

#4

ROSS &
KAFFEE

KAFFEE. I'm the only friend you've got.

(Lights up on ROSS.)



ROSS. Dan Kaffee.

KAFFEE. Smilin' Jack Ross.

ROSS. I hope for Dawson and Downey's sake you practice law better than you play softball.

KAFFEE. Unfortunately for Dawson and Downey, I don't do anything better than I play softball. What are we lookin' at?

ROSS. They plead to Manslaughter, I'll drop the conspiracy and the bad conduct. Twenty years, they'll be home in half that time.

KAFFEE. I want twelve.

ROSS. Can't do it.

KAFFEE. They called the ambulance, Jack.

ROSS. I don't care if they called the Avon Lady, they killed a Marine.

KAFFEE. The rag was tested for poison. The autopsy, lab report, even the initial E.R. and C.O.D. reports all say the same thing: Maybe, maybe not.

ROSS. The Chief of Internal Medicine at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Hospital says he's sure.

KAFFEE. What do you know about code reds?

(ROSS smiles and shakes his head.)

ROSS. Oh shit.

(beat)

Are we off the record?

(KAFFEE smiles and shakes his head.)

KAFFEE. No. We're not.

ROSS. *(pause)* I'll give you the twelve years, but before you go getting yourself into trouble down there, you should know this: The platoon Commander, Lt. Jonathan Kendrick, had a meeting with the men and specifically told them not to touch Santiago.

(KAFFEE holds for a moment. DAWSON and DOWNEY neglected to mention this. He picks up his briefcase.)

KAFFEE. I'll see you when I get back.

ROSS. Do we have a deal?

KAFFEE. Talk to me when I get back.

(Lights up on KAFFEE's office.)

(JO is sitting at the desk as KAFFEE enters.)

Come on in.

JO. Thank you.

KAFFEE. Any luck getting me replaced?

JO. Is there anyone in this command that you don't either drink or play softball with?

KAFFEE. Say, Commander -

JO. You can call me Jo.

KAFFEE. Jo, I have no inbred hostility toward you, I really don't, but if you ever speak to a client of mine again without my permission, I'll have you disbarred.

JO. I had authorization.

KAFFEE. You had authorization from where?

JO. Downey's closest living relative, Ginny Miller, his aunt on his mother's side.

KAFFEE. You got authorization from Aunt Ginny?

JO. I gave her a call, I thought she might be concerned. Perfectly within my province.

KAFFEE. You got authorization from Aunt Ginny.

JO. Very nice woman, we talked for about an hour.

KAFFEE. Does Aunt Ginny have a barn? We can hold the trial there. I can sew the costumes and maybe his uncle Goober could be the judge.

JO. More good news. My office has been encouraging me to get out of the district more to observe how our lawyers are working in the field. Guess where I'm going?

KAFFEE. A target range?

JO. I'm going down to Cuba with you tomorrow.