

“HOW DO YOU KNOW?”

CHARLES

Finally. Have you been avoiding me?

GEORGE

Yes. Absolutely.

CHARLES

Why?

GEORGE

Did you do it?

CHARLES

Did I . . .

GEORGE

Do it.

CHARLES

My gosh, you're not asking me . . .

GEORGE

What I'm asking is did you fabricate earnings for the analysts either knowingly or accidentally and put me in this spot. Did you do it, Dad? And if you did, are you still looking, even at this moment, for a way to handle it and me without telling me you committed a criminal act?

CHARLES

Now wait, just easy. This ground we're stepping on here is wall to wall minefields.

GEORGE

For God's sakes, you're a crook. What exactly did you do?

CHARLES

I did what everybody who does business in the Mid-East does, who is not Microsoft or selling something indispensable. You pay a toll in the Mid-East, no matter what the country is. If you want to sell in Egypt, you go there, you rent an office and . . .

GEORGE

Stop shouting. I don't hear you when you do that, ever.

CHARLES

Ever?

GEORGE

Ever.

CHARLES

You go there, rent an office . . . it's hard not to yell. You go there and you bribe an Egyptian. That is what I did. Like everybody does. I bribed an Egyptian. We know pissing in the street is against the law. This is spitting in the street. This is pfft, pfft. I didn't think that it would ever touch you. And I wish I could somehow express how what is happening to you is the most wrenching experience of my life. And it's not just emotional. It's physical. It hurts in a profound and deep way; my muscles, my skin, like those side effects I got from Lipitor. I am anguishing in every way because of what you're going through. And I just . . .

GEORGE

Stop it. Stop it you damned narcissist. You don't . . . You can't cry. You ethical mutant.

CHARLES

Better pace yourself, son. It gets worse.

CHARLES

Take my advice. I think you should get away from me.

GEORGE

What?

CHARLES

Cut me off. I have just been trying to avoid the inevitable here.

GEORGE

I work better with facts. Tell me. How does it get worse?

CHARLES

George, I worked for a boiler stock operation when I was 19. There was a violation. I got one year's probation.

GEORGE

And you're bringing this up now because . . . ? (pause) Go.

CHARLES

Because of that, if they find at all responsible for the current problems, I would be classified as a repeat offender.

GEORGE

Your sentence would be . . . ?

CHARLES

Twenty-five years to dead. That's why I didn't come forward.

GEORGE

Dad, what are we gonna do?

CHARLES

I need you to go because I am in a wrestling match with myself here. I can't trust myself not to manipulate you. I don't know if I'm doing it now. I think I am.

GEORGE

Why? Is there something else? Ohhhh! Has it occurred to you, even as a possibility, that you can simply say what the situation is without trying to control the outcome?

CHARLES

No.

GEORGE

Try!

CHARLES

If you were to plead out, the sentence would be three years with a chance of getting it down to less than two.

GEORGE

And you'd . . . ?

CHARLES

Get off. Maybe. Probably.

GEORGE

Everything?

CHARLES

Every . . .

GEORGE

So it's either . . . I don't . . . Ohhh . . .

(GEORGE walks out)

<http://www.movie2k.to/How-Do-You-Know-watch-movie-546460.html>