

BACKGROUND OF THE SCENES:

In a small town, Mildred (40) is grieving the rape and murder of her teenage daughter, Angela, seven months earlier. Angry over the lack of progress in the investigation, Mildred rents three abandoned billboards near her home, and posts on them: "RAPED WHILE DYING", "STILL NO ARRESTS?", and "HOW COME, CHIEF WILLOUGHBY?" The billboards upset the townspeople, including Chief Bill Willoughby. Willoughby is sympathetic to Mildred's frustration, but he finds the billboards are an unfair attack on his character. He is very angered by Mildred's lack of respect for his authority.

This scene takes the narrative perspective of Willoughby as he approaches Mildred and visit her at her house to talk.

OBJECTIVE:

Upset and wronged, Willoughby decides to visit Mildred to speak with her in private with regards to the billboards and the investigations. He wishes to persuade Mildred to retract her public posts on the billboards as this has also affected the people's faith in the town police and himself. He sympathises with Mildred, but hopes that despite her grief, Mildred would understand his situation and the limits of his capabilities so that she would take down the billboards he deemed unnecessary.

At the end if Mildred still would not budge, Willoughby would attempt to tell Mildred about his cancer. He hopes that she would take his medical condition into account, give him some respect for his remaining time left and "let him loose".

Status & Relationship:

Willoughby and Mildred are only related by the case of Mildred's teenage daughter.

Chief Willoughby holds authority and power in that town, and should be respected.

Mildred is a commoner but she is enraged over the lack of progress and decides to do something to gain attention so as to indirectly pressure the police to give her an explanation and justice brought to the town.

Mildred publicly disrespects Willoughby through her actions. She subconsciously needs a closure of her daughter's death and she thinks that the least she could do now (since she was

not there to help or save her daughter) is to fight for her daughter's justice now that she's gone, even though she understands that Willoughby is not entirely at fault for the lack of progress.