

THE DEAL

Friends don't make deals

STEVE AND HECTOR ARE FRIENDS. THE
NIGHT BEFORE THEY SELL THEIR START UP,
THEY GET INTO A QUARREL ABOUT LOVE
AND MONEY. THEY NEED TO MAKE A
DECISION.

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CHARACTER

STEVE, MALE, MID TWENTIES. LOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL. WEAK PERSONALITY.

HECTOR, MALE, MID TWENTIES. CHARMING, PERSUASIVE. MANIPULATIVE.

Time: Now.

Place: Steve's apartment.

SYNOPSIS

STEVE AND HECTOR ARE FRIENDS. THE NIGHT BEFORE THEY SELL THEIR START UP, THEY GET INTO A QUARREL ABOUT LOVE AND MONEY. THEY NEED TO MAKE A DECISION.

HECTOR
You got the call?

STEVE
I did, you too?

HECTOR
They offered me a seat on the
board.

STEVE
I'm getting a research division.

HECTOR
Jesus we did it.

STEVE
My heads gonna explode.

HECTOR
We gotta keep cool man.

STEVE
I'm...screaming inside.

HECTOR
Like your whole body's on a roller
coaster.

STEVE
God. We did it, we actually did it.

HECTOR
I keep thinking of that night at
school. Meeting you at that lame
party.

STEVE
Sitting on that stairwell
talking...from there to here
brother.

HECTOR
It was so freaking cold.

STEVE
We were on fire, man.

HECTOR
I gotta say this, I know the idea's
ours, but -

STEVE
Don't say it.

HECTOR

It was your brains that laid this idea down for the world to see, and I'm-

STEVE

It's always been us. "In good times or bad, there's only us," remember. That's what you say, in good times or bad.

HECTOR

That's what got us here and that's what got you research and me the empty-suit position on the board.

STEVE

You were made to be on the board. You'll spin it into gold man.

HECTOR

So, what about you? Where is your life going to spin to? What's next for the genius.

STEVE

Life's not going to change.

HECTOR

Of course things are going to change. The money's here. The prestige is here, now all you've got to do is decide where you want to be next.

STEVE

This is the change. This is what we worked for what we wanted. This is the change

HECTOR

It's time to dream again Steve. Where can we go from here. Where do you want to go?

STEVE

Here. We started this to get here. We've arrived.

HECTOR

I won't push you man. Just be open to life changing.

STEVE
What changes?

HECTOR
Never mind buddy there's time for that. Right now let's just say we did it, we deserve it, and we own it.

STEVE
You're thinking of changing something.

HECTOR
Don't worry about it man.

STEVE
Rebecca.

HECTOR
Steve man.

STEVE
You're going to ask Rebecca to marry you.

HECTOR
Hey, come on. Tomorrow we sign the papers and we get our reward.

STEVE
Have you bought a ring yet? I bet you bought the ring.

HECTOR
Don't do this man.

STEVE
You guys are good together.

HECTOR
Steve.

STEVE
You guys could make it work. I could picture you two together.

HECTOR
You like Rebecca.

STEVE
Hector's his own man. Makes the rules or breaks the rules.

HECTOR

You need to trust me man. I'm still here for you.

STEVE

The only rule is the Hector Rule.

HECTOR

Not now man.

STEVE

Are you going to marry Rebecca?

HECTOR

Don't do this man.

STEVE

You are aren't you?

HECTOR

Steve seriously...

STEVE

You and her - get married, have kids, have a sweet life off my work - my hard work.

HECTOR

Steve you've got to keep it together. We sign tomorrow and we made it, together.

STEVE

You said it. My ideas, my concept. That's what we're selling.

HECTOR

You're stressing out...You gotta relax.

STEVE

I'm not stressing out. You manipulate me. All you gotta do is smile, and everyone kisses your ass.

HECTOR

You don't think this stuff, your brains overworked, you just need to relax, like the doctors said, just take a step back.

STEVE

Ooh, we playing the "sad genius" crap again? You're a bastard.

HECTOR

I don't want to do this. You keep it together. Till tomorrow that's all. Just till tomorrow.

STEVE

Tomorrow you walk away with a bullshit job, 21 million bucks and I'll never see you again.

HECTOR

It's not like that.

STEVE

It's exactly like that...I gave up too much.

HECTOR

We agreed.

STEVE

Andrea.

HECTOR

Jesus.

STEVE

You made me do it.

HECTOR

Again? You want to talk about this again? Good, let's have a little recap: You were with Andrea when she had her "accident". You called me at 2 am. Sniveling, crying, asking for my help to sort out your mess. Steve and Andrea an American love story ending in tragedy.

STEVE

You kept saying she was ruining our work; interfering in our future. You were the one who said we had too much to lose; you kept pushing me and pushing me.

HECTOR

Well, I was right wasn't I?

STEVE

You wouldn't stop. Kept saying it, and saying it. Pushing me to do something about her.

HECTOR

But I was right wasn't I. After she was gone we had our breakthrough. As soon as your head was clear of her bitching you started producing.

STEVE

You kept saying she needed to be gone, needed to be gone. We'd be better if it was just you and me, us together, we'd be better just the two of us.

HECTOR

Well, what I "said" probably isn't as important to a jury as actually having pushed her, is it?

STEVE

I wanted her to believe in me.

Hector puts his arm around Steve. Steve let's himself be held.

HECTOR

I know man.

STEVE

Why wouldn't she believe in me?

HECTOR

I know man. I know. I believe in you. We're in this together. We succeed together.

Steve pulls free of Hector.

STEVE

No. No. This is not together. I live in guilt. I live with Andrea in my head while you go off and marry Rebecca?

HECTOR

Steve.

STEVE

This isn't fair.

HECTOR

Fair? What princessland do you come from? No one expects life to be fair. Do what you gotta do to get a piece of it baby, and once you got it hang on tight 'cause every small time piece of shit is going to be coming after you. Fair. Fuck you fair.

STEVE

Together. We share the success so we share everything.

HECTOR

What are you talking about?

STEVE

We share our guilt.

HECTOR

You want to know I feel guilty about what you did. I get it. I do. I feel bad for her. Andrea was great. A life cut short. I feel bad you killed your girlfriend.

STEVE

No.

HECTOR

What?

STEVE

Kill Rebecca.

HECTOR

What?

STEVE

Kill Rebecca. Tonight. Kill her and I sign. She's alive at breakfast, I don't sign and we lose the deal.

HECTOR

This is stupid.

STEVE

It's simple. You want success? How much is it worth to you?

HECTOR

Steve you're being stupid. Whenever you get worked up you the shit you say is stupid.

STEVE

Say 'stupid' again and I'm calling them and telling them the deal's off.

HECTOR

You wouldn't. That's - .

STEVE

We're in this together or we're not. Your call.

HECTOR

Why don't I just kill you.

STEVE

You kill me? If you kill me I can't sign and you don't get the money.

HECTOR

If you're dead your ownership goes to your estate. You think you're jackass brother's gonna hesitate signing? He'll sign the papers on your coffin he loves you that much.

STEVE

You've thought about this?

HECTOR

What?

STEVE

Killing me. Jesus, you've thought about this.

HECTOR

Steve you're losing it man. You're seriously losing it.

STEVE

You'd kill me if I didn't agree to the deal.

HECTOR

Pull yourself together. After tomorrow we'll see about you taking a rest you know. I'll help you find a place to get some rest.

STEVE

You'd kill me if I didn't agree to this.

HECTOR

(Beat) I would kill you. You're so sensitive. Your thinking gets so screwed up. I'm always smoothing things over, I never know what shit you're going to pull, what thing is going to set you off on one of your little tantrums. So, when that deal walked through the door, you're damn right I thought about killing you. I thought long and hard about it, and guess what asshole: I didn't. You're still here, and we're going through with this deal

STEVE

You thought about killing me to get the money...Kill Rebecca and you get your money.

HECTOR

I love Rebecca.

STEVE

You loved me once. So we know what that's worth.

HECTOR

(Beat) Don't be an asshole man.

STEVE

Kill Rebecca, I sign. Don't kill her, I don't sign.

HECTOR

You don't know what you're saying.

STEVE

You're both out celebrating, a little drunk, get a little high. Go for a midnight swim. She drowns. You're devastated. Everyone at the signing understands you can't stay. It's too much for you.

HECTOR

No one would believe this.

STEVE

You got no motive to kill her. The night before the money train comes in your new fiancé dies in a tragic accident. You'll even write an inspirational book on overcoming tragedy: Triumph over Tragedy.

HECTOR

You're thinking is so screwed up man.

STEVE

Call her.

HECTOR

If I was the killer type, you'd be dead.

STEVE

Right, you get others to act out your dirty deeds.

HECTOR

You're delusional

STEVE

Let me make it easy. Her or me. You kill her, and I sign. You don't kill her and I don't sign. The only way for you to get the deal done is if you kill me and my estate takes it over. Think about it. Her or me.

HECTOR

I'm not going to kill anyone.

STEVE

You can always find another wife. But me, I'm your meal ticket to more. We stay together, your name goes on more patents.

HECTOR

You're being stupid.

STEVE

Make you're choice.

HECTOR

Explaining your death would be...

STEVE

You've made sure everyone knows I'm "sensitive". So much excitement recently I mix up my meds. My brother would back you up. No motive for you to kill me, you don't get anything from me dying except guilt.

HECTOR

We should be celebrating tonight.

STEVE

We are. Call Rebecca.

HECTOR

Rebecca?

STEVE

Or me. Your call.

HECTOR

(beat). Give me the phone.