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THE PRACTICE

"Part I"

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"THE PRACTICE"

CAST LIST

BOBBY DONNELL
ELLENOR FRUTT
LINDSAY DOLE
EUGENE YOUNG
REBECCA WASHINGTON

Martin Parks
Warren Snail
Judge Wald
Douglas Colson
Judge Vinocour
Ruth Gibson
Kevin Gibson
Michael Gibson
Boston Cabbie
Gary Roberts
Jimmy Berluti
D.A. Susan Alexander
Officer Patrick Trimble
Kenneth Hanks
Judge Steven Winwood
D.A. Harvey Welk
Ben Thompson
SIX WOMEN
Phillip Newman
Detective
Judge White
Sandra
Clerk

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*
*

"THE PRACTICE"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

CIVIL COURT - DAY *
JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY *
MOTION SESSION - DAY
ROTUNDA - DAY

OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY & NIGHT
BOBBY'S OFFICE DAY & NIGHT

CRIMINAL COURT - DAY *

APARTMENT - DAY & NIGHT
BATHROOM - DAY

MEN'S JAIL - DAY & NIGHT *

COMMONWEALTH BANK - DAY

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT - DAY
JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY
COURTHOUSE ELEVATOR LOBBY - DAY

PUBLIK HOUSE BAR - LATE AFTERNOON *

INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT *

SUFFOLK COURTHOUSE - ROTUNDA - DAY

MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT *

EXTERIORS

BOSTON - DAY

BOSTON FENWAY - DAY & NIGHT

SUFFOLK COURTHOUSE - NIGHT

PUBLIC GARDENS - DAY

THE PRACTICE

"PART I"

ACT I

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON MARTIN PARKS, forties, suit and tie, respectful.
Sympathetic.

PARKS

I didn't exceed sixty, this I can
say with absolute certainty.

REVEAL

1 INT. BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT - DAY

1

*

A multi socio economic crowd. Parks, is being questioned on
the witness stand by his, BOBBY DONNELL, who's sprouting goose
bumps, of course, at the thrill of traffic court litigation. *

BOBBY

Okay. How can you be so sure of
that, Mr. Parks?

PARKS

(the voice of reason)

First off, I have two small
children and I'm not in the habit
of driving at excessive speeds.
Second, I had just stopped for
coffee, I customarily put it in
a little holder on the door arm.

BOBBY

How is that relevant?

PARKS

It's relevant in that my car
shimmies when it goes over fifty-
five and coffee would've been
splattering everywhere. I'm sure
the officer is conscientious in
his job but he was mistaken on
this occasion.

BOBBY

Thank you, Sir.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Bobby returns as police prosecutor, WARREN SNAIL, cross examines. His monotone voice similarly conveys his special thrill at getting to prosecute such a cutting edge case. He doesn't even bother to rise. His inflection never changes.

SNAIL

You say anything to the officer when he issued the citation?

BOBBY

(quickly)

Hearsay.

JUDGE WALD

(give me a break)

Traffic court.

SNAIL

What'd you say to Officer Grote, Mr. Parks?

PARKS

Well, I was upset at being unjustly cited, added to which he was making me late for work and I likely communicated my annoyance.

SNAIL

You tell him Alan Dershowitz was your lawyer and he would prove all cops are trained to lie under oath?

PARKS

I don't believe I said he was my personal attorney.

SNAIL

(monotone)

Did you call Officer Grote a pus-infected donkey with the moral fiber of a disposable douche?

As Bobby drops his head slightly--

PARKS

That seems to be a non sequitur, I doubt I would say that.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

SNAIL

Did you opine that the reason women and children were being raped and killed is because fat donkeys like him are too busy pinching speeders when they should be fighting serious crime?

PARKS

I'm a taxpayer, I'm entitled to an opinion.

BOBBY

(rising)

Is any of this at all relevant?

JUDGE WALD

No.

(then)

Guilty, see probation, next case.

OFF Bobby, we:

WHIP PAN TO:

1A INT. BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT - DAY

1A

Ellenor is quickly studying a police incident report as the clerk calls the case. KENNETH HANKS, thirties, stands in the custody well. D.A. HARVEY WEIK is handling the prosecution. JUDGE STEVEN WINWOOD presides.

CLERK

Commonwealth vs. Kenneth Hanks, unlawful possession, with intent to distribute controlled substances--

EILENOR

(still studying the incident report)

We'll waive reading, what's left of it, enter not guilty, I'd ask the court for a probable cause hearing.

JUDGE WINWOOD

You ready this afternoon?

(CONTINUED)

1A CONTINUED:

1A

ELLENOR
(still scanning)
Um. Sure.

JUDGE WINWOOD
(to the D.A.)
See if you can get the officer
in.

WHIP PAN TO:

2 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

2

*

EUGENE and Attorney DOUGLAS COLSON, smallish, hyperactive, stand before JUDGE VINOCOUR. Despite Vinocour's authoritative bark, he cannot quite conceal his disinterest. RUTH GIBSON, late thirties, lower middle class is at Eugene's table. Her estranged husband KEVIN, unemployed dry waller, is at Colson's.

JUDGE VINOCOUR
A TRO for what?

EUGENE
To keep him away. Given the
history of physical abuse in this--

COLSON
What history, there's been no
documented--

EUGENE
(to Colson)
I like to talk in whole
sentences.

JUDGE VINOCOUR
There's been no suggestion of
abuse in the pleadings.

EUGENE
Because we're no fault, plus
which for the sake of the kids,
we wanted to avoid--

COLSON
Kids, kids, stop using kids as a
trump, is it--

EUGENE
I haven't finished.

COLSON
--in the best

COLSON
--interest of the kids to
restrain their father from...

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

EUGENE

Permission to smack him, Judge?

COLSON

(pointing)

Don't intimidate me.

JUDGE VINOCOUR

Mr. Colson. Why don't you let Mr. Young say what he has to say before squealing like a distressed little pig, would that be acceptable?

COLSON

(pissed)

Fine.

EUGENE

We didn't allege violence because we hoped this wouldn't get ugly.

JUDGE VINOCOUR

And now?

EUGENE

It's ugly.

COLSON

Divorced couples typically behave in antagonistic ways, it doesn't behoove this court to intervene with rash restraining orders--

EUGENE

How long do we wait, until he beats--

COLSON

Now who's interrupting?

EUGENE

--her into a coma?

EUGENE

I was behooved.

COLSON

(snapping)

Shut up!

JUDGE VINOCOUR

Mr. Colson.

COLSON

He upsets me on purpose, Your Honor, he goes right for my goat. And he gets it.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

JUDGE VINOCOUR

I understand.

(to Eugene)

I'm not going to let your client
revise the facts, the pleadings
will speak for themselves and--

EUGENE

He keeps physically threatening
her and--

JUDGE VINOCOUR

(overriding)

Mr. Colson, you will instruct
your client to stop with the
threats and intimidation or the
TRO will issue and he won't see
his children.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. BOSTON - DAY

3

Bobby exits traffic court with Martin Parks, whose demeanor is
somewhat different when not on a witness stand.

PARKS

Pay you, why the hell should I
pay you?

BOBBY

This is my third appearance
without--

PARKS

And you're oh for three, what
kind of a squathead do you think
I am?

BOBBY

I'm getting a little sick of your
repeated--

As Officer Grote emerges from the building in the b.g.

PARKS

So puke then, I'm the client,
maybe your only client,--

As Officer Grote passes them--

BOBBY

I'll garnish your wages.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

PARKS

I'll give you something to garnish.

(to Officer Grote)

How ya doin', Jumbo, go get that donut.

Officer Grote doesn't even dignify Parks by breaking stride. Parks then heads off, under--

PARKS (CONT'D)

(muttering)

Garnish my wages.

Bobby is left standing there, wondering why the hell he does this job. As a taxi approaches--

BOBBY

Taxi!

And the BOSTON CABBIE screeches up. Bobby climbs in.

CABBIE

Where to?

BOBBY

I just want to turn the corner.

CABBIE

Don't we all?

And the cab peels out as we:

WHIP PAN TO:

4 INT. OFFICE - DAY

4

LINDSAY's working at the West Law Computer as ELLENOR approaches. REBECCA works at her desk.

ELLENOR

(sing songy)

Liinnndsay.

LINDSAY

(forget it)

Biiiiizzzy.

ELLENOR

One little probable cause hearing, you're done in an hour.

LINDSAY

Sorry, I'm fighting the tobacco industry this week,--

(CONTIN

4 CONTINUED:

4

ELLENOR
(don't be silly)
You're the exclusionary queen
here, I need you. Cocaine,
vehicle search--

LINDSAY
Oh, know what Elly, my Mother's
birthday was Sunday, I promised
her I wouldn't put any crackheads
back on the street this week,
otherwise--

ELLENOR
Cute, serious, I think we have
grounds and it's an extra five
for us if we squash it fast,--

REBECCA
Ellenor.
(brandishing a piece of
paper)
You know anything about this?
"Single white female, attorney,
thirtyish..."

Ellenor quickly snatches the paper out of Rebecca's hand under--

ELLENOR
Where'd you get that?

Rebecca and Lindsay exchange a look of confusion. Then--

REBECCA
It was on the computer.

ELLENOR
(mortified)
Oh... well...
(covering)
Client suing a dating service.
I was... y'know typing evidence
into the file.

REBECCA
(not fooled for a
second)
Ah.

ELLENOR
(defensive)
What "ah", you think you know
every minute little thing that
goes on in this office?

She does.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

REBECCA
(simply)
Evidently not.

Rebecca goes back to work, nonplussed, so does Lindsay. A beat.

ELLENOR
I uh... I was thinking about
putting an ad in the personals.
(humiliated)
I was just thinking about it, I
wasn't actually going to go
through with it.

REBECCA
Got it.

ELLENOR
(to Lindsay)
I just wrote it up to see. I
would never do it.

LINDSAY
I understand.

Upon which Bobby bursts into the office, under--

BOBBY
I'm shutting down the practice.
Get your resumes out there, I'll
try to string out three more
weeks but--

REBECCA
(cutting him off)
Fine, you got a suppression
hearing scheduled in twelve
minutes--

BOBBY
(brandishing)
See this? Eviction notice.
These are the kinds of things
that happen when you can't make
rent which is the kind of thing
you can't make when clients don't
pay,
(to Lindsay)
are we anywhere close to a
settlement on the tobacco case.

LINDSAY
Ha.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

Right. BOBBY

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (4)

4

Upon which Eugene enters--

REBECCA
We're shutting down again.

EUGENE
That's nice, any decaf made?

BOBBY
I'm serious. I've had it,
(as the phone rings)
we can't keep juggling--

EUGENE
You haven't had it, don't tell me
you've had it when you haven't
had it, I've had it with your
bein' "had it".

REBECCA
(hands over the phone;
to Eugene)
Eugene. Ruth Gibson. Trouble.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. BOSTON - FENWAY - DAY

5

A cab pulls up to a stop, Eugene hops out, hustles down the street, enters a low-rent apartment house.

6 INT. APARTMENT - DAY

6

Ruth Gibson, distraught, with Eugene. The place looks like a bomb hit it, papers, even garbage strewn everywhere. MICHAEL GIBSON, eleven years old, dressed like Robin Hood, stands with his mother. He's scared to death.

RUTH
Said he was lookin' for his
social security card. Said he
had to look everywhere, couldn't
leave till he found it.

EUGENE
He touch you?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

RUTH

No, but...

EUGENE

(to Michael)

Hey, son. Peter Pan, he was my favorite.

MICHAEL

I'm Robin Hood.

EUGENE

Oh, right.

(back to Ruth)

How long was he here?

RUTH

Long enough to do all this and look.

As they go--

7 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

RUTH

He stabbed it.

EUGENE

What?

RUTH

My cervical cap.

She holds up a cervical cap with a knife in it.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Put a kitchen knife right through it.

EUGENE

All right. We're going back to court. Can I keep this?

RUTH

(go ahead)

It won't be doin' me any good.

EUGENE

Keep your doors locked, use the deadbolt. I'll have somebody pick you up.

(to Michael)

Everything's okay, Mike.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MICHAEL

What if he hurts us?

EUGENE

I'm gonna make sure that won't happen.

WHIP PAN TO:

8 OMITTED

8

8A INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

8A

Bobby stands before Judge White. His client GARY ROBERTS, thirty, is in custody. SUSAN ALEXANDER is the D.A.

JUDGE WHITE

I find the evidence to be admissable,--

BOBBY

Your Honor, given the inflammatory nature of that videotape--

JUDGE WHITE

It shows what he did, Counsel. Putting a gun to the temple of a person, an elderly person, robbing a grocery store,.. that's what's inflammatory.

BOBBY

Your Honor, if the jury views that tape--

JUDGE WHITE

They might get an idea of what actually happened. God forbid. The tape is admitted.

And suddenly, Roberts has leaped over the rail and is charging the Judge. He doesn't come close, security is all over him, pinning him. As they corral him into submission--

JUDGE WHITE

(nonplussed)

Put him back in lock up.

BOBBY

Your Honor, I'd now be asking that you recuse yourself, givin my client's attack on your safety--

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

8A

JUDGE WHITE
I'm not recusing myself,
Counsel. I'm sure your
client is very distraught
here and I promise to be
understanding.

BOBBY
I don't think you can
be impartial.

*

JUDGE WHITE
I'll consider him misunderstood,
trial set for Wednesday next,
we're adjourned.

*

As Security drags off Roberts.

*

BOBBY
I'll be in touch, Gary.

*

OFF this we:

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

9 INT. CIVIL COURT - MOTION SESSION - DAY

9

Eugene and Colson are back before Judge Vinocour, Ruth and Kevin Gibson are at their respective tables.

JUDGE VINOCOUR

I am still loathe to issue a restraining order.

EUGENE

How can you be loathe, he vandalized the house, he threatened her again, he stabbed her diaphragm with a kitchen knife,

(brandishing it)
look at this.

A beat. Judge Vinocour's interest is piqued. Eugene has the knife protruding through the cervical cap.

JUDGE VINOCOUR

(scrutinizing)
Let me see that.

Eugene complies, hands the knife to the Judge. He examines it.

JUDGE VINOCOUR (CONT'D)

I've seen a diaphragm before. My wife has one. This looks like a thimble. He stabbed a rubber thimble. Are you trying to confuse this court?

COLSON

(mortified)
I believe it's... it appears to be a cervical cap, it's different from a diaphragm.

JUDGE VINOCOUR

How?

COLSON

Well, with a cervical cap--

EUGENE

(impatient)
What difference does it make, he stabbed the thing, it's just lucky she wasn't wearing it at the time.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

COLSON

Mr. Gibson has promised to get therapy, he feels deep remorse over--

EUGENE

Deep remorse, he doesn't feel the slightest thing,

EUGENE

--he's deranged, he's dangerous, he represents a physical threat to my client's safety and this has gone on--

COLSON

--This was the first incident of vandalism, for which he's promised to get professional help.

JUDGE VINOCOUR

Quiet, both of you.

(to Eugene)

Does your client wish to press criminal charges on the vandalism?

EUGENE

What good would that do?

JUDGE VINOCOUR

Listen, you gotta show imminent threat of bodily harm, otherwise--

EUGENE

Do I have to drag her in here in a body sack for you to find--

JUDGE VINOCOUR

(now he's angry)

Hey.

(to Gibson)

Are you going to hurt her?

GIBSON

Absolutely one-hundred percent "no".

JUDGE VINOCOUR

(back to Eugene)

Show me a bruise, come in with a couple of stitches, something more than a punctured cervical cap. Now. Mr. Gibson. You go in that house without an invitation, it's trespassing.

GIBSON

It's my place too.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

JUDGE VINOCOUR

No, it isn't. You stay out. I'm just waiting for an excuse to paste you, I don't think you want to give it to me.

OFF Kevin Gibson, we:

WHIP PAN TO:

10 INT. COMMONWEALTH BANK - DAY

10

Bobby and Lindsay are seated in front of a desk.

LINDSAY

Why am I here?

BOBBY

I told you, to help me get this loan. This guy's a buddy of mine--

LINDSAY

This you told me, I asked why am I here?

As someone approaches.

BOBBY

Sssh. Just go along.

And JIMMY BERLUTI, loan officer, fortyish, arrives.

BERLUTI

(give me a break)

Seventy thousand?

BOBBY

Come due in ninety, with--

BOBBY

the usurious rates you got this will get you a promotion, Jimmy.

BERLUTI

C'mon, cut me a small break, would ya?

BOBBY

I don't ask for much.

BERLUTI

You ask all the time, Bobby, and I give like a cow, I'm growin' udders here.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

BOBBY

We're very close to settling a wrongful death against T.L. Michaels, my associate here, Lindsay Dole, is handling--

BERLUTI

Do I look like I got a brain tumor? You think I think you're gonna squeeze a tobacco company--

BOBBY

You watch 60 Minutes, Jimmy, things are changing, they'll settle--

BERLUTI

(to Lindsay)
I'm not as stupid as he would suggest--

BERLUTI

(back to Bobby)

Even if you got half a mil, which you won't, that's one-fifty on the contingency, divided by costs, fees for experts, you'll be lucky to even clear seventy--

BOBBY

What, you're an expert now, maybe I should just throw you the case.

BERLUTI

--much less pay it back.

BERLUTI

(pissed)

I know what this thing is worth, I used to be a lawyer, remember?

BOBBY

A terrible lawyer.

BOBBY

You never won a case.

BERLUTI

Yeah, suck up to me, that'll help.

LINDSAY

Excuse me. Are you two related?

BOBBY

No, just friends, so I thought.

BERLUTI

Go ahead, guilt me.

(to Lindsay)

He tell you how I advanced him thirty on his big age discrimination case--

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

BERLUTI
He tell you that?

BOBBY
Shut up, Jimmy.

BERLUTI
The guy they hired to replace his
client; six years older, now that
was a winner.

BERLUTI
(to Bobby)
I swallowed some leather
on that, Bobby.

BOBBY
That was a hire to
fend off our claim--

BERLUTI
And this tobacco case, I looked
at the file, Clarence.

BERLUTI
The victim never had
an autopsy.

BOBBY
Again with the legal
opinions--

BERLUTI
(overriding)
There's no lung cancer, it was a
stroke,--

BOBBY
(pointing to the
papers)
--caused by vascular disease
caused by smoking, there's this
new craze, Jimmy, it's called
reading, maybe--

BERLUTI
I read your expert
doctor's report, it
looked like your writing.

BOBBY
--you should try
comprehending the
sentences, they're all
punctuated for you.

LINDSAY
Hey.
(they stop)
What is going on here?

BERLUTI
He's asking me to loan out on a
dog, that's what's going on,
(to Bobby)
more suction.

BOBBY
Forget it. Just forget it.

BERLUTI
Yeah, guilt me.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

OFF Lindsay, slightly bewildered at this, we:

CUT TO:

11 EXT. PUBLIC GARDENS - DAY

11

Ellenor and Rebecca, post lunch, on the move.

ELLENOR

I ask you for advice and you just clam up.

REBECCA

I thought you weren't going to run the ad, that's what you said.

ELLENOR

Well, I changed my mind a little. I know you read it. So... how did it sound, you think it's something men would respond to?

REBECCA

(uneasy)

I do. The only...

(rethinking)

I do.

ELLENOR

No, what, I want feedback, tell me, if you can't get candor from a friend...

REBECCA

(a bad liar)

It's fine.

ELLENOR

Just say it, Rebecca.

She stops.

REBECCA

(uncomfortable)

Okay. You describe yourself completely except for the fact that...

ELLENOR

That what?

REBECCA

Well... that... you're full-figured.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

Ellenor just stares back. A beat.

ELLENOR

I say "big heart". I also say
"big hands".

REBECCA

Why don't you just say "big"?

ELLENOR

Or I could say "fat", is that
what you mean?

REBECCA

You're not fat. You're big. If
this works, you're going to meet
the guy in person. He's gonna
see you're big.

WHIP PAN TO:

12 OMITTED

12

12A INT. JAIL - DAY

12A

Bobby, separated by glass, sits opposite his client GARY
ROBERTS. They speak on the phones.

ROBERTS

(not happy)

Six years?

BOBBY

If we can get it. Armed robbery,
you could get life, we don't--

ROBERTS

Guys do less than six for murder. *

BOBBY

Six would be a great result,
trust-- *

ROBERTS

For who you, so you don't gotta
look at me no more?

BOBBY

(bridling)

What's your problem, Gary?

(CONTINUED)

12A CONTINUED:

12A

ROBERTS

My problem is I don't trust you.
You were assigned to this case.
I'm just some piece of snot you
want to blow out your left
nostril and be done with. I--

BOBBY

Hey, don't flatter yourself. You
put a gun to an eighty year old
lady's head. If my snot sunk to
your level I'd be on antibiotics,
you can trust that. You wanna
fire me, please do. But as long
as I'm assigned to your ass, I
got an ethical obligation to
present you with your best legal
options, which is what I'm doing.
I haven't even got it down to six
years yet. You should only be so
lucky.

OFF Roberts, we:

WHIP PAN TO:

13 INT. BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT - DAY

13

D.A. HARVEY WELK has OFFICER PATRICK TRIMBLE on the stand at
the probable cause hearing on KENNETH HANKS, thirties, in the
custody well. Lindsay and Ellenor sit at the defense table.
Lindsay is just making notes throughout. JUDGE STEVEN WINWOOD,
fifties, presides.

TRIMBLE

I observed the vehicle to be
weaving in an erratic manner. I
suspected the driver to be under
the influence of alcohol or other
substances and I pulled him over.

WELK

And when you went to the car?

TRIMBLE

I could smell the slight odor of
marijuana. And I saw some
marijuana seeds on the console.

WELK

And what did you do then, Officer
Trimble?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

TRIMBLE

I placed the suspect under arrest, then searched the vehicle incident to the arrest and found the cocaine in the trunk of the vehicle.

WELK

Were there any other occupants of this vehicle, Sir?

TRIMBLE

No, there were not.

WELK

Did you check the registration of this vehicle, Sir?

TRIMBLE

I did. The defendant was listed as the owner.

WELK

Thank you.

Ellenor whispers to Lindsay, who nods. Then--

LINDSAY

You pulled him over on suspicion of DUI?

TRIMBLE

That's correct.

LINDSAY

And you detected a slight odor of marijuana?

TRIMBLE

Yes.

LINDSAY

(rising)
Which told you what?

TRIMBLE

(obviously)
That he had probably just been smoking marijuana.

LINDSAY

Then you opened the trunk, saw the briefcase?

TRIMBLE

That's correct.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

LINDSAY

And you opened the briefcase
discovering cocaine.

TRIMBLE

Yes.

LINDSAY

Is that what you were looking
for? Cocaine?

Trimble shoots a look to Welk, which Lindsay notes. So does
the Judge.

TRIMBLE

It was just a general search,
incident to the arrest.

A beat. This witness is pretty well schooled and Lindsay knows
it.

LINDSAY

So you didn't say to yourself
when you smelled the pot... "we
got a big drug dealer here."?

TRIMBLE

No, I did not.

LINDSAY

Kind of an innocent search,
wasn't it? You were surprised to
find that cocaine.

TRIMBLE

I wasn't looking to find cocaine,
this is correct.

LINDSAY

And when you opened that
container... did you say "oh
my!"?

WELK

Objection.

LINDSAY

Withdrawn. Nothing further.

JUDGE WINWOOD

The witness may step down.

As Trimble descends in the foreground we CLOSE IN ON Lindsay
and Ellenor.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

ELLENOR
(sotto)
What do you think?

LINDSAY
(sotto)
What do we know about this Judge?

ELLENOR
(sotto)
Dukakis appointed him. Strict
constructionist.

Lindsay smiles. Then--

LINDSAY
Can we conference, Your Honor?

CUT TO:

14 INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - MOMENTS LATER

14

Lindsay, Ellenor, Welk and Judge Winwood.

LINDSAY
He had no right to go into the
trunk. Wimberly vs. Superior
Court, distinguishes casual users
from drug dealers, this officer's
testimony was clear, he concluded
my client was smoking pot in the
car, casual use, that entitles
him to search the car but not the
trunk.

WELK
First of all, she's citing a
California case, California
judges themselves are casual
users--

LINDSAY
(reeling it off)
Funny, you want more precedent,
U.S. vs. Neilson, tenth circuit,
1993, officer smelled burnt
marijuana, car search okay,
trunk, not okay. U.S. vs.
Seals, fifth circuit, and here,
you really wobble, he not only
went into the trunk, he opened a
container. Chadwick. We've all
read that one.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

WELK

You want me to reel off all the cases saying the search is constitutional?

JUDGE WINWOOD

No. I don't. Look. I've been cut back to one law clerk and I'm not wasting two weeks of her time researching this pimple. I'll certify it to appeals, you can draft your briefs, go upstairs and argue it if that's what you really want to do. On such a small amount of Coke, I hardly think it's worth the time.

ELLENOR

So what, then?

JUDGE WINWOOD

Let's plead him to the mis on the marijuana, also plead guilty to the DUI. I'll continue the cocaine charge without a finding for a year, if he's a good boy, the count gets dropped altogether.

WELK

I'm not thrilled about junking a cocaine possession.

JUDGE WINWOOD

I understand but let's be real, even Scalia might squirm on this one. You did no blood test, by the way, you could even have trouble on the marijuana.

WELK

(couldn't really give a shit)
Whatever. Fine.

ELLENOR

(thrilled)
Fine.

JUDGE WINWOOD

Go, and be good citizens.

Lindsay and Ellenor exchange a slight look of victory, as they exit.

CUT TO:

15 OMITTED

15

15A INT. COURTHOUSE - ELEVATOR LOBBY - DAY

15A

Ellenor and Lindsay emerge from the courtroom into the busy, bustling lobby.

ELLENOR

For somebody who hates criminal law, you're pretty good at it.

LINDSAY

(sarcastic)

Gee, thanks.

ELLENOR

I guess Harvard pays. Ben, baby. How's my favorite clerk?

REVEAL, she's stopped BEN THOMPSON, thirties, clerk. There's an obvious familiarity.

BEN

Tired.

ELLENOR

(brandishing court papers)

Look, got an ex parte, we wanna garnish a deadbeat's wages, can you slip it to Weeks, he's sitting in third.

BEN

Legit?

ELLENOR

Very. Martin Parks, remember the stiff in our trademark injunction?

BEN

(that asshole)

Oh yes.

ELLENOR

Bobby's been in three times, last one traffic court, guy hasn't cuffed up a quarter.

BEN

I'll take care of it.

(CONTINUED)

15A CONTINUED:

15A

ELLENOR

You're a sweetheart.

(then)

Oh, by the by. Gary Roberts,
armed robbery, we're trying to
cop to six. D.A.'s Susan
Alexander, could you give her a
sniff for me, see if she'll
wiggle?

WHIP PAN TO:

16 OMITTED

16

16A INT. PUBLIK HOUSE BAR - LATE AFTERNOON

16A *

Bobby and Berluti are in a booth having beers, Berluti is chain-smoking cigarettes.

BERLUTI

Nobody would like to nail the
tobacco boys more than me. I got
an uncle, close, lost a lung,
walks around wheezin' out of one
side. But this case is loose
jello, Bobby.

BOBBY

(playing his card)

You owe me, Jimmy. It's pay day.

BERLUTI

No, no, no, no, no.

BOBBY

This is the piper sitting
here.

BERLUTI

You want me fired?

BOBBY

You won't be fired because you're
talented, and creative, you can
think of a way.

BERLUTI

(figuring it out)

Your doors are closin', aren't
they?

BOBBY

I've had better months.

Berluti takes a hit of his cigarette, Bobby reads the body
language. The guy's going to come through.

(CONTINUED)

16A CONTINUED:

16A

BERLUTI

You still got those blue prints,
y'know, for takin' over the empty
space next to you?

BOBBY

Somewhere.

BERLUTI

Dust 'em off. I can't lend on
this tobacco case, but I'll give
you a construction loan for
office expansion.

BOBBY

The space next to us is no longer
empty.

BERLUTI

(wrong response)

I never heard that.

BOBBY

I never said it.

BERLUTI

Seventy, not a nickle more, it's
a point over prime, and
(pushing the tab)
you pay this.

BOBBY

Thanks.
(then)
Thanks.

BERLUTI

Why do you keep doing this? You
could go to any firm you want,
Ropes, Goodwin, Sullivan, they'd
gobble. Take a nice fat salary,
don't have to be lookin' over
your shoulder for creditors or
clients lookin' to kill you.

BOBBY

Maybe I like looking over my
shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

*
*

16A CONTINUED: (2)

16A

BERLUTI

I've been listening to your
dreams for seven years. You
ain't a step closer.

BOBBY

Well, I'll get back to the dream
tomorrow. Today I got people
counting on me. I got associates
looking to be paid. I can't
bail. I can't.

OFF Berluti, we:

CUT TO:

17 INT. OFFICE - EVENING

17

Eugene there with Rebecca.

REBECCA

She's advertising in the
personals, how can she not be
honest?

EUGENE

I'm not saying she should lie,
but you could've put it more
gently. "Big" seems a little
blunt.

REBECCA

What would you have told her?

EUGENE

I would've suggested...
"shipshape".

REBECCA

(holds a look)
Shipshape.

The door then opens, Ruth Gibson and her son enter.

RUTH

(brandishing a tape)
You got a tape recorder? Have a
listen.

Eugene takes the tape, drops it into a recorder. It plays out.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

KEVIN GIBSON (O.S.)
Ruthie, Honey. I'm just so
concerned, you bein' worried
about your safety. I started
thinkin' hell, you must be
worried livin' alone. Somebody
could just break in and hurt you,
I don't blame you for bein'
scared. I'd be scared too. I
just want you to know Honey, I
sympathize. I'm very scared for
you. I got some premonition, I
guess. Maybe you should put up
a sign, saying "No Trespassing".

And the tape ends. Eugene clicks it off.

RUTH
That man is gonna kill me. I
know it.

OFF Eugene, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

18 INT. OFFICE - DAY

18

Lindsay's working at the computer, Rebecca's counting cash at her desk, Ellenor is standing by her desk with Bobby.

ELLENOR
(sotto to Bobby, re
Lindsay)
You shoulda seen her. Citing
cases off the top of her head,
state, not just federal, even the
Judge was backpedaling. She's a
keeper, Bobby.

BOBBY
I had a hunch.

Upon which Jimmy Berluti enters.

BERLUTI
(with humor)
What the hell is dyin' in here?

BOBBY
(suspicious)
Jimmy, what's up?

BERLUTI
In the neighborhood, caught the
smell, thought I'd stop up, throw
a hello.

BOBBY
(alarm)
What's going on?

BERLUTI
What, a friend can't say hello,
this is something that's not done
these days?

BOBBY
One of your problems as a lawyer,
Jimmy, was your lousy poker face.
What are you doing here?

BERLUTI
(dropping the charm)
You're asking my bank to float
you seventy G's, I think I better
take a glance of the plank I'm
walkin', specially since your TRW
is growin' a fungus.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

BOBBY

You already agreed to the loan,
we had an oral--

BERLUTI

(now he's getting
angry)

I ain't backing off the loan, but
I got superiors, they're gonna be
asking questions, I felt I better
take a look see.

Upon which Martin Parks bursts in, enraged.

PARKS

(to Bobby)

What the hell do you think you're
doing?

BOBBY

I warned you, Mr. Parks, you
don't pay--

PARKS

(going for him)

You embarrass me at my place of
business? Having my wages
withheld?

ELLENOR

I did it.

As Eugene emerges from the conference room.

PARKS

And who the hell are you?

REBECCA

Single, white, loves horseback
riding--

ELLENOR

(snappish)

Rebecca.

PARKS

Bunch of comedians?

(to Bobby)

You're going to regret doing
this.

He seethes another beat, then exits past a befuddled Berluti.
As he opens the door, Colson enters with Kevin Gibson.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

EUGENE

Mr. Gibson. Thank you for coming.

COLSON

(short)

I'd like to know what this is about.

EUGENE

It's about settling this matter in an amicable way. Since Mr. Gibson is represented by counsel, it'd be against the canons of legal ethics, of course, for me to talk to him outside the presence of counsel, that's why I was behooved to call you.

COLSON

You're not going to get my goat.

EUGENE

(to Kevin)

I'll make this quick. Most of my clients are in the criminal trade, some of 'em are broke and even have to pay in trade. So much as go near your ex-wife again, drive by the house, leave a funny message on her machine, whatever... I will be dispatching two of my delinquent accounts to separate the top of your knee caps.

KEVIN

Ha ha.

And in a second, Eugene has him pinned by the neck, against the wall. Berluti gapes. Bobby's a little startled himself, and not too pleased.

EUGENE

I'm glad you got a sense of humor, that'll help you through hard times.

COLSON

(in shock)

What the hell are you doing?

ELLENOR

Go to your client's aid, Mr. Colson. He seems to be in need of assistance.

(CONTINUED)

18

CONTINUED: (3)

18

Eugene keeps Kevin pinned as Colson struggles with his utter disbelief. Rebecca, nonplussed, just types at her desk. Berluti stands frozen, watching.

COLSON

What the... who are you people?

And Eugene squeezes Kevin a little harder. Kevin is not completely sure he'll escape real harm now in this moment.

EUGENE

Cowards make me crazy.

Eugene then looks to Colson who quickly takes a step back. Eugene then flings Kevin in his direction.

COLSON

I'll see you in jail.

EUGENE

Do what you gotta do, I got your address too.

Colson can't fathom this. He's been threatened as well.

COLSON

C'mon.

Colson and Kevin exit. A beat.

BERLUTI

Is this the kind of practice my bank is investing in?

BOBBY

Excuse me, Jimmy. Eugene. A moment.

Uh oh. They all recognize the tone, Bobby is livid. He heads for his office, Eugene follows.

19

INT. BOBBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

19

BOBBY

You want to explain what that was?

EUGENE

(simply)

Self help. Husband threatens the wife, the Judge won't restrain, I don't wanna take chances. This guy smells like a bomb to me.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

BOBBY

You're a lawyer Eugene, not a P.I. anymore. You want to be taken seriously as a lawyer, this firm wants to be taken seriously in the legal community, that kind of crap doesn't help this practice. You got that?

EUGENE

(perfunctory)

Got it.

Upon which Rebecca pokes her head in.

REBECCA

Bobby, your hookers are here.

BOBBY

Clients, Rebecca.

REBECCA

Yeah, clients. They're here.

BOBBY

Send them in.

Eugene holds one more look with Bobby, then exits, crossing with SIX WOMEN, not dressed in working attire, but not exactly disguising their profession either.

EUGENE

Ladies. Salutations.

Some of them ad lib hellos to Eugene.

BOBBY

(trying to make shorter
shrift of this)Alright, ladies, the purpose of
our meeting.

(closes the door)

First, let it be understood that this office in no way counsels you to violate the laws of our Commonwealth, nor do we condone any violation of our legal code in any way.

SANDRA

Goody goody.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

BOBBY

There's been some anxiety concerning last week's police sweeps, together with recent court decisions regarding the laws of entrapment. Let's review. We'll begin by defining what legally constitutes predisposition.

WHIP PAN TO:

20 INT. COURT - DAY

20

Motion session concluding, Lindsay has approached D.A. Susan Alexander, who's packing her case.

ALEXANDER

What is this tag team, how many lawyers does this Roberts guy have?

LINDSAY

We all cover for each other. It just seems in the interest of judicial economy, a joint recommendation could save us all some time--

ALEXANDER

I'm all for pleading this out, but not to six years. *

LINDSAY

Listen.

(candor)

This guy is scum. I won't pretend. But he could get two. What if we get an acquittal, you thought about that? *

ALEXANDER

(with a half laugh) *

Not for a second. Have you?

LINDSAY

Six is a good compromise. You get him off the street for a long time, you avoid a trial-- *

ALEXANDER

You're good. I'll settle for ten. And tell Ellenor nice try going to the clerk, that was deft. Wave to Benny over there.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

And Alexander is off. Lindsay looks to Ben Thompson, the clerk, who throws back a futile shrug. OFF him, then Lindsay, we:

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON JUDGE VINOCOUR

JUDGE VINOCOUR
(incredulous)
You threatened to break his knee caps?

REVEAL

21 INT. CHAMBERS - DAY

21

Eugene and Colson are with Judge Vinocour. The Stenographer records the proceedings.

EUGENE
(simply)
Not break. Dislocate.

JUDGE VINOCOUR
(stupefied)
Right in front of his lawyer?

EUGENE
It woulda been unethical for me to do it outside of counsel.

COLSON
I was threatened too, Your Honor, he vowed he knew where I lived and he said it with vicious malice.

EUGENE
As opposed to affectionate malice.

Vinocour tries to conceal his slight smile.

COLSON
(re the Judge's smirk)
I saw that. You're finding judicial amusement in this, I'm absolutely astounded.

JUDGE VINOCOUR
Oh, stop being such a mole.

COLSON
I want that on the record.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

JUDGE VINOCOUR
(to the Stenographer)
M-O-L-E, as in tiny little
annoying rodent, look I heard
your client's tape, and I've had
enough of all of this crap. I'm
hereby restraining Kevin Gibson
from making any contact with Ruth
Gibson for sixty days, any and
all contact.

(to Eugene)
I'm fining you two-hundred
dollars and

(to Colson)
you. Hold out your hand.

COLSON
I beg your pardon?

JUDGE VINOCOUR
Hold it out.

Colson reluctantly does so. Judge Vinocour slaps his wrist.

JUDGE VINOCOUR (CONT'D)
You get a slap on the wrist.

Colson takes a deep breath, trying to stave off a convulsion.

COLSON
(strained)
Am I to understand... this man
commits a brazen assault, and he
is profiting from it? He secures
the sought after TRO, he is
rewarded by a judge for a
criminal act, is that what I've
just witnessed?

JUDGE VINOCOUR
I wouldn't describe it that way,
Counsel, but maybe a mole would.

Colson almost shakes with rage. A beat.

JUDGE VINOCOUR (CONT'D)
(to the Stenographer)
Put it on the record he's mad.

OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

22 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

22

All present except Eugene. Ellenor is taking her shoes off ON THE CUT as Rebecca observes from her desk.

ELLENOR

(re the relief)

Oh my God. My feet.

(off Rebecca's look)

They swell sometimes, alright?

Should I include that too, "big woman, feet swell"?

REBECCA

You asked me my opinion, Ellenor, next time I'll know better than to give it, you little twig.

Upon which the door opens. Attorney PHILLIP NEWMAN, blue blood, well-fitted suit, fifties, enters.

NEWMAN

Excuse me, I'm looking for Mr. Donnell?

BOBBY

That's me.

NEWMAN

Phillip Newman, I'm sorry, I did try to call first but a recording came on saying service was disconnected.

Bobby looks to Rebecca.

REBECCA

Only for an hour, phones are working now.

NEWMAN

I've assumed representation of Martin Parks, and... well, to be frank Mr. Donnell, this is most disturbing. For a lawyer to bring an ex parte motion against his own client--

BOBBY

Former client, Mr. Parks wouldn't pay his legal fees,--

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

NEWMAN

Even so, did you send a demand letter first, did you withdraw as Counsel, did you bother to give him any notice? Believe me, I'm not comfortable criticizing other attorneys but this goes beyond unprofessional, I think it's actionable.

Bobby sighs.

BOBBY

You know what, Mr. Newman? You might be right. Tell Mr. Parks he wins. And he can take it all, Rebecca, sign over our entire law practice to Mr. Parks, give him the files, the office, the chapter seven application, everything.

(to Rebecca)

We got any petty cash?

REBECCA

Thirty-two dollars and sixty cents.

BOBBY

Give it to Mr. Newman, please.

As Rebecca begins to do so.

NEWMAN

You think this is funny?

BOBBY

Do we look amused?

(then)

First rule for a plaintiff lawyer is to ascertain whether or not the defendant is judgement proof.

(then)

I'm glad Mr. Parks is suing us. Now we get to counterclaim without having to pay the fifteen dollar filing fee. Tell your new client, thanks. And tell him I'm going to get him.

Newman just stares back. The PHONE then RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

REBECCA
(re the phone)
See, they work.
(answering)
Donnell and Associates.
(a beat; shock)
What?
(then)
Oh, God.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. BOSTON - FENWAY - NIGHT

23

Eugene is sprinting toward the apartment building, the flashing lights of police cars fill the sky. Crime scene.

24 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

24

Eugene enters, DETECTIVES are in the corner with Ruth and Michael Gibson. Ruth is crying, Michael, in his Robin Hood suit, seems almost catatonic. Eugene then turns to see it.

HIS P.O.V.

Kevin Gibson stands dead, eyes opened, pinned to the wall by an arrow which has gone right through his throat. Blood all over, it's gruesome. Eugene cannot mask his horror. One of the detectives approaches.

RESUME

DETECTIVE
He came in screaming. The kid
shot him.

Eugene looks to Michael, then back to the body. A eight-year-old kid did that. Then, the attorney in Eugene necessarily takes over. He approaches Ruth, under--

EUGENE
(snapping to)
These people are represented by
counsel, there'll be no more
discussion. Ruth...

She's still crying.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

EUGENE

(strict)

Ruth, listen to me.

(she looks up)

They'll be taking you to the precinct, you say absolutely nothing until I get there.

Michael, same for you...

(grabbing his face)

you don't talk.

(to the Detectives)

Innes vs. Rhode Island, people, you don't even ask if they're thirsty.

And Eugene then walks back into the center of the room, returning his gaze to the awful sight. Then, OFF Kevin Gibson, still pinned to the wall, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

25 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

25

Bobby and Eugene are huddled with Ruth Gibson, still in quasi-shock.

RUTH

Kicked in the door, he was a madman. Said he didn't care what the court said. He started throwing things and... next thing... I just saw his neck kind of explode. Blood was spurting everywhere and... I turned around.

(struggling)

There was Michael. He shot his father.

Ruth begins to tremble with horror. Then--

EUGENE

Did your ex-husband... did he say he was going to kill you?

RUTH

No but he had that look. He looked all crazy.

BOBBY

Alright, listen to me Mrs. Gibson, listen to every word I tell you. I don't know exactly what happened. But let me tell you what will happen. If Michael's charged with murder, he's gonna be doing some time somewhere--

RUTH

How can they--

BOBBY

(intense)

Listen to me. If it's self defense, that's fine. If it's defense of others, for example if he was defending you, that's fine too. But it's only okay if he

(more)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

BOBBY (Cont'd)
thought Kevin was going to kill either of you. As I said, I don't know what happened. But if your ex-husband wasn't posing some kind of deadly threat, then Michael is in some serious trouble. Do you understand what I'm saying here?

RUTH

Yes.

(a beat)

He was going to kill me.

A beat.

BOBBY

Alright. In a few minutes, we'll be making a statement to the police. But Eugene, first you better go talk to Michael.

EUGENE

(calling)

Guard!

WHIP PAN TO:

26 INT. BOBBY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

26

Team meeting. Bobby, Lindsay, Ellenor and Eugene. Eugene is taking this hard, blaming himself.

BOBBY

This isn't on you.

EUGENE

We don't know that. It coulda been me that inflamed the guy, I mighta been the one who provoked--

ELLENOR

This has been coming, Eugene, Ruth has been saying he would kill her, let's not forget the tape. You did everything you could to prevent this, you got the restraining order.

A beat.

BOBBY

Alexander got the case, I'm told, this could be good.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

ELLENOR

She hasn't helped on Roberts.

BOBBY

But she's a good lady, straight shooter.

ELLENOR

So's our client.

LINDSAY

(wheels spinning)

The father had no gun, no weapon?

Eugene shakes "no".

LINDSAY

He make a move for them? Did he charge or anything?

EUGENE

He was screaming, throwing stuff...

BOBBY

Not exactly a deadly threat.

EUGENE

Look... everything this kid's been through... if he's forced to go through a trial or if he's locked up in some hole, there's something seriously wrong with things.

LINDSAY

I'd go with mistake.

(off their looks)

It doesn't have to be actual justified self defense. If the kid mistakenly thought the father was going to kill them, and the mistake was reasonable...

BOBBY

She's right. Kid's eleven years old. Under those kinds of circumstances. We go self defense, in the alternative mistaken self defense. Kid's eleven.

CUT TO:

27 INT. SUFFOLK COURTHOUSE - ELEVATOR CORRIDOR - DAY

27

*

Bobby and Eugene are with D.A. Susan Alexander.

ALEXANDER

It can't be that simple.

BOBBY

The threats were documented in
court, Susan--

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

ALEXANDER

Actually, they weren't, in all the divorce pleadings, there was no mention of threats--

BOBBY

That's what the whole TRO business was about, this guy--

ALEXANDER

I got all the back story, but I still got a kid in a Peter Pan suit who--

EUGENE

Robin Hood.

Alexander holds a look, then:

ALEXANDER

Who jumps out from behind a sofa and murders his father. What was he doing with real arrows?

EUGENE

His father used to take him hunting.

BOBBY

Susan.

ALEXANDER

Bobby.

BOBBY

(honest)

The boy is eleven. He's already in a psychological wasteland, if he has to go to some facility, his life is forever shot. What are we doing here?

A beat, as she considers this.

EUGENE

He's a good kid.

Alexander looks to Bobby.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

ALEXANDER
(truth time)
Is he?

BOBBY
From what I understand, he's the
victim. This isn't lawyering,
Susan, I promise.

ALEXANDER
Uh huh. Now on Roberts, when you
try for six years instead of
twelve, that is lawyering, isn't
it?

BOBBY
That's not fair.

Alexander pulls Bobby aside. Then--

ALEXANDER
I'm looking for a point of
reference here, Bobby. When you
tell me this kid shouldn't be
charged, do you say it with the
same conviction you bring to the
Roberts' case?

Bobby knows she's horsetrading here and she's putting him in a
hugely difficult ethical position.

BOBBY
This isn't right and you know it.

ALEXANDER
It's a tough world. I don't want
to walk up to my superiors and
say I let a juvie killer go scott
and settled for six with an armed
robber who put a gun to a senior
citizen's temple. It's one for
you, one for me, take your pick.

BOBBY
That is completely unethical--

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

ALEXANDER

You're right, I withdraw the offer. But I'm dealing with one case at a time. Roberts is first.

OFF Bobby, we:

CUT TO:

28 INT. OFFICE - DAY

28

Berluti, Rebecca, Lindsay nearby. Berluti has the bank check.

BERLUTI

I'd like to give it to Bobby personally, it's made out to him as name partner.

REBECCA

I understand but I got exactly eight minutes to get this deposited and in the interest of maintaining our electricity...

BERLUTI

I didn't hear that.

REBECCA

I never said it.

LINDSAY

Thank you, Mr. Berluti. We'll make good on this.

And she gently takes the check from him and gives it to Rebecca.

LINDSAY

I promise.

BERLUTI

You married?

(off her look)

Thought I'd just ask, y'know, I got a thing for supple. You got a husband?

LINDSAY

I'm sure I must have.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

BERLUTI
That's good.
(to Rebecca)
She's quick.

WHIP PAN TO:

(OMITTED 29)

29A INT. JAIL - DAY

29A

Bobby sits across from Roberts, very unhappy.

ROBERTS
Now you're telling me ten?

BOBBY
Ten is good, Gary. It's the best--

ROBERTS
Yesterday six was good.

BOBBY
Listen to me. Judge White is tough. There's a possibility you could get life. I don't think that'll happen but what if he slaps you with twenty?

ROBERTS
Maybe I should just roll the dice with a trial. It's not like you can't beat the rap these days, even when you commit the crime on tape.

BOBBY
You're not gonna beat the rap on this.

ROBERTS
Would every lawyer tell me that?

BOBBY
Maybe not before they got your retainer. Look Gary, as I said you wanna fire me, fine. I won't be losing sleep. But ten is good. One of the reasons we're getting ten is because I got a dialogue with the D.A. You wanna play craps, it's your choice. But I think you should take the deal.

(CONTINUED)

29A CONTINUED:

29A

A beat. Roberts measures the man and the advice. *

ROBERTS
Okay, take it. This sucks.

BOBBY
I know. But it's best.

Roberts just departs. A beat.

BOBBY
(to himself; softly)
It's best. *

(CONTINUED)

29A CONTINUED: (2)

29A

(OMITTED 30)

30A INT. ELEVATOR LOBBY - NIGHT

30A

Eugene, Ruth and Michael are heading toward the elevator.

EUGENE

The psychologist wants to see you
both again in the morning.

RUTH

(shaken)

Okay.

(then)

Thank you. I still don't know
how we'll get through this but
thank you... as long as he's not
going to jail...

EUGENE

He isn't.

(leans before Michael)

Hey, Mike. This is gonna hurt
for a long long time. You don't
have to be this brave Robin Hood
or any hero. You gotta talk to
the doctors. Let yourself cry.

MIKE

I gotta take care of my mother.

EUGENE

You did that, son. Now you gotta
let your mother take care of you.
Okay?

(nothing)

Okay?

MIKE

Okay.

Ruth, quietly weeping, leads her son into the elevator as
Eugene finds Bobby, watching all this from a distance.

EUGENE

(to Ruth)

You go ahead. I got some
business here.

And the elevator door closes. Eugene approaches Bobby. They
hold a look.

EUGENE

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

30A CONTINUED:

30A

BOBBY

I lied to my client.

EUGENE

You didn't lie. You told him ten years was a good deal, it is.

BOBBY

If so, it's coincidental.

A beat.

EUGENE

Roberts wouldna done better, and this kid gets a chance. We both know that.

BOBBY

Yup.

EUGENE

C'mon. I'll buy you a beer.

BOBBY

Lemme hit the head, first.

STAY with Bobby as he goes into:

(OMITTED 31)

31A INT. MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

31A

He moves into a stall. He drops to his knees to vomit. But it's a false alarm. He then rises and just sits on the toilet seat. Drops his head into his hands. OFF him fighting the nausea of compromise, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END