

36. The Deal

(In the interview room of a police station or at a safe house. #1, a federal witness, is waiting. #2, a member of the DA's office enters. #2 spots #1.)

#2: Sit down.

#1: *(Turns and sees #2.)* Williams, I'm surprised to see you. I thought I rated better than the DA's flunky.

#2: Like I said, sit down...and shut up!
(They both sit.)

#1: You really should be a lot nicer to me considering how important I've become lately.

#2: You're a criminal.

#1: But an important criminal. And I'm about to save the DA's political life.

#2: The only life you're saving is your own.

#1: Maybe, but a life is a life. As long as one gets saved what difference does it really make?

#2: Why don't we just do what we have to do. I don't want to be here any longer than necessary. *(Pulls a pad out of his/her briefcase.)* OK, let's take it from the top...

#1: Whoa. I believe we have some details to work out first.

#2: What are you talking about?

#1: *(Gets up and starts to leave.)* Look, when you and your boss want to stop messing around, let me know.

#2: Where do you think you're going?

#1: Back to my room.

#2: You walk out of here and the deal's off!

#1: What deal?! So far, there is no deal!

#2: Now who's messing around? The DAs offering immunity.

#1: *(Comes back to his/her chair and sits down.)* No, the DAs mentioned immunity, among other things, but I still don't see anything in writing.

#2: *(Pulls a document out of his/her case and hands it to #1.)* Is this what you wanted?

#1: *(Looks over the document and tosses it back.)* Not even close.

#2: What are you trying to pull?

#1: Obviously not as much as you. Look, if I give you Genovese you're going to have to do a lot better than just immunity from prosecution.

#2: What do you want?

#1: What I asked for.

#2: Well, I don't know what that was, so why don't you enlighten me.

#1: I do no jail time. I go into witness protection, I get relocated to a town of my choosing with a sizable bank account to start me off.

#2: Is that all? Are you sure you don't want a national holiday named after you?

#1: That's not a bad idea considering who I'm handing to you.

#2: You're not handing us anybody.

#1: I'm not?

#2: Fine, you're turning over Genovese, but the only reason you're willing to give him up is that he's already put a contract out on you. See, word on the street is —you've already talked. *(#1 doesn't respond.)* What, no pithy witticism?

#1: And I wonder who put that "word on the street"?

#2: Got me. Maybe one of your buddies on the inside, maybe someone else. It really doesn't matter. All Genovese knows is that you're a bad risk now. And I think we both know what happens to bad risks. So, maybe you should stop making any demands and be happy we're willing to give you anything at all.

#1: *(Gets up and starts to pace.)* Well, it does appear that the DA's office and the Feds have seemingly put me in a

precarious position...

#2: We had nothing to do with Genovese's contract...

#1: *(Cuts #2 off.)* Please, don't. It insults my intelligence and makes you come off as a complete idiot. What you all did was the smart move. Actually – I respect it, but ultimately it still comes down to one indisputable fact – I'm the only one you've got.

#2: There are others.

#1: If that were true, we wouldn't be talking. So, don't give me what I want, I'll go to jail, get very dead, and you'll have nothing. OR you can give me what I want and finally nail the most powerful crime boss in the country.

#2: You really think you've got it all figured out, don't you?

#1: I don't figure, I know.

#2: *(Pause)* Yeah, I suppose you do. You know what my truth is? I really don't care about any of you. In spite of all your supposed money and power, you're all two-bit hoods who would be doing everyone a favor if you'd simply wipe each other out. But since that probably won't happen, we'll take our victories where we can get them which means that you'll probably wind up getting exactly what you want.

#1: I know I will.

#2: But you're going to have to give us every detail. I want to know every meeting you and Genovese ever had. Who and what you talked about, what you were ordered to do, what you saw him do.

#1: Fine.

#2: And when we're satisfied that what you've given us is usable, then we'll finalize any deal. Got it!?

#1: Have you heard a word I said? You get nothing until my lawyer and I have a deal in writing.

#2: How do we know that anything you tell us can be used? That it's legitimate.

#1: Because you wouldn't have gone through all this if I

didn't have something.

#2: Don't be so sure.

#1: Oh, I am. You know, you, the DA, Genovese, you're all the same. You destroy to achieve what you want. But at least Genovese was up front about it. He takes care of his own problems. You all, on the other hand, don't have the guts to do it yourself. You couldn't get me on your own so you had to set me up.

#2: You're hardly an injured party.

#1: Never said I was. I'm just saying we're more honest about what we do. But you don't want to hear about that. So, if you want me, my knowledge of Genovese, my tapes...

#2: Wait a minute, what tapes?

#1: Oops. Did I forget to mention I recorded some of my conversations with Genovese?

#2: It's a fact that seems to have slipped by.

#1: Surprise. It's my ace in the hole and if you want to know more, I'll see you tomorrow.

#2: Why tomorrow?

#1: That'll give you time to get my lawyer here and draw up the agreement. Otherwise, don't come back. See, I'm tired and the game's over.

#2: And you think you won.

#1: Don't you know, we both won. *(Exits.)*