

Michael 119  
Clayton  
M-F

KAREN (cont'd)

(pausing for triumph)

The package you have before you represents, in my judgement, the very strongest possible position for our company under the circumstances. As Chief Counsel it is my recommendation that the proposal be confirmed.

And she's done. And it's gone very, very well. Many happy prosperous faces.

DON JEFFRIES

Thank you, Karen.

(taking over now)

If you could just give us a few minutes to talk it over...

Start

KAREN

(with a smile)

I'll be right outside.

EXT. HOTEL BALLROOM FOYER -- DAY

The big, weird hub of three different huge reception rooms. Wall-to-wall carpet. Chairs stacked in distant corners. Empty. KAREN walking off her excitement. Standing there.

Catching her reflection in a wall of mirrors.

And then...

MICHAEL (OS)

How'd it go?

She turns. Stops. Blinks. Freezes.

MICHAEL

Pretty freaky, huh?

(he's coming toward her)

You see Arthur? He's hanging around here somewhere...

She's just paralyzed. He's carrying one of those copy-shop boxes.

MICHAEL

Hey, I'm kidding...

(he smiles)

C'mon. Lighten up.

He drops the box. Pulls out a RED-COVERED BOOKLET.

MICHAEL

You have one of these?  
(offering it)  
Great memo. An oldie but a goodie.  
(she doesn't move)  
Got your heart racing, don't I?

KAREN

I don't know what you think you're doing...

MICHAEL

What do you think I'm doing?

KAREN

The suit is over. We have a deal.  
This...  
(the memo)  
Whatever this is, it's meaningless at this point.

MICHAEL

You think?  
(so enjoying this)  
I must've gotten it wrong. I heard you had a tentative proposal. I didn't realize you'd written all those checks already. What a drag...  
(the box)  
I've got thousands of these things, what the hell am I gonna do?

KAREN

I'm calling Marty...

MICHAEL

Do it. Call him. That's a great place to start. Let's find out who told him Arthur was calling Anna Kysersun. Let's find out who tapped those phones.

KAREN

...this...this memorandum...even if it were authentic -- which I doubt -- I highly doubt...

MICHAEL

I know what you did to Arthur.

KAREN

...even if it was, it would belong to U/North, it would be protected...

MICHAEL

I know you killed him.

KAREN

...this is a cut-and-dried case of attorney-client privilege!

MICHAEL

See that's just...

(here comes the steam)

That's just not the way to go here, Karen. For such a smart person, you're lost, aren't you? You've got the moves, but you don't hear the music.

KAREN

(backing away)

...this conversation...this is over.

MICHAEL

I'm not a guy you kill! I'm the guy you buy!

(that stops her cold)

Are you so fucking blind you don't see what I am? I'm the easiest part of your whole problem and you're gonna kill me? Don't you know who I am? I'm a fixer! I'm a bagman! I do everything from shoplifting wives to bent congressmen and you're gonna blow me up? What do you need, Karen? Lay it on me. You want a carry permit? Need a heads-up on an insider trading subpoena? Need someone's name erased from an escort service list? Got a rich kid busted for dope? Somebody beat up their mistress?

(wide open)

I sold out Arthur for eighty grand and a three-year contract and you're gonna kill me?

KAREN

(barely)

What do you want?

MICHAEL

What do I want? I want more. I want out! And now, with this.....

(the memo)

I want everything.

KAREN

Is there a number?

MICHAEL

Ten is the number.

KAREN

Ten what? Ten million?

(incredulous)

Where do you think I can get ten million dollars?

MICHAEL

You know what's so great about this?  
(the memo)

Did you read to the end? You see who signed it? Let's go in that ballroom and ask Don Jeffries if he wants to pass the hat for a worthy cause.

KAREN is reeling. She can hardly breathe.

KAREN

This...it would have to be a longer conversation...and someplace else...

MICHAEL

Where? My car? *(w/ sarcasm)*

(on her hard now)

Let's make it easy. Let's call it five to forget about Arthur's murder.

KAREN

Five is easier.

(hopeful for a moment)

That would be something that we might be able to do. Five could work.

MICHAEL

Great. And the other five million is to forget about the four-hundred-and-sixty-eight people who got wiped out by your weedkiller.

KAREN

Let me finish this meeting. Let me talk to Don. Let me...

MICHAEL

Do I look like I'm negotiating?

Across the room -- THE DOOR TO THE BALLROOM OPENS and --

DON JEFFRIES

(all smiles)

Karen...

KAREN  
 (over her shoulder)  
 One second.

~~DON JEFFRIES~~  
 (stepping out)  
~~Everything okay?~~

KAREN  
 (to Michael)  
 Yes.

MICHAEL  
 Ten million. Off shore. Bank of my  
 choosing. Immediately.

KAREN  
Yes.

MICHAEL  
 Say it.

KAREN  
 Ten million dollars. Your bank.  
 As soon as this meeting is over.

MICHAEL hesitates. She's serious. It's his. Ten million.

~~DON JEFFRIES~~  
 (insistent now)  
 Karen, everyone's waiting...

KAREN  
 I'm coming!  
 (back to Michael--)  
 So you...I'll just...we...

MICHAEL  
 You're so fucked.

KAREN  
 Excuse me?

MICHAEL  
 You're fucked. It's over.  
 (his pocket, his phone,  
 flipped open, like it's  
 on--)

KAREN  
 What do you mean?

MICHAEL  
 Take a wild guess.

*W* DON JEFFRIES  
(coming toward them)  
Is there a problem?

KAREN  
I don't understand...

MICHAEL  
(the phone)  
Want me to take a picture while I'm  
at it?

KAREN  
(small and faraway)  
You don't want the money...?

MICHAEL  
Keep it. You're gonna need it.

DON JEFFRIES  
Is this fellow bothering you?

MICHAEL  
(to Karen)  
I think I'll let you tell him.  
She can't make sense -- swamped -- lost --

DON JEFFRIES  
Karen, I've got the whole board sitting  
in there. What the hell is going on?  
(wheeling on Michael)  
Who are you?

MICHAEL  
I'm Shiva the God of Death.

MICHAEL starting to walk away and --

DON JEFFRIES  
Ron! Ronny!  
(yelling back toward the  
ballroom--)  
I need security out here immediately.  
(turning because--)

DALBERTO and TWO OTHER DETECTIVES are coming quickly from one  
of the distant empty ballrooms and --

DON JEFFRIES  
Here we go...  
(thinking they're part of  
his team--)  
That guy, right there -- stop him --  
(MORE)