

"TRAFFIC" 1 By Stephen Gaghan 1/3 (adapted for class)

HELENA

I have a right to know if my husband is a legitimate businessman.

ARNIE

Of course he is. I've known him for twenty years and he doesn't even jaywalk...

Carl *does* have various businesses ah..... interests, shall we say, for sure.

HELENA

If all our assets are frozen How am I supposed to survive?

ARNIE

...Carl is a very important member of this community and when we're through suing the police and the district attorney and the DEA, there will be money to burn.

HELENA

I'm giving birth in three months. I don't have time for that. How do I get through this?

ARNIE

You're gonna get through it, but the first thing we do is get Michael Adler to represent Carl. We get Adler and we beat this thing.....
(pause) But the retainer.....

HELENA

What do you mean: 'but the retainer'?

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ARNIE

Helena, if I had it I would pay it, but I don't have that kind of money.

HELENA

What kind of money?! How much do we have to pay him!?!

ARNIE

Five-hundred thousand.

HELENA

Christ. (beat) Doesn't anyone owe you two money?

ARNIE

Yes, I told you before, there are people who owe us money but they're not paying. There's too much heat on Carl.

HELENA

(pause) What about legitimate businesses? We own a construction concern, real estate --

ARNIE

Laundromats for the washing of money. As I said, Helena, Carl has various businesses, er.....interests.

HELENA

You say it like they're all *his* businesses..... you're his partner!! Don't you have any control here?! What is going on?! Why can't you do anything?!

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ARNIE

Frozen. All frozen. (pause) My hands are tied, Helena.

HELENA

(pause) Well, now.....I'm wondering what I'll do if Carl doesn't get out. I'm not very adept at being on my own. I've always had a man in my life. Always.

ARNIE

You're gonna make it.

HELENA

I'm glad you think so, but I'm picturing a debt-ridden, thirty-two year-old mother whose ex-husband is being compared to Pablo Escobar.

(beat)

And I'm wondering who would want to be with someone like that?

ARNIE

Don't worry..... we won't abandon you, sweetheart.....