

CUT TO: INTERIOR: ROOM where lawyers meet with their clients. SPLIT SCREEN: One side is O'BRIEN, pacing nervously. On the other side is STEVE, sitting.

O'BRIEN

You're going to have to take the stand—look at the jury and let the jury look at you—and say that you're innocent. I know the judge will tell the jury not to infer anything if you don't take the stand, but I believe that the jury wants to hear from you. I think they want to hear your side of the story. Can you handle it?

We see STEVE nodding in the affirmative.

O'BRIEN

The prosecutor's strongest point against you is the connection between you and King. She has Bobo admitting to being in on the robbery and his link to King. You've told me you know King. I don't know why you've chosen this man as an acquaintance, but it's going to hurt you big-time if you don't manage to get some distance between you and him in the eyes of the jury. You're going to have to break the link. He's sitting there looking surly. Maybe he thinks he's tough; I don't know. I do know you'd better put some distance between yourself and whatever being a tough guy represents.

You need to present yourself as someone the jurors can believe in. Briggs isn't going to put King on the stand. That helps you, but when he sees us separating you from him, he's going to realize that his client is in trouble.

STEVE

How do you know he won't testify?

O'BRIEN

King made a statement to the police when he was arrested. He said he didn't know Bobo. But the prosecution can prove that's a lie. So if he takes the stand, they can use his own statements against him and he's cooked. If you don't testify, you'll just make the tie between you and King stronger in the mind of the jury. I think you have to testify. And the way you spend the rest of your youth might well depend on how much the jury believes you.

STEVE

That woman said that King was with her.

O'BRIEN

Right, but Petrocelli didn't even bother with a lengthy cross-examination. Did you notice that? She dismissed Mrs. Moore with her tone of voice. A cousin who likes