

CONTINUED:

MRS. SYD NEWMAN - SC. 1

CALZONETTI (CONT'D)

(off Calzonetti)

Steve and I would get calls from her twice a week. And twice a week we'd show up at her house and twice a week we'd offer to press charges and twice a week her husband would start crying and twice a week she'd change her mind.

(beat, then)

We should have pressed charges anyway. Or... we should have killed him.

PETER

(affected, but...)

Why are you telling me this story?

CALZONETTI

Because... I knew. After a few hundred domestics, you know. You can tell when it's just a guy blowing off steam - which isn't cool, but I never lost sleep over one idiot marrying another idiot. And you can tell when...

(nasty memory)

Standing in the living room, or the bedroom, or usually the kitchen, you could tell if you were looking at a future killer and a future corpse.

Calzonetti recovers his composure, looks to Peter, hates himself for what he's about to say, but says it anyway...

CALZONETTI (CONT'D)

...You're a drunk, a loser, and an awful husband. But I think you're innocent.

Peter nods his intense gratitude. Then Calzonetti gets a phone call and we CUT TO:

INT. LOVELY BOARD ROOM -- DAY

Late in the day. Calzonetti sits at the beautiful oak table. This is the Landlord's attorneys' offices. A sharp contrast to what we're used to. Calzonetti is checking out the table.

START

MRS. SYD NEWMAN

By the way, we can make your assault on a cop case go away.

CALZONETTI

So can I.

They give him a skeptical look...

SIX PAGES TOTAL

(CONTINUED)

1/6

DOUBT - PILOT - UDK

CONTINUED:

CALZONETTI (CONT'D)

Felker's a hot tempered idiot. All I have to do is prove that. By getting him to do what he does best - take a swing. At me. ~~Anywhere public. You know this is one piece of wood; they'd have to build this entire building around it.~~

MRS. SYD NEWMAN

Our way is simpler.

(off Calzonetti)

You say you're very, very sorry. Officer Felker is embarrassed. By what happened at the trial, by what happened after the trial; he needs to save face. Which means he will completely walk away from this if you apologize.

CALZONETTI

And how is this simpler than my plan?

MR. SYD NEWMAN

Okay, maybe 'simpler' was the wrong word. Perhaps a better word would be 'smarter'. Or 'saner'.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN

Or 'more effective'.

MR. SYD NEWMAN

Two words.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN

I was supporting you.

(to Calzonetti)

Vince, I get it. You're a man of principle; you don't--

CALZONETTI

No I'm not.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN

(plowing on)

You don't want to apologize to a guy you don't like, to a guy you have no reason to like. And I support that. If, on the other hand, you like not being in jail, or you like not being bankrupt, or you like practicing law--

(CONTINUED)

DOUBT - PILOT - UDK

CONTINUED:

CALZONETTI
It'll be okay.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN
No it won't.

STOP

And Gillick (the Landlord) enters with Thompson (his attorney and her associates).

THOMPSON
So sorry we're late.

CALZONETTI
(without acrimony)
We completely get it. You're more important than us and you had to make sure we understood that.
(moving on)
I'm ready to cease all defense against your eviction proceedings immediately, on one condition:
(beat)
You hire me.

Calzonetti pushes his resumé across the table--

CALZONETTI (CONT'D)
This place is gorgeous. This table cost more than you'd have to pay me.

Thompson doesn't even pick up the resumé.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN
We're prepared to pay fifty cents on the dollar now and work out terms for the repayment of the remainder.

THOMPSON
No.

MR. SYD NEWMAN
(long beat, before)
We were expecting either a 'yes' or a counter-offer.

Thompson nods to her associates who start placing large boxes on the table. A lot of them.

THOMPSON
My client's bank records. Proving that, contrary to what you said in court, you did not pay your rent.

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. CALZONETTI'S LAW OFFICES - CALZONETTI'S OFFICE -- DAY

Calzonetti packs up - it's over. After a beat, Mark appears in the doorway, worried about the brother he loves, respects, protects and is a little intimidated by. After awhile, Mark gets up the nerve to say:

MARK
...You can help them.

CALZONETTI
I know you think I'm some sort of great lawyer but--

MARK
No I don't.
(off Calzonetti)
I know you win a lot of cases but maybe they're easy cases.

CALZONETTI
Okay. Valid point.

Mark isn't sure what else to say.

CALZONETTI (CONT'D)
That's it?

MARK
No.

But it seems to be. Calzonetti returns to packing. Until--

MARK (CONT'D)
...I watch you in court sometimes. I watch you make speeches. I want to make one of those speeches. I want to say something to make you want to keep fighting. I owe you--

CALZONETTI
You don't owe me anything.

MARK
But I'm not you. I don't know what to say. I just know... This place matters. To those people. You care. Or you act like you care. They don't get that anywhere else. This place gives them hope.

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MARK (CONT'D)

(beat, then)

Or at least... It does that for me.

The depth of Mark's feelings land...

CALZONETTI

That's a good speech, Mark.

(but ultimately, gentle)

But... there is no hope. The idea that gosh darn it, if we just try hard enough long enough everything will be okay... it's just not supported by reality. And the longer we pretend that's not true, the longer we waste our lives. So... this is a good thing.

Mark stares at him for a long beat. How is he going to react to this harsh life lesson? It's a lot for anyone, let alone, someone with Mark's limitations, to take in. But he loves and honors his brother. But...

MARK

...You're wrong.

He reacts by refusing to accept it. Calzonetti smiles. A supportive but ultimately condescending smile. And then he rises to finish packing.

And then the Newmans are at the door - each with a packed box. They've heard about Calzonetti's outburst but are still surprised to see him packing.

START

MR. SYD NEWMAN

Vince. We're fully packed but...

(his speech)

~~We wanted you to know: you're an ass. Specifically, you're a stubborn ass. And... that's why we came to work here. You never gave up; you~~

Emotional, Mrs. Newman suddenly interrupts her husband by throwing herself at Calzonetti, hugging him desperately.

And she holds on. And holds on. Finally:

MR. SYD NEWMAN (CONT'D)

Let go of him.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN

(crying)

No. I need a hug; I'm gonna miss this place. I'm gonna miss this idiot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. SYD NEWMAN
You were hugging him fifteen seconds ago, now you've moved onto foreplay.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN
When I grab his ass, you can speak up. Until then...

CALZONETTI
(confused by something)
You're crying.

MRS. SYD NEWMAN
No I'm not. I'm just--

And then Calzonetti disengages and walks out of the room - then he turns back--

CALZONETTI
Everything's gonna be okay.

STOP

And off his confused co-workers--

INT. COURTROOM -- DAY

Stella is back on the stand. Calzonetti is back at his seat. Everyone is back where they should be. Calzonetti rises...

CALZONETTI
Why weren't you crying?

MCNEIL
(confused)
I was.

CALZONETTI
The first time you testified, you cried. The second time, you were more...
(looks for right word)
Nervous.

MCNEIL
I don't know. You can't cry forever.

CALZONETTI
My mother died fourteen years ago. I don't cry nearly as often, but I still cry when I talk about her.

LINDA
(rising)
Is counsel trying to prove that he loved his mother more than this witness loved the deceased? We're prepared to stipulate--

(CONTINUED)