

47. The Expert

In 1970, during a courtroom scene, Prosecutor Eric Chastain questions Sheriff Jackson about the discovery of Chase Andrews' body at the base of a fire tower, suggesting foul play due to lack of footprints or other evidence near the scene. Despite the absence of fingerprints and the connection of red wool fibers from Miss Clark's hat to Chase's clothing, the sheriff's testimony appears weak without direct evidence of murder. Defense attorney Tom Milton challenges the assumption of erased footprints, proposing natural tidal movements could have eliminated any tracks, including Chase's, without human intervention. This theory suggests the possibility of an accident rather than a crime, especially since other evidence like Miss Clark's fingerprints or hair were not found at the scene, nor was there any substantial proof of her presence at the tower on the fateful night. Milton further discredits the sheriff's expertise and investigative efforts, highlighting the regularity with which the tower grates were left open, possibly by local kids, thus questioning the presumption of Miss Clark's involvement in Chase's death. The exchange casts doubt on the prosecution's narrative, emphasizing the lack of concrete evidence to tie Miss Clark to the alleged crime.