

#2304

HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK

"CONVENTIONAL WARFARE"

by

Steven L. Sears
&
Burt Pearl

A STEPHEN J. CANNELL PRODUCTION

September 9, 1985 (F.R.)

#2304

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"CONVENTIONAL WARFARE"

CAST

MILTON C. HARDCASTLE
MARK McCORMICK

DON CAPUTO
ARNIE SANDOVAL
RAY ASHTON
JERRY MESSINA
JUDGE STRICKLAND BUCHANAN (BUCKY) O'NEIL
DAVE
CHUCK
GEORGE DELGADO
LOUIS ORLANDO
HOWARD PENNY
LT. ADKINS
SID STORM
CLERK
MAITRE D'
FREDDIE DYLAN
GIRL
BODYGUARD

#2304

HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

"CONVENTIONAL WARFARE"

SETS

EXT.

GULLS WAY
 /DRIVEWAY
ANOTHER DRIVEWAY
DESERT ROADS
VARIOUS SHOTS PALM SPRINGS
ADOBE PALMS HOTEL
 /PARKING AREA
 /NEAR ENTRANCE
 /POOL
COYOTE
DAVES CAR
AQUEDUCT
POLICE STATION
EMILIOS RESTAURANT

INT.

GULLS WAY
 /HARDCASTLE'S BATHROOM
 /HARDCASTLE'S BEDROOM
COYOTE
ADOBE PALMS HOTEL
 /FRONT DESK
 /HOTEL MANAGERS OFFICE
 /LOBBY
 /DESERT ROOM
 /PRIVATE DINING ROOM
 /HALLWAY
 /HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK'S ROOM
 /ORLANDO'S ROOM
 /BALLROOM
 /CAPUTO'S ROOM
 /PROJECTION ROOM
 /BANQUET HALL
 /CONVENTION OFFICE
LT. ADKIN'S OFFICE
EMILIOS RESTAURANT (NEAR GARDEN TERRACE)
N.D. - DARK ROOM

"CONVENTIONAL WARFARE"ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 INT. DARK ROOM - CLOSE ON FILE FOLDER - DAY 1

as it sits on a lamp table. A pair of hands comes into view, picks up the folder and opens it. There are two photos, both of distinguished looking gentlemen and the pictures were obviously taken when the subjects weren't aware. The pictures are put into a manila envelope and brought to an aluminum suitcase. The suitcase has a form cut foam insert which holds the three or four pieces of a high-powered sniper's rifle. The envelope is slid into a pocket at the top of the suitcase.

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)

"Being the recipient of such
an award is not the real honor.
The real honor and..."

2 INT. GULL'S WAY - BATHROOM - DAY 2

We are CLOSE on Hardcastle. For all we know he might be at a banquet, giving a speech.

HARDCASTLE

... satisfaction comes from
knowing that you"... no...
"from the knowledge..."

We now PULL BACK to see that we are in the bathroom and Hardcastle is rehearsing in front of the mirror. He is wearing a robe and is mixing lather in a shaving cup, preparing to shave.

HARDCASTLE

... that you, my contemporaries"...
no..."my peers, have acknowledged
my..."

INTERCUT:

3 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 3

McCormick is trying to pack Hardcastle's suitcase. In the B.G., we can hear Hardcastle droning on.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

HARDCASTLE
... past accomplishments for
what they are worth.
(to McCormick)
How does that sound?

MCCORMICK
About the same as it has every
day for the last week... rehearsed.

HARDCASTLE
What do you think about the
'past accomplishments' part?

MCCORMICK
You're asking the wrong guy,
Judge. I am one of your past
accomplishments.

Hardcastle starts shaving.

HARDCASTLE
"So, in conclusion, let me
say that, 'The man himself is
not important..."

And McCormick mouths the last speech with him...

HARDCASTLE
... The man and his law is."
I like that part.

4 NEW ANGLE

4

as McCormick moves toward the bathroom.

MCCORMICK
You're incredible, y'know that?
Every year at Convention Time
it's like moving a dead elephant
to get you to go. Suddenly you're
nominated for the "Life Achievement"
Award and it's, 'Let's go, McCormick.'
'Great weather in Palm Springs,
kiddo.'
(beat)
What happened to 'forty dull
guys in bermuda shorts,' '
short sheeted beds' and 'rubber
chicken?'

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

HARDCASTLE

God, I'm looking forward to that.

MCCORMICK

Okay -- just remember, they haven't given you the award yet. You've been nominated.

5 NEW ANGLE

5

as McCormick comes back into the bedroom to finish the packing.

HARDCASTLE

(calling)

That's the honor, kiddo... the nomination.

6 CLOSE ON SUITCASE

6

as McCormick picks something up and tosses it in, We:

MATCH TO:

7 ALUMINUM SUITCASE

7

as the last few bundles of large-billed cash is placed inside. A hand comes down, lifts the suitcase and swings it off the bed. We:

MATCH TO:

8 EXT. GULL'S WAY - DAY

8

TIGHT on McCormick's suitcase as it moves along. We PULL BACK to reveal Hardcastle and McCormick, both burdened with luggage as they move toward the Coyote.

HARDCASTLE

This junket's gonna be a real eye opener for you kiddo. One of the world's finest judicial bodies, all in one place.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

McCORMICK

You got it, Judge... great bodies all in one place. All working on their tans.

(beat)

I promise you, my eyes'll be open.

9 CLOSE

9

as McCormick reaches for Hardcastle's suitcase, we:

MATCH TO:

10 EXT. ANOTHER DRIVEWAY

10

TIGHT on aluminum suitcase as it's placed into the trunk of a black sedan. The person (unseen) moves to the drivers seat and takes off down the driveway.

11 EXT. DESERT ROADS - THE COYOTE - DAY

11

to establish the cross desert trip.

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)

"Being the recipient of this honor....", no, wait...

12 INT. COYOTE - MOVING - DAY

12

McCormick's bearing up the best he can.

HARDCASTLE

"Being the pinnacle of..."
No, that doesn't make sense.
What do you think of 'penultimate?'

McCORMICK

It's a great word, Judge. I never heard of it before, but it's a great word. Look, don't you think you're getting ahead of yourself here? I mean it is just a nomination.

(CONTINUED)

HARDCASTLE

I told you...

MCCORMICK

I know. The nomination's the honor.

(beat)

C'mon Judge... don't kid a kidder. You want this thing so bad you can smell the bronze on the plaque.

HARDCASTLE

(honestly)

You know who these guys are? These're guys I looked up to most of my life. Half of contemporary law has their names on it. You know how it'd feel to have them give me an award?

MCCORMICK

A jury of your peers, huh?

(beat)

Well look at it this way... These guys, with everything they've accomplished... they did nominate you.

HARDCASTLE

I just gotta get past one guy. Bucky's O'Neil. He's the hot competition.

MCCORMICK

You're a shoe-in. You think they're gonna give a major award to a towering hero of jurisprudence named 'Bucky'?

HARDCASTLE

The guy's in there on one major case. One case. But it was the Donaldson case.

MCCORMICK

Really? The Donaldson case? I read about that? That was Bucky?

McCormick lets out a low whistle.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 2

12

HARDCASTLE

It wasn't that amazing.

(beat)

The man's had a twenty minute career. He spends half his time in Tahiti sucking down fruit drinks. He hasn't come near the same case load that other more experienced Judges have had.

McCORMICK

You mean 'experienced Judges' like you?

HARDCASTLE

(re speech)

Forget 'penultimate'---

(crumples paper)

I don't know what it means either.

13 EXT. DESERT ROAD - ON COYOTE - DAY

13

as it speed toward CAMERA and passes underneath, we:

CUT TO:

14 EXT. DESERT ROAD - OPPOSITE ANGLE - DAY

14

and it looks as if we might see the Coyote come out from under CAMERA, but instead, the black sedan roars into FRAME and heads out down the road. HOLD, then:

CUT TO:

15 EXT. VARIOUS SHOTS - PALM SPRINGS - DAY

15

We see a sign which reads: "PALM SPRINGS CITY LIMIT." Also, several different views of the city and people in summer clothes as the Coyote moves through the streets.

16 EXT. ADOBE PALMS HOTEL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

16

A beautiful six story hotel surrounded by palm trees and done up in the Adobe mode.

17

EXT. ADOBE PALMS PARKING AREA - DAY

17

Valet parking seems to be the norm here as the Coyote pulls up to the entrance. Hardcastle and McCormick exit and hand the key to the valet. There's other cars and activity in the B.G., as a *gorgeous girl*, pool-ready, moves across the driveway toward the entrance. McCormick's ready.

McCORMICK

I'll see you Judge. I gotta get to work.

HARDCASTLE

What we gotta 'get' is checked in. Besides, I want you to meet these guys. Maybe you'll learn something.

McCORMICK

Fine... I just wanna choose the teacher.

As they move out, we RACK past them to DON CAPUTO, just getting out of a white limo. We recognize him as one of the men in the black and white photos, seen earlier. He looks around, appraising the madness about him.

18

ANGLE NEAR ENTRANCE - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

18

are almost inside.

HARDCASTLE

You mingle a little with some great legal minds, maybe something'll rub off on you.

Just then a water balloon falls and bursts right in front of McCormick, splashing on his legs.

McCORMICK

(looking up)

What the ---

Hardcastle looks up.

19 THEIR POV - UP TOWARD OPEN WINDOW

19

where ARNIE SANDOVAL and RAY ASHTON are waving down to them. Arnie's a black man, about Milt's age, wearing a very loud Hawaiian shirt. Ray is Spanish looking, with a bright, cheery face.

ARNIE

Hey Milt!

20 NEW ANGLE

20

HARDCASTLE

Arnie! Ray! What'd you guys do? Start without me?

RAY

We're the committee in charge of Baptismal.

He drops another balloon which hits near Hardcastle.

HARDCASTLE

(to McCormick)

Great guys.

(upwards)

We gotta check in.

ARNIE

Room 319.

Hardcastle and McCormick start into the hotel.

21 INT. HOTEL - TOWARD DOOR

21

as Hardcastle and McCormick enter.

MCCORMICK

And to think it used to make me nervous coming up before guys like that in court.

(beat)

Silly me.

22 MCCORMICK'S POV - DON CAPUTO

22

as he talks with JERRY MESSINA. Both are dressed in sharp, conservative dark suits.

23 RESUME SCENE

23

McCORMICK

Oh oh.

(as HC looks)

You better get to those Judges,
Judge. Nicely dressed.
Distinguished. They may
set a bad example.

Hardcastle looks and his face hardens.

24 NEW ANGLE

24

as Caputo spots Hardcastle and starts to cross.

McCORMICK

Aren't you sorry you didn't
bring your squirting flower?

Messina and Caputo come up to them. Caputo offers his hand.

CAPUTO

Hardcastle. It's been a
long time.

(to Messina)

Jerry, you know Judge Hardcastle?

MESSINA

Yeah, we've met. Hardcastle
made a career of trying to
shut me down. Too bad
you couldn't make it stick,
Judge.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah Jerry, it is too bad.
But you know what they say...
'It ain't over 'til it's over.'

(beat)

You and I just finished a chapter.
You get nailed by the end of
the book.

Caputo picks up on the tension.

CAPUTO

So how's retirement, Milt?
Eighteen holes, nine innings
and six packs?

(CONTINUED)

HARDCASTLE

I'm keeping busy. I only
get down here once a year
for the awards dinner.

A look of concern flickers across Caputo's face.

CAPUTO

Still hopin', huh? You never
learn, Milt -- the guys who
do the labor don't collect
the prizes. You're not a
smiler.

MCCORMICK

He got nominated.

Hardcastle throws McCormick a look.

CAPUTO

Yeah, well, you'll be better
off without the trophy. Once
they mark you on the team,
all you got left is speeches.

(beat)

I'll see you around.

HARDCASTLE

Yeah.

Caputo and Messina exit.

MCCORMICK

Don't tell me. They're not
Judges.

Hardcastle and McCormick move off.

as the aluminum suitcase is taken from the trunk of
the dark sedan.

DAVE'S VOICE

I'll take that.

WIDEN as DAVE takes the suitcase from the valet.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

DAVE

Don't park it. I won't
be here that long.

Dave moves in, along with another man (CHUCK).

26 INT. HOTEL MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

26

GEORGE DELGADO, the manager, a small wisp of a man,
is being confronted by Jerry Messina.

DELGADO

I don't know what to say,
Mr. Messina, I'm sorry.

MESSINA

'Sorry' doesn't cut it,
George. We got eight families
meeting here this weekend and
you're mixing us up with fifty
Judges.

DELGADO

It just happened. Everyone
kept postponing, changing
schedules. You were supposed
to be here last month --
The Judges cancelled six
times on me. It's like some
bad joke.

MESSINA

I'm not laughing.
(picks up
'manager' sign)
How's something like this
happen, George? How's a guy
like you end up in a leather
chair with a pen set?

DELGADO

I've always made good with
you Jerry... anything you
ever asked.

MESSINA

We got business to discuss
this weekend. I don't want
these Judges stuck in my
throat.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

DELGADO

Don't worry about it. I'll
keep 'em happy. You won't
even know that they're here.

SMASH TO:

27 HARDCASTLE AT FRONT DESK

27

and his voice is raised and everyone would know that
he's there.

HARDCASTLE

I don't care whose fault it is!
I want my room!

CLERK

But there's nothing wrong with
312. All the double rooms are
the same.

HARDCASTLE

I reserved 614. I want 614.

Delgado approaches.

MCCORMICK

Judge -- if they're all the
same --

DELGADO

Is there something I can help
you with?

HARDCASTLE

Yeah, you can help me get the
room I reserved --- 614.

DELGADO

(to clerk)

Is there a problem with that?

CLERK

It's not in the computer sir.
I keep trying to explain --

DELGADO

Do you know how to put it in
the computer?

(CONTINUED)

CLERK

Yes, but ---

DELGADO

(to HC)

We'll have your room for you, Judge. Why don't you have a drink by the pool, on me, while we get it ready.

HARDCASTLE

Thanks.

Hardcastle and McCormick move off.

CLERK

Sir --

DELGADO

(understands)

I know -- just take care of it.

as they move through the lobby, toward the pool.

MCCORMICK

All right, I'll bite -- what's the big deal about 614?

HARDCASTLE

No big deal. I like that room.

MCCORMICK

You've never been here before.

HARDCASTLE

Word of mouth.

MCCORMICK

Judge?

HARDCASTLE

(out with it)

Six is my lucky number, all right?! It happens. I don't believe in that stuff but it's not gonna hurt, okay? Shut up.

They move out.

29

INSERT - PAPER

29

with the handwritten message: "ROOM 614."

30

EXT. HOTEL - PARKING AREA - LOUIS ORLANDO

30

is standing outside his pitch black Ferrari, glancing at this note. He folds it and puts it in his pocket. He's the Aryan dream. Tall, blonde, great tan, wearing a white polo shirt, tennis shorts and white Nikes. He grabs his tennis bag and hands the key to the valet.

ORLANDO

One scratch and you're gonna hear about it.

He moves off.

31

EXT. BY POOL - DAY

31

PICK UP a gorgeous, bikini-clad young woman as she travels to her seat. HOLD on McCormick as he watches her, standing with Hardcastle by the host bar. Hardcastle comes around with a couple of tall drinks, handing one to McCormick.

HARDCASTLE

I checked the schedule. Half an hour in the Desert Room -- there's a seminar -- "Justice, Juries, and You." Oughta be interesting.

As they move toward some chairs, McCormick's mind is elsewhere.

McCORMICK

No Judge, this is interesting.
'Blondes, bikinis, and me.'
(sitting)
You hit the seminar, I'll copy your notes.

HARDCASTLE

This was supposed to be a learning experience for you.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

McCORMICK

It is.
(sips drink;
staring at girl)
I'm studying.

MAN'S VOICE

Milt?

32 NEW ANGLE

32

to reveal JUDGE STRICKLAND BUCHANAN O'NEIL. He's tall, plenty of bearing, obviously of good, pure Southern stock. We dislike him instantly for any reason we can find.

HARDCASTLE

(rising)

Bucky.

O'NEIL

(handshake)

It's a pleasure to see you again. I've been looking over your case file. Can't underestimate the competition. Impressive stuff, Milt. I can see I have my work cut out for me.

HARDCASTLE

Well -- it's not really winning -- right, Bucky -- it's the nomination. I'm not really worried about it.

McCORMICK

He even left his rabbit's foot at home.

HARDCASTLE

Bucky -- this is Mark McCormick. Mark -- Strickland Buchanan O'Neil.

McCORMICK

Oh yeah, the Donaldson case. Great stuff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Hardcastle grimaces as Mark and Bucky shake hands.

MCCORMICK

It's a real pleasure to meet you. I understand you made your decision in twenty minutes.

Bucky smiles, political all the way.

O'NEIL

Pleasure meeting you, Mark.
Milt -- see you in the war.

O'Neil moves away.

MCCORMICK

Nothing to worry about, Judge.
Too tan. The guy's definitely a 'presenter.'

HARDCASTLE

I don't know.

MCCORMICK

Trust me. He'll be asked to present an award. You know how that is. It's like Miss Congeniality. Kiss of death. Never win anything.

McCormick settles back, watching another beauty move by.

INT. ADOBE PALMS LOBBY - PAYPHONE - DAY

Orlando's on the phone.

ORLANDO

We've got problems. They screwed up on the room?

(beat)

You mail the hardware?

(beat)

Well you're gonna have to change it.

(beat)

That's your problem. You pay either way.

Orlando hangs up and lights a cigarette.

MAN'S VOICE (OVER)

Your honors, if you would all please find a seat --

34 INT. DESERT ROOM 34

Typical convention room folding chairs, etc. HOWARD PENNY addresses the group from the podium. Hardcastle and McCormick find a couple of chairs next to Arnie and Ray.

PENNY (CONT'D)
-- we'll try to get this
thing going.

35 ANGLE ON PENNY 35

as CAMERA begins a SLOW ARC, left to right.

PENNY
My name's Howard Penny and on
behalf of the convention, I'd
like to welcome you all to
the beautiful Adobe Palms.

36 INT. PRIVATE DINING ROOM - ON CAPUTO 36

CAMERA ARCING, right to left.

CAPUTO
As most of you know, we have
begun to suffer a decreased
effectiveness in our various
operations.

37 REVERSE ON ROOM 37

as the crowd is revealed. Lotsa suits.

38 ON CAPUTO 38

continuing.

CAPUTO
That's why we called the families
together. Each of you...

39 PENNY 39

PENNY
...will be assigned to a
committee to discuss...

#2304

19.

40 CAPUTO

40

CAPUTO

... the heads of each of the families. Those who refuse to cooperate will...

41 PENNY

41

PENNY

... be awarded the "Lifetime Achievement" award at the closing of the banquet. I'm told we have the run of the hotel as long as we don't have a repeat of last year. We do request that you refrain from covering the toilets with cellophane. Okay, Arnie?

42 REVERSE ANGLE

42

Arnie takes the jibing and the laugh.

43 PENNY

43

PENNY

One last note. You might have noticed a few familiar faces among the other guests staying at the hotel. It's unfortunate, but there's no crime in getting a suntan. So remember, we're not here in an official capacity -- Therefore, let us assume, that any violin cases we see contain violins.

44 CAPUTO

44

CAPUTO

They're just down here for an awards convention. They're gonna drink, they're gonna party and they're gonna go home. So let's not mix it up. You bump into a Judge, ignore him or make nice. Odds are, he's working for us.

(beat)

Try the calamari -- it's terrific.

45 EXT. ADOBE PALMS - NIGHT 45

to establish the calm of the night.

46 INT. HALLWAY - ON ALUMINUM SUITCASE 46

The "hit-kit" is being carried down the hallway. The men carrying it stop in front of a room door.

47 INT. HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK'S ROOM - NIGHT 47

Hardcastle and McCormick are both asleep. The room is lit only by the light coming through the window (from the hotel sign). HOLD ON this, then suddenly there's a pounding on the door.

HARDCASTLE

Who the...

McCORMICK

Don't they ever go to sleep?

HARDCASTLE

Answer the door McCormick.

McCORMICK

Forget it, Judge. I had your buddies all night long. You wanna bucket of water over your head, you answer the door.

HARDCASTLE

Just get it.

McCormick gets up and moves to the door. As he opens it, he's blinded by the bright lights of the hallway. Two men, backlit, stand in the doorway. They are Chuck and Dave. Dave has the suitcase.

DAVE

You've got until Sunday.

He hands McCormick the suitcase. McCormick takes it.

McCORMICK

Terrific.

Chuck and Dave leave. McCormick, carrying the suitcase, closes the door, scratches his head and crosses to the bed. Hardcastle flips on the light.

CONTINUED

#2304

21.

47

CONTINUED:

47

HARDCASTLE

What the hell was that?

MCCORMICK

I don't know Judge, they're
your playmates.

HARDCASTLE

Aren't you gonna open it?

MCCORMICK

C'mon Hardcastle. It's two
in the morning. You want
rubber snakes popping out?
Let's wait til after breakfast.

Hardcastle crosses to the suitcase and opens it.

48

INSERT - SUITCASE

48

and its lethal contents.

49

RESUME SCENE

49

as McCormick sees it. He's surprised.

MCCORMICK

Bang.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

50

INT. HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK'S ROOM - NIGHT

50

McCormick is playing with the rifle as Hardcastle paces the room, looking at the photos.

McCORMICK

(sighting)

Cute friends, Judge. ...What's next, a miniature electric chair?

HARDCASTLE

(re photos)

Somebody's gonna hit these guys.

McCORMICK

C'mon Judge, you're not gonna fall for this.

HARDCASTLE

Look at the money, McCormick.

(as McCormick takes a bundle)

Arnie may have a slightly perverse sense of humor but even this is a little on the expensive side.

McCORMICK

This is real money.

HARDCASTLE

Real money, real bullets.

(beat)

Whoever got bounced out of this room's gonna be lookin' for his paycheck.

McCORMICK

Well we know one thing ---
614 isn't his lucky number.

Play the moment, then:

CUT TO:

51

INT. LOBBY - FRONT DESK - NIGHT

51

The clerk is thumbing through his reservation cards. Hardcastle and McCormick wait impatiently.

HARDCASTLE

You got something?

CLERK

Yeah. A headache.

(pulls card)

The room was reserved for
Mr. Louis Oliver.

HARDCASTLE

What happened to him?

52

NEW ANGLE

52

Across the lobby, Dave steps around a corner and eavesdrops on this conversation.

53

RESUME SCENE

53

CLERK

You mean after you insisted on taking his room? He probably ended up on a cot in the 'Y.'

HARDCASTLE

You have anything on him? A phone number? An address?

CLERK

Judge, please -- it's been a long day. I was asked to cooperate with you and I'm doing my best. I've been struck by water, rattled by joy buzzers and humiliated when I sat down at my desk. I'm doing what I can to maintain composure. But giving out confidential information --

Hardcastle reaches into his pocket and pulls out a twenty. He slides it to the clerk.

(CONTINUED)

53

CONTINUED:

53

CLERK
(taking bill)
I guess I could buy some
aspirin.

Play the moment, then:

CUT TO:

54

EXT. COYOTE - DRIVE-BY - NIGHT

54

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)
Louis Oliver.

55

INT. COYOTE - MOVING - NIGHT

55

as Hardcastle looks at the card.

HARDCASTLE
751 Redmond Street, Teaneck
New Jersey.

MCCORMICK
Forget it, Judge --- no one
lives in Teaneck, New Jersey.
(beat)
You think this guy's gonna
leave legitimate information?

HARDCASTLE
Probably not. But we can
let the cops check it out.

MCCORMICK
Let me ask you something. Is
this just your basic Hardcastle-
cut-to-the-chase-law-and-order
routine? Or is something else
going on here?

HARDCASTLE
Killing people's against the
law -- that's all.

MCCORMICK
Won't work -- I've been eating
your cooking too long. As
soon as you pulled those
photographs, something shifted
gears.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

MCCORMICK (CONT'D)

(beat)

Who are these guys?

HARDCASTLE

You met Caputo. He's a --
businessman.

MCCORMICK

Oh yeah? What business?
Concrete underwear?

HARDCASTLE

No one's ever nailed him on
anything.

McCormick throws Hardcastle a look.

MCCORMICK

What's bothering you?

HARDCASTLE

You see the guys sliding around
the hotel this weekend? I
think there's a little family
council meeting going on.
Someone like Don Caputo gets
hit -- right in the middle
of everything -- there's gonna
be a bloodbath no one's ever
gonna get over.

Headlights flare up from behind and the Coyote is rammed.

EXT. CARS

as the pursuing car rams again.

INT. COYOTE

MCCORMICK

I think someone's coming to
claim their luggage.

They're rammed again.

58

DIRECTORS SEQUENCE

58

as the pursuit moves through the nighttime desert. Chuck tries to pull alongside the Coyote. McCormick leads him on a twisting follow-the-leader which takes them ramping over a mound of dirt and along the water aqueduct.

59

ANGLE ON DAVE'S CAR

59

as he sits on an off street, waiting for the Coyote. His car has a VHF radio over which we hear:

CHUCK'S VOICE

Coming your way.

Dave guns the engine.

60

BACK TO CHASE

60

The Coyote screams down the road. Suddenly Dave pulls right out in front of them. McCormick is forced to swerve off the road and skid to a stop, almost in the aqueduct. Chuck pulls up behind him and he and Dave get out with guns trained on our guys. Hardcastle and McCormick get out of the Coyote.

DAVE

Where is it?

MCCORMICK

Why? You guys gonna try every room in the hotel 'til you get it right?

Dave slams McCormick with his pistol hand. Hardcastle catches him before he falls. Chuck goes over to the Coyote and pulls out the suitcase.

61

HARDCASTLE AND MCCORMICK

61

HARDCASTLE

(whispers)

The water's behind us.

62

RESUME SCENE

62

as Chuck crosses to Dave.

DAVE
(motioning with
gun)
Let's go.

McCormick slumps slightly, letting out a moan. Chuck steps forward.

CHUCK
You heard the man. Let's --

McCormick rises up quickly and hits Chuck, sending him into Dave whose gun goes off ineffectually. Hardcastle and McCormick dive into the inky blackness of the aqueduct. Dave and Chuck begin shooting into the water. Play this until ---

CHUCK
Forget it. We're gonna
draw flies.

Dave fires off another shot.

CHUCK
C'mon. We gotta get this
back.

Dave looks out across the water, takes a beat, then they turn and exit.

63

ANGLE AQUEDUCT

63

a little ways downstream as two soaked rats are dragging themselves out of the water.

64

CLOSER

64

as they get to the surface.

HARDCASTLE
You okay?

MCCORMICK
I think I was safer when
we weren't friends.

Play the moment.

65

EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

65

ADKIN'S (V.O.)

I gotta give you credit, Judge --

66

INT. LT. ADKIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

66

LT. ADKINS is the local police official.

ADKINS

--- It's a great story. I mean you show up here, no suitcase, no cash, no gun -- Props. You shoulda brought some props.

McCORMICK

What're you talking about?

ADKINS

Tell me -- what was supposed to happen to me when I showed up at the 'crime scene.'

HARDCASTLE

This isn't a joke, Adkins. Someone's hiring an executioner.

ADKINS

You guys really had Rohrback going last year.

(to McCormick)

They phoned in a homicide report about two a.m. Rohrback not only goes for it but he brings in half the State guys behind him. Coroner comes in to take a report, the corpse sits up and kisses him.

(enjoying it)

They hired a stripper to play dead. It was great. I woulda given a week's pay to see the look on Rohrback's face.

McCORMICK

You think this is a practical joke?

(CONTINUED)

ADKINS

Come on guys. Every year
you pull something like
this.

HARDCASTLE

We're not pulling anything,
Lieutenant and if you're having
a problem with that maybe
we can talk with your Captain.

ADKINS

Sorry Judge, you're stuck
with me. Captain Franklin's
at a Police Chief's convention
in Bermuda.

(beat)

I guess it's your move.

HARDCASTLE

Okay -- about ten miles from
here is a hotel full of Judges.
It'd take me about half an hour
to wake one of 'em up, get a
court order written and haul
you in for obstruction of justice.
About ten minutes after that
someone'd call Captain Franklin,
tell him his acting officer's
been busted for acting like a
jackass -- about two hours later
he'd be on a plane heading home
and you're gonna find yourself
serving Pina Coladas in the
Coconut Room.

(beat)

It's your move.

Play the moment, then:

HARDCASTLE (V.O.)

Tell him it's important.

INT. HARDCASTLE'S ROOM - DAY

Hardcastle takes a disgusted beat then hangs up.

HARDCASTLE

Mr. Caputo's not taking any calls.

MCCORMICK

It's his funeral.

HARDCASTLE

Get your coat, we'll go over to the restaurant.

McCormick gives him a look.

HARDCASTLE

Let's go.

MCCORMICK

No. Judge, I don't wanna take the air out of your sails, but what's going on? Don't get me wrong -- I've kinda gotten used to being pistol whipped and pushed off the sides of roads -- but usually I know what I'm into. We got the suitcase, we lost the suitcase, we gave everything to the cops. Why're we still in this?

HARDCASTLE

'Cause the cops may not move fast enough to keep someone from pulling the trigger.

MCCORMICK

Allright -- and the world's down one bad guy -- not that I wanna see anyone getting hurt --- but what's your stake in this.

HARDCASTLE

What're you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

68

CONTINUED:

68

MCCORMICK
C'mon Judge.

Play the moment, then:

69

EXT. COYOTE DRIVE-BY - DAY

69

MCCORMICK (V.O.)
This all happened when you
were a cop?

70

INT. COYOTE - MOVING - DAY

70

HARDCASTLE
A dumb cop. I walked right
into a room full of bent
noses and got myself into
a fight. Caputo egged me
over the line and I bit.
I thought I could prove
something.

MCCORMICK
I take it you both walked
away from it.

HARDCASTLE
Almost didn't. I was up on
him and one of his buddies
tried to put me away. I
woulda never heard it coming.
Caputo nailed the guy.

MCCORMICK
Don Caputo saved your life.

HARDCASTLE
He taught me a lesson. If
you're gonna go to the mat
it better be about something...
other than trying to be a
hot dog.

MCCORMICK
Maybe he was just working up
a little debt. It never hurts
to have cops and Judges on
your team.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

HARDCASTLE

No. He's not stupid. He knows I'd never jump over the net. He was just letting me know if I ever came into his house, I better have a good reason.

There's a silence.

HARDCASTLE

I spent twenty years trying to find one, too. I could never make anything stick.

Hold, then:

71

EXT. EMILIO'S RESTAURANT

71

A nice place. A place you'd never expect to see people dressed in cutoffs or bermuda shorts or sweatpants -- until now. The Coyote pulls up and Hardcastle and McCormick exit.

McCORMICK

Don't you think we oughta try calling him one more time.

HARDCASTLE

We're here. We'll do it in person. It's better that way anyway.

McCORMICK

Better? A red-neck Judge with a reputation, walking into the middle of a family summit? Somehow that doesn't read 'better' to me, Judge.

HARDCASTLE

You wanna forget it?

McCORMICK

No, but I also don't wanna wake up tomorrow with a horse's head.

(CONTINUED)

71

CONTINUED:

71

HARDCASTLE

Might be an improvement.

They enter the restaurant.

72

INT. EMILIO'S

72

as our guys enter. The MAITRE D' appraises them.

HARDCASTLE

I was told I could find Mr.
Caputo here.

MAITRE D'

I'm sorry, Mr. Caputo left
word he was not --

HARDCASTLE

Look on the list. I've got
a reservation.Hardcastle just moves into the restaurant. McCormick,
hesitantly, follows.

73

REV. TOWARD ENTRANCE

73

As Hardcastle comes in. The piano player looks up and
stops playing. The whole place notices and gets quiet.
John Wayne's just come into the saloon. There's a beat
then Hardcastle spots Caputo and starts to cross.

74

HARDCASTLE AND MCCORMICK

74

MCCORMICK

(sotto voce)

They won't even know we're
here, right?(to a staring
diner)Try the duck, I hear it's
fantastic.

They cross to Caputo.

CAPUTO'S TABLE - NEAR GARDEN TERRACE

as Hardcastle and McCormick approach. Two bodyguards immediately start to close on them.

CAPUTO

It's okay.

The bodyguards relax.

HARDCASTLE

We've gotta talk.

Caputo indicates two chairs at his table. He's sitting with SID STORM, the other man in the photos. As Hardcastle sits:

CAPUTO

You coulda worn a tie,
counsellor.

Hardcastle and McCormick look around the room, still watching them.

CAPUTO

(to room)

What's the matter? Something
wrong with your food?

There's a beat, then the place returns to normal, music and all.

CAPUTO

You guys remember Sid Storm?

STORM

(starts to
rise)

I'm losin' my appetite here
Don. I gotta make a call.

CAPUTO

Let it wait, Sid.

Gently put, but an order. Storm settles.

CAPUTO

I don't think Sid approves
of the company I keep.

(CONTINUED)

HARDCASTLE

I'm not staying long.

(beat)

At two this morning a couple of goons dropped a package off in my room. Three hundred grand, a thirty-eight with a scope, and a couple of pictures.

(beat)

You looked a lot younger then.

STORM

What the hell is this? You telling us there's a contract out on him? That you're here to save him?

MCCORMICK

The other picture was you.

Storm takes a beat.

STORM

Who the hell are you?

CAPUTO

Where's the hardware now?

HARDCASTLE

They got it back.

Storm rises.

STORM

I'm not having this conversation Don. We got a problem we'll take care of it in house. Some Judge

And gunshots rip through the glass. Sid dies.

BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

76

EXT. EMILIO'S - DAY

76

Coroner's wagon, police cars, etc.

77

INT. EMILIO'S - DAY

77

Hardcastle and McCormick are talking to Adkins as Storm's body is moved out on a stretcher.

HARDCASTLE

You come up with anything on those plates or that Oliver guy.

ADKINS

Nothing to like. The car was stolen about eight hours before you got tagged. And if Louis Oliver exists he's doing a good job keeping it a secret.

McCORMICK

You could offer Caputo police protection.
(off their looks)
Or not.

HARDCASTLE

I'll talk to Caputo. He oughta know more than all of us who might be trying to put him away.

ADKINS

Judge -- do me a favor. I've got enough problems. You're here on a convention. Convention. Let me handle the police work. It'll go much smoother if you stay out of this.

Adkins nods and moves off, Hardcastle looks at McCormick.

78

INT. COYOTE - ON McCORMICK - MOVING - DAY

78

McCORMICK

We're not staying out of
it, are we?

HARDCASTLE

The cops'll dig around for
nothing, McCormick. Meanwhile
there's a guy running around
trying to finish off a contract.

McCORMICK

On a hood.

HARDCASTLE

Killing's killing, McCormick...
It doesn't become moral
because you don't like the
intended victim.

McCORMICK

I know that, Judge, but don't
you think you're letting your
personal history cloud your
judgement.

HARDCASTLE

No, I don't.

79

EXT. ADOBE PALMS - DAY

79

as the Coyote pulls in and our guys exit.

80

INT. HALLWAY

80

as Hardcastle and McCormick come toward their room.

HARDCASTLE

I wanna call Frank Harper and
see if he can come up with
something on Oliver. Maybe
L.A.'s got something that's
not in the computer.

CONTINUED:

CONTINUED:

McCORMICK

Has it ever occurred to you
that you have a kind of
'criminal magnetism?'
You go to Palm Springs
to relax and get tan,
and end up in this. I'd
hate to see what happens
when you're looking for
trouble.

They get to their room.

INT. HARDCASTLE'S ROOM - TOWARD DOOR

as they enter. They freeze at the sight of Don Caputo
and his torpedoes, waiting for them. Sitting at the
table with an open notebook is FREDDY DYLAN, a small
man wearing glasses.

McCORMICK

(to HC)

You see what I mean.

Hardcastle closes the door.

HARDCASTLE

You saved me a trip. We've
gotta talk.

CAPUTO

I'm listening.

McCORMICK

Look, why don't you guys
talk -- if you need me,
I'll be down by the pool.

HARDCASTLE/CAPUTO

Sit down.

McCormick does.

CAPUTO

You balancing the books, Milt?
(beat)
Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

HARDCASTLE

Just doing my job.

CAPUTO

What the cops got?

HARDCASTLE

I didn't say I went to the cops.

CAPUTO

(smiles, then:)

The cops're tripping over air, right?

HARDCASTLE

Listen --

CAPUTO

C'mon, Milt -- they're running plates, checking aliases and eating donuts. I wait for them, I might as well lie down and put up a sign.

HARDCASTLE

We're doing the best we can.

CAPUTO

No. Tell Freddie what you know. Freddie's more effective than cops. Safer, too. I pay him.

Hardcastle hesitates.

CAPUTO

Look Milt -- I got fifty, sixty guys downstairs all gettin' a little crazy about the hit on Storm. You wanna play this safe and go through channels, you're gonna see a lot worse than me getting shot.

(CONTINUED)

FREDDIE

Can you give me a description
of the weapon?

HARDCASTLE

(to Caputo)

You put this together, you're
gonna handle it yourself,
aren't you?

MCCORMICK

It was a Bannister .38, broken
down, wood stock, Kyber scope.

(off HC's look)

We're trying to help, right?

FREDDIE

How was it delivered?

HARDCASTLE

Aluminum suitcase. Photos,
money.

(to Caputo)

You get something, I want it.

FREDDIE

What kind of money?

MCCORMICK

The three hundred thousand kind.
Fifties and twenties.

FREDDIE

Did the Bannister have a blue-
steel or nickel plated handle?

MCCORMICK

Blue steel.

FREDDIE

Left or right hand grip?

McCormick looks at Hardcastle. They're blank.

CAPUTO

(to Freddie)

You got something?

(CONTINUED)

81

CONTINUED: 3

81

FREDDIE

At the going rate, using that kind of fire power, it narrows things down. It'd help if I knew if it was right or left handed.

HARDCASTLE

We never got a chance to use it.

FREDDIE

Carl Tillis, Sam Liming or Louie Orlando. Tillis is in the can for at least forty more years; we're pretty sure Liming is dead...

CAPUTO

Orlando.

FREDDIE

Last I heard he was vacationing in Tahiti ---

82

ANGLE HARDCASTLE

82

as something occurs to him.

83

RESUME

83

FREDDIE

-- I'll check it out.

Freddie leaves.

MCCORMICK

This guy's playing for the wrong team.

CAPUTO

Thanks, Milt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARDCASTLE

Just remember, Don, you find him, you turn him over.

CAPUTO

If I can.

He starts out.

HARDCASTLE

This thing walks funny, you're gonna answer for it.

CAPUTO

I always have, haven't I?

McCORMICK

Wait a second. Aren't we forgetting something here? Maybe you'll find Orlando, maybe not. Aren't you interested in the guy that hired him?

Caputo comes back.

CAPUTO

We find Orlando, he'll talk.

McCORMICK

Why don't you just run it through Freddie?

CAPUTO

Because even Freddie can't handle a list that long. In my line of work I meet a lot of people. I figured out pretty early that more than one of them might want to put me out of business. I gotta lot of 'friends' here this weekend.

McCORMICK

Honor among thieves, Huh? Gun you down right in the middle of peace talks.

(CONTINUED)

83

CONTINUED: 2

83

CAPUTO

I wasn't talking about my people -- They're not gonna risk a war right now. But I do know a couple of Judges might come out pretty good if things got a little hot.

McCORMICK

Isn't that a little naive -- Judges paying for hits on people?

CAPUTO

Who's being naive, kid?
(beat)
See you in the trenches, Milt.

Caputo and his men leave.

84

EXT. ADOBE PALMS - ESTABLISHING - DAY

84

We hear FILES OPENING, OVER ---

McCORMICK (V.O.)

I've heard about burning the competition, Judge, but burying?

85

INT. CONVENTION OFFICE - DAY

85

Some banner or the like identifies this as HQ for the Judge's convention. Hardcastle and McCormick are going through the files.

HARDCASTLE

I just wanna check out O'Neil's file.

McCORMICK

And of course this has nothing to do with the fact that he's your major competitor.

(CONTINUED)

HARDCASTLE

You heard what that guy said about Tahiti. Bucky spends half a year down there.

MCCORMICK

So do a million other guys.

McCormick finds the file.

MCCORMICK

But they're not threatening to take your statue away.

HARDCASTLE

(takes file)

And I know Caputo. He never talks unless he's got something to say. If he smells a Judge behind this ---

ARNIE (O.S.)

What're you guys doing here?!

Arnie's just walked in.

HARDCASTLE

Arnie! I thought you guys were at the Miss Jurisprudence contest.

ARNIE

We are, Milt. And you aren't.
(looks at file)
Checking up on the competition?

HARDCASTLE

Never hurts to know the enemy, if you know what I mean.

ARNIE

That's why you should be out there with us, Milt. Bucky's doing a little campaigning of his own. You gotta play on the team if you want a chance to bat. Come on out there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARDCASTLE

Just give me a few minutes.

ARNIE

Have it your way.

He exits. Hardcastle and McCormick go back to the files.

EXT. BY POOL - DAY

There's a bevy of beauties in the B.G. for the Miss Jurisprudence affair. O'Neil's in the F.G., drink in hand, surrounded by some runners-up. One of the GIRLS sips his drink.

GIRL

Far out. That's so totally strong.

O'NEIL

Tahitian Moonrise. It's the native drink of the island.

GIRL

God, that's why you're so tan. I thought Judges sat around all day in black robes being serious.

O'NEIL

(kisses her)

I'm always serious. I don't always wear black robes.

Arnie comes up to them.

ARNIE

You're not playing fair, Bucky. What happened to share and share alike?

O'NEIL

Sorry Arnie, I'm a free enterprise man.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARNIE

Speaking of free enterprise --
I think Milt's getting a
little skittish. He's inside
going over your files with
a fine tooth comb.

O'Neil's not thrilled about this.

ARNIE

I think if I hear 'the
nomination's the honor' one
more time we're gonna have
to call him on it.

O'NEIL

(rising)

I'll see you later.

He leaves Arnie alone with the girls.

ARNIE

(after a beat)

I'm not proud.

(sits)

So, what's your name?

INT. OFFICE

Hardcastle and McCormick are into the file.

HARDCASTLE

Damn.

MCCORMICK

You find another one?

HARDCASTLE

United Industries...1978.
O'Neil dismissed the case.

MCCORMICK

And United Industries is...

HARDCASTLE

...owned and operated by Sid
Storm.

(CONTINUED)

88

CONTINUED:

88

MCCORMICK

It's not a coincidence.

HARDCASTLE

Half a dozen cases in here.
And Caputo and Storm seem to
be the big winners.

(beat)

Why?

MCCORMICK

That's where you're different
from other guys, Judge.
You really believe the nomination
is the honor. Some people want
more.

89

ANGLE DOORWAY

89

The door opens a crack. Someone's listening.

HARDCASTLE

I can't believe O'Neil'd go
bad.

90

RESUME SCENE

90

MCCORMICK

You better -- because odds are
Caputo knows what's coming down.

Hold, then:

91

EXT. ADOBE PALMS - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

91

92

INT. ORLANDO'S ROOM - NIGHT

92

He's on the bed, watching TV and eating a sandwich. There's
a knock on the door.

(CONTINUED)

#2304

48.

92

CONTINUED:

92

He jumps up, pulls a gun and moves to the door, waiting.
A manila envelope is slid underneath. He picks it up
and pulls out a photo.

93

INSERT - PHOTO

93

of Milton C. Hardcastle.

94

RESUME SCENE

94

as Orlando puts the picture in a drawer and closes it.

BLACK

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

95

INT. BALLROOM - DAY

95

We can read a banner: "27th ANNUAL BLIND LADY OF JUSTICE AWARDS." PULL BACK to see the banquet hall. It is extremely large, with a high ceiling. The floor is covered with nicely decorated tables. At one end, under the banner, is the dais where the VIP's will sit. The other end of the room has narrow windows high wall for the projection room. The place is bustling with judges in tuxes as they mingle with each other. Over this, we hear:

PENNY (O.S.)

Your honors, please... if you will all find your seats...

96

ANOTHER ANGLE - HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

96

HARDCASTLE

(checks paper)

Table fourteen.

They scan the room.

McCORMICK

Over there, in the back -- near the kitchen.

HARDCASTLE

All the way back there, huh?

McCORMICK

So it'll be a longer walk when you go to get your award.

O'Neil comes by.

O'NEIL

Just wanted to wish you luck, Milt.

(handshake)

We're all winners one way or the other.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

O'Neil moves off. WE TRACK with Hardcastle and McCormick as they move toward their table.

MCCORMICK

You get anything back from the cops yet?

HARDCASTLE

Nothing definite. They're running a check on his tax returns and checking out his finances.

MCCORMICK

It's gonna look pretty stupid if he gets nailed for collusion and they give him the award.

Hardcastle hardens as they get to their table.

MCCORMICK

Of course, they're not gonna give him the award.

They take their seats.

INT. CAPUTO'S ROOM - DAY

as Freddy Dylan bursts in. The bodyguards start to react but settle when they see who it is.

DYLAN

We found Orlando. He's checked in at the Oasis Springs.

CAPUTO

Where do you have him?

DYLAN

We don't have him yet. He wasn't in his room.

Caputo rises.

CAPUTO

Well, we're gonna go wait for him.

(CONTINUED)

97

CONTINUED:

97

FREDDIE

Let us handle this, Mr. Caputo.
It's safer if you stay here.

CAPUTO

You mean sit scared?

(beat; to men)

Let's go.

They move out of the room.

98

INT. ADOBE PALMS LOBBY - CLOSE ON ALUMINUM SUITCASE - DAY

98

We follow it for a moment, the PULL BACK to see Orlando carrying it. He walks past a sign and up some stairs. The sign reads: "PROJECTION ROOM."

99

INT. BALLROOM - ON HARDCASTLE AND McCORMICK

99

at their table.

McCORMICK

You know you coulda put a stop to this whole thing. You coulda told the committee about the investigation.

HARDCASTLE

We don't know the guy's guilty, McCormick.

McCORMICK

What do you want, Judge. You want him to wear a sign?

HARDCASTLE

No. I want enough to go on. You start kickin' down doors and grabbing people because they look guilty the whole ballgame falls apart.

(re guests)

That's what these guys're for -- to make sure we play by the rules.

Arnie comes up to them.

(CONTINUED)

99

CONTINUED:

99

ARNIE

Milt -- Howard just sent me over here. He wants you to come sit on the dais with them.

HARDCASTLE

(brightens)

Really?

ARNIE

Yeah. They had a committee meeting this morning and that's what they decided.

McCormick smiles and gives Milt the "thumb's up."

100

INT. ORLANDO'S ROOM - TOWARD DOOR

100

as it's kicked open and Caputo comes in followed by his group. They enter and hold for a beat. Caputo indicates and his men take a quick look for signs of Orlando. They come back into the room.

BODYGUARD

Nobody.

CAPUTO

Search it.

They tear into everything. At one point they come across a manila envelope. They remove the picture and show it to Caputo.

101

CAPUTO

101

as he sees and understands.

102

INT. BALLROOM - DAY

102

Hardcastle is at the dais. O'Neil's at the far end. Howard Penny crosses to him.

PENNY

I'm really glad you could come up, Milt.

(CONTINUED)

HARDCASTLE

Well if you guys think I belong up here, I'm certainly not gonna turn it down.

PENNY

Terrific.

(hands over some
file cards)

Okay -- now you're going to present the Daniel Webster Award.

Hardcastle drops about ten notches.

HARDCASTLE

Wait -- that's why you wanted me up here? You want me to be a presenter?

PENNY

Absolutely, Milt -- it's a real honor, too.

As Hardcastle lets it sink in:

INT. PROJECTION ROOM

Orlando is assembling the rifle. He attaches a silencer to it as:

PENNY (O.S.)

Well -- it's been one heck of a weekend.

INT. BALLROOM

We are CLOSE ON PROJECTION WINDOW and can barely make out Orlando's silhouette. We PULL BACK to see the convention.

PENNY (O.S.)

But this is what it's all been about. The presentation of ---

105 REV. TOWARD DAIS

105

PENNY
--- The Blind Lady of Justice
Life Achievement Award.

106 ANGLE ON McCORMICK

106

sitting by himself. Suddenly, two of Caputo's men
come along each side.

PENNY (O.S.)
To get things started -- let
me introduce our dais.

(DIALOGUE TO FOLLOW)

One of Caputo's men whispers in McCormick's ear. At
first McCormick doesn't respond, but the other guy
grabs McCormick's arm to help him up. McCormick
doesn't have a hell of a lot of choice.

107 INT. LOBBY - DAY

107

as McCormick is brought out to Caputo.

CAPUTO
We gotta get to Hardcastle.

McCORMICK
(shaking loose)
Most people use the telephone.

CAPUTO
We just went through Orlando's
room. Someone hired him to
do Hardcastle.

McCormick throws a look toward the banquet room.

McCORMICK
This is straight? This isn't
your guy's version of water
balloons.

Freddie hands McCormick the picture they found in
Orlando's room.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED

107

McCORMICK

(a beat, then)

You're saving the life of a
guy who tried to put you away.

CAPUTO

Yeah, well he got one up on
me. I hate to owe anyone.

(beat)

You better get back in there
and keep any eye on him. We'll
go through the hotel. I got
some men at the doors.

McCormick moves toward the ballroom.

108 INT. BALLROOM - DAY

108

As McCormick enters and stands near the door, we
hear Arnie at the podium.

ARNIE

(taps mic)

Hello? Anybody out there?
Hi there. I'm Arnie Sandoval.
Many of you know me, some of
you don't, and some of you will
experience me before the week
is over.

(laughter)

No, but seriously, your dishonors,
I have the privilege of presenting
the Civic Citation award to one
of the most...civic judges I know...

His speech goes on as we see McCormick searching the
room, looking for someone who is out of place.

109 PROJECTION ROOM - ORLANDO

109

looking out the window. We can see that Hardcastle is
partially obscured by a large, floral arrangement. He
does not yet have a clear shot. He waits.

110 BALLROOM - ON McCORMICK

110

searching. He looks up and notices a shaft of light from
somewhere shining on the ceiling of the darkened room. He
follows the shaft to it's source and sees the open projection
window. He spins and heads out the door.

111 INT.. LOBBY (BALLROOM DOORS) - DAY 111

McCormick races out, almost knocking over the two men Caputo placed to guard. They watch him go. With a nod to the other man, one of them goes inside.

112 BALLROOM 112

Caputo's man enters and is looking around. O'Neil, recognizing him, starts to sweat. This wasn't in his plan. Meanwhile, Howard Penny is back at the podium.

PENNY

And, to present the congeniality
award, our own...Milton C. Hardcastle.

Scattered applause as Hardcastle slowly gets up
and moves to the podium.

113 PROJECTION ROOM - ORLANDO 113

as it looks like he is about to pull the trigger. Suddenly, the door behind him bursts open and McCormick rushes in. He jumps Orlando from behind and there is a brief battle. Orlando is a very good fighter and, after a glorious struggle, Orlando knocks McCormick to the ground and pulls a pistol out of his coat. He aims it at McCormick to pin him down. Turning back to the rifle, he replaces it through the window. We can see that McCormick is about to jump up to stop him, oblivious of the danger, when a SHOT rings out.

McCORMICK

Judge!

114 ON BALLROOM 114

as the judges hear the shot and McCormick's scream, they all turn to look at the source and see Orlando with the rifle.

115 PROJECTION ROOM 115

as Orlando slowly slides to the floor, blood pouring from the wound in his back. In the door stands Caputo with a smoking pistol, his men behind him.

116

ON BALLROOM

116

the judges are all looking to each other, wondering what happened. They ask each other vague questions. Hardcastle looks pointedly at O'Neil. O'Neil, who is sweating bullets, decides to make a break for it. He runs out of the ballroom, knocking several of his peers down in the process. Hardcastle follows close on his heels.

117

DIRECTOR'S SEQUENCE - THE CHASE

117

O'Neil bursts through the door running, Hardcastle following. They run throughout the hotel, disrupting the fine life that Palm Springs offers it's visitors. Finally, we end up:

118

EXT. POOLSIDE - DAY

118

O'Neil has a gun. Hardcastle has almost run him down, and he realizes it's time to make a stand. He grabs one of the cocktail waitresses and points the gun at her head.

O'NEIL

I'm in too deep already, Milt.
I'll do it.

MILT

Why, Bucky?

O'NEIL

Because I wanted more. You know how it is Milt...once you get started...

HARDCASTLE

You gotta stop sometime.

(beat)

Put the gun down.

O'Neil hesitates...then the cocktail waitress struggles free. The momentary distraction is enough to give Hardcastle and McCormick the opening they need. They tackle O'Neil and all three go flying into the pool. Caputo and his men come out and watch the struggle. A couple of well placed punches, and O'Neil is out. Caputo kneels by the pool, smiles and shakes his head. Hardcastle looks at him for a moment and smiles. Then, Hardcastle reaches up his hand expecting Caputo to help him out of the pool. Caputo stands.

CONTINUED

#2304

58.

118

CONTINUED

118

CAPUTO

You wanted to do it your
way. You got it.

He walks off as Hardcastle and McCormick give a look
to each other while treading water.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

#2304

59.

TAG

FADE IN

119 EXT. ADOBE PALMS - TO ESTABLISH - DAY 119

HARDCASTLE'S VOICE
I have to be honest with you,
this award definitely comes as
a complete surprise.

120 INT. BANQUET HALL - CLOSE ON HARDCASTLE - DAY 120

at the podium holding a gold plaque.

HARDCASTLE (CONT)
I have always done what I felt was
right, regardless of the personal
cost...and the...cost to those...
...involved.

121 ANGLE - ON McCORMICK 121

with a big smile on his face. He is seated and
really enjoying the Judge's acceptance speech.

122 BACK TO HARDCASTLE 122

HARDCASTLE (CONT)
Ummmm...I have to admit this will
be the most unusual "Appreciation"
award I've ever received, but...

We PULL BACK to see that the Judge is addressing the
"Families" banquet. Caputo is sitting next to
Hardcastle with a big smile on his face.

HARDCASTLE
...by the way, don't think this
little piece of gold gets me
off your back, okay?
(laughter)
Yeah. So anyway, let me conclude
by saying...
(pause)

He reaches into his coat and pulls out a piece of paper.

CONTINUED

#2304

60.

122 CONTINUED

122

HARDCASTLE

(reading)

"Being the recipient to such an award is not the real honor. The real honor comes from the fact that you, my peers, have recognized my abilities for what they are worth".

123 ANGLE - McCORMICK

123

as he realizes what he is hearing, he drops his head.

FREEZE FRAME

FADE OUT

THE END