

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

JACK

I knew it had to be some kind of deep dark secret for you to stoop to call me. I mean, to actually invite me to your home.

JUDAH

Come on, Jack, don't get down on me. Who should I turn to but my brother? I been there for you.

JACK

I'm here, aren't I?

JUDAH

So what's with the attitude? I didn't stoop to call you. I'm in serious trouble here; she won't take money, she won't listen to reason. I've been toying with the idea of telling everything to Miriam. But, she'd never be able to live with it. She'd be broken; she'd be humiliated before our friends. This woman plans to make a stink. Add to that her blabbing about a financial indiscretion. Not that I stole... but I was indiscrete. If they look hard enough, who knows what they'll find.

JACK

What would you like me to do?

JUDAH

I don't know. But she's killing me.

JACK

You want me to have somebody talk to her?

JUDAH

Like what?

JACK

Straighten her out.

JUDAH

What do you mean? Threaten her? That's all I need.

JACK

How else do you expect to keep her quiet?

JUDAH

I don't know. Jack... I don't know. (Pause) Christ, Jack... what do you suggest?

JACK

What did you call me for?

JUDAH

I don't know. I'd hoped you had more experience with something like this.

JACK

You called me because you needed some dirty work done. That's all you ever call for.

JUDAH

Look how bitter you are.

JACK

Judah, you've staked me plenty of times. I don't forget my obligations.

JUDAH

Threatening her would only make it worse, Jack.

JACK

Ok. Forget about it. What do you want me to say?

JUDAH

How the hell can I forget about it? I'm fighting for my life. This woman's going to destroy everything that I've built.

JACK

That's what I'm saying, Judah. If the woman won't listen to reason, then you go on to the next step.

JUDAH

What? Threats? Violence? What are we talking about here?

JACK

She can be gotten rid of. I mean, I know a lot of people. Money will buy whatever's necessary.

JUDAH

I'm not even going to comment on that! That's crazy!

JACK

Well, what did you want me to do when you called me?

JUDAH

Not to do dirty work... despite what you think. (P) Anyway, it's gone beyond just Miriam, now. She's talking financial doings. I'm out of ideas. (P) I don't know what I expected of you, Jack. Just... some help.

JACK

You know, you're not aware of what goes on in this world. I mean, you sit up here with your 14 acres...

JUDAH

(Overlapping) Don't give me that stuff... I don't want to here about my success.

JACK

(Overlapping) ... and your country club, and your rich friends, and out there in the real world it's a whole different story.

JUDAH

Come on...

JACK

Look, I've met a lot of characters; from the restaurant...

JUDAH

(Overlapping) I know you have; I've heard the stories before...

JACK

(Overlapping) ...from 7th Avenue, from Atlantic City. And I'm not so high-class that I can avoid looking at reality. I can't afford to be... aloof. You come to me with a hell of a problem; then you get all high-handed on me.

JUDAH

Jack, I don't mean to be high-handed. I haven't been sleeping nights. I'm irritable. OK?

JACK

Ok. Forget I said it.

JUDAH

Ok. Let me get something straight here. (P) Am I understanding you right? I mean, are you suggesting... getting rid of her?

JACK

You won't be involved. But I'll need some cash.

JUDAH

(P) What will they do?

JACK

What'll they do? They'll handle it.

JUDAH

I can't believe I'm talking about a human being, Jack. I mean, she's not an insect. You don't just step on her. You don't think God sees?

JACK

Maybe God is a luxury you can't afford. (P) I know... playing hard ball was never your game. You've never liked to get your hands dirty. But, apparently this woman is for real. And this thing isn't just gonna go away.

JUDAH

I can't do it. I can't think this way. Hm-um.