.

This totally normal-looking guy, Dmitri "Princess" Green, patronized Larissa, the sex surrogate, trying to rid himself of the need to dress up like Cinderella in order to get sexually aroused. What? Man, it takes all kinds to make the world go round. Who knew?

Girlfriend Claire "Princesses-Are-A-Big-Turnoff" McGrail says the guy is not a killer. Later we learned that she knew about the sex surrogacy thing the whole time and actually appreciated Larissa's help. Apparently, Larissa helped Princess Dmitri lose everything but the tiara when he

needed to get it on with Claire. Claire is humorously effusive about how improved Dmitri is in the sack and I'm starting to wonder exactly what he was doing in there to make Claire effusive about her satisfaction.

So, a sex surrogate is a real thing. No surprise there, but how will the team get a list of Larissa's clients? Nadia comes up with the perfect solution once Niedermayer suggests that Larissa must have had a supervising psychotherapist: Send Backstrom to Dr. Morton Fleck to pretend he has serious psychological sexual issues. Perfect.

Backstrom freaks out when Fleck gives a five cent analysis of our titular character's whole psyche: He has an inability to love, he brags to compete with other guys, he pursues pleasure without vulnerability through food, alcohol and sex, where the only foreplay is a credit check. Backstrom is phased by the whole thing and actually takes the card of the sexual surrogate Fleck hands him.

Gravely, following along with the Fleck interlude via earbud, hears the entire exchange, though she later denies it to Backstrom. Her reactions to Backstrom are always awesome and this time is no different. She does give the lieutenant a ribbing when she asks him if he got any good advice though. Gotta love Gravely. Also cool about Gravely is that in response to Kines' balking about Backstrom's unconventional methods, she tells him to get lost so he doesn't witness them. Gravely just Backstromed Kines!

Backstrom invites licensed sex surrogate Sandy "Good Breast-Bad Breast" Hale-Cooper to the Rub-A-Dub-Dub-Tub for a session/interrogation. She explains about going all the way back to the breastfeeding experience as a way of working through mommy issues. She recommended Backstrom create a shrine for his dead mother. Backstrom is stunned. Later, with Valentine, we learn that Everett's mother died in childbirth. Ouch.

Valentine encourages the shrine thing. Backstrom digs through his stuff and comes up with a tiny ceramic bowl that his mother, a ceramics artist, made him. The bowl is adorable and probably the exact shape of his mother's breast. Painted on the bowl is an image of a little boy flying a kite in a field on a sunny day. Whoah. Remember Bella the Kite from the episode where his childhood bullies finally told Backstrom where they had hidden it? Very interesting.

Backstrom isn't yet ready to put that bowl in a place of honor, so he rewraps it and puts it back in his tool chest. Bummer.

We finally learn that Clarissa wasn't surprised her boyfriend was seeing Larissa. She even met her and gotten to like her. Clarissa is a bust as a suspect, but she directs the team back to one of Larissa's clients, young wheelchair bound Joshua Larimer who points them toward Backstrom's own sex surrogate who was upset when the patient-therapist relationship didn't work between herself and Joshua.

Fleck is a lecherous turd who makes passes at all his underlings, so we're back to the good bad doctor again. Turns out Fleck was "Flecking" Larissa. Backstrom and Gravely get a subpoena for Fleck's files and DNA.

Val visits Backstrom at the station with news that Backstrom's mother didn't die giving birth to him. Turns out, Marie Backstrom committed suicide with her husband's gun a couple months after Backstrom was born. She abandoned her infant son. Backstrom is devastated by this news and we see him actually cry. Did that really just happen? The veneer just cracked, people. Bazinga.

Turns out Larissa had sex just for fun right before she died. Backstrom figures out that Larissa had extended her relationship with young Joshua Larimer because she was in love with him. That's why she had unprotected sex with him. Unfortunately, this was getting in the way of Joshua having normal relationships with normal girls who would spend time with him without a meter running. But did Joshua kill Larissa for having sex with him? Hell no. Then who did?

Joshua's mom found out that Larissa was in love with her son and vowed to put an end to it. She followed Joshua to the garden and must have seen the two bumping the uglies. She waited for Joshua to leave, then clocked Larissa on the head with the garden shovel.

It isn't spoken, but Backstrom's gotta be wondering if his mother would kill for him. At least, that's what I heard handing in the pregnant silence following the interrogation.

When there is no proof that Mama Larimer was even at the gardens when Larissa was killed, Backstrom remembers way back to Perv Norman the groundskeeper of the rose gardens. Backstrom sees the necklace hanging around Mama Larimer's neck and runs to the images Nadia had captured from Norman's phone. There he finds all the proof they needs: An image of Mama

Larimer's check and necklace time stamped to match the exact time of Larissa's death. Case closed. This time Moto gets to make the collar.

Back at the Rub-A-Dub-Dub-Tub, Backstrom is self-medicating as he considers the breast bowl his own mother made for him. He's visibly holding back his anger, which we all know is just a cover-up for pain and fear. He throws the bowl into the fireplace, shocking Valentine who covertly rescues the bowl.

I Like to Watch

Season 1

Episode Number: 11

Season Episode: 11

Originally aired: Thursday April 16, 2015
Writer: Karine Rosenthal
Director: Adam Arkin
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Page Kennedy (Moto), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet)
Guest Stars: Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Ian Tracey (Julien Gaynor), Tara Buck (Arianna Fitch), Ever Carradine (Lucy Harms), Nathan Dales (Timothy Fitch), Ray Santiago (Moss Brady), Haley Webb (Virginia Anderson)
Production Code: LAWM09
Summary: Backstrom and the S.C.U. investigate when a participant in a performance-art festival is found dead, and the suspects are all creative artists involved with the event.



The episode opens with Backstrom yanking a nose bra off Valentin's face and then scratching said face and scalp with his newly repaired ball scratcher. Oh, yes it was a ball scratcher, or didn't you pay close enough attention? I'm pretty sure the Backstrom Fairies will back me up on this. Next, Backstrom admits he has not started making the kite Valentine paid him \$200 to make.

Remember Bella? Remember last week's baby bowl featuring a little Everett flying a kite that spelled out his name? Interesting theme stringing this whole story together, huh? What might

it all mean, she asks herself as she absently taps her index finger on her chin. IT has to be something about being denied freedom of self-expression, methinks, but let us not get ahead of ourselves...

Backstrom is immediately called to a crime scene at the Here & Now Festival where performance artist, Timothy Fitch, has been shot dead with his own .357 Ruger and lies on the floor of his performance space. In true Backstrom form, Everett tosses out numerous derisive comments about self-indulgent narcissists who finger-paint their names in their own poo and call it art...and the game is afoot.

First Suspect. Katie Holmes look-alike, Virginia "He-Completed-Me" Anderson, is the first to be accused of murder. Accountant Anderson, the victim's fiancée, blubbers an effusive load of tripe about how special her guy was. Her alibi is that she has no testifiable alibi, but we'll let that slide for now because we are only four minutes and 35 seconds into the episode.

Second Suspect. One of Fitch's previous performance art installations leads the team to an old lover who just so happens to be performing at the same installation as Fitch that weekend. Lucy "My-Privates-Should-Be-Public" Harms (Ever Carradine, Major Crimes) claims to not have seen Fitch since their breakup three years previously. This turns out to be true, though first,

Backstrom has to have some intensely awkward scenes with Lucy during which he's drawn to her and pretty much mounts her in front of a street filled with voyeurs before Moto stops him. Her "art" is to live inside a glass box being live broadcast outside the installation to a crowd she cannot see. More on this later.

Third Suspect. Before getting dead, Fitch had been drinking with his assistant Moss Brady, but there had to be someone else there, says Backstrom who determined this by making the dead man piss his pants. A dead ringer for The Artist Formerly Known As ... bla, bla, bla, Moss Fitch is found passed out under a playground structure, having been mysteriously drugged while drinking with Fitch. Before long he confesses that he and Fitch had been planning to fake Fitch's death as some sort of performance art piece. It's not till Prince, er, Moss is brought to the morgue that reality cold clocks him between the eyes and he faces reality.

Fourth Suspect. The victim's sister Arianna "Art-Is-A-Big-Con-Job" Fitch admits to having seen her brother the night before and had a couple drinks with him. She has a motive; a hefty insurance policy on Fitch. However, she has policies on every person who helps take care of the other brother who was maimed in a car accident when Timothy Fitch was at the wheel.

Valentine stops by the station and learns that Moss Brady is a suspect. It turns out that Moss and Val were in juvie together many moons ago. The story goes that while in juvie, Val preemptively shanked another inmate and let Moss take the fall for it. In brief, Val owes Moss a solid and begs Backstrom to set Darling Nikki, er, Moss, free as a big half-brotherly favor. Backstrom refuses to set Moss free, but he can try to rule him out as a suspect. That is only if Val quits whining about the kite Backstrom was supposed to make him. They shake hands and Backstrom goes back to work. God, I love Val. Perfect mix of cute, tough, sarcastic, kick-ass, vulnerable, thoughtful and protective. Just what Backstrom needs to get his own dog poop back together.

Fifth Suspect. The team learns that several years previously, Fitch was attacked by a patron during one of his performance pieces. It turns out Artist Julien Gaynor attacked Fitch because Fitch defaced and destroyed a piece of Gaynor's art during the performance. Fitch had intended Gaynor's shock and reaction as part of the piece. Gaynor and Fitch made up when Gaynor profited from the stunt by gaining lots of new business. Coincidentally, Fitch just recently purchased another piece of art from Gaynor for \$30,000 which was worth a tiny fraction of that. The question is: where did Fitch get that kind of money, and where's that painting now?

The stratospherically, over-valued art points back to the fiance, Virginia "I-Have-More-Money-Than-Sense" Anderson who freely admits to being Fitch's sugar mama. She would do anything for him, she effuses. What Anderson really needs is some therapy to help her see that she doesn't need a man to be "special," but that's a whole 'nother issue we won't get into here. As long as other strong female characters on Backstrom remain – Gravely, Paquette, Amy – I'm okay with one slobbery Holmes Anderson chick with the personality of a paper bag. Virginia turns over the key to Fitch's storage unit where the painting is most likely stashed.

And we're back to Moss (a.k.a. Mark Bradley, the name Val knew him by). Backstrom tells Moss that Gregory Valentine fingered him as Fitch's killer. Moss freaks out and talks about how much he loved Val, and that not being loved back isn't as bad as having that love exploited. This comes into play later and leads to the discovery of the killer's identity.

The key to the storage unit turns up some emergency room medical records belonging to Fitch's ex-girlfriend. Gravely and Almond construct a theory that Lucy "Peeing-In-Public-Is-Art" Harms ran into Fitch at the show and took her revenge by killing her abuser.

Backstrom confronts Harms in her plastic performance cubicle and accuses her of killing Fitch for knocking her around. Harms scoffs at this assumption and insists that all those injuries were voluntary. The pain from those injuries turned her on, or they turned Fitch on, I'm not entirely sure. This leads to another piece of the puzzle which Backstrom pieces together later, but not before a hilarious sequence in which a pasty shirtless Everett and Harms exchange flirtations and publicly make-out until Moto pulls Everett's inappropriate ass out of there. It's good humor as are the reactions of Gravely and Moto when they realize what's happening. Excellent.

Back at the station Backstrom takes a lot of crap from Gravely and Niedermayer about his exhibition with the crazy performance artist lady. Niedermayer brings up the point that it's impossible not to watch Lucy Harms because she is utterly mesmerizing. Then Backstrom gets that look on his face like something just clicked ... and we get the Backstrom clap, the clap which is the closest Backstrom comes to expressing joy.

So, who couldn't resist watching Harms? Fitch couldn't. Victim Timothy Fitch could not resist the opportunity to watch Lucy perform. Bazinga. Current fiance and sugar mama Virginia Anderson had gone to the installation to visit Fitch and saw him watching Harms. Though he'd told Anderson it was over between him and Harms, he just couldn't stay away. And what's worse than not having your love returned? Having it exploited (thank you, Moss). Who was being exploited? Virginia was bankrolling Fitch's career while he was lusting over his ex. Well, that's just not acceptable, so Anderson capped her beau and, voila, the case is solved.

Back at the Rub-A-Dub-Tub, Valentine confronts Backstrom about lying to Moss about Val saying he killed Fitch. What's the point, says Everett. I'm a liar, you're a thief, and he's a con man. Gah! He's not wrong. Backstrom does tell Moss the truth and Val explains that he'd lied so they could get Moss removed as a suspect as quickly as possible as a favor to Val.

Then comes an important comment from Backstrom about how our words don't mean anything; it's our actions that show who we are. As he sits there on the barge, Backstrom is putting the finishing touches on the rocket kite he's made Valentine. It's beautiful.

Corkscrewed

Season 1

Episode Number: 12

Season Episode: 12

Originally aired: Thursday April 23, 2015
Writer: Andrew Miller (I)
Director: Jeffrey Walker
Show Stars: Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Page Kennedy (Moto), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet), Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond)
Recurring Role: Sarah Chalke (Amy Gazanian)
Guest Stars: Adam Beach (Captain Jessie Rocha), David Alpay (Arthur Towne), Rafael Feldman (Ali Backman), Yan Feldman (Zane Backman), Colby French (Hank Altano), Rusty Schwimmer (Analeigh Kee), Malcolm Stewart (Ernest Jacomb)
Production Code: LAWM12
Summary: Valentine's abuser is found murdered on Backstrom's doorstep and the investigation leads to a ring of wine smugglers, a dirty river-patrol cop and a government official. Meanwhile, Valentine's sketchy testimony makes catching the killer more difficult; and Amy's new boyfriend is not to Backstrom's liking.



On his way home, Backstrom comes across a dying man. It's Dante Trippi, the man he threatened against Valentine in a previous episode. Trippi dies, and Backstrom calls in the team, but he tries to hide any connection he has with the dead man.

Valentine and the cavalry come up on the pier to see the gory mess and watch Niedermayer perform his characteristic ballet of the horrors (which I thoroughly enjoy) while he describes how the crime went down. Backstrom, of course, was the hapless person who last saw Trippi alive since the guy died right in front of

him, making Backstrom an immediate suspect. Valentine, since he was home at the time of the murder, is also a suspect.

Enter beautiful Amy to alert Backstrom that he's being investigated by the whatever committee again, this time for breaking Trippi's jaw. Thing is, Val was the one who did the jaw-busting on Trippi, not Backstrom. And remember that Moto gave Everett a serious "Come-To-Jesus" speech about the dangers of continuing his association with Val. This message echoes throughout this episode as Val is caught in lie after lie, putting himself and the team in danger.

Oh, and Backstrom discerns through his Spidey senses that Amy is getting some action of the male variety. She refuses to comment, of course, but Backstrom is clearly bothered by it.

Onto the screen roll a string of suspects, each questioned by a member of the team. Almond interviews a suspicious guy in lime green fingernail polish who spent four years in jail for strip-ping cars that Trippi made money off of. Gravely talks to a swanky guy in a suit who partnered with Trippi after his strip joint (whether women or cars is unclear) burned down. Moto talks to

a skanky ho who let Trippi bail her out of jail almost a dozen times, but who later accused him of trying to kill her. Niedermayer interrogates a carrot top kid who had the poo kicked out of him in a building owned by Trippi.

Any one of these individuals could have capped Trippi, but Backstrom dismisses them all and sends everyone out to find a serious suspect, anyone who isn't himself.

Val is wandering home in the murky darkness of night and nearly gets killed as bullets whiz by his head. The bullets that nearly stopped Gregory's fiercely beating heart came from the same .57 Magnum that killed Trippi, so now Val is under the microscope and Backstrom is pissed-er than hell at his half-brother for not fessing everything at the outset.

Val is cagey as all get-out but Backstrom is having none of it and slams his fist down on the table like a pissed off mother who just found an uninvited bunny painted on her new living room wall. Eventually, Val admits he was involved in a wine scam that Trippi wanted in on. Val was responsible for collecting crates of outrageously expensive wine from a tugboat that delivered them to him at a pier. Val delivered them to Trippi, I think, who then sold them for thousands of dollars per bottle to an unknown buyer.

River cop Hank Altano is the guy who should know about any suspicious boats delivering stolen booze up and down his territory. Coincidentally, Altano was recently in front of Amy's Civilian Oversight Committee under suspicion of taking bribes. Backstrom learns practically nothing from Amy no matter how much he needles her, but she does finally admit that she's seeing someone. She lies about it being someone Backstrom has never met, though.

Almond and Backstrom visit Altano on his lazy boat. Strommer and Altano get into a pissing contest and Backstrom admits it was his alcoholism that drove Amy away (I told you so). Altano, it turns out, admits he knew about Valentine's wine deal, but says he stayed out of it, figuring Backstrom was handling it. What?

This discussion leads to a lecture from Almond during which he calls Backstrom on the carpet for continuing to hang with Valentine. Val is putting Backstrom and the entire unit in danger by his involvement with Trippi, he says. Not very brotherly.

Val takes Niedermayer and Moto to Scott-Baio-look-alike twins, Zane and Ali Backman, at the heart of the wine-selling scam operation. The twins say they have receipts for all of the wine proving that it isn't stolen. However, nothing gets past Niedermayer, Backstrom's sexy forensic wiz who uncovers the boys' counterfeit practices. The Backman brothers had been carefully removing labels from expensive wine bottles and affixing them to bottles of cheap wine, then selling the bottles for thousands per bottle. Niedermayer arrests them all, including Valentine.

Back at the station the team puts the screws to Val. He reluctantly admits to knowing the wine was counterfeit but swears on a stack of holy condoms that he does not know who the buyers are. To find out who the buyers are, the team decides to follow through with a delivery of some cases of wine. After a boat chase, Backstrom and the guys stop the delivery tugboat and confiscate the wine from Analeigh Kee, the tugboat captain.

Paquet figures out that Trippi was selling all of his wine to the Portland Governor's Club. They decide to have Val deliver the wine as Trippi had planned so they can find out who signs for the wine, figuring he must be the guy who killed Trippi for selling him crap wine at stratospherically high prices. Scared crazy, Val tells Backstrom that their relationship is based on trust and that he always has Backstrom's back. What's that all about? Just wait and you'll see.

Val wheels the wine into the Governor's Club and gets a gun to the cranium. Skittish sommelier Arthur Towne lowers his gun eventually and pays for one crate, not two, which is what Val thought the order was for. When Val's wire goes off line, Backstrom, Almond and Moto crash the Governor's Club until they see Val leave safely. Val says Towne seemed to be oblivious about the wine being counterfeit. Backstrom confronts tugboat Annie, er, Analeigh, and discovers that she was procuring that second case of wine for Altano, the river cop who thinks that he and Backstrom are cut from the same cloth.

Backstrom turns over the incriminating evidence against the bribing and blackmailing Altano to Amy for which she is very grateful. They get along swimmingly for a moment, then the poo hits the propeller when Captain Jesse Rocha approaches Amy and Everett on the sidewalk. Rocha is the law man from the Oxbow Indian Reservation in "Enemy of My Enemy" who colludes with Blue Backstrom to cut Everett out of a case. Backstrom is extremely unpleasant to Rocha even before he intuits that Rocha is the one romancing Amy. Backstrom has a little tantrum and Amy

leaves in a huff. The look on Everett's face after Amy walks away is pure devastation. Now he knows he has lost the love of his life. She has moved on.

The contents of Backstrom's rub-a-dub tub garbage can and Trippi's stomach reveal that Valentine had been entertaining Trippi right before he was killed. Backstrom confronts Valentine who admits he was showing Trippi this new in-vitro meat that they could sell for lots of money. Backstrom goes into a rage shaming Val for putting everyone in danger by continuing to associate with Trippi. Then the truth finally comes out.

Val delivers an impassioned soliloquy explaining that Trippi was blackmailing him. For what? It was in exchange for Trippi's silence. You see, Trippi had an EMT driver who was willing to testify that it was Backstrom, not Valentine, who broke Trippi's jaw. That kind of testimony would end Backstrom's career and destroy the special crime unit he runs with Almond, Moto, Paquet, Gravely, and Niedermayer.

Back at the bat cave the team drinks some of the counterfeit wine which Frenchwoman Paquet recognizes as tasting like crap in comparison to the real thing. It occurs to Backstrom that proud people don't want to look like fools in front of their peers...which means it must be that haughty sommelier Arthur Towne who killed Trippi so no one would find out he was passing off crap wine as genuinely high valued wine.

Backstrom goes back to the Governor's Club and schmoozes with the man in charge. He buys a round of expensive wine for the whole house. He rattles off the names of a couple of really expensive bottles, then has an accusatory tete-a-tete with the brilliant sommelier Arthur Towne. Trippi was blackmailing Towne, threatening to tell his boss that Towne couldn't distinguish between crap and fine wine, so Towne killed him. On top of this, they find Towne's .57 Magnum among his belongings. That was the same gun that shot Trippi and tried to end Valentine.

After Backstrom and Valentine make some new rules about their relationship, Amy shows up at the rub-a-dub tub. her final message to Backstrom is that being around him is toxic so she wants him to stay out of her life. During this scene all I could think of was, "Don't try to kiss her again. Oh, please, don't try it again!"

Thankfully Backstrom is stunned and devastated enough to keep his lips to himself. The love of his life has just walked out of his life.

Rock Bottom

Season 1

Episode Number: 13

Season Episode: 13

Originally aired:	Thursday April 30, 2015
Writer:	Hart Hanson
Director:	Kevin Hooks
Show Stars:	Rainn Wilson (Everett Backstrom), Genevieve Angelson (Det. Nicole Gravely), Kristoffer Polaha (Sgt. Peter Niedermayer), Page Kennedy (Moto), Beatrice Rosen (Nadia Paquet), Thomas Dekker (Gregory Valentine), Dennis Haysbert (Det. Sgt. John Almond)
Recurring Role:	Rizwan Manji (Dr. Deb Chaman), Sarah Chalke (Amy Gazanian)
Guest Stars:	Robert Forster (Sheriff Blue Backstrom), Adam Beach (Captain Jessie Rocha), Lolita Davidovich (Louise 'Lou' Finster), Gregory Cruz (Edgar Norwest), Aubrey Deeker (Dale Kritko), Inga Cadranel (Chief Anna Cervantes), Dale Dickey (Judge Nunn)
Production Code:	1AWM11
Summary:	the S.C.U. investigates the death of a Native American found under a bridge on the Wabacooche reservation, and Amy's new boyfriend, an Indian Reserve Police Captain, wants to work the case. Backstrom learns that a Cooch County meth czar is a suspect, and that Backstrom's Cooch County Sheriff father may be aware of the dealer's doings. Meanwhile, Backstrom need to impress Dr. Deb in order to keep his job.



We see Backstrom's health catch up with him as Dr. Deb realizes he hasn't quit drinking or smoking or (worse in his mind) lying about it. I thought the episode was pretty good, and it was nice to see some payoff from earlier plotlines. There is a lot to discuss, so let's get to it!

The team gets a call about a young Native American, Jeremy Chase, murdered as part of a drug bust. Jesse Rocha wants in on the case and promises he will tell Backstrom Jeremy's last words if he lets him in on the case.

Backstrom concedes, but barely. What he'd really love to see happen is Rocha get

arrested and away from Amy. Neidermayer examines the victim and realizes that the stab wound he received was deliberate and meant to kill.

Since the case may take place in the county where Backstrom's father is sheriff, Backstrom wants to bust him as part of the drug operation. He puts several plans in motion to see this through, but most of the people in the town state Blue Backstrom is clean. Backstrom takes vacation time to go to Cooch County, and he takes Valentine and Val's mother Louise along; she makes him promise not to tell Blue that Val is his son—and they want Backstrom to visit the place where his own mother's ashes were scattered after her death.

In Cooch county, Backstrom (and others) is convinced Edgar Norwest is responsible for Jeremy's death. Blue says he doesn't take action on anything that happens on a reservation, so Backstrom and Val go there themselves. They see Norwest and others with drugs, and Val

approaches with a gun. Backstrom intervenes, but they also arrest Norwest. He offers to bribe them to let him go, and then Blue shows up to investigate. He insists that Norwest get a fair hearing in front of the local judge.

Norwest has a lawyer who is used to getting him out of trouble, and when Backstrom bundles the due process of the law up, Norwest goes free. Meanwhile, the rest of the SCU has come to town to help Backstrom on the case. Almond and Gravely see Norwest's lawyer as he's leaving town, and his ear is severely injured. Backstrom recognizes this as one of his father's moves to rid the town of people he doesn't care for.

Backstrom sends Moto and Rocha to the reservation to find Norwest, and only Moto returns. They figure Rocha has been hurt, and trace his phone location to an abandoned location. Neidermayer recognizes the same wounds found on Jeremy, but this time they are able to save (hopefully), Jesse's life.

Backstrom figures his father has killed Norwest, and he also confronts him about the truth of his mother's death. They argue, and come to no agreement. Blue spouts off more displeasure, and then Val shows up and tells him he is also his son.

When the team investigates an abandoned mercury mine, they find Norwest's body—just like Backstrom figured they would. Against Almond's advice, Backstrom calls the cops on his father, and Blue is forced to surrender his gun. But he keeps his boots and badge—for those, the cops will need a warrant. We see Backstrom is somewhat unsure of the choices he's made.

Actor Appearances

A

Carolyn Adair	1
0109 (Dancer)	
Enid-Raye Adams	1
0103 (Darlene Mundy)	
David Alpay	1
0112 (Arthur Towne)	
Tori Anderson	1
0101 (Alyson Cox)	
Zahra Anderson	1
0104 (Oversight Committee Member)	
Danyella Angel	1
0103 (Emma Germain)	
Jennifer-Juniper Angeli	1
0103 (Gigi Durst)	
Paul Anthony	1
0104 (Marcus Lester)	
Alison Araya	1
0102 (Danielle Black)	
Victor Ayala	1
0104 (Jason Rose)	

B

Link Baker	1
0102 (EMT)	
Matt Battaglia	1
0102 (Nick D'Agostino)	
Adam Beach	3
0107 (Capt. Jesse Rocha); 0112 (Captain Jessie Rocha); 0113 (Captain Jessie Rocha)	
Sterling Beaumon	1
0103 (Ryan Durst)	
Peter Benson	2
0106 (Nate Kelly); 0108 (Nate Kelly)	
Garrett Black	2
0107 (Drew Carver); 0109 (Drew Carver)	
Theodore Borders	2
0108 (Dimitri Green); 0110 (Dimitri Green)	
Leigh Bourke	1
0105 (Talia Lennox)	
Artine Brown	1
0103 (Vince Cropper)	
Kaylee Bryant	2
0105 (Amber); 0107 (Amber Morrow)	
Tara Buck	1
0111 (Arianna Fitch)	
Michael Reilly Burke	2
0106 (Donald Sampson); 0108 (Donald Sampson)	

C

Angelique Cabral	1
0102 (Samantha Orland)	
Inga Cadranel	3

0101 (Chief Anna Cervantes); 0103 (Chief Anna Cervantes); 0113 (Chief Anna Cervantes)	
Ever Carradine	1
0111 (Lucy Harms)	
Kyle Cartieri	1
0101 (Customer)	
David Carzell	1
0102 (Larry Dabkey)	
Sarah Chalke	6
0103 (Amy Gazanian); 0104 (Amy Gazanian); 0107 (Amy Gazanian); 0108 (Amy Gazanian); 0112 (Amy Gazanian); 0113 (Amy Gazanian)	
Michael A. Cheng	1
0110 (Sentry)	
Assaf Cohen	2
0106 (Dr. Daniel Bai); 0108 (Dr. Daniel Bai)	
Frank Collison	1
0110 (Norman Gilman)	
Jordan Connor	1
0103 (Stan Park)	
Gregory Cruz	1
0113 (Edgar Norwest)	
Ann Cusack	1
0110 (Sandy Hale-Cooper)	

D

Nathan Dales	1
0111 (Timothy Fitch)	
Mark Daugherty	1
0106 (Jimmy Fei)	
Lolita Davidovich	2
0109 (Louise 'Lou' Finster); 0113 (Louise 'Lou' Finster)	
Aubrey Deeker	1
0113 (Dale Kritko)	
Dale Dickey	1
0113 (Judge Nunn)	
Brett Dier	1
0101 (Archie Danforth)	
Jim Dreichel	1
0109 (Dante Trippi)	

E

Matt Ellis	1
0109 (Matt English)	
Craig Erickson	1
0104 (Wayne Combs)	

F

Rafael Feldman	1
0112 (Ali Backman)	
Yan Feldman	1
0112 (Zane Backman)	
Samantha Ferris	1

0101 (Rebecca Forrester)	
David Figlioli	1
0104 (David Kettering)	
John Fleck	1
0110 (Dr. Morton Fleck)	
Tatyana Forrest	1
0110 (Larissa Moscovitz)	
Robert Forster	1
0113 (Sheriff Blue Backstrom)	
Amy Fox	1
0104 (Tilda Swinton with a Smartphone)	
Mike Foy	1
0106 (Albert Reid)	
Evan Frayne	1
0109 (Ron Fournier)	
Colby French	1
0112 (Hank Altano)	
Kamran Fulleylove	1
0109 (Sebastian Serafian)	

G

Meghan Gardiner	1
0103 (Alison Germain)	
Chris Payne Gilbert	2
0106 (Tad Taymor); 0108 (Tad Taymor)	
Glen Gordon	1
0102 (Boy)	
Marrett Green	1
0105 (News Reporter)	

H

Catherine Lough Haggquist	2
0105 (Detective Francis Dunne); 0107 (Detective Francis Dunn)	
Jessica Harmon	2
0106 (Nurse Brittany Gottman); 0108 (Nurse Brittany Gottman)	
Pat Healy	1
0103 (Leon Mundy)	
Tiffany Hines	1
0101 (Cassandra)	
Brittany Hobson	1
0103 (Marissa Tunney)	
Fiona Hogan	2
0105 (Principal Larsen); 0107 (Principal Larsen)	
Ben Hollingsworth	3
0107 (ADA Steven Kines); 0109 (ADA Steven Kines); 0110 (ADA Steven Kines)	
Tammy Hui	1
0104 (Lindsay Han)	

J

Catherine Jack	1
0109 (Mindi Grundig)	
Evan Jones	2
0101 (Gene Visser); 0103 (Gene Visser)	
Jarod Joseph	1
0101 (Charles Turner)	

K

Hiro Kanagawa	1
0110 (Judge Hillerman)	
Richard Keats	2
0105 (Spencer Morrow); 0107 (Spencer Morrow)	
Daryl King	1

0102 (Homeowner #2)	
Jennifer Kitchen	1
0109 (Sarah McMurray)	
Fred Koehler	1
0105 (Wesley Lewis)	
Andrea Kelly Konno	1
0108 (Choreographer)	
Karin Konoval	1
0103 (Louise Hanley)	
Mike Kovac	2
0106 (Jim); 0108 (Jim)	
Lindsey Kraft	1
0110 (Claire McGrail)	

L

Darcy Laurie	2
0106 (Noel Ross); 0108 (Noel Ross)	
Ash Lee	1
0104 (Henry Han)	
Nelson Leis	1
0109 (Woody)	
Katharine Leonard	2
0106 (Meredith Vender); 0108 (Meredith Vender)	
Hannah Levien	1
0109 (Lara Hausberg)	
Anne Lockhart	1
0101 (Policewoman)	
Donny James Lucas	1
0105 (Eric Ashby)	

M

Rizwan Manji	5
0101 (Dr. Deb Chaman); 0103 (Dr. Deb Chaman); 0104 (Dr. Deb Chaman); 0108 (Dr. Deb Chaman); 0113 (Dr. Deb Chaman)	
Brenda Matthews	1
0103 (Hilary Anders)	
Matt Mazur	1
0103 (Craig Lasalle)	
Eddie McClintock	1
0102 (Sam D'Agostino)	
Brent McLaren	1
0109 (Chris Borden)	
Michael Meneer	1
0102 (Reporter)	
Brendan Meyer	2
0105 (Claudio Moretti); 0107 (Claudio Moretti)	
Cate Michaud	1
0107 (Sabine Weiss)	
Laura Mitchell	1
0102 (Homeowner #1)	

N

Thomas Newman	1
0108 (Mr. Vender)	
Paula Newsome	1
0109 (Jill Chapin)	

O

Kehli O'Byrne	1
0108 (Vanessa Taymor)	
Kerry O'Malley	1
0110 (Janet Larimer)	
Kurt Ostlund	1
0102 (Martin Phinney)	

P

James Paladino 1
0102 (Firefighter)
Maddie Phillips 2
0105 (Lacy Siddon); 0107 (Lacy Siddon)
Amy Pietz 1
0104 (Christina Rose)
Gerard Plunkett 1
0101 (Leyland Eaton)

R

Rebecca Rifai 1
0110 (Sexy Svetlana)
Kristen Robek 1
0110 (Attorney Nancy Landers)
Kristen Ross 2
0106 (Debbie Sampson); 0108 (Debbie Sampson)
Elysia Rotaru 1
0102 (Melinda Norburg)

S

Ray Santiago 1
0111 (Moss Brady)
Anna Louise Sargeant 1
0101 (Alysson's Girlfriend)
Jeff Schwartz 1
0104 (Auctioneer)
Rusty Schwimmer 1
0112 (Analeigh Kee)
Kyle Secor 1
0101 (Senator Tobias Percival)
Joel Semande 1
0108 (Scion)
Judith Shekoni 1
0101 (Lady Mah)
Chris Shields 1
0103 (Security Guard)
Shayn Solberg 1
0105 (Derrick Cotton)
Vendela Sonia 1
0101 (Dancer)
Marco Soriano 1
0102 (Robert Hodstetter)
John Specogna 2
0101 (CSI); 0110 (onlooker / CSI)
Cate Sproule 2
0105 (Harper); 0107 (Harper)
Amy Stewart 2
0105 (Jennifer Lennox); 0107 (Jennifer Lennox)
Malcolm Stewart 1
0112 (Ernest Jacomb)

T

Faran Tahir 1
0109 (Dr. Alan Kobrine)
Valerie Tian 1
0105 (Bethany)
Ian Tracey 1
0111 (Julien Gaynor)
Keenan Tracey 1
0101 (Tobias Percival III)
Keegan Connor Tracy 1
0108 (Cristin Kelly)

V

Jerome Velinsky 1
0104 (Guy)

W

Alison Wandzura 2
0105 (FBI Agent Cottler); 0107 (FBI Agent Cottler)
Haley Webb 1
0111 (Virginia Anderson)
Anthony Welch 1
0101 (Cameraman)
Calum Worthy 2
0108 (Joshua Larimer); 0110 (Joshua Larimer)

Y

Andy Yu 1
0110 (Chinese Man)