

#24

49 OMITTED

PETE

1/3

49

50

EXT. ALLEY WAY - DAY

50

Dark and forboding. Madden leans against a brick building, glances at his watch. Pete appears at the mouth of the alley, glances around for a beat -- then approaches Madden.

MADDEN

You're late.

PETE

You were early.

(off Madden's look)

I was watching you from the roof.

(dry smile)

You can't be too careful these days.

MADDEN

(laced w/irony)

No, you can't.

A bone chilling wind cuts through the alley. Pete shivers.

PETE

I'm starting to get cold in places a man shouldn't. Why're we here?

MADDEN

You've known me a long time. And you know I'm a man who appreciates talent.

PETE

Everyone appreciates talent. Make your point.

MADDEN

That fire last night didn't set itself. Someone had to do it. Someone who really knew what they were doing.

PETE

(intrigued)

Go on.

MADDEN

Tandello's got my jewels in a vice and he's squeezing hard.

PETE

I know.

CONTINUED

2/3

MADDEN

I might need a quick infusion of cash. I own two warehouses down by pier twenty nine. They're both highly insured...

PETE

What kind of compensation are we talking?

MADDEN

Name your price.

Pete smiles as he slips a cigarette between his lips -- holds up a lighter and flicks it. The flame dances in the wind for a moment as Pete stares at it -- then lights the cigarette.

PETE

I always liked doing business with you, Madden. The other stuff Tandello had me doing to you, was never personal. I got a family to support too, you know.

MADDEN

So what do you say?

PETE

I'm sure my talents can serve us equally well. I'll call in a couple of days.

As Pete turns to go, Madden falls in next to him.

MADDEN

Just out of curiosity...Why'd Tandello have you start that fire last night.

PETE

The Congressman needed to learn a lesson. Just like you needed to learn a lesson earlier. So I did my deed on the wires behind that wall for the first fire.

They reach the mouth of the alley.

PETE

It's been a pleasure. Next time I'll let you buy me dinner.

CONTINUED

PETE
3/2

50 CONTINUED (2)

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Pete walks off. Madden watches him go, then turns his gaze to an old battered van that's missing all four tires and looks like someone took a blow torch to it's paint job.

50A INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS

50A

Tom Bell stands behind OCB agent Davis who sits at a console of high-tech listening devices.

TOM
Did Madden get enough?

DAVIS
(smiles)
More than enough.

51 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE FENCE - DAY

51

A crudely painted SIGN HANGS from the GATE:

NO WORK TODAY

52 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE YARD - DAY

52

Tom stands alone amidst the charred and still smoking ruins of last night's fire. Rubble is piled everywhere, one blackened-wood shack is barely standing.

After a beat, Tandello emerges from around a parked bulldozer.

Tom is facing the other way, turns as:

TANDELLO
You called, I'm here. You going to tell me you're taking my advice?

TOM
I'm not so good at taking advice these days...

CONTINUED