

COUNTERPLAYED
(AUDITION SIDES)

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INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - EVENING

A large old-fashioned and expensive library office is calm and nicely furnished. At a large desk is MICHAEL, a very successful lawyer in his late 30s. He wears neat slacks and a dark blazer. Michael is poured over his desk looking at legal papers, but leans back when he hears footsteps approaching.

MICHAEL

I was beginning to wonder if you were going to make it.

ANDREW walks in carrying what looks like a briefcase. He's a private investigator in his early 30s and wears a classy jacket, but looks slightly distracted and disheveled from his obvious rush.

ANDREW

Don't worry, I'm not that late- You're gonna be at the tournament the week after next, right?

MICHAEL

I wouldn't miss it for the world. Damn, after my embarrassing losses last month, I'm ready to get back at it. How's practice going?

Andrew sits down at a table across from Michael.

ANDREW

Non-stop. At least two hours a night. I've been doubling up sessions with my coach and I'm falling asleep dreaming about chess moves.

MICHAEL

You can never train too much. Have you been studying openings?

ANDREW

Openings, tactics, exchanges, end-games. Until my brain hurts. How's things at the law firm?

MICHAEL

Suing the Hell out of scumbags as usual. It's been a fun month. This guy stole twelve million dollars from his business partner. But good thing my client hired the best lawyers, It's gonna be a nice paycheck when we win the case.

ANDREW

Sounds like you're on a good streak.

MICHAEL

Unlike chess, at work I never lose. And how's your business treating you?

ANDREW

Working with some of the strangest clients, but we have enough cases to keep me intrigued.

MICHAEL

You caught another old lady lying to her insurance company?

ANDREW

You always bring that one up, I just take whatever jobs come to me.

MICHAEL

Well, do you like the insurance fraud work or would you rather try to catch a husband cheating on his wife?

Andrew is starting to become annoyed by his friend.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hey, business is business. I'm not judging. What are you working on now?

ANDREW

Remember, I told you about the girl who went missing two weeks ago. Her parents called the authorities first, then they hired us to help. So we've been investigating every possible lead ever since.

MICHAEL

Yeah, I remember. Any updates?

ANDREW

Well, you know Glen Roberts place?

MICHAEL

Obviously.

ANDREW

So, last night we mysteriously got a call from this guy telling us to check out that house. Me and my partner Cal went over there and knocked on the door and didn't get an answer. Cal wanted to leave, but I decided to go look around the house...