

## 38. The Hit

*(A Country/Western dance club. #1 is seated at a table. #2 enters, looks around, spots #1, goes to the table, and sits.)*

- #1: That seat is taken.  
#2: I know.  
*(#2 takes a card, puts it on the table and slides it to #1, who looks at it and puts it away.)*  
#1: Did you have any trouble finding me?  
#2: A little. You don't look like what I expected.  
#1: You watch too many movies.  
#2: Isn't this is an...odd place to meet.  
#1: Yeah, well, anyone who knows me knows I hate this place, so people tend not to look for me here.  
#2: I guess that makes sense.  
#1: So I understand you have a "pebble in your shoe."  
#2: Excuse me?  
#1: You have a problem you want taken care of.  
#2: Yes, I do.  
#1: Tell me about it.  
#2: I have a business. There are these...people who want to buy into the company. They could give more capital and probably help secure certain contracts.  
#1: Sounds OK to me.  
#2: But, I have a partner.  
#1: Enter the problem.  
#2: He doesn't want help from these people. He thinks they're scum...uh, no offense.  
#1: None taken. So this partner of yours needs some...convincing. You want him talked to?  
#2: That's already been done. He said he'd go to the police if he was bothered again. That's when...these people got me in contact with you.

- #1: I see. *(Pause)* So, this pebble needs to be removed. Permanently.  
#2: Unless you see any other way? Do you?  
#1: Do you?  
#2: I could try and buy him out, but I don't really have that kind of money and I don't think he'd do it.  
#1: Then you've just asked and answered your own question.  
#2: It just seems so...drastic. This person has been my friend and...  
#1: Look, I'm not your conscience, or your mother. Right now you're wasting my time and you're ticking me off. *(Rises and starts to exit. #2 grabs his/her arm.)* Take your hand off of me!  
#2: *(Recoils a bit.)* I'm sorry. Please don't go. I don't know what to do.  
#1: *(Sits and leans in close.)* Let me make this as plain as I can for you. I'm a very black and white person. You have a problem. You want it taken care of. I'll do it. It's that simple. Now, you've got five seconds to tell me yes or no! *(Pause)* Time's up. Good-bye.  
#2: Yes! I need it taken care of.  
*(They both sit back. There is a beat.)*  
#1: That's better. It'll cost you fifty. Twenty-five now. Twenty-five when it's done. *(#2 reaches into his/her pocket and pulls out an envelope. He/She slides it to #1. #1 picks it up looks in it and puts it away.)* Small bills. Looks like you had your mind made up a while ago.  
#2: Do you think I'm happy about this?  
#1: You think I care one way or another?  
*(There is a pause.)*  
#2: When?  
#1: When what?  
#2: When are you going to do this?  
#1: The less you know the better.  
#2: But...I don't know what I should do.

- #1:** Nothing. You should do nothing.
- #2:** Maybe I should take a vacation now.
- #1:** Do you understand English? I said, do nothing! If you suddenly take off and your partner winds up – whatever, don't you think someone might take notice of that?
- #2:** You worried someone might be able to trace it to you?
- #1:** Me? I'm invisible. So is anyone who works for me. The only one who'll go down over this is you. And if you ever tried to implicate me or anyone else, there'd be no proof. But that doesn't really matter because you'd be gone before you ever got to trial.
- #2:** Are you threatening me?
- #1:** No, guaranteeing. Accidents happen in jail all the time. My employers have very long arms. Understand?
- #2:** I understand that. What I don't understand is how all this got started. I worked very hard to get a business going and it's not fair that one person is stopping me from succeeding. Why should I have to go through all this to get what others have already got? How did things get so complicated?
- #1:** I can't answer that. All I know is that you think you have a complicated problem and I know I have a simple solution.
- #2:** You think that is a simple solution.
- #1:** Yes I do. Sometimes it's the only solution. You just do everything as usual. I'll take care of the rest.
- #2:** I'll try.
- #1:** Don't try! Do it! Now, I usually don't do this, but I'll give you one last chance to back out. If you want I'll walk out, with the money I have. That'll be for my trouble and we'll pretend this never happened.
- #2:** *(Pause)* How do I contact you to get you the rest of the money when the job's done?
- #1:** *(Smiles at #2.)* You don't. After the job is done, you've got two days to get the rest to the Hotel Bradford. Leave it at

the desk in a package for Mrs. Crawford. Got it?

- #2:** Yes.
- #1:** Two things. Don't take it yourself.
- #2:** Why not?
- #1:** You'll be watched. Second, don't think of stiffing me or my partners.
- #2:** Was that statement for my own good, too?
- #1:** Yours and your family's.
- #2:** I get your message.
- #1:** Good. *(Starts to rise and exit.)*
- #2:** Can I ask you one question before you go?
- #1:** What?
- #2:** How do you live with yourself?
- #1:** Very well. I don't plan these sort of things. People like you do. How are you going to live with yourself? *(#2 doesn't answer. #1 leans in close.)* Personally, I don't think you will, but that's your problem. Ciao. *(Exits.)*
- #2:** *(Thinks for a second then turns.)* Wait...  
*(#1 is no where to be seen. #2 turns back to the table and continues to drink his/her beer.)*