

Screenplay

HARRY
(brushing past Rhea)
Excuse me.

RHEA
May I have a drink, please?

HARRY
Vodka martini with a twist?

RHEA
Bravo, Mr. Barber. You were paying attention in class. (beat) Are you married, Mr. Barber?

HARRY
No.

RHEA
Do you have a girlfriend?

HARRY
Yeah. I, well, we're living together.

RHEA
How old-fashioned of you.

HARRY
I didn't know we were here to discuss my personal life.

RHEA
What's wrong with talking about your personal life?

HARRY
It's personal.

RHEA
Pardon me.

HARRY
So, you wanted to talk with me about something, Mrs. Malroux...Roe.

RHEA
Roux.

HARRY
Roux.

RHEA

Yes. I have a job for you.

HARRY

Yeah, so you said.

RHEA

As I mentioned, there's an element of risk involved.

HARRY

You mentioned that, yes.

RHEA

You do take risks, don't you, Mr. Barber?

HARRY

Do I?

RHEA

You took a rather large risk when you took the money from my purse.

HARRY

(handing her a martini)

Sorry, we're all out of twists. So, what is this job anyway, Mrs. Malroux?

RHEA

My stepdaughter is going to be kidnapped. The ransom will be \$500,000. I need someone to be the threatening voice on the telephone, and for making that call and collecting the ransom I'm willing to pay ten percent. That's \$50,000.

HARRY

Yeah, I can do the math.

RHEA

Are you interested?

HARRY

I'm no kidnapper.

RHEA

I don't need you to kidnap anyone because nobody's going to be kidnapped. My stepdaughter, Odette,

(MORE)

RHEA (cont'd)
is simply going to disappear for a few days.

HARRY
Does she know that?

RHEA
It was her idea.

HARRY
What do you need \$500,000 for? Your husband's rich. Why don't you just ask him for the money?

RHEA
My husband believes that his daughter and I should be able to manage on the allowance he provides. I admit, it's a generous allowance for reasonable people. It just so happens that neither my stepdaughter nor I are reasonable people. May I have another drink, please?

HARRY
You realize, of course, that kidnapping is a federal crime and that the FBI is probably going to get in on this?

RHEA
First of all, there is not going to be any kidnapping. Secondly, my husband will not involve the authorities.

HARRY
So what makes you so sure about that?

RHEA
I know my husband.

HARRY
So let me get this straight: A girl disappears, I make a phone call, collect the money, I take my cut, I give you the rest, the girl goes back home, and everybody's happy-ever-after. Is that the deal?

RHEA
Essentially.

HARRY
That sounds easy.

RHEA
It will be.

HARRY
Are you a cop?

RHEA
Do I look like a cop?

HARRY
Answer the fucking question.

RHEA
No.

HARRY
You wearing a wire?

RHEA
A what?

He feels her for a wire.

RHEA
(as he gropes her)
Did you find what you were looking for? (beat) Maybe you better check again. I don't want you to miss anything. (beat) With all this excitement Mr. Barber, I don't remember hearing whether you were in or out.

HARRY
With all this excitement, I don't remember saying.

RHEA
I need to know. Time is of the essence.

HARRY
I need to meet with this Odette.

RHEA
That can be arranged.

HARRY
Tomorrow. Here. Alone.

RHEA
She's only 17. You might need a
chaperone.

HARRY
You don't have to worry about
me. I can behave myself.

RHEA
It's not you I'm worried about.