

CLAIRE SAX- Scene 1 of 2

19.

ACT TWO

EXT. SUPREME COURT - DAY

TV news crews record protestors burning Garza's picture in effigy. Sidney was right: Garza is viewed as a traitor.

CLAIRE SAX (PRELAP)
Wow, you really can't win...

INT. SUPREME COURT - GARZA'S CHAMBERS - DAY

START → CLAIRE SAX, 40s, "wife of", senior partner in a K Street firm, looks out at the protestors as --

CLAIRE SAX
The Left hated you when you joined the Court. The Right hates you when you leave.

Garza is behind her, packing up photos and awards.

GARZA
Controversy is never bad for business, but if you don't think my name will look good on your firm's masthead I can find someone who does.

CLAIRE SAX
And this is strictly business?

GARZA
I thought so, but if you want to throw in some incidentals...

CLAIRE SAX
I don't.

GARZA
Then, yes, it's strictly business.

CLAIRE SAX
I can't believe I'm even considering this but what's your proposal?

GARZA
Your firm gets my name on the door and I get the same salary as you.

CLAIRE SAX
You really think you're worth that?

GARZA
No, but I know you do. Oh, one other thing -- I pick my cases and my team.

END →

CLAIRE SAX-Scene 2 of 2

37.

EDDIE
No, it's just --

GARZA
It's okay. We're all in love with her.

AL
I'm not in love with her, no offense.
So, what did you find?

LUCINDA
The temperature in the crack house was
never below 70 degrees which based on the
rate of decomposition means the earliest
the murder could've happened was April 8th.

GARZA
Five days after Beals was sent to prison.
He couldn't have done it.

AL
Okay, I am in love with her after all.

START - Just then a TOWN CAR pulls into the driveway. The group
watches as a DRIVER opens the door for Claire Sax.

GARZA
Claire. What a mildly pleasant surprise.

CLAIRE SAX
I thought we should discuss your request
in person, and since you seem to have no
interest in using the office we've
supplied for you --

GARZA
You came to me. Even better. Al, Eddie,
Lucinda, this is Claire Sax. Our ATM.
(to Claire)
We just got some good news on the case.
Al, call the court. Tell them we need
more time to file an amended brief.
(to Lucinda and Eddie)
~~You two start writing. If we're lucky~~
~~we'll get it all the morning.~~

After they exit and Garza is alone with Claire:

GARZA (CONT'D)
So? You wanted to discuss?

CLAIRE SAX
You call and ask for \$250,000 cash -- ?

GARZA

I told you. It's an advance, to cover my expenses.

CLAIRE SAX

Your expenses? What, like your team? You're paying them in cash? They're lawyers, not drug mules.

GARZA

It's not for my team, okay? I have a personal issue. And I need you to respect that. If you can't, I'm more than happy to beg. As I recall you like it when I do that.

CLAIRE SAX

Just tell me this isn't going to get me in trouble.

GARZA

It's not going to get me in trouble.

She shakes her head, smiling. She turns to go --

GARZA (CONT'D)

Was that a yes? That's a yes, right?

CLAIRE SAX

(not turning back)

Yes!

END →

On Garza, this guy always seems to get his way...

INT. GARZA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Al races in, interrupting Lucinda and Eddie writing the brief.

AL

I got the clerk to give us an extension -- but only 'til close of business. Where's Mereta?

INT. GARZA'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY

Mereta, on the phone. The Mutt at her feet.

MERETA

Nonono, please, Mr. Rains, don't hang up. I just need five minutes --

But clearly whoever she was talking to has hung up. Mereta sighs, defeated, when Al bursts in --