

Spark 2

3.

Sebastian keeps smiling, but there's a barely perceptible flinch. Jumping in --

DELGADO

I know these two are anxious to get to work. Thank you all for coming.

As the group files out, to Sebastian and Jessica.

DELGADO (CONT'D)

This feels good.

Delgado and his aids head out. To Sebastian:

JESSICA

Right this way.

Jessica directs him to her inner office. Sebastian enters.

INT. L.A. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - INNER OFFICE - MORNING

The moment the door shuts, Jessica's smile vanishes.

JESSICA

Just what the hell are you trying to pull you sleazy son-of-a-bitch?

SEBASTIAN

Now that's more like it.

JESSICA

If you think you can waltz in here and cleanse your conscience by putting away a few felons, you're even more pathetic than I thought.

SEBASTIAN

The Mayor said it was your idea.

JESSICA

The Mayor's a liar -- probably why you two get along so well.

SEBASTIAN

Sounds like he's sick of watching you hand out acquittals to the rich and famous.

JESSICA

Those acquittals paid for your \$5000 suit.

SEBASTIAN

It's true -- I built a career humiliating this office on a daily basis. But it was never personal.

JESSICA

That's because the legal system is a toy to you -- a game to be manipulated for fun and profit.

SEBASTIAN

You make it sound like a bad thing.

JESSICA

No matter how many criminals you put away -- Deena Beck's blood will still be on your hands.

SEBASTIAN

If you could mount a competent prosecution -- her husband would be in jail and Deena would be alive.

JESSICA

Bottom line -- her husband bludgeoned her to death five hours after you got him acquitted of attempted murder. You screwed up.

(beat)

We both know that's why you're here.

They glare at each other. So much for detente. Jessica picks up a file, hands it to Sebastian.

JESSICA

County of L.A. v. Jennifer Dennison.

SEBASTIAN

Are you serious? That's a dog.

JESSICA

Accused is a 25-year-old singer --

SEBASTIAN

-- charged with 2nd degree murder of Terrence Royce at the Chateau Marmont Hotel. She says the victim raped her and she stabbed him in self defense. You say it's murder.

JESSICA

Am I supposed to be impressed?

SEBASTIAN

Up to you. It's unwinnable. Next.

JESSICA

The Mayor may have forced me to hire you -- but in my office, you prosecute the cases I choose.

(beat)

Forensics show no sexual assault -- no defensive wounds. These two had sex, then this kid Royce said or did something to piss off little Miss MTV -- and she killed him.

SEBASTIAN

I agree. But she's got no record, she's white, female, articulate, sympathetic and well-financed. No jury will convict. Why bother?

JESSICA

Because a murder was committed. And someone has to answer for that. It's about justice -- I'm sure you've heard of it.

SEBASTIAN

And when I lose?

JESSICA

The Mayor finds out his white knight's got a limp sword.

(beat)

Break a leg, counselor.

On Sebastian, knowing she means it --

FADE OUT:

END COLD OPEN