

Looks like the hare wins again, Julian.

JULIAN TYRWHITT:

Thank you. I'm not likely to forget.

Rita goes out.

BRIAN:

You're doing all right, dad – with six secretaries now.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Clerks. Rita's my only secretary.

BRIAN:

You decided to give evidence against the Richardsons.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Unless someone stands up to them, Brian, these thugs will go on a burdening society. Would you like some tea?

BRIAN:

Why not?

JOEY OLDMAN:

Will you pour it? I take mine black these days.

BRIAN:

Blimey, it tastes bad enough with milk and sugar!

JOEY OLDMAN:

Then why do you drink it?

BRIAN:

Habit, I suppose. Like coffee and wine. (He pours the tea.) What do you think about loaning me a bit of money?

JOEY OLDMAN:

Not much. What interest? Have you thought about that?

BRIAN:

Eh, no. I thought family would be different.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Money makes no distinction. I thought you were doing okay with Jack and the clubs.

BRIAN:

It's wages. I have a lot of expenses with the flat and the car and clothes. I want to help out a friend who's got to get away.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Is he wanted by the police?

BRIAN:

Jack's his problem right now.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Leah told your mother Jack killed a man at his flat.

BRIAN:

What did mum do?

JOEY OLDMAN:

What could she do? Leah was a bit vague about the details.

BRIAN:

Jack's under the impression he killed him. This is who we want to send away.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Was he one of the robbers of that security truck?

Brian remains silent.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Not hard to deduce, Brian. You came here yakking about a robbery and looking to fence money. It's good you're being more closed up.

BRIAN:

Much good it did me.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Who did you get to handle the money?

Brian remains silent again.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Let me guess, that crook Tyrwhitt?

BRIAN:

You should be on telly, dad, reading people's minds.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Now we've established that, what sort of rate did he charge you?

BRIAN:

Seventy percent - when it clears.

JOEY OLDMAN:

What's to clear?

BRIAN:

When the money's safely out of the country.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Did he give you any so far?

BRIAN:

He advanced me a grand.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Then that, Brian, is all you're likely to see.

BRIAN:

He can't do that. He can't.

JOEY OLDMAN:

He's already done it. What can you do? Go to the police? Did you tell him Jack wasn't involved?

BRIAN:

He asked me. I told him no.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Oh Brian, too much information again. He's got your money and knows there will be no consequences. You can't go to the police, Jack won't come after him.

BRIAN:

The guys who blagged the money might.

JOEY OLDMAN:

He'll simply say, I gave all that was due to Brian Oldman. Either that or he'll call the police and say these thugs are menacing him. Who will the police believe?

BRIAN:

I'll kill him. I'll kill him.

JOEY OLDMAN:

No, you won't, Brian. Chalk it down to experience and learn from it. Meanwhile, you should think about your future.

BRIAN:

With Jack? Is there is one.

JOEY OLDMAN:

If the Richardsons trial goes the way the prosecution hopes, the police will have the wind in their sails. It'll be the Krays next, after them your lot. Time to get out, before it's too late, Brian.

BRIAN:

Easier said than done. The only way I could get out is by giving him up, dad.

JOEY OLDMAN:

It always comes to that in the end. Is your own freedom worth more than his? Think seriously about the means. Find something that won't involve you with the police.

PROSECUTOR:
What was that business?

JOEY OLDMAN:
None I knew of

I don't know any businessman by that name nor have I had any dealings with such a person.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Weren't you in fact holding a great deal of money for this person?

JOEY OLDMAN:

I don't see how, when I don't know such a person.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

This was, in fact, illicit money you were changing for Mr Reynolds.

JOEY OLDMAN:

If that was why I had my teeth pulled out by the Richardsons, I'm more outraged that they got the wrong information.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

The truth is you didn't have your teeth removed by two of the men in the dock as you claim.

JOEY OLDMAN:

I did. Even the mention of their name makes my face ache.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

In fact, Mr Oldman, having heard malicious rumours started by enemies of the Richardsons, you sought to take advantage and not pay them the £38,000 you owed them.

JOEY OLDMAN:

That's nonsense. I've never owed them a penny, or anyone else. Never a lender nor borrower be, is my motto.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Are you not related by marriage to the notorious gangster, Jack Braden?

JOEY OLDMAN:

Notorious, I don't know. Mr Braden has had some scrapes with the law. Unfortunately one can't always choose one's in-laws when getting married.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Yet you took advantage of his notoriety to advance your business, did you not?

JOEY OLDMAN:

My wife and I used my mother-in-law's house as security to start in business. We worked day and night to build that business, we didn't take holidays or buy a car or new clothes or toys for our son. When we eventually sold ma-in-law's house we paid Jack back with interest. That's the only business we've had together.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Isn't your relationship with Mr Braden somewhat closer than you make out?

JOEY OLDMAN:

It's never been close since his army days when he fell out with my wife.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

He also fell out with the Richardsons, rather badly over a business deal when Jack Braden tried to cheat them -

JOEY OLDMAN:

Seems an awful lot of people have been trying to cheat your clients.

Some people in court laugh.

JOEY OLDMAN:

I didn't do any deal with them for copper, only the gold certificates.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Which you purchased below market price with a great deal of cash?

JOEY OLDMAN:

Yes.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Money you were holding for Mr Reynolds.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Yes – I mean no, I don't know Mr Reynolds or his money.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Is it yes, or is it no, Mr Oldman? You no longer seem sure.

JOEY OLDMAN:

I'm sure. It's no. I do not know Bruce Reynolds.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Is Mr Reynolds called Bruce? I thought I referred to him as Brian. In fact, I know I did. So you do in fact know Bruce Reynolds?

JOEY OLDMAN:

(Recovering) No, neither Brian nor Bruce or any other Mr Reynolds.

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

Isn't your entire evidence a tissue of carefully woven lies to cover your own nefarious dealings and the fact that you were trying to cheat Charles and Edward Richardson out of what you owe them?

JOEY OLDMAN:

That's a lie. They pulled my teeth -

DEFENCE BARRISTER:

No further questions -

JOEY OLDMAN:

They pulled my teeth out because they're sadists -

They go.

JOEY OLDMAN:

Why am I suddenly Joey again, not Joseph?

CATH:

You work it out, you're such a clever man.

She strides away. Engleburt Humperdink is heard singing, *Please Release Me*.

19/ INT NEW SCOTLAND YARD

John Redvers is waiting in the ante room of the commissioner's office. The buzzer sounds.

SECRETARY:

The commissioner is ready for you now, Inspector Redvers.

JOHN REDVERS:

Thank you.

He gets up, goes over, knocks the door and enters.

SIR JOHN WALDRON:

Come in, Redvers, have a seat.

John Redvers steps in, closes the door and takes a seat.

SIR JOHN WALDRON:

This is Assistant Commissioner Westbrook. You know Supt Slipper.

JOHN REDVERS:

Yes, sir.

SIR JOHN WALDRON:

Do you know why we're here at nine o'clock in the evening? It's not because we're workaholics.

The two senior officers laugh.

SIR JOHN WALDRON:

We've scored a great success with the Richardsons being found guilty of extortion and grievous bodily harm. Personally I think 25 years wasn't a long enough. Now we move on. The Krays and the Braden gang. I understand from Supt Slipper you're related to Braden and his sidekick Brian Oldman.

JOHN REDVERS:

Something I try to keep quiet about, Sir John.

SIR JOHN WALDRON:

You're an exceptional policeman, Redvers, and a lawyer. The job needs more like you.

JOHN REDVERS:
I like the job, sir.

SUPT SLIPPER:
He's the one, sir.

SIR JOHN WALDRON:

Good. I'm going to provide you with the resources for the task, Redvers. And the rank. As of now you are a Detective Superintendent, possibly the youngest ever in the Met. You'll report to Detective Chief Supt Slipper. No one else. We want to mount a serious attack on the remaining gangs, and woe betides any corrupt officer who gets in your way.

BRIAN (NARRATOR):

Superintendent John Redvers floated out of the Commissioner's office, hardly believing what had happened to him. He wanted to give his mother the good news, but she and her husband refused to have a telephone in the house. Next he thought of Sonia Hope, the woman he'd started the course at Bramshill with, but her number was answered by a man who said she was long gone and married. He eventually tracked her down under her married name of Wednesday to an address in Croydon. He didn't really want to see Tony Wednesday, but was prepared to in order to share his news with Sonia. She answered the door in a bathrobe, and had let herself go. That was a shock to him, but he had low expectations on the women front. Over a cup of tea they got the whole of each other's news. She was thrilled at his promotion.

20/ INT SONIA'S HOUSE

JOHN REDVERS:

Why don't you come back to work, Sonia?

SONIA:

You've got to be kidding. With Tony screwing every skirt that passes his door. He even started an affair with my cousin after I'd lost the baby.

JOHN REDVERS:

It was probably a shock to him too – losing the baby.

SONIA:

1000 volts wouldn't shock him. What about you?

JOHN REDVERS:

I was married. It didn't work out. Chained to the desk.

SONIA:

I'm sure someone else will come along. Someone as good as you, John.

JOHN REDVERS:

(A beat) Who knows. (A beat) Sonia...

SONIA:

John...

JOHN REDVERS:

Sonia... Look, I'm putting a special squad together to investigate corrupt policemen. You

