

## AMERICAN GANGSTER

FRANK

I was talking to my lawyers, they said something to me I can't believe it. Did you really find a million dollars in the trunk of a car and turn it in? Did you do that?

RITCHIE

Yeah.

FRANK

You did that for real? My man. Good for you. Shit. You know Johnny Law got it though right?

RITCHIE

Maybe.

FRANK

Ain't no maybe about it, Mr. Ritchie. You know he got it. You turned that money in, he took it, and you ain't get nothing for it did you? Why you do that?

RITCHIE

It was the right thing to do.

FRANK

That's true. That's a good answer. It was the right thing to do. The question I have, the question I've been asking myself is would you do it again? I mean that's a lot of money, and that's a long time ago. Many car payments ago. Many child support payments ago. So I said to myself the only way to find out is to find out. Now you give me an address  
I'll make sure the car is there make sure that money's in the trunk.

RITCHIE

No thanks.

FRANK

You sure? C'mon now Ritchie, what you think that impresses me? Huh? You think you better than them? You ain't no better than any of them other cops. In fact you're the same as them. You are them. Let me ask you this- do you really think that putting me behind bars is gonna change anything on the streets? Them dope fiends is gonna shoot it, they gonna steal from it, they gonna die for it. Putting me in or out ain't gonna change one  
thing.

RITCHIE

And that's the way it is?

FRANK

That's just the way it is. So what we got Ritchie? We got me and you sitting here. We got that little snitch ass driver. From my brother, we gotta little bit of powder. You gonna need more than that Ritchie.

RITCHIE

We got possession, supply, conspiracy, bribing a law officer, I got people who will testify to seeing you kill in cold blood, I got your off shore bank accounts, your real estate, your businesses, all bought with money from heroin. And I got hundreds of parents of dead kids, addicts who od'ed on your product and that's my story for the jury. That's how I make it all stick. This man murdered thousands of people and he did it from a penthouse driving a Lincoln. Aside from that you got nothing to worry about.

FRANK

That's pretty good. But that's why we go to court isn't it Ritchie? Cause I got witnesses too. I got celebrities, I got sports figures, I got Harlem, Ritchie. I took care of Harlem so Harlem's gonna take care of me. You can believe that.

RITCHIE

I got more than that, Frank.

FRANK

What you got?

RITCHIE

I got a line of people wanting to testify against you that stretches out the door and around the block. You damaged a lot of lives Frank. I got the Marzzano Crime Family. You remember those boys? You put them out of business.

FRANK

I got nothing to do with no Marzzano's Marzannos ain't got nothing to do with me.

RITCHIE

They got everything to do with you, and you know why?

FRANK

Why?

RITCHIE

Because apart from the fact that they hate you personally they hate what you represent.

FRANK

I don't represent nothing but Frank Lucas.

RITCHIE

You sure? Black business man like you? You represent progress. The kind of progress that's gonna see them lose a lot of money. With you out of the way everything can return to normal.

FRANK

My man... You know what normal is to me Ritchie? I ain't seen normal since I was six years old. Normal is seeing the police ride up to my house dragging my little cousin out and tying him to a pole- shoving a shotgun in his mouth so hard they bust his teeth. Then

they bust two fucking shotgun shells into his head and knock his fucking head off that's what normal is to me. I didn't give a fuck about no police then, and I don't give a fuck about them now. Shit. You know what? You can do whatever you wanna do so it don't mean nothing for me if you show up tomorrow morning with your head blown off, you know what I'm saying?

RITCHIE

Hey Frank. Get in line. That one stretches around the block too.

FRANK

All right. What you wanna do?

RITCHIE

You know what you gotta do.

FRANK

What you want me to do? Snitch? I know you don't wanna give up no cops, so what you want? Gangsters? Pick one. Jew gangsters, mick gangsters, guineas. They been bleeding Harlem dry since they got off the boat, Ritchie. I don't give a fuck about no crime figures. You can have 'em.

RITCHIE

I'll take them too.

FRANK

You'll – you'll take them too? Man, no you didn't. You talking about police? You want police? You want your own kind?

RITCHIE

They're not my kind. They in business with you Frank, they ain't my kind. They ain't my kind like the Italians are not yours. Alright?

FRANK

Allright. What can you promise me, Ritchie?

RITCHIE

I can promise you you lie about one name you never get out of prison. You lie about one dollar, one off shore account you'll never get out of prison. Now you can live life rich in jail for the rest of your born days or be poor outside for some of them. That's what I can promise you.

FRANK

I want them cops Ritchie. That's what I want. I want them cops that took that money out my pockets.