

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

First thing's first, when was the

last time you slept? (beat)

Today's Friday.

MOLLY

Tuesday morning at 5AM I was arrested by the FBI. I spent Tuesday at LA County Jail. I was assessed to be a minimal flight risk and my bail was set at a hundred-thousand dollars. My mother signed over her house. I was released on Wednesday and ordered to appear in Federal Court in New York's Southern District at 10AM today.

CHARLIE

In here . Close that will you .

MOLLY

I flew here Wednesday and met with 5 attorneys yesterday

CHARLIE

Have a seat ..... Why didnt you hire any of them ?

MOLLY

5 of them had already been taken .

CHARLIE

Yeah there were 31 people named in your indictment . Its black friday for criminal lawyers . What about the other 2 ?

MOLLY

One told me that money was his second favorite form of payment .

CHARLIE

I know him !

MOLLY

And the fifth was also taken , but he recommended i call you .

CHARLIE

Why ?

MOLLY

I told him I wanted someone who'd worked in the prosecutors office and who wasn't even a little bit shady ..... Do you know about me ?

CHARLIE (pause)

I've been briefed a little by my daughter who knows a lot about your story because her mother's a moron.

MOLLY

Her mother reads The tabloids.

CHARLIE

Yes and now ive read them too , and I read the indictment after i got your call last night and I bought your book.

CHARLIE's picked up a copy of *Molly's Game*--

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm only up to page 112, but Molly? Did you commit a felony and then write a book about it?

MOLLY

I haven't run a game in over two years. Not to spoil the ending but that's when the government raided my game and took all my money, assuming all of it was made illegally which it wasn't. I've been living at my mother's house in Telluride and I wrote the book so I could start paying off my debts. I just finished a press tour for the book and moved back to Los Angeles so i could start over .

CHARLIE,

You ran games in LA for roughly six years?

MOLLY

Right.

Then you ran games in New York for roughly two years?

MOLLY

I took a rake the last six months.

CHARLIE (pause)

So...In the first 112 pages you name a bunch of names.

MOLLY (beat)

I'm sorry?

CHARLIE

You gave up the names of some movie

stars who played in your game.

\*

MOLLY takes a moment...this is obviously a sore spot for her \* and she'd rather not talk about it. \*

MOLLY (pause)

Yeah. .... Am i supposed to be sitting all the way over here ? Can you hear me over there ?

CHARLIE

Yeah

MOLLY

Are you taking me on as a client?

CHARLIE

My retainer's \$250,000, do you have

\$250,000?

MOLLY

No, I don't have anything.

CHARLIE

What about sales from your book?

MOLLY

The book isnt jumping off the shelves but I'll find a way to pay you. Charlie, ask around about me, my word is good.

CHARLIE

Not to the guys you named.

MOLLY

I didn't have a--just ask around  
about me.

CHARLIE (laughing)

Unfortunately the people I'd ask are goin' away for a while. What happened Tuesday morning was called a GPS Takedown. 31 people were arrested in the same instant. Something in excess of 600 agents were dispatched to locations in New York and LA in coordinated strikes with automatic weapons and you're trying to tell me you're in my office because you raked a game of Texas Hold 'Em?!

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MOLLY

Yes !

CHARLIE

Have you seen the other names in your indictment? Helly Habib, Mike Druzhinsky, Mike Anikovich, the Gershen Brothers? How deep were you into the Russian mob, Molly?! 'Cause so far your tell-all doesn't say.

\* \*

MOLLY's well past tired and Charlie's quick cross-examination \* has either taken something out of her or put something back in. She stands up and walks to the window...

MOLLY (pause)

Why are you making your daughter read *The Crucible*?

CHARLIE

So she can see what happens when a  
group of bored teenage girls gossip.

MOLLY

I've never read the play.

CHARLIE

Many consider it to be the best  
play of the 20th Century.

MOLLY

Is that what many consider it to  
be?

CHARLIE

I don't defend violent criminals. \*

MOLLY

I've never hurt anyone in my life.

CHARLIE

Your friends have.

MOLLY

I've never heard of 90 percent of  
the names in the indictment.

CHARLIE

And the other 10 percent?

MOLLY

I didn't know they were connected, I  
had no idea who they really were. .... Why is the FBI arresting me 2 years after i  
stopped dealing games ?

CHARLIE

Were you paid extra in your book

deal to name movie stars?

MOLLY (pause)

Yes.

CHARLIE

I'm not your guy, Molly. I wish you  
good luck but this just isn't for me.

MOLLY hears that but still doesn't leave...

MOLLY (pause)

I didn't know who the Russians were.

(pause--calmer)

I can get you the two-hundred and fifty-thousand, I left ten times that on the street,  
it'll just take some time.

CHARLIE

We regularly

lend out our best litigators like me to the ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center,  
veterans groups--but I don't think I can convince my partners to take a flyer on the  
Poker Princess.

MOLLY

I didn't name myself the Poker

Princess.

CHARLIE picks up a copy of *Us Weekly* that's been tabbed and reads--

CHARLIE

"Molly Bloom, the self-proclaimed Poker Princess...".

MOLLY

That's *Us Weekly*? I agree it would

be unusual for them to print something that wasn't true but it's not true and if you think a princess could do what I did you're incorrect. I'm getting that you don't think much of me but what if every one of your ill-informed, unsophisticated opinions about me were wrong?

CHARLIE

I'd be amazed.

MOLLY

Yeah you know what, bud? You would.

CHARLIE

You don't need me, you need a

publicist. MOLLY

*No, I need a fuckin' lawyer!*

CHARLIE (pause)

You never answered my question. When was the last time you slept?

MOLLY (pause)

It was a while ago.

CHARLIE (pause)

Alright , I'm gonna walk you through the arraignment this morning, you shouldn't do that alone. I'm gonna put some bodies on you and walk you through a side door. 'Cause I don't know what you've got on the Russians but neither do they and the Russians take care of shit, you understand what I'm saying?

MOLLY

yes