JAWE

Thanks, Daddy.

DINO

May yourself something nice, Sugar. Now I got business to deal with.

Jane wipes a tear and kisses him, then heads out. Dino nods for Castle to sit down.

START

DINO (CONT'D)

Jane. The roll of cash she spends on clothes could choke a horse. I even bought an imitation couture business, but the fake stuff just isn't good enough for my girl. Especially when she's upset... She and Eric were close.

CASTLE

So you admit he was your doctor.

DINO

I don't like the word "admit."

CASTLE

(backpedals)

How about "acknowledge"? "Confirm"--

DINO

Rick, you and ma, we had a good relationship once.

CASTLE

We still do ... Don't we?

DINO

That depends.

CASTLE

On what?

DINO

I need to know I can speak freely. That you won't turn around and repeat what I say to the cops.

CASTLE

I won't. My lips are sealed.

DINO

Eric was like family to me. He was my cousin Bruno's kid. By a girl he had on the side.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17

DINO (CONT'D)

Bruno died in the slammer so I looked after Eric. Sent him to the best schools. I never wanted him to work for the Family but if you want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans, right?

CASTLE

So what happened?

DINO

A few years back, one of my guys got shot. Wouldn't have made it, but Eric stepped up. Next thing I know, he got a taste for the life... I need to know who did this to him.

CASTLE

Don't take this the wrong way, Dino, but I think you do know.

DINO

It wasn't Christopher.

CASTLE

All the evidence says it was.

DINO

He was framed. He's innocent. When it comes to this, anyway.

CASTLE

How do you know?

DINO

I was with him. I'm his alibi.

CASTLE

Great, then we can call Beckett--

DINO

That's no good. See, at the time, me and Christopher were engaged in a... sensitive business transaction.

CASTLE

And by sensitive, you mean illegal.

DINO

I don't like that word either. My point is this, the cops aren't looking for Eric's killer because they think they already got him.

(MORE)

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CONTINUED: (3)

DINO (CONT'D)

Even if they were looking, nobody in my world would give them the time of day. That's where you come in.

CASTLE

Me?

17

DINO

I need you to prove Christopher's innocence and find Eric's killer. Nobody connected will talk to the cops, but I'll vouch for you. Give you access the police can't get.

CASTLE

Look, Dino. I'm not sure if--

DINO

I'd crack a joke about making you an offer you can't refuse, but-- (leans in, serious)
--you cannot refuse.

CASTLE

Understood. But if I figure out who did this, you have to let me bring the killer to justice...

(amends this)

By this I mean legal justice. Not shooting someone in the head. When the time comes, I need to call Beckett.

DINO

We will swear by the code of silence.

Castle's eyes light up, knows this to be:

CASTLE

Omertà?

Dino nods. Extends a hand. Castle shakes it, but WINCES. He draws back to find Dino has sliced Castle's hand with a small razor blade. Dino shows the bloody slice on his own hand.

DINO

You're blood now, Rick. You're family. Do not let me down.

STOP

OFF: Castle realizing just how deep he's getting sucked in...

END ACT TWO