

## 49. Disguises

In a North Carolina courtroom during 1970, a witness named Larry Price, donning a modest blue suit and declaring himself a Trailways bus driver, took the stand to discuss the night of Chase's death. Price testified under questioning from prosecutor Eric that it was feasible to journey between Greenville and Barkley Cove within a single evening. Specifically, he drove that route the night Chase died and noted none of the passengers resembled Miss Clark, the defendant.

The discussion shifted towards a particular passenger Price remembered: a tall, slender individual who could potentially be a woman masquerading as a man. This passenger, described as a young white man around five ten, clad in loose-fitting clothes and a bulky, blue cap, did not interact with others and kept his head lowered. When questioned by Eric if this could have been Miss Clark in disguise, Price concurred, believing her long hair could have been concealed under the hat. By having Kya Clark, the defendant, stand up, Eric aimed to draw parallels in height and build between her and the mysterious passenger, suggesting the possibility that Clark was indeed the passenger on the bus from Greenville to Barkley Cove on the fatal night of October 29, the prior year.

In cross-examination, Tom Milton, presumably Clark's defense attorney, highlighted inconsistencies and assumptions in Price's testimony. He pointed out that initially, Price did not perceive the thin man as a disguised woman, and this notion only formed after suggestion from the sheriff. Milton also questioned the reliability of Price's memory regarding the exact date the thin man was seen on the bus, insinuating that no concrete evidence verified his presence on the night in question.

This chapter encapsulates a critical moment in the trial, exposing the fragility of eyewitness testimony, especially under suggestive influence, and the strategies employed in courtroom battles - the attempt to tie Clark to the scene of the crime on the significant date through indirect and possibly flawed witness observations.