

Philadelphia
Opera Scene

QUIET IN ANDREW'S CONDO, THE PARTY LONG OVER (INT/NIGHT).

Joe sits at the table. He opens his briefcase, removing a legal pad with notes. Andrew approaches with coffee for Joe, there is already milk on the table for Joe to use. Andrew is attached to a IV line, which is connected to a drip bag on a rolling stand, that can move with him.

JOE: Thank you.

ANDREW: Sure. Congratulations counselor. You survived what I assume to be your first gay party intact. (salutes Joe)

JOE: Let me tell you something, Andrew. When you're brought up the way I am, the way most people are in this country, there's not a whole lot of discussion about... homosexuality or alternative lifestyles. As a kid, you're taught that queers are funny, queers are weird, queers dress up like their mothers, they're afraid to fight, they're a danger to little kids, and all they want to do is get into your pants. And that pretty much sums up the general thinking out there, if you want to know the truth.

ANDREW: Thank you for sharing that with me.

JOE: Alright. Well let's go over this testimony. We got a big day on Monday. Okay, first I'll ask you, can you describe the circumstances in which you joined the firm Wyant Wheeler, Hellerman Tetlow and Brown?

ANDREW: Miller? Do you ever pray?

JOE: Andrew that is not the answer to the question. But yes I pray.

ANDREW: What do you pray for?

JOE: What do you mean? I pray, I pray that uhhh, I pray I don't know. I pray that my baby is healthy. I pray that my wife make it through the delivery. I pray the Phillies get into the playoffs. Now can we go through these questions? Number one, can you describe the circumstances in which you joined the firm Wyant Wheeler, Hellerman Tetlow and Brown? Can you do that for me?

ANDREW: (the song starts) There's a possibility I won't be around for the end of this trial.

JOE: Yes. I've considered that.

ANDREW I've made some provisions in my will for some charities. Miguel will need a lawyer. I know it's not your area...

JOE: I know a good probate lawyer.

ANDREW: Thank you.

JOE: You're welcome. Now can you describe the circumstances in which you joined the firm Wyant Wheeler, Hellerman Tetlow and Brown?

ANDREW: Do you mind this music? Do you like opera?

JOE: I am not that familiar with opera?

ANDREW: This is my favorite aria. It's Maria Callas. Andrea Chenier, Umberto Giordano. This is Madeleine (Madalayne). She's saying how during the French revolution the mob set fire to her house. Her mother died, saving her. "I look... The place that cradled me is burning!" "I'm alone" Do you hear the heartache in her voice? Can you feel it Joe? Now in comes the strings and it changes everything. The music fills with a hope. That will change again. Listen....Listen.."I bring sorrow to those who love me." Oh that single cello! "It was during that sorrow that love came to me! A voice filled with harmony that said... Live still, I am Life!" (beat) "Heaven is in your eyes" " Everything around you is the blood and the mud." " I am Divine!" "I am Oblivion!" "I am the god that comes down from the heavens to the earth and makes of the earth a heaven!" I am Love, I am Love!"

The MUSIC ENDS.

Joe sits there, fidgeting. He reaches for his briefcase organizing his notes.

JOE: Jeez... I better get out of here. Lisa's uh...I told her that you know.

ANDREW I'll look over the Q and A.

JOE: Nah, you're ready, you're ready.

An awkward moment, both men standing with their hands at their sides -- will one of them initiate a handshake? Joe gives a little "salute," then leaves.