SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any
NIGHTCRAWLER

NINA
I’ve been trying to reach you for the last hour. In the future when you don’t have anything, man up and don’t dodge my fucking calls!

LOUIS
I do have something.

NINA
What?

LOUIS
Home invasion triple murder in Granada Hills.

NINA
That’s just breaking now.

LOUIS
We got there before the police.

NINA
You have it?

LOUIS
I’m not gonna list the many benefits of this piece. I think it’s probably best if you just watch it for yourself.

NINA
I could have had somebody out there by now. Why didn’t you call it in?

LOUIS
To increase your need and improve my marketing position.

NINA
Frank! Johnny! Bay 2, now!

They watch the tape.

GUY
What did you pay for this?

LOUIS
The price hasn’t been negotiated yet.
NINA
Give us a minute. Thanks.

The employees leave the room.

NINA (CONT’D)
How much?

LOUIS
$100,000.

NINA
How much?

LOUIS
$50,000.

NINA
I need a number. 9 minutes, I need a number.

LOUIS
I just gave you two.

NINA
$3,000.

LOUIS
I got #3,000 for the food truck stabbings.

NINA
There were more dead.

LOUIS
Those were poor Mexican people in a roach coach. Two of them were illegals. These are 3 wealthy white people shot and killed in their mansion including a suburban housewife shotgunned in her bed. I know you, Nina. I know your interest and excitement in this product is greater than the amount you’re offering.

NINA
$5,000.

LOUIS
$30,000.

NINA
$7,000.
$25,000.  

LOUIS

$8,000.  

NINA

$15,000.  

LOUIS

$9,000.  

NINA

$15,000.  

LOUIS

$10,000.  

NINA

$15,000.  

LOUIS

NINA

Give me a serious number.

JAKE

$15,000.  

NINA

Can’t do it. It’ll never happen. There is a matter of precedent. 10 is my last best offer.

LOUIS

Okay.

He goes to leave.

NINA.

Really? Where are you going?

LOUIS

7 has approached me at least several times. The MD there gave me his number. They’ll make me a better offer. It’s a 5 minute drive.

NINA

Hold on! 12.

LOUIS

15.
NINA
I can’t spend a month’s budget on a single story.

LOUIS
What if the story’s not over? The people who did this escaped. They’re still out there. Walking around with the rest of us. If I had a family and I lived in a home that might make me nervous. I’d want updates on what was going on. With this footage, people would turn to your channel for the story. Now I like you, Nina, and I look forward to our time together. But you have to understand $15,000 isn’t all that I want. From here on, starting now, I want my work to be credited by the anchors and on a burn. That the name of my company is video production news, a professional news gathering service. That’s how it should be read and that’s how it should be said. I also want to go to the next ROOM?? And meet your team. And the station manager and the director and the anchors and start developing my own personal relationships. I’d like to start this morning. You’ll take me around. You’ll introduce me as the owner and president of video production news and remind them of some of my many other stories. I’m not done. I also want to stop our discussion over prices. This will save time. So that when I say a particular number is my lowest price, that’s my lowest price. And you can be assured that I arrived at whatever that number is very carefully. Now- when I say that I want these things, I mean that I want them. And I don’t want to have to ask again. And the last thing that I want Nina, is for you to do the things I ask you to do when we’re alone together in your apartment. Not like the last time. So... I’ll tell you what... I have the van crash on Moorpark tonight. (MORE)
LOUIS (CONT'D)
It was a couple of stringers actually. That could leak by itself on an average night. I’d be willing to throw that in for free. So what do you say? Do we have a deal?