

wife/husband doesn't want me to stop working because there's nothing I can really do.

#1: I understand.

#2: Unfortunately, that means I can't always go with her/him to his/her appointments. When that happens my brother/sister would come to the studio or we'd meet for lunch and she/he would fill me in.

#1: If I can ask...how is she/he doing?

#2: OK. She/he has his/her rough days, but we're determined to beat this.

#1: There's a lot of people out there who would give you support.

#2: I know and I appreciate it, but...

#1: But what.

#2: I've always tried to keep my family out of my spotlight. This is not about me and we'd like to deal with it on our own. Is that really too much to ask?

#1: No, it's not. You know, you could have saved us both a lot of trouble by telling me this before.

#2: Maybe, but as you mentioned, I'm a public figure. How many details of my private life can I trust anyone with?

#1: *(Pause)* I get your point. *(Pause)* I'll print the retraction.

#2: My wife/husband will appreciate it. *(Starts to leave.)*

#1: I am sorry.

#2: *(Stops and looks at #1.)* You know, I think you are. Who would have thought? *(Exits.)*

30. The Accident

(A holding room of a county jail. #1 is sitting at a table waiting. #2 enters and sits.)

#1: How are you feeling?

#2: How do I look?

#1: Pretty awful.

#2: That's how I'm feeling. How long till I can get out of here?

#1: We have to talk.

#2: Fine. Post the bail, get me out of here and we'll go have coffee and talk.

#1: I'm afraid it's not that easy.

#2: What? What's the problem? I've had DUIs before.

#1: That's just the point. You're a repeat offender. They're not looking on you very favorably.

#2: Who cares how they see me. My parents have friends and money. That's all that counts.

#1: Not this time. Not with an accident involved.

#2: *(Pause)* There was, wasn't there?

#1: How drunk were you?

#2: I guess very. How's my car?

#1: How's your car?! Is that all you have to say?

#2: I'm sorry. I didn't mean it to sound like that. I just don't remember.

#1: Then let me refresh your memory. You got drunk, got behind the wheel, slammed into a car with a mother and daughter going home, and drove their car into a brick wall.

#2: I didn't know. I'm sorry. I'm sure my parents will pay for any medical costs.

#1: Money can't buy you out of this one.

#2: Look, it may cost a little more, but I'm sure we can get out of it.

- #1: *(Pause)* You really don't know. What do you think you're being charged with?
- #2: A DUI, I guess endangerment, having an accident. I don't know. You're the first person I've talked to since I called last night.
- #1: Then let me spell it out to you. The little girl in the car, she died this morning. The mother is in critical condition and they don't know if she's going to make it. So aside from the other charges, you're being charged with at least one count of vehicular manslaughter. Possibly two.
- #2: Oh, no.
- #1: Now maybe you're seeing the whole picture. So the best thing you can do right now is shut up, drop the superiority act and realize that there's no quick out on this one.
- #2: So...what am I looking at?
- #1: I think it's pretty safe to say that you are going to do some jail time.
- #2: *(Starts to panic.)* No! No, you cannot let that happen.
- #1: You still don't get it. It has nothing to do with me. The courts are going to throw the book at you. While you were in here sleeping it off last night, they were splashing pictures of the accident all over the 11:00 news.
- #2: What does that mean?
- #1: People are upset. No one wants to see you walk on this. Especially when they find out who your family is.
- #2: Can't my parents do anything?
- #1: You want the truth?
- #2: Yes.
- #1: Your parents aren't going to do a thing this time.
- #2: What?
- #1: They're not going to bail you out.
- #2: Why not?

- #1: Why not? I can't believe you just asked that question.
- #2: So they're just going to let me go to jail.
- #1: In your father's words: "It's just what he/she deserves."
- #2: I don't believe it.
- #1: Hey, maybe it's time you grasped reality. You killed a person. Maybe two. Nobody can just dismiss that. Not even your parents.
- #2: And you're just going to sit there and let this happen?
- #1: OK, listen to me. When your father called I told him I didn't want anything to do with this one. I said I thought you should go straight to jail. It wasn't until he agreed with me that I said I'd come down here.
- #2: So, why are you here?
- #1: It's a favor. They want you to be punished, but they don't want you hurt. I said I'd try and make a deal with the DA to get you sent somewhere, where at least you'll be safe.
- #2: What if I don't agree?
- #1: You have no choice! Go ahead, fire me, take your chances with a public defender. But God only knows where you'll wind up. 'Cause believe me when I tell you, you are going away.
- #2: OK, you listen to me. I cannot go to jail. I won't survive. I can't be locked up with...people like that.
- #1: What the hell are you? You are people like that. You killed someone. That hardly makes you citizen of the year.
- #2: It's not the same thing. I had an accident.
- #1: No, you were an accident. Just waiting to happen. I'm just surprised it took this long.
- #2: I can't have my life taken away like this!
- #1: What about the life of that little girl? Huh?! She was five years old. People will walk by her grave and comment on how young she was and what a shame it is. What about her mother and father? You took their little girl!
- #2: You're talking like I did it on purpose.
- #1: You did, in a sense.

- #2:** How can you say that?
- #1:** How many times have you been arrested for drunk driving? How many programs have you gone through? None of it mattered. You just didn't care!
- #2:** You're happy about this. Aren't you?
- #1:** Someone's dead. How can I be happy? What I feel is guilty.
- #2:** What are you guilty about?
- #1:** Because I got you off those other times. Maybe if you had done some jail time, or had been locked up in some clinic, that little girl would still alive.
- #2:** I see now. You don't like me and you want to see me put away.
- #1:** You're right, I don't like you. I think you're a waste and you're getting what you deserve.
- #2:** Why, because I have money?
- #1:** Stop trying to see yourself as some put-upon minority. A lot of people have money. You cavalierly go about doing whatever you please without thought one to anyone else and now it's come crashing in on you.
- #2:** What am I going to do?
- #1:** Try accepting some responsibility for once. Try apologizing to your parents and the family of that little girl. I don't know. You figure it out. *(Rises and starts to exit.)*
- #2:** Where are you going?
- #1:** You're being arraigned in two hours. I'm going to talk to the DA and see what I can do.
- #2:** Please help me. I'm terrified.
- #1:** Good! *(Exits.)*

31. The Agreement

(In a restaurant. #1 is sitting at a table having a drink. #1 checks the time. #2 enters and goes over to #1's table.)

- #1:** You're late!
- #2:** I wouldn't have come at all, except your voice-mail message sounded very ominous.
- #1:** It wasn't ominous.
- #2:** No? Then what would you call a message that says; "I'll be at Mario's at 12:30. It would be in your best interest to meet me there."
- #1:** I'd call it watching out for a friend.
- #2:** Maybe, if we were friends. What do you want?
- #1:** Oh, relax. Sit down and have a drink.
- #2:** *(Sits.)* I don't want a drink, I don't want to relax, but I do want to get out of here. What do you want?
- #1:** OK – we can play this any way you want.
- #2:** Just get on with it. I've got a lot of work to do.
- #1:** I'm sure you know that Matt Johnson is retiring.
- #2:** So?
- #1:** Well, his Vice-President spot is opening up and I want it.
- #2:** Yeah, you've got a prayer.
- #1:** Actually, I have much more than that.
- #2:** How's that?
- #1:** Because you're going to help me get it.
- #2:** Sure I am. Right after I get back from my vacation on the moon.
- #1:** Then blast off. I'm serious.
- #2:** You know what's so funny? I don't like you, which everyone knows, and I don't think you're qualified for the job you have now. So why would I lift a finger to get you promoted?
- #1:** *(Reaches into the briefcase, pulls out a large envelope and hands it to #2.)* Because of this.