**BRADLEY and JULIE D.**

BRADLEY

. . . And now the neighbors know we’re up here, there’s no where to park on the street, /and now you guys lose Bruno? What if he shows up here?

JULIE

(watching the foyer carefully)

Bradley. Bradley. Please. May I—? May I please speak? (*Beat*.) May I speak now?

BRADLEY

Go ahead.

JULIE speaks quickly, phrase by phrase.

JULIE

Our three-car team. Lost him in Long Beach. At a railroad crossing. It happens. He got through. They didn’t. It happens. It was unfortunate. We all know that. But. We are the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. As you know, the best. In the whole state. Maybe the whole U. S.-of-A. Haven’t seen stats, but that’s what we believe. And when you’re the best, you adapt.

BRADLEY begins to speak, but she puts

up a hand.

No. My turn. You spoke. My turn. (*Beat*.) Bruno hired your associate—what’s her / name—

BRADLEY

Lena.

JULIE

Unfortunate. Not predictable. But that’s where we are. But we’re listening. Remember that. We’re listening. To *everything*.

BRADLEY

(realizing what she’s saying)

I know. I’m—I’m trying to, you know recover, leading her on—/ it’s not—

JULIE

We’ll keep your private life private.

BRADLEY

I’m . . . thank you.

JULIE

But still. We don’t understand. Why’d Bruno hire her?

BRADLEY

I don’t know. Knowing what we know, it doesn’t make sense. I’m doing my best.

JULIE

We’re in the van. We’re ready. You know how it works. We have contingency plans. In place. For *everything*. You’re safe.

BRADLEY

Am I, Julie?

JULIE

Sergeant Tucker. Please.

BRADLEY

Sergeant Tucker. So . . . what now?

JULIE

Like I said. We have contingency plans. This is not a science. This is an art. We duck. We parry. Onward.

BRADLEY

When did you start talking like Joe Friday?

JULIE

You’re dwelling on the wrong things.

BRADLEY

Am I? Julie, we worked together for three years. You talked in run-on sentences, I couldn’t get you to shut up.

JULIE

Careful. People change. You’ve changed. (*Beat.*) Like, you’re still married.

JULIE “zips” her lips.

BRADLEY

Point taken.

JULIE

I’m going. Stay with the plan. Deal with your partner. That’s all you can do.

BRADLEY

And what if Bruno shows up?

JULIE

He won’t. But if he does—holler.

BRADLEY

“He won’t but if he does . . . ?” And when it comes time to finalize things?

JULIE

You came to *us*, Bradley. You have to trust we’ll be ready.

BRADLEY

I’m doing my best.

JULIE

So you say. Listen. Lena’s surveillance definitely put a chink in the cog.

BRADLEY

You’re mixing idioms.

JULIE

Chink in the armor, cog in the wheel. I’m borrowing from both. You’re the cog. We’re the wheel. You’re vulnerable. That’s the chink. We’re off topic. Stay focused. You’re doing great. We dodge punches. Right? I’ve seen you work the streets. You can

do this. Bruno will make the deal. He *has* to make the deal. We’ll be listening. Go ahead. Do your thing for Lena. When it’s done, do your thing for us. Ten-four?

She informally salutes.

I’ll leave the way I came.

JULIE turns to exit into the hallway.

BRADLEY

Hey, how’d you get up here through there? There aren’t any stairs.

JULIE

I’m physically fit.

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