

Never Give Up

by Phillip W. Weiss

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Inspired by a true story

Tagline: One man's quest for justice.

Characters

Domingo DiMarci – a boxer

Catarina DiMarci – Domingo's wife

Guiseppe "Joe" Regelli – Domingo's uncle and manager

Louis de Varnje – a businessman

Melissa de Varnje – Louis's wife

Ernie Cavanaugh – a sports announcer

Homer McCoy – a boxer

Dudley Douglas – a journalist

Victor "Vic" Murphy – a newspaper editor

Mort Feltschein – Louis's attorney

Leon Delsinger – Domingo's attorney

Leslie Arrington – an assistant District Attorney

Angela LaPlante – a judge

Police Officer 1

Police Officer 2

Referee

Ring Announcer

Spectators

Boxers

This is a work of fiction. Any resemblances to any persons living or dead are purely coincidental and entirely unintentional.

Scene 1

Year: 1974.

Time: early evening

Place: A living room in an apartment in Philadelphia. A woman in her early twenties is watching television. Her name is Catarina DiMarci. A man enters. He is also in his early twenties. He is dressed in overalls and work shoes. His name is Domingo DiMarci.

CATARINA

(turns off the television)

Hey, babe. How was work today?

DOMINGO

Crappy, as usual. The damn boss keeps loading us up with work.

CATARINA

I'm sorry to hear that.

Domingo sits down on a chair, takes off his shoes, and stretches his legs.

DOMINGO

Anyway, it's good to be home.

CATARINA

And it's good to have you here.

Catarina goes over to Domingo, bends down and gives him a kiss.

DOMINGO

What's for dinner?

CATARINA

I thought I'd make some lasagna.

DOMINGO

(annoyed)

Lasagna? This is the fourth time this week we're having lasagna!

CATARINA
(slightly irritated)

Well, we don't have the money to afford anything else!

DOMINGO

What do you want from me? I'm doing my best.

CATARINA

I know you are, but it's just so frustrating. You know that I want to get a job, but I can't find any work. Back in Italy I worked in a factory but here there are no factory jobs, and I don't know what else to do.

DOMINGO
(contemptuous)

Factory jobs. Crap work. Is that all we're good for? I didn't come to the United States to work on some crummy loading dock making peanuts. In Palermo everybody told me that I could make a ton of money in America and looked what happened, nothing! I can't stand my job, we're poor and I can't stand working for a boss.

CATARINA

We've been talked about this a thousand times already, and it's always the same complaint – not enough money, can't stand the job. You're lucky you have a job.

DOMINGO

Yeah, some luck.

CATARINA

Maybe you can get a promotion.

DOMINGO
(laughs)

Promotion? To what? Head shipping clerk making three dollars an hour and still living in a dump in Philadelphia? That's some future.

CATARINA

Well, don't get discouraged.

DOMINGO

How can I not get discouraged? There's nothing for me here and I can't go back home because there is nothing for me over there either.

CATARINA

So, maybe you can go to school and learn a trade.

DOMINGO

(scoffing)

School? Pay someone money to teach me nothing! How's that gonna put money in the bank?

CATARINA

Look, I'll keep looking for a job. In the meantime, try to relax.

DOMINGO

I don't want you to work. I want to take care of you the way promised I would before we got married.

CATARINA

Don't worry about keeping that promise.

DOMINGO

But I meant it, and the idea of you having to go the work upsets me.

CATARINA

But what choice do we have?

DOMINGO

I don't know. I just don't know.

Catarina is leaving to go to the kitchen when the sound of knocking comes from off-stage.

CATARINA

I wonder who that is.

DOMINGO

Probably someone trying to sell something. Go see who it is.

Catarina opens the door. A middle-aged man enters. His name is Guiseppe "Joe" Regelli. Joe is Domingo's uncle.

JOE

Hello, Catarina. You are looking lovely.

CATARINA

Thank you.

DOMINGO

Uncle Joe! It's good seeing you.

Domingo gets up, hugs Joe and escorts him to a chair. Joe sits.

CATARINA

Can I get you anything?

JOE

No, thanks. Nothing for me.

DOMINGO

C'mon. At least have a beer.

JOE

Okay, a beer.

DOMINGO

And bring one for me too.

Catarina exits.

JOE

She's a good girl, your wife.

DOMINGO

She sure is.

JOE

You're a lucky guy. Me, I live alone.

DOMINGO

Then you're a lucky guy too. (*both laugh*)

Catarina returns with two bottles of beer and gives one to Domingo and the other to Joe.

JOE

Won't you have a beer too?

CATARINA

I don't drink alcohol.

JOE

Oh, I forgot.

DOMINGO

Cheers. (*Domingo and Joe clink bottles and each takes a drink.*) So, to what do I owe the honor of this visit?

JOE

Please accept my apology for coming here unannounced but I just wanted to see how you were doing.

DOMINGO

That's so nice of you. Everything is okay.

JOE

That's not what I heard.

DOMINGO

What do you mean?

JOE

I heard that you're not too happy at the job.

DOMINGO

I don't know what anyone's been telling you, but they're wrong. I love my job.

JOE

C'mon now. You're talking to your uncle, not some clown on the street.

DOMINGO

Really, everything is alright.

CATARINA

(to Domingo)

Why don't you tell him what's been bothering you? *(to Joe)* He's been complaining about everything.

JOE

Is that true?

DOMINGO

No, not really. I just want to make more money.

JOE

What's wrong with that?

DOMINGO

Nothing, if I can so it. The problem is that I'm working hard, playing by the rules, keeping my nose clean but don't have a plug nickel in the bank, that is, I have nothing to show for it. And I'll tell you something else, if that damn boss of mine keeps dumping more work on me, I'm gonna give him a rap in the mouth.

JOE

And lose your job.

DOMINGO

So what? The job is crap and I can't stand working for anyone.

JOE

So what are you gonna do?

DOMINGO

I don't know! I just don't know.

JOE

Maybe you can go to school.

DOMINGO

You sound just like her (*points to Catarina*). She said the same thing. Can you imagine me sitting in a classroom? Get real.

JOE

What about becoming a boxer?

CATARINA

(*to Joe*)

Oh no! Please don't that up again.

DOMINGO

(*to Catarina*)

Hey, let me hear what he has to say. (*to Joe*) Go on.

JOE

(*to Catarina*)

Look, as a former boxer myself I can tell you that you have the tools to be a damn good fighter, provided you commit yourself to it.

CATARINA

The idea of Domingo getting beaten up for a living is disgusting and I won't have it.

DOMINGO

(*to Catarina*)

You won't have it? Well, about about me? (*to Joe*) How much money could I make?

JOE

If you're good, you can make a bundle.

CATARINA

That's right: enough to pay for a decent burial.

DOMINGO

(angry, to Catarina)

STOP IT! Why are you discouraging me? I'm a man and I want to make something of myself, don't you understand that? I want my day in the sun, I want to live the American dream, not just dream it, not just for you but for us, baby!

CATARINA

(upset)

I know you do, but I don't want you to get hurt!

DOMINGO

(to Catarina)

BUT IF I KEEP LIVING LIKE THIS I WILL DIE! *(to Joe)* So if I decide to become a boxer, how do I start?

JOE

First, we got to get you signed up with a boxing gym, then we get you some equipment, and then I put together a training schedule, which you would have to follow rigorously, with me as your manager and trainer.

CATARINA

I don't like this.

DOMINGO

(ignores Catarina)

When do I start making money?

JOE

When you've trained enough and you're ready, then I'll start finding matches for you. Remember, there's a lot of competition out there, so finding matches can be tough at first, especially if you're an unknown. But if you're flexible, matches can be had. Of course, at first the purses will be small, just a couple of hundred dollars, but if you keep winning and attract attention, then you could make some real money.

DOMINGO

Like, how much?

JOE

Well that depends on who you're fighting and your place on the card, but it could be four and even five figures. But you gotta be able and willing to fight, and to win.

DOMINGO
(enthusiastic)

I'm able and willing to fight, and I'll win.

JOE

That's what I want to hear. I'll help you get started, but it's gonna be up to you to make this work. You gotta put everything you have into this, body and soul. Are you willing to do that?

DOMINGO

Absolutely!

JOE

Good! We'll start first thing tomorrow. With dedication, perseverance and luck, you'll be a champ!

DOMINGO
(excited)

That's sounds good to me!

Domingo and Joe shake hands. Catarina has a frown on her face and shakes her head slowly from side to side.

End of scene 1

Scene 2

Date: The next day

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: The interior of Bailey's Boxing Emporium. Boxers are training: some are shadow boxing, others are sparring, others are lifting weights and working the punching bag. Domingo and Joe are in a ring. Both are wearing trunks, head gear and gloves.

JOE

Now, I'm gonna teach you how to box.

DOMINGO

Okay.

JOE

Now, try to hit me. *(Domingo throws a right which Joe easily dodges.)*
Lesson one: always remember that your opponent can move. Now, try to hit me again. *(Domingo again throws a right which Joe again easily dodges, but this time he throws his own right which hits Domingo squarely on the chest, causing Domingo to stagger backwards.)*

DOMINGO

Whoa! You surprised me!

JOE

Lesson two: always remember that your opponent wants to hit you and therefore to always keep your guard up. Now, try to hit me again. *(Domingo throws a weak right that hits Joe on the jaw. Joe doesn't budge.)*

DOMINGO

You okay?

JOE

You gotta hit harder. Lesson three: try to win a fight by a knock out. The longer the fight lasts the greater the chance of you losing. Therefore, you have to develop a punch.

DOMINGO

How do I do that?

JOE

By working out, building you upper body strength and strengthening your muscles until they are as hard as steel. But since some fights do go the distance, you also have to build up your stamina until you are able to run at least five miles nonstop. You think you can do that?

DOMINGO

Sure I can. I'm in great shape.

JOE

Good. Now, let's see what you have learned so far. We're now going to spar. Put up your hands. (*Domingo and Joe start sparring. Domingo repeatedly throws punches at Joe, missing each time.*) C'mon, Domingo, hit me! (*Domingo charges at Joe who pushes him away and gives him a light kick on the butt that causes Domingo lose his balance and fall. Joe helps Domingo up.*) You can do better than that!

DOMINGO
(*annoyed*)

Why'd you kick me?

JOE

To teach you to always be on your guard, which brings us to lesson four ...

Suddenly Domingo slugs Joe square on the jaw, knocking Joe to the mat.

DOMINGO

(*to Joe, on the mat rubbing his jaw*)

Lesson four: don't ever embarrass me again.

JOE

You pack some wallop there. How come you didn't hit me like that before?

DOMINGO

I didn't want to hurt you.

JOE

(getting up, still rubbing his jaw)

Anyway, here's lesson five: learn to take a punch then give it back without mercy. You understand?

DOMINGO

Yeah, I understand; now, enough of all this talking. Let's start boxing.

Domingo and Joe start throwing punches as the lights go out.

End of scene 2

Scene 3

Time: One year later

Place: The locker room at the Spectrum in Philadelphia. Domingo and Joe are in the locker room. Joe is removing the tape from Domingo's hands.

JOE
(*Ecstatic*)

You did it! You won! (*Domingo says nothing.*) You were terrific: a knock out in fifty eight seconds. Wow!

DOMINGO

My right hand is a little sore.

JOE

How's it feel to be the lightweight golden gloves champion?

DOMINGO

It feels good. It's better than not being champion.

JOE

It sure is.

A reporter enters. His name is Dudley Douglas.

DOUGLAS

My name is Dudley Douglas and I'm a reporter with the Philadelphia Daily Bugle. You mind if I ask you a few questions?

DOMINGO

Sure, go ahead.

DOUGLAS

You were terrific tonight. Where'd you learn to punch like that?

DOMINGO

It's all training and practice.

DOUGLAS

How many fight's you've had so far?

DOMINGO

I don't keep a count. Maybe thirty or forty.

DOUGLAS

Have you thought about turning pro?

DOMINGO

Yeah, I thought about it.

DOUGLAS

So, when will that happen?

DOMINGO

You gotta talk to my manager here about that. (*points to Joe*)

DOUGLAS

(*to Joe*)

So can you tell me when Domingo will be turning pro?

JOE

All I can tell you is soon. But there's no exact date.

DOUGLAS

(*to Domingo*)

How do feel about being a Golden Gloves lightweight champion?

DOMINGO

It's a great honor but to tell you the truth it's not enough. I want more, so you know what? Here's a news story for you. As of right now I'm turning pro, period, no need for waiting, and you're the first to know.

DOUGLAS

(*elated*)

Thanks for the scoop, Domingo! That's an exclusive! And I want to tell you something else: you just made a friend.

DOMINGO

Same here, pal. (*to Joe*) There's nothing wrong with making a new friend.

JOE

Absolutely none, especially when the cat's already outta the bag.

DOUGLAS

Your announcement will be in tomorrow's paper, okay?

DOMINGO

I'll be looking for it, and make sure it's in big print!

Domingo and Douglas laugh and shake hands.

End of scene 3

Scene 4

Time: four years later.

Place: The editorial room at the City Bugle. In the center of the stage is an office desk. Two men are seated, one on either side of a desk. The man seated on the left is Douglas, the man seated on the right is the sports editor, Victor Murphy, also known as Vic.

DOUGLAS

I want to do a feature story on Domingo DiMarci.

VIC

We've been following this guy for years, so why do a feature story on him now?

DOUGLAS

Because the guy is for real and he's been tested and now has a chance to contend for the title. So let's play him up!

VIC

We tried that four years ago after you discovered him.

DOUGLAS

Yeah, but you kept my discovery buried in the middle of the paper.

VIC

With good reason.

DOUGLAS

What are you talking about? Since turning pro he's won twenty-seven fights, twenty four by knock out, including seven in the first round. What more do you want?

VIC

But weren't most of his fights with ringers?

DOUGLAS

No way. He's already fought some of the best. Ernie Smith. Derrick Palmer. Luis Marquez. Pound for pound he's the best boxer in the world today.

VIC

And you're willing to put that in print?

DOUGLAS

Yes, I am. I have personally seen him fight fourteen times and he's won decisively every time, but whenever I write a story you bury it in the racing section.

VIC

Right now he's still no story. No matter how good he is, he's still a lightweight and people wanna read about heavyweights, not lightweights.

DOUGLAS

You're not looking at this the right way, Vic. He's a symbol of the average ordinary street guy who's just trying to survive. Comes to the United States as a teenager looking to make a better life for himself, soon finds himself going nowhere working a dead end job, feels cheated and trapped, and now the guy has a chance for stardom. Who can't relate to that? It's the American dream!

VIC

So, is he in line for a shot at the title?

DOUGLAS

Not quite. Del Covington is interested in putting on the card as the feature event at the Garden, matching him with Homer McCoy, the Olympic gold medal winner, in a nontitle event. Whoever wins gets a shot at the title.

VIC

So, how do you think he'll do?

DOUGLAS

McCoy is tough but DiMarci will handle him.

VIC

Yeah, but will he win? I don't wanna start doing a spread on the wrong guy. Why not do a feature on McCoy?

DOUGLAS

Because McCoy came up through the ranks and his story is already been published in at least seven other papers while DiMarci is your classic outsider, a lone wolf. He wants a shot at the title, and there is no way that he will be denied.

VIC

Well, okay, we'll go with the DiMarci story, but remember, if this guy loses, I won't forget who put this idea in my head.

End of scene 4

Scene 5

Time: The following day

Place: Bailey's Boxing Emporium in downtown Philadelphia. Domingo is in the ring sparring. Joe is standing outside the ring watching them spar. The sparring fighter is pummeling Domingo with punches.

JOE

Keep you left up! ... Watch his right! ... Duck and punch! Duck and punch! ... That's it! ... Keep going!

A man enters the scene. He is large, heavysset, well-dress, about 40 years of age. His name is Louis de Varnje.

LOUIS

(to Joe)

Your boy's looking good up there.

(Joe turns to Louis)

JOE

Thanks, Bub, and who you might you be?

LOUIS

My name is Louis de Varnje and I'd like to speak with Domingo DiMarci if I may.

JOE

(to the fighters)

Okay, fellas, take a break. *(Domingo and his spar stop fighting; the spar takes a seat in the far corner. Domingo exits the ring; Joe gives Domingo a towel which he uses to wipe his face.)* This gentleman here wishes to speak with you.

DOMINGO

Do I know you?

LOUIS

We've never met, so let me introduce myself. I'm Louis de Varnje. I deal in real estate and live on Dekalb Terrace near Fairmount Park.

DOMINGO

That's just a few blocks from where I live. How come I never seen you around?

LOUIS

Because I just moved here from France; I'm French.

DOMINGO

Okay, so what do you want to talk about?

LOUIS

I've been reading about you in the papers and from what I've been reading you look like an up and coming guy, and I like that because you remind me of me. I want to become a champ too, in real estate. I'm in the process of buying up rundown buildings and converting them into income producing properties and I thought you might be interested in getting a piece of the action.

JOE

(to Domingo)

You sure you want to listen to this guy?

LOUIS

(to Joe)

I can assure you that I am completely legitimate and have nothing to hide.

DOMINGO

So, what do you want from me?

LOUIS

I want you to become a shareholder in my company.

DOMINGO

What's a shareholder?

LOUIS

Someone who owns part of a company. You invest money and you get a return on your investment.

DOMINGO

That sounds good to me. Tell me more.

LOUIS

It's like this: you pay me money, I make you a partner and then you make lots of money. It's as simple as that. You just leave it all to me.

DOMINGO

(to Joe)

You hear that, Joe? All I gotta do is give him money and before I know it, I'm making money! That's what I like to hear! *(to Louis)* Now, what I wanna know is: How much money could I make?

LOUIS

Right now I can't say for certain because I don't know how much my properties will earn, but I'm sure that once the renovations are completed, it could be quite a lot.

JOE

Excuse me for butting in, but how much money would Domingo need to invest?

LOUIS

(to Joe)

Thank you for bringing up that matter. *(to Domingo)*. I would be asking you to invest thirty-five thousand dollars, and in return you would have a one-third interest in my company.

DOMINGO

Thirty-five thousand dollars? *(pause)* No problem! I already have over thirty thousand in the bank and with my percentage of the gate from my next fight with McCoy, I'll be able to afford it easily! *(to Joe)* This sure beats being a shipping clerk!

LOUIS

By the way, I want to complement you on your success thus far. Your boxing career has been very impressive.

DOMINGO

Thanks a lot.

LOUIS

I read that originally you're from Italy?

DOMINGO

Yes, right outside of Palermo; I came here when I was sixteen years old. My uncle here (*points to Joe*) got me started in boxing, and since then life's been great.

LOUIS

You took control of your life. I like that. That's the American dream. I congratulate you.

JOE

(*to Domingo*)

Could I talk to you alone for a moment?

DOMINGO

(*to Louis*)

Excuse me. *Joe takes Domingo by the arm and takes him aside.*
What?

JOE

Are you sure you want to invest your entire savings with this guy? He seems kinda fishy to me.

DOMINGO

What are you talking about?

JOE

Look, the guy waltzes in here, we have no idea who he is, makes all kinds of promises about making money and then wants you to pay him thirty-five thousand dollars. That's a lot of money.

DOMINGO

Hey, he seems on the up and up to me, and besides from what I've heard there's lots of money to be made in real estate and I'd want a cut of the action.

JOE

What's Catarina gonna say?

DOMINGO

Nothing! It's my money. I earned it and after I become champ, it won't matter anyway.

JOE

You mean, if you become champ. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

DOMINGO

What's the matter? You think I won't win?

JOE

I didn't say that.

DOMINGO

Enough of this talk. I like the guy, and I'll talk with my wife, but no matter what she or anyone else says, nobody will stop me from getting what is mine, nobody, you hear that! I will never go back to being a shipping clerk making two fifty an hour with people bossing me around. You can take that to the bank.

JOE

I'm just saying you gotta be careful.

DOMINGO

Yes, but if I were always careful I'd never do anything, and then where would I be?

JOE

I'm just trying to look out for you.

DOMINGO

I know that. *(Joe and Domingo look at each other, hug, and then rejoin Byren)* *(Domingo to Louis)* Look, I like your offer very much and I will definitely give it consideration. But right now I need to concentrate on training for my next fight.

LOUIS

The one with McCoy?

DOMINGO

That's right. If I win that fight I'll be next in line for a shot at the title.

LOUIS

I certainly wish you all the luck in the world.

DOMINGO

Thanks a lot, Mister ...

LOUIS

Call me Lou.

DOMINGO

Okay ... Lou.

Louis and Domingo shake hands. Joe is looking at them. He is slowly moving his head from side to side, indicating his disapproval.

End of scene 5

Scene 6

Time: One month later

Place: The Philadelphia Spectrum. Center stage is a boxing ring. The ring announcer is standing in the center. To the right of the ring are two men, the play by play announcer, Ernie Cavanaugh, and the other, the commentator, Dudley Douglas. To the left, seated in the front row is Louis. The stadium is packed with people.

CAVANAUGH

Hello ladies and gentlemen. Tonight the Sports Unlimited Network brings you a prime time boxing event: a twelve round nontitle fight between former Olympic lightweight champion and number one ranked lightweight Homer McCoy and the former lightweight Golden Gloves champion and now top rated contender, Domingo DiMarci. The winner of the fight will go on to meet the current world champion for the title. So, Dudley, who do you think is going to win?

DOUGLAS

Well, I've been following DiMarci for over four years now and I can best describe him in one word: determined. As for Homer McCoy, his record speaks for itself. Of course, his winning the Olympic Gold Medal really jump-started his professional career and so he's been able to pick and choose his fights unlike DiMarci who in the past four years has had twenty-seven fights.

CAVANAUGH

We see a number of signs and posters in the crowd indicating support for DiMarci. Is he the home town favorite?

DOUGLAS

Absolutely. Here he is: a guy from Philadelphia, well, actually originally from Palermo, Italy, but now living in Philadelphia, and a former shipping clerk who now has a once in a lifetime chance of making it to the top, that is, if he beats McCoy. As for McCoy, he has his supporters here too. After all, it's hard not to root for a man who represented his country so admirably in the Olympics. But I think that tonight the story is DiMarci, and I'm expecting a terrific fight.

CAVANAUGH

Thank you, Dudley. Well, tonight it's McCoy, the Olympic champion versus DiMarci the local boy who wants to make good. There's a buzz coming from the crowd. *(pause) (the noise from the crowd is becoming louder)* The contestants have entered the arena and are now on their way to the ring.

(McCoy enters from the left, followed by his two corner men; Domingo enters from the right followed by Joe and another corner man. The ring announcer speaks into a microphone.)

RING ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen! Boxing Unlimited Productions welcomes you to a night of boxing at the Philadelphia Spectrum. We hope you enjoyed the preliminary bouts. Now, for the main event: This is a twelve-round nontitle fight. In this corner *(points to McCoy's corner)* wearing blue trunks and weighing one hundred thirty-three and half pounds, from Tallahassee, Florida, the former Olympic lightweight champion and current number one contender for the lightweight championship of the world, Homer McCoy! *(There's some cheering mixed in with a few boos. McCoy waves to the crowd.)* And in this corner *(points to Domingo's corner)*, wearing orange trucks and weighing one hundred thirty two pounds, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania via Palermo, Italy, the former lightweight Golden Gloves champion, Domingo Double-D DiMarci! *(Tumultuous applaud from the crowd. Domingo waves to the audience.)* Tonight's referee is Harold Osborne; the ring doctor, Doctor Stuart Weisenstein. This fight is sanctioned by the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission which has approved this event.

(As the ring announcer exits the referee enters and signals both boxers to the center of the ring.)

REFEREE

Here are the rules: No low blows, when I tell you to break, you will break; no head butts, no rabbit punches and in the event of a knock down, you will go to the furthest corner. There will be no saved by the bell and the three-knockdown rule will be in effect. Do you understand?*(Both boxers nod that they understand.)* Okay gentlemen, in that case, touch gloves, go back to your corners, wait for the sound of the bell, and good luck to the both of you.

(Both boxers touch gloves and return to their respective corners.)

CAVANAUGH

The boxers have been given their instructions and have returned to their respective corners and in just a few moments the bell will sound for the fight to start.

(The roar from the crowd is deafening. The bell sounds. The boxers quickly move into the center of the ring and start throwing punches as the lights to go out.)

End of scene 6.

Scene 7

Time: Nine years later. It's 6:00 PM.

Place: The living room in Domingo's apartment. The apartment is crammed with clutter that is piled up to the ceiling. Catarina is putting food on the table. Domingo enters. His appearance is untidy.

CATARINA

Where have you been today?

DOMINGO

At the gym, where else?

CATARINA

You and your gym. A lot of good it does you.

DOMINGO

It does me a lot of good.

CATARINA

For you maybe, but not for us.

DOMINGO

You're always complaining.

CATARINA

I have a right to complain. We're still stuck in this dump and you've made this apartment into a pigsty.

DOMINGO

I want to start throwing stuff out but I don't know where to start.

CATARINA

Ever since you lost that fight nine years ago, our lives have become a disaster.

DOMINGO

I've asked you not to bring that up.

CATARINA

I can't help it. You won't work, you don't wash, I don't even know why I still stay with you. It's like you've given up.

DOMINGO

You don't know what you're talking about.

CATARINA

Oh, I don't? Like I didn't know what I was talking about when I told you not to give that de Varnje guy the thirty-five thousand dollars, and you did it anyway, or when I told you not to be a boxer, and look where that got you?

DOMINGO

Why are you always nagging me? So I made a bad investment. What could we have done with thirty five thousand dollars anyway?

CATARINA

Maybe if you had gotten a job, we could have afforded to move out of here. I don't make enough money babysitting and with you on welfare we're lucky that we can even pay the rent.

DOMINGO

There is no way I'm ever gonna work for someone again. I would rather live in a hole in the gutter than do garbage work for next to nothing.

CATARINA

Well, that's where we may wind up, in the gutter.

DOMINGO

Let me talk with Joe. Maybe he has some ideas.

CATARINA

You've been saying that for nine years. (*Sarcastic*) I'm gonna talk to Joe. Well, he's the one that caused all the problems in the first place.

DOMINGO

Don't talk disrespectful about my uncle. Because of him, I was a somebody, at least for a while.

CATARINA

That's in the past, and you blew it.

DOMINGO

(anger flares)

Blew it? Just shut up! Shut up, now! I didn't blow anything, you hear!

CATARINA

(frightened, placating)

Okay, Domingo. I'm sorry I said that. There's your food.

DOMINGO

I'm not hungry.

CATARINA

Look, Domingo, you know I still care about you, but still ...

DOMINGO

But still what?

CATARINA

I'm trying to talk to you but you won't listen.

DOMINGO

I know you care and you even got me involved in your church, but what good has the church been for me?

CATARINA

It has taught you to put your faith in something higher and stronger than yourself.

DOMINGO

I've tried doing that, but here we are arguing again, with you nagging me, like I'm a little kid.

CATARINA

I just want what's best for you.

DOMINGO

Okay, I believe you, but don't tell me what to do. I decide what's best for me and if you don't like it, then ... *(Knocking at the door.)* Who's that?

CATARINA

Probably your uncle.

(Catarina opens the door and Joe enters.)

JOE

Hello, Catarina.

CATARINA

Hello, Joe. What brings you here?

JOE

I thought I'd come by and check up on my favorite nephew.

DOMINGO

Have a seat. *(Joe sits at the table.)* So, what's the word?

JOE

I haven't seen you in a while so I wanted to know how you were doing.

DOMINGO

How come you don't come by to the gym anymore?

JOE

Because when I see you there doing nothing, it upsets me.

DOMINGO

Whadya mean doing nothing? I help out, give pointers to the boxers.

JOE

C'mon, who are you fooling? Ever since you lost that fight to McCoy you've never been the same. It's like you lost your edge.

CATARINA

That's right, Joe. And now all he does is mope.

DOMINGO

What do you want me to say? I had my shot and I missed. After that, what could I do?

JOE

You coulda kept on boxing and get another shot.

DOMINGO

That shot was a one-time deal and you know it. After that fight, I couldn't buy my way onto a card. And that newspaper guy, Douglas, who was plugging me in the press, he got fired, and nobody wanted to have anything to do with me, so it was time to leave.

JOE

Well, you can always return.

CATARINA

Oh! Doing what?

JOE

(to Catarina)

I was thinking about Domingo maybe making a comeback.

DOMINGO

A comeback?

JOE

Yeah, a comeback. Why not? You're still young enough and besides you're not doing anything else.

DOMINGO

I am going to this church ...

JOE

Look, I don't want to comment on your religious beliefs, but you've been going to that church for years and what has it done for you?

CATARINA

Just a moment, Joe. That church has helped Domingo out a lot. When he's feeling down he goes there and prays.

JOE

Well, that's what churches are there for, but does that put money in your pocket? Didn't you once tell me that you want what's yours? (*Domingo doesn't answer*). Well, I'm waiting for your answer.

CATARINA

(*to Joe, alarmed*)

Come on, Joe, stop it! Look where boxing got him in the first place!

JOE

(*to Catarina*)

It gave him a chance to be somebody. It's too bad that it didn't work out but in life there are no guarantees.

CATARINA

(*to Domingo*)

Well, I guess it's up to you. I'm not gonna stop you, but I'm telling you I don't like it.

DOMINGO

I know you don't. That's what makes dealing with this much harder for me.

JOE

By the way, how are things going with your buildings?

DOMINGO

Not too good. They're still making no money.

JOE

How do you know that?

DOMINGO

Because Louis tells me. He keeps me posted.

JOE

Well, maybe you ought to check out those buildings yourself.

DOMINGO

Why should I? Louis knows what he's doing.

JOE

Because, you know, the neighborhood is beginning to change and more people are beginning to move in, so maybe those buildings might be making money.

DOMINGO

Are you trying to start trouble between me and Louis?

JOE

No! I'm just giving you some friendly advice. In the meantime I want you to start working out at the gym again so you can begin your comeback.

DOMINGO

Okay. I'll give it a shot. I gotta do something.

JOE

Good. Meet me at the gym tomorrow at 10 AM and we'll get started.

DOMINGO

Okay, it's a deal.

JOE

I'll see you tomorrow.

Joe leaves.

CATARINA

(ominous)

I just hope you know what you are doing.

End of scene 7

Scene 8

Time: One week later

Place: An office. At center stage is a conference table with several chairs. Sitting at the conference are Domingo, Louis and a third man, Louis's attorney, Morton Feltschein.

LOUIS

I'm glad you're here. So how are things?

DOMINGO

Things are going okay.

LOUIS

I heard that you're training again.

DOMINGO

Yes. I'm thinking about making a comeback.

LOUIS

Well, I'll be rooting for you. *(pause)* So let me tell you why I asked to come here.

DOMINGO

Okay.

LOUIS

It's like this: I know that the past few years have been hard for you, with you having lost that fight to McCoy, and that you invested thirty-five thousand dollars in my company without a return on your investment. So what I want to do is terminate our business relationship and return your money to you plus another three thousand dollars in interest. I think that would be fair.

DOMINGO

Why do you want to do this now?

LOUIS

Because after all these years, I don't think those properties will ever generate sufficient income to turn a profit.

DOMINGO

So you want to give me my thirty-five thousand dollars plus three thousand dollars in interest to buy out my one-third share in the company because the buildings are not making money?

LOUIS

Yes.

DOMINGO

How do I know you're telling me the truth?

LOUIS

If you don't believe me, ask Mister Feltschein. He'll tell you.

FELTSCHHEIN

That's right, Domingo. These buildings are for all intents and purposes worthless, and if you don't accept Mister de Varnje's offer now, his liquidity is such that any cash payments to you in the future may be placed in jeopardy, meaning that he may not have the money to pay you your share, so you'd be well advised to take the money now while his liquidity is still intact.

DOMINGO

Okay, but a few days ago I checked out these buildings myself and they looked fully occupied. So how can they be losing money?

LOUIS

What you said is true, and I commend you for taking the time to check out the buildings yourself, but because of extremely high and ever-increasing overhead costs, with taxes, repairs, legal, insurance, utilities, and the like, even if the buildings are fully occupied, they're still not making money.

FELTSCHHEIN

Mister de Varnje is correct.

DOMINGO

Are you telling me that I've been waiting nine years to make the money you promised and now it was all a pipe dream?

LOUIS

I'm sorry for that and I understand how you must feel, but things just didn't work out and so I want to make it right and give you back you money.

DOMINGO

Well, okay, if that's what you think is best.

FELTSCHHEIN

This is what we think is best. We're trying to look out for you. Let me give you some papers to sign. (*Feltschein gives Domingo some papers.*) Now by signing these papers you agree to accept thirty-eight thousand dollars to fully relinquish your share in Mister de Varnje's company. Do you understand that?

DOMINGO

Yes, I do.

FELTSCHHEIN

Now, after you sign the papers, Mister de Varnje will write a check for thirty-eight thousand dollars drawn from his private account payable to the company which you will endorse and then we will deposit the check in the company bank from which you will receive your remittance. The reason for this is to show on the books that this payment is a business and not a personal transaction. Either way, you will still receive your money. Do you understand?

DOMINGO

Yes.

FELTSCHHEIN

Now, if you could be so kind, please sign the papers. (*Domingo signs the papers and hands them back to Feltschein.*)

LOUIS

Excellent. You did the right thing, Domingo. You're looking out for your future. That's good. Now let me write that check. (*Louis opens a drawer desk drawer and removes a check book and starts writing a check as the lights go out.*)

End of scene 8

Scene 9

Time: Two years later

Place: Bailey's Boxing Emporium. Domingo is working the punching bag. Dudley Douglas enters. In the back ground light music is playing.

DOUGLAS

Domingo!

(Domingo stops punching the bag, turns and faces Douglas.)

DOMINGO

And who may you ... hey, I remember you! You're that news reporter, Douglas, right?

DOUGLAS

That's right.

DOMINGO

It's been a long time! How are you? *(pause)* Hey, I'm sorry I lost that fight. I heard it got you fired.

DOUGLAS

Personally, I thought you were ahead on points when the ref stopped the fight, but that's the way it goes.

DOMINGO

I thought so too, and I thought about filing a protest, but what good would it have done? I knew I was washed up and that I'd never get another shot. *(pause)* So what are you up to now?

DOUGLAS

I'm the chief sports reporter for the Newark Eagle, which is why I'm here. I heard that you had returned to the ring out after your long layoff and I wanted to do a story on you.

DOMINGO

Let's sit down. (*Domingo and Douglas walk over to two empty chairs and sit. Douglas takes out a pen and pad.*) After the McCoy fight I decided to put away the gloves and try something else. So, through my wife, I got involved with a church and started studying to be a minister, but it just wasn't for me. I'm not the book learning type. But it was something to do and it kept me busy and stopped me from thinking about boxing, and what might have been. But there was one problem: I had no income.

DOUGLAS

Could you have gone back to work?

DOMINGO

There was no way I was ever going to go back to my old job, never! Absolutely out of the question.

DOUGLAS

So how did you manage financially?

DOMINGO

My wife got a job working as a babysitter and maid for a couple of Jewish attorneys, and I wound up collecting welfare.

DOUGLAS

How did your wife feel about you being on welfare?

DOMINGO

Well, she wasn't too happy about it but she felt that it was better than me being in the ring, which was something she has always opposed.

DOUGLAS

Yet here you are, back in the ring.

DOMINGO

After nine years of scrounging, the need for money became too great and after talking with my uncle, who's also my manager, I decided that I had to go back to doing what I do best, which is boxing.

DOUGLAS

So, how did it feel to return to the gym after such a long layoff?

DOMINGO

At first it felt a little strange because I was away from it so long and it took me a lot longer than I thought to get into shape, but with the help of my uncle, I finally got back my boxing legs and then started getting matches.

DOUGLAS

And how have you done?

DOMINGO

Two wins and six losses, although in one of those losses I thought I actually won. You see, I'm considered a journeyman boxer, meaning I'm the guy they call to fill a card. I'll fight anyone and it don't matter to me if I win or lose, just as long as I get paid.

DOUGLAS

So, you're not looking for another shot at the title?

DOMINGO

(laughs)

If that happens, great; I certainly wouldn't say no. But right now I'm just looking for matches, period.

DOUGLAS

And you feel okay with that?

DOMINGO

Yeah, it's okay. It gets me out of the house and I go on the road, which I like. I've even fought a couple of times overseas.

DOUGLAS

Where overseas?

DOMINGO

A six-round bout in Moscow and an eight-round bout in Buenos Aires in Argentina.

DOUGLAS

So, how did you do in those fights?

DOMINGO

I went the distance in Moscow but lost the fight in Buenos Aires by a TKO. But for both fights the pay was very good, and the fans in both cities were great.

DOUGLAS

In what way were the fans great?

DOMINGO

They love boxing and a lot of them seemed to be rooting for me, which was nice. (*The background music stops followed by a news report.*) Would you mind if we take a break just for a moment while I listen to the news? I like keeping up with world events.

DOUGLAS

Sure, no problem.

NEWS ANNOUNCER

(*off stage*)

This is Mike Mortimer with the two-o'clock news. Our lead story: Earlier today the United Nations Security Council voted to impose some of the harshest sanctions in history on the People's Republic of Balizastan after their leader publicly declared his intention to continue with plans to build a hydrogen bomb. The United States is calling on the international community to take action to deal with the Balizastanian threat. And in business news, a Philadelphia businessman, Louis de Varnje, has been voted Businessperson of the Year by the National Association of Business Owners. According to reports, de Varnje has made tens of millions of dollars from extensive his real estate holdings throughout the Philadelphia area, specializing in the upgrading of dilapidated buildings. De Varnje credited his family and hard work for his extraordinary success. When asked about his future plans ...

DOMINGO

(*angry, shocked, screams*)

**ERNIE, TURN OFF THAT FUCKING RADIO, NOW! (*The radio is turned off.*)
THAT SON OF A BITCH! THAT DAMN THIEF! ONE-THIRD OF WHAT HE MADE IS
MINE!**

DOUGLAS

(shocked and alarmed)

What are you talking about?

DOMINGO

(livid)

That guy de Varnje ripped me off! I own one-third of those buildings! Here I am knocking myself out for two years trying to make some money while all the time that bastard has been cleaning up, at my expense! He's not gonna get away with it, you hear!

DOUGLAS

First, calm down, and then tell me what all this is about.

DOMINGO

(trying to calm down, but still agitated, speaking excitedly)

Nine years ago I became a one-third partner with this guy Louis de Varnje, the guy you just heard about on the news, and all the while he was telling me that our properties were making no money and then a couple of years ago said he wanted to give me back my investment, thirty five thousand dollars plus three thousand in interest, because he felt sorry for me and knew I needed money and that the buildings would never make any money, and now its reported that this thief was making millions of dollars. He lied to me.

DOUGLAS

But what about the money that he repaid you?

DOMINGO

(agitation building)

I never saw a penny of it! Never! That damn thief, I'll take care of him but good. He's not gonna play me for a chump!

DOUGLAS

This is some story. Struggling boxer ripped off by shady businessman.

DOMINGO

Yeah, you got your story but what does that do for me?

DOUGLAS

You heard of the power of the press? Nobody likes negative publicity.

DOMINGO

Negative publicity won't change anything. I'm gonna have to take care of this my way.

(Douglas is rapidly writing notes on his pad while Domingo is nervously pacing back and forth as the lights go out.)

End of scene 9

Scene 10

Time: Two hours later

Place: Louis's office. Present are Louis and his wife, Melissa, a middle-aged woman, conservatively attired. They are sitting at the conference table. In the middle of the table is a large trophy.

MELISSA

That's a beautiful trophy they gave you.

LOUIS

Yes, it is.

MELISSA

And well deserved too. It's good that somebody has finally recognized you for all the good work you have done.

LOUIS

Yes, and it has paid well, too.

Domingo suddenly enters. He is dressed in street clothing but still has his boxing cleats on.

DOMINGO

(enraged)

You son of the bitch, I want my money, now!

(Louis and Melissa are shocked and alarmed.)

LOUIS

Domingo, what are you talking about?

DOMINGO

You told me those buildings would never make money and now I heard they've made millions, and I want my one-third share ... NOW!

LOUIS

I paid you your share two years ago!

DOMINGO

Don't insult me! You played me for a fool and nobody does that to me. NOBODY!

LOUIS

Would you please clam down? You're scaring my wife.

DOMINGO

I don't give a damn about your wife. You tried to pull a fast one on me but now I'm onto you. Now pay up ... NOW!

MELISSA
(shouts)

Please leave!

LOUIS

Yes, leave, before I call the police!

DOMINGO

Call the police. Call whoever you want. I'm here to collect, and I'm through waiting.

LOUIS

But your share in the company ended two years ago!

DOMINGO

No it did not. I never saw a penny of the money you say you paid me.

LOUIS

But I wrote you a check that you endorsed.

DOMINGO

You're wasting my time. Start paying, now! I figure you must owe me about three million dollars.

MELISSA and LOUIS

WHAT!

LOUIS

You are insane! This is a shakedown!

MELISSA

You're crazy!

DOMINGO

(to Melissa)

And you're a slut! (to Louis) Come on! Don't keep me waiting!

LOUIS

I've had enough of this. (As Louis starts to stand up, Domingo runs around the table and charges at Louis. As he is about to grab Louis, Domingo trips over a telephone wire and tumbles into Louis who falls backward onto the floor with a loud thump. Domingo is standing over Louis.) Oooohhh! My leg! I think I broke my leg!

(Melissa grabs the trophy and hits Domingo on the head several times. From offstage comes the sound of sirens which are getting louder. Domingo backs away from Louis; Domingo is bleeding heavily from the head. Two police officers enter.)

POLICE OFFICER 1

We got a complaint from the people downstairs of a loud disturbance. What's the problem?

MELISSA

(screaming hysterically)

This bastard (points to Domingo) barged in here and attacked my husband!

Police officer 2 grabs Domingo, quickly spins him around, places him in handcuffs and pulls him away from the table.

DOMINGO

(agitated, defiant)

I didn't do anything. She attacked me!

LOUIS

(moaning)

Help me! I think I broke my leg!

DOMINGO

(to Louis)

Good! I hope you die, you bastard!

POLICE OFFICER 2

(to Domingo)

Shut up! *(to Louis)* We're calling an ambulance.

POLICE OFFICER 1

(speaking into a walkie-talkie)

We have a ten sixty at 27 Herkimer Lane. Two persons hurt. Send an ambulance. Over.

MELISSA

(Distraught)

That animal *(points to Domingo)* almost killed us! He has to be put away!

DOMINGO

(livid)

You lying bitch! Your thief husband ripped me off!

POLICE OFFICER 2

(to Domingo)

Do you live or work here?

DOMINGO

Who needs to know?

POLICE OFFICER 2

I do.

DOMINGO

I wanna go home!

POLICE OFFICER 2

Is this your office?

DOMINGO

Yeah, it is!

POLICE OFFICER 2

Is your name on the front door?

DOMINGO

No. So what?

POLICE OFFICER 2

Whose name is on the front door?

DOMINGO

I don't know. You tell me!

POLICE OFFICER 1

(to Domingo)

Stop being a wise ass!

POLICE OFFICER 2

(to Domingo)

You are under arrest for disorderly conduct, harassment, assault, extortion, obstructing a police investigation and attempted murder.

DOMINGO

Attempted murder? If I had tried to murder him, he woulda been dead by now.

POLICE OFFICER 2

You have a right to remain silent. Anything that you say may be used against you in a court of law and you have the right to a court-appointed attorney if you cannot afford one. Do you understand your rights?

DOMINGO

You're arresting the wrong person!

POLICE OFFICER 2

I asked you something. Do you understand your rights?

DOMINGO

(still agitated and defiant)

Yeah, I understand them. How come you're not reading her rights too? She tried to kill me!

POLICE OFFICER 1

Tell that to the arraignment judge.

From offstage comes the sound of a siren.

End of scene 9

Scene 10

Time: Two years later

Place: The visitors room on an inpatient unit of the Pennsylvania State Psychiatric Institution for the Criminally Insane. Seated at a table are Domingo, Catarina, Joe, and a fourth person, Leon Delsing, Domingo's court appointed lawyer.)

DELSINGER

Now, Domingo, I was able to get your case transferred to the mental health part, which is good, because it got you out of jail.

CATARINA

Thank goodness for that!

DELSINGER

But, that doesn't mean your criminal case is over. The complainant still wants to press charges.

DOMINGO

He got what he deserved.

DELSINGER

Look, I'm not gonna argue your case with you here. I'm just telling you what your situation is and to make sure you understand your options.

DOMINGO

I already know my options. I can admit that I did something wrong and get a fine and suspended sentence, or I can go to trial, which is what I want.

JOE

And which you could lose.

DELSINGER

Domingo, you violating that first order of protection by making three calls to the complainant at his home did not help you case.

DOMINGO

I didn't do anything wrong.

DELSINGER

You can't be calling that guy, okay?

CATARINA

How much longer does Domingo have to be in here?

DELSINGER

That's up to the doctors here and the court. I'm gonna petition the court to place Domingo in an outpatient program. *(to Domingo)* Have you been taking your medications?

CATARINA

He's been taking his medications.

DELSINGER

(to Catarina)

Please, let Domingo answer. *(to Domingo)* So, have you been taking your meds?

DOMINGO

Yes, I have, but they just make me feel woozy. I don't like that.

DELSINGER

Did you tell that to the doctor?

DOMINGO

I did, but they don't seem to care.

DELSINGER

Look, I know it's rough being in the hospital, but you have to cooperate with the doctors otherwise it makes it harder to get you released and back to your home.

DOMINGO

What am I doing here anyway?

CATARINA

You see, Mister Delsing, how he's becoming more forgetful?

DELSINGER

Let me explain again: The court-appointed psychiatrist found that you had some damage to the brain and as a result you needed treatment. The court sent you to an outpatient program but you stopped taking your medications and started calling the complainant, and so your bail was revoked and the court ordered that you be incarcerated in a hospital which is why you are now here. If you show a willingness to cooperate and comply with your treatment plan, then the court may be agreeable to you being discharged to an outpatient program.

DOMINGO

So what do I have to do?

DELSINGER

You have to comply with treatment.

DOMINGO

Okay, I'll take my medications. But what about my civil case?

DELSINGER

You mean the one you started a year ago against the complainant?

DOMINGO

Yeah. I'm suing that bastard.

JOE

(to Domingo)

Yeah, but your lawyer said your case was weak.

DOMINGO

No way. That guy owes me a lot of money.

JOE

I know that, but at the preliminary hearing the court ruled that you had not proven your case.

DOMINGO

So I'm appealing!

CATARINA
(to Domingo, imploring)

Why can't you drop it already? What's done is done.

DOMINGO

Because I can't let him get away with what he did to me. Why should I?

CATARINA

But it's only causing you more problems.

DOMINGO

There is no way that I will drop my case against that guy. I don't care how long it takes and whether I'm in jail or out of jail, or how many times I have to sue, I will never give up, never. He can take that thirty-eight thousand dollars and shove it up you know where.

CATARINA

But we could use that money.

DOMINGO

That's chump change, nothing more. That guy owes me at least five million dollars. He told me that those properties were worthless and he lied to me! He's not gonna get away with it!

CATARINA
(to Delsinger)

Do you see what I have to contend with?

DELSINGER
(to Catarina)

I can't comment on Domingo's civil case. I can only hope that he prevails. But what I can comment on is how I plan to get Domingo released from this hospital, which will require his full cooperation.

DOMINGO

Look, Mister Delsinger, I'm appreciative for all that you have done for me so far, and so I'm willing to do whatever you say to get me out of here.

DELSINGER

Now that's the right attitude. Okay, this is the plan

End of scene 10.

Scene 11

Time: Three years later.

Place: A room in the Philadelphia Civil Courthouse. Center stage is a large conference table. On both the left and right sides of the table are chairs. Domingo, Catarina, Joe and Leslie Arrington, Domingo's attorney, are seated on the left; Louis, Melissa and Feltschein are seated at the right. Seated in the middle is Angela LaPlante, a court-appointed media.

LAPLANTE

My name is Angela LaPlante and the court has appointed me mediator in the case of DiMarci versus van de Varnje. The purpose of this conference is to determine whether this case can be settled without going to trial. Please note that this proceeding is off the record and there will be no sworn testimony. Noting that all parties are present, we can start. The plaintiff may begin first.

ARRINGTON

Your honor, this case is very simple. My client ...

DOMINGO

I want that bum to admit that he lied to me and to pay me the money he owes me.

FELTSCHIN

I object to the plaintiff's characterization of my client.

LAPLANTE

The plaintiff is to refrain from using abusive or offensive language.

DOMINGO

What? That I called him a bum? I'm just telling the truth.

LOUIS

You barged into my office like a bandit and terrorized my wife and attacked me and now you're calling me names. Disgusting!

DOMINGO

That office is half mine!

LOUIS

You're out of your mind. That's why you were put away.

DOMINGO

It should have been you who was put away, not me! Why don't you pay me what you owe me?

LOUIS

Look, I offered to repay you the thirty-five thousand dollars that you had invested and you agreed to the offer.

FELTSCHHEIN

(to Domingo)

Did you not endorse a check for thirty-eight-thousand dollars?

ARRINGTON

We have already stipulated to that; but my client never saw a penny of the money.

FELTSCHHEIN

And since my client offered to make good on that sum, then what are we doing here?

ARRINGTON

As far as my client is concerned, non-receipt of the money voided the original agreement, hence my client's status as a partner remained intact and in effect, and accordingly, your client owes my client a one-third of the income from the properties owned by your client proportionate to my client's share in the company, retroactive to the date when they first formed their partnership.

FELTSCHHEIN

(to Arrington)

I think you're stretching the law of contracts to the limits.

DOMINGO

I'd like to stretch your neck, you shyster.

FELTSCHHEIN

Once, again, I object to the plaintiff abusive language.

LAPLANTE
(to Arrington)

Counselor, please control your client.

ARRINGTON

Yes, your honor. (to Domingo) Please stop calling the defendant names.

DOMINGO
(to Arrington)

He's the thief, not me!

MELISSA

Your honor, if I may?

LAPLANTE

Yes?

MELISSA

This man (*points to Domingo*) is a thug who almost killed my husband.

DOMINGO
(to Melissa)

And you almost killed me!

MELISSA
(to Domingo)

We were defending ourselves against you!

DOMINGO

Wrong! You were trying to chase me out from a place that is one-third mine!

MELISSA
(to Domingo)

You're delusional!

CATARINA
(to Melissa)

Stop provoking him.

FELTSCHHEIN

(to LaPlante)

Let's get to the point. To settle this case, my client has offered to pay the plaintiff thirty-eight thousand dollars, which is the money that the plaintiff is owed. Is he willing to accept this offer?

LAPLANTE

(to Arrington)

The defendant has made a firm offer. Do you accept?

ARRINGTON

That offer is a joke.

FELTSCHHEIN

I'm sorry that you feel that this is a joking matter.

DOMINGO

(to Feltschein)

Listen, pal, nobody's joking and nobody's laughing, okay! So stop being so smug!

FELTSCHHEIN

(to Domingo)

Nobody's being smug. I'm just pointing out the facts. Two years ago you agreed to accept thirty-eight-thousand dollars to relinquish your share in my client's company and after you learned that my client's properties had become profitable, have been trying to back out from the agreement ever since. That's the entire case, a case that you cannot win.

ARRINGTON

(to Feltschein)

Please stop giving my client legal advice.

DOMINGO

(to Feltschein)

I can't win this case? Says you! I never received a penny of that thirty-eight thousand dollars and you know it. All I want what's mine, which is one-third of the millions of dollars Louis made. So, take out your check book, write down I decent number, one that has least six zeroes and a number three at the far left, and we can end this bickering and leave this room as friends.

FELTSCHHEIN

I don't think that is going to happen.

ARRINGTON

(to Feltschein)

I don't see why not. Your client misled and deceived my client for financial gain. My client was a one-third shareholder in your client's company and was tricked into signing away his interest in the company, thus the agreement to terminate my client's share is void and my client's share in the company remains in effect, and as client so elegantly stated, all you need to do is write a check indicating a certain fair and equitable number.

FELTSCHHEIN

Your argument is without any legal foundation.

ARRINGTON

I disagree. A contract not completed is a contract that is void. Your client defrauded my client and all my client wants is to be made whole, that's all. So, just do what's right and write the check and we can be done with this.

FELTSCHHEIN

You are demanding millions of dollars, money that my client neither has or feels he owes.

DOMINGO

(to Feltschein)

You know, you and your client are continuing to put me and my wife through the ringer and I'm getting sick and tired of it.

LOUIS

(to Domingo)

Well, that's just too bad! I spent a month in the hospital because of you.

DOMINGO

I can't help it if you're clumsy.

LOUIS

You attacked me!

JOE

Then how come it was Domingo who was beaten up?

MELISSA

Because we had to defend ourselves.

JOE

From someone who wanted to talk with his business partner?

MELISSA

Who asked him to visit?

DOMINGO

Who asked you to rip me off?

BYREN

Nobody ripped you off.

DOMINGO
(sarcastic)

Yeah, right!

LOUIS

You are pathetic.

DOMINGO

You can call me all the names you want, but if you think you're gonna get away with ripping me off, you have something else coming to you.

FELTSCHIN
(to Domingo)

You see, you're becoming threatening again.

DOMINGO

I'm not threatening anyone. I want what's mine, period, and nobody will deny me, not you (*points to Feltschein*), nor you (*points to Louis*), or you (*points to Melissa*). Do I make myself clear?

LAPLANTE

Based upon what I have heard thus far, it seems that the parties are not able to arrive at an agreement. Therefore I shall recommend that this matter proceed to trial.

DOMINGO

Finally, I'm gonna have my day in court. Hallelujah and with the Lord's help justice will prevail!

The end.