

THE ERNEST CARTER SAGA

Season 1 Overview

Episode 1: The Brief Tragedy of Ernest Carter

Our saga opens in a deserted rural park, where a YOUNG WOMAN struggles against the sexual assault of her ABDUCTOR. Out of seemingly nowhere, a DIRT BIKE RIDER (30s, wearing a trucker's cap advertising Fluffy Stuff brand biscuits) races to the scene. Within a breath, he dismounts from the bike and produces an ivory pool cue, which he wields expertly against the abductor. The young woman, now saved, rides off with this mysterious and unassuming vigilante.

ERNEST CARTER.

Over images and old movies of other similarly thwarted crimes, a MYSTERIOUS FEMALE VOICE takes us through some of Ernest's storied vigilante escapades (we meet the woman behind the voice - ALLIE - in episode 2). At the end of the montage, we find Ernest in trouble with the law for the damage he did to the abductor in the opening scene.

LYLA RICHMOND (mid 40s, a striking woman), CEO of land-grabbing Caldwell Real Estate, visits Ernest in jail. She offers Ernest a deal: Caldwell will pay the abductor's medical expenses and get Ernest off the hook if Ernest goes to work for Caldwell as a heavy in their more contentious real estate meetings. Locals who don't want their land taken out from under them can put up quite a fight.

Ernest reluctantly agrees, but soon has trouble working on the wrong side of what is right and good, and starts fighting against Caldwell instead.

Lyla calls Ernest in to correct his incomplicant behavior. She threatens to cut his eyes out. Taking it to the brink of physical harm, Ernest concedes and agrees to work quietly for the company until his debts are paid off. He leaves his country vigilante life behind and works in the mindless cubicle tombs of Caldwell Real Estate indefinitely.

Episode 2: Mother & Child

Eight years later. This episode tells the story of our episode 1 narrator, ALLIE (30s), and her 8-year-old son, SAWYER.

We focus on a pivotal day in Sawyer's life wherein he witnesses a fistfight between two boys from school. That same night his grandmother and grandfather both die in their sleep.

During a brief interlude in the middle of this episode, we catch up with Ernest who is working miserably but dutifully at Caldwell. Lyla, concerned that Ernest hasn't fully been tamed, assigns a foster child to him named CLAIRE (6), whom he accepts into his care, all but ensuring that he will never be a vigilante again.

The episode ends in tragedy as Sawyer stands and watches a forest fire.

Episode 3: The Journey Begins

Five years later. Quick open on a fight in a trailer home belonging to Allie and Sawyer. Caldwell Real Estate heavies are forcing Allie and **Sawyer** out of their home. A man grabs Allie by the hair and pulls her into the kitchen. Allie slips and cracks her head on the edge of the counter top, dying instantly. Sawyer becomes a ward of the state.

Sawyer decides he will take it upon himself to get justice for his mother's death. He remembers his mother telling him a tale about a man named Ernest Carter whose past vigilante acts became a thing of legend in the community. Sawyer enlists his best friend JOEY to help find Ernest Carter to ask for his help. The episode ends as their search for Ernest begins.

Episode 4: A Friend & His Truck

Journey episode. Sawyer and Joey search for Ernest Carter. Their search brings them to a snake handling church where A DEACON (50s, white, southern) gives them the scoop on Ernest Carter's whereabouts. The boys hear that Ernest has been living in town all along, minding his own business and raising the foster daughter entrusted to him in episode 2. Sawyer is surprised to learn that Ernest works for Caldwell.

The boys get an address for Ernest and the episode ends with the boys preparing to confront Ernest Carter the next day.

Episode 5: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Sawyer and Joey find Ernest Carter. He has been spending his days living in a pay-by-the-month hotel just off the highway out-of-town with his adopted daughter, Claire (now 11).

Sawyer's story of his mother's murder at the hands of Caldwell reignites Ernest's fire for justice. The boys convince Ernest to exact revenge on Caldwell Real Estate. The trio spends the rest of the episode tracking down Ernest's favorite dirt bike and his old trusty pool cue.

Episode 6: The Supposed End

The season concludes with Ernest journeying to Caldwell Real Estate headquarters and ultimately crashing his old dirt bike through the front glass doors of Caldwell to gain entry.

Once he's inside, he fights his way to the office of Lyla Richmond, still CEO, (now late 50s, but as beautiful and awful as ever). The two square off in her office. Ernest lets her have it verbally, but realizes that with as much as he hates her and Caldwell and all the wrongs they have done, he still will not hit a woman. He turns around and walks away.

In the final scene, Ernest tells Sawyer the matter is settled. Lyla elected not to kill the messenger, so to speak, and let Ernest walk away without calling the police. Ernest leans close to Sawyer and says,

"This time the message was the messenger. Let's get out of here fast."

Police sirens fade up in the distance. Ernest and the boys get in Joey's truck and speed away.