

CURRAN

114

Prod. #01002/102

14

Writer's Draft 12/01/05

CONTINUED (2)

KENNY (cont'd)

If there's anything you can do...

A quick look around to make sure the coast is clear.

PELUSO

Let me look into it.

As Peluso walk away --

PELUSO (cont'd)

About that other thing... I'll square
up with you by the end of the week.

KENNY

Take your time.

Peluso exits, fully comprehending the *quid pro quo*. As he
passes Courtroom D --

INT. COURTROOM - SAME

A jam-packed courtroom. Steele sits alone at the
prosecution table, taking notes. Pat Foye (the man from
the interview) sits directly behind his son, SHAWN, 14,
cute, boyish, terrified. CURRAN (40s, polished),
Shawn's lawyer, glances at his yellow pad one last time,
then stands and faces the jury --

CURRAN

Shawn Foye is fourteen years old,
weighs a hundred and three pounds, has
an A average, likes baseball, race cars
and Jessica Simpson.

(beat)

Shawn Foye's older brother, Jack, was a
nice kid too -- except when it came to
Shawn. He hated him. Tortured him,
physically and mentally, on a daily
basis for over two years.

Curran eyes Shawn for a moment, turns back to the jury --

CURRAN (cont'd)

The victim's own father, Mr. Patrick
Foye, will testify that his deceased
son, Jack, was a disturbed man who
abused his younger brother on a regular
basis. He'll describe an unimaginable
climate of fear and violence.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

convictions

214

Prod. #01002/102
CONTINUED

15

Writer's Draft 12/01/05

CURRAN (cont'd)

Quite simply, he'll explain why Shawn's actions on that Saturday afternoon were justifiable -- why his seemingly brutal attack was merely an attempt to save himself from a sadistic monster.

(then)

Ladies and gentlemen, Shawn Foye killed his brother -- there's no doubt about that. But he didn't murder him.

OFF Steele --

/END

EXT. D.A.'S OFFICE - STREET - DAY

Steele and Cabot hurry through the throng --

CABOT

So Mr. Foye's belling out the dead son to save the living one?

STEELE

Wouldn't you?

CABOT

I'm not sure.

STEELE

Really?

CABOT

I just don't think I could forgive my son for doing something like that.

STEELE

So you'd let him rot in prison for thirty years?

CABOT

Maybe.

Steele cracks a smile; appreciates her candor. They walk in silence for a moment. Then --

CABOT (cont'd)

How's Jessica Rossi doing?

STEELE

Excuse me?

CABOT

She's involved in some pretty heavy cases...

CONTINUED

3/4

Prod. #01002/102
CONTINUED

32

Writer's Draft 12/01/05



PELUSO
Misdemeanor menacing. Six months
probation.

WIGGINS
So no felony?

PELUSO
Right.

WIGGINS
Cuz no school going to give you a ride
if you charged with a felony.

PELUSO
I'll draw up an information. All you
have to do is allocute to the facts.

WIGGINS
Allocute?

MORRISON
Tell the judge what happened.

WIGGINS
In court? I can't do that.

PELUSO
You don't have a choice.

WIGGINS
But I can't -- The whole world would
know that --

MORRISON
Don't be stupid, Rashard.

WIGGINS
I ain't no faggot, man.

Peluso eyes Rashard for a moment, then walks out.

INT. COURTHOUSE - CHAMBERS - DAY
Steele, Curran and Judge Michaels.

JUDGE MICHAELS
I won't approve a deal without parental
consent.

CURRAN
I'm the boy's lawyer, Your Honor. I
recommend that he accepts the offer.
(MORE)

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SC. 2

4/4

Prod. #01002/102
CONTINUED

33

Writer's Draft 12/01/05

CURRAN (cont'd)

The defendant himself wants to plea.
Isn't that enough?

JUDGE MICHAELS

He's fourteen, Mr. Morrison. I'm not
going to authorize a plea without his
father's consent.

CURRAN

With all due respect... Isn't that
just a tad hypocritical? Old enough to
be tried in adult court, too young to
plead to the crime.

JUDGE MICHAELS

I suppose it is. But that's how it
goes...

STEELE

What if we appoint a guardian? Let
him or her approve the deal?

JUDGE MICHAELS

Shawn Foye already has a father.

STEELE

But he's not acting in his son's best
interests.

JUDGE MICHAELS

I agree. But that doesn't mean I can
jam some shill down his throat to
approve a deal you think makes sense.

Judge Michaels steps into chambers and shuts the door.
Curran and Steele share a shrug.

CURRAN

I'll talk to Foye again. See if I can
change his mind.

Steele nods and walks away.

/ END

INT. ROSSI'S OFFICE - DAY

Rossi, Duggan and AL STULTZ, 30s, thick, remorseless --

ROSSI

Assault, third degree, is the best I
can do.

STULTZ

Am I looking at jail time?

CONTINUED