

The Practice
The Case Against Alan Shore
Season 8, Episode 18
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At Young, Frutt and Berlutti, Eugene Young is in his office, Jimmy Berlutti and Attorney Noel Burke are with him. Nobody speaks as Attorney Noel Burke paces.

Eleanor Frutt: *She comes in.* What's up?

Eugene Young: This is Noel Burke. He'll be representing us in our labor dispute.

Eleanor Frutt: Wow! So we are going outside?

Eugene Young: Yes.

Eleanor Frutt: Just a thought, but shouldn't I have been included in that decision?

Eugene Young: Well, that's the very issue we need to talk about.

Attorney Noel Burke: Look, Ms Frutt, I can walk you through the legals. But cutting to the chase? This thing is close. I mean, Mr Shore's estoppels claims are, are colorable. I mean, we have an associate here whose financial contributions grossly exceed those of the partners. He's hired an extremely deep and talented firm. I mean, we're, we're in for a fight here. A difficult fight. So, all this really is to preface one question which is, where do you stand?

Eleanor Frutt: Can I get you a cup of coffee?

Attorney Noel Burke: Okay, look. The guts of our case will be that Alan Shore is a bad guy. Now, you will need to testify. You will need to get in the witness chair and not only support the idea that he's a bad guy, but actually sell it. I mean, see... **He points to Jimmy.** This man has a personal animosity towards Mr Shore. I mean, his bias will be exposed and lanced like a giant boil. This man... **He points to Eugene.** It looks like he hates everybody, and his emotions will make him anything but impartial. The only objective and fair-minded voice we have, if we're to have one, is you. Now, right, once again, it's you. So! As I've told Mr Young and Mr Berlutti, you will have to win this case for us. You will have to take Alan Shore down. So! Let me put to you the great interrogatory once posed by the leader of the free world, "Are you with us or are you against us?"

At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Matthew Billings and Alan Shore are walking in the corridor.

Matthew Billings: Whether or not we'll go forward will depend...

Alan Shore: Of course we're going forward.

Matthew Billings: Not so fast.

Alan Shore: Then slow down.

Female Associate: **She comes up.** I canceled your ten o'clock. I had to tell The Beast, and she's in a mood. So...

Matthew Billings: Tell her she looks beautiful and the meeting will be rescheduled.

Female Associate: Well, she won't believe she's beautiful unless you tell her **Matthew Billings:** Then tell her I said so. Good bye!

Alan Shore: Who's The Beast?

Matthew Billings: Sara Lipp. Wicked senior partner of the east.

They walk up to Denny Crane.

Denny Crane: Denny Crane!

Alan Shore: Yes! I know you're Denny Crane. Why do you always tell me your name? Is it so you won't forget?

Denny Crane: Well, let me tell you something, Soldier. I've learned from experience that people can't believe they're actually in the room with Denny Crane. They think it can't be true. So, I let 'em know it is true! I look 'em in the eye... Denny Crane. Gives 'em something to tell their grandkids. Denny Crane.

Alan Shore: **He takes Matthew aside.** You know, I wanted him because he knows the Judge. I'm having deep concerns now that the Judge knows him.

Matthew Billings: Well, first of all, he did win the motion last week. Second, I'll first chair, he'll be second.

Alan Shore: But he talks. Aloud!

Matthew Billings: I'll rein him in. He's an asset. We want him at our table. Trust me.

Alan looks at Denny further down the corridor.

Denny Crane: Denny Crane.

At Young, Frutt and Berlutti, Jamie Stringer is in the outer office. Tara Wilson comes in.

Jamie Stringer: Tara! Hey!

Tara Wilson: What's new?

Jamie Stringer: Don't even ask. You doin' okay?

Tara Wilson: Yah!

Eleanor Frutt: **She comes out of her office.** Tara! Thanks for comin' in. Let's go to my office. **They go there.** Listen. Eugene, Jimmy and I, we realize that we put you in an impossible situation. Asking you to protect a firm confidence to the detriment of a friend. We appreciate that maybe we were unfair. Anyway, we're offering you your job back. We consider you an extremely valued member of this practice, and we hope that you will consider rejoining us.

Tara Wilson: You're offering me my job back?

Eleanor Frutt: Yes.

Tara Wilson: And you're actually sorry for putting me in a difficult situation?

Eleanor Frutt: Yes.

Tara Wilson: Is Eugene sorry?

Eleanor Frutt: Yes.

Tara Wilson: Well, could Eugene apologize in person? **A beat.** That would help me decide.

Eleanor Frutt: He's obviously under a lot of stress, Tara. Let's not make...

Tara Wilson: Eleanor. I have a great respect for you. And my hope is that at the conclusion of all this ugliness, there will be no erosion of that respect. But this isn't about you being sorry. This isn't about valuing me as a member of your firm. This about you getting me on your side. Securing my testimony to favor you.

Eleanor Frutt: Look, Tara. You know I care about him. And believe it or not, I also care about you. You are a young law student with your entire future ahead of you. You need to consider carefully which side you'd rather be associated with here.

Tara Wilson: I have considered that very carefully. I'll be testifying in support of Alan.

At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Denny is in the conference room. Alan and Matthew come in.

Alan Shore: **Under his breath to Matthew.** I can't underline enough my reservations about him being here.

Matthew Billings: And I can't underline enough, his presence has currency.

Denny Crane: I don't like it when people talk me like I'm not in the room. Last time I checked, I was in the room.

Alan Shore: You know? I'm having a sudden burst of insecurity, I could use some reassurance. Could you just say those two little words I so long to hear?

Denny Crane: Denny Crane.

Alan Shore: Thank you.

Attorney Noel Burke: **He enters with Eugene, Jimmy and Eleanor.** Sorry we're late. Let's get started. I'd like to preface my remarks by saying...

Denny Crane: Hold on, hold on just a minute. You're not late. You derive some sort of power keeping everybody waiting. We agreed to meet at two o'clock knowing you'd turn up at ten past. Our plan all along was to start the meeting at a quarter past. So, we're just gonna stand around for five minutes. You little gerbil, why don't you gnaw on a stick of celery? **He salutes them.** Denny Crane.

Eugene Young: Look. We are here to take one last stab at settling this. We are not waiting five minutes, we are not waiting two!

Matthew Billings: Let's start over. **He motions for them to sit.** Please. **Everybody sits.** I think we can all assume, should this go to trial? You'll be vicious, we'll be vicious. It will get publicly nasty and everybody will bleed. The reason for this meeting is to avoid all the blood shed. Obviously, we have a number; you have a number, I suspect.

Attorney Noel Burke: Shall I give you ours?

Matthew Billings: Please.

Attorney Noel Burke: Seven hundred and fifty thousand. And before you reject it that's three times the salary of the next ranking associate and it's probably seven hundred and fifty thousand more than you'd get if we proceed to court given Mr Shore's conduct. And what, if I were you, I'd be most concerned with.

Alan and Eleanor stare wordlessly at each other. Alan shakes his head slightly, Eleanor looks down.

Alan Shore: You're not me, Mr Burke. Let's not ever make that mistake. **He doesn't break his unflinching stare with Eleanor.**

Attorney Noel Burke: If certain things in this trial become public Mr Shore may be unemployable in perpetuity and perhaps even disbarred.

Denny Crane: Denny Crane.

Matthew Billings: Let me respond by just...?

Alan Shore: May I, Matthew?

Alan Shore: Let's not compare my salary with that of the highest ranking associate. The whole point here is, I don't compare with the rank associates at Young, Frutt and Berlutti. I, in fact, out earn and out produce the rank partners!

Attorney Noel Burke: You're being contentious.

Denny Crane: Denny Crane.

Attorney Noel Burke: Ha. Okay. Why don't you just tell us your number?

Matthew Billings: One point nine million dollars.

Jimmy Berlutti: What?

Matthew Billings: Should Mr Shore be declared a defacto partner, his share this year alone would be over a million. And that doesn't even account for the revenues generated in the future by clients he brought in.

Eugene Young: Which he then stole.

Denny Crane: Denny Crane!

Matthew Billings: And what that really doesn't account for? You guy were close to goin' under.

Attorney Noel Burke: Not true!

Matthew Billings: Noel, you can read the books just like I can. If the jury finds that Alan saved this firm, and we have to allow for the possibility of that finding, we could get five million. Maybe six.

Eugene Young: Alan Shore was fired from his last firm for embezzling. We hired him out of charity more than anything else.

Alan Shore: We seem to be moving further apart now.

Eugene Young: May I finish, please?

Alan Shore: You may. But that last remark just pushed our demand up to two point five.

Matthew Billings: Alan.

Alan Shore: You know what? In the absence of any contract, I think the only fair thing is, to agree. I have no right to work at your firm. I should walk away, and I will. I just want the money I brought in. Nine million dollars. Take out overhead, give me the rest. Eight point nine million, we can all shake hands.

Eugene Young: I think we're going to trial.

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, Matthew is questioning Alan who is on the stand.

Matthew Billings: Let's be fair, Mr Shore. You were fired from your previous firm for embezzling.

Alan Shore: And I deserved. I did not deserve to be fired from this firm.

Matthew Billings: Because?

Alan Shore: Because I saved them from going bankrupt. Because I won my cases and because I looked good doing it.

Matthew Billings: Did you ever break any laws?

Alan Shore: Break any laws?

Matthew Billings: Yes. Did you extort lawyers? Did you illegally download records? Were you privy to deals buying off witnesses? Did you suborn perjury?

Alan Shore: Ah! That! Perhaps.

Matthew Billings: Perhaps?

Alan Shore: Look! They knew my character when they hired me. I never did anything... ***To the Judge.*** Hello, Judge! I never did anything, ever, that wasn't in my character.

Matthew Billings: Well! Alan! Come on! You could have risked disbarment with all this. That would run to the reputation of the firm.

Alan Shore: I was called to the bar already. Eugene Young stood up, unsolicited, and called me a just and honorable man. But when it was time to split up all the millions of dollars I generated? I was suddenly unworthy.

Matthew Billings: Thank you, Sir. ***He goes to sit down.***

Attorney Noel Burke gets up and steps into the aisle. So does Eugene.

Alan Shore: This feels dramatic.

Eugene Young: You left out the part where you impersonated an airline official from the opposing side and then settled a case under that false identity.

Alan Shore: Using money out of my own pocket to spare the firm a malpractice suit.

Eugene Young: You left out the part where you hired a lawyer who believed God talked to her.

Alan Shore: It was never established he didn't!

Eugene Young: You left out the part that you constantly defied the partners.

Alan Shore: Only when they were wrong, which granted was most of the time. Is it just me? Or are all his questions in statement form?

Eugene Young: You left out the part where you hid a murder weapon from the police.

Alan Shore: Oh, if I were to mention that, the police would demand to know where I hid it.

Eugene Young: You left out the part where you took a hooker to a client's wedding?

Alan Shore: The invitation said significant other. I thought it would last.

Eugene Young: You left out the part where you secretly installed video cameras in a woman's hotel room and taped her having sex.

Alan Shore: For blackmail purposes only. Okay. That was a lie. I watched for my own pleasure.

Eugene Young: This is all one big source of amusement for you. Isn't it, Alan?

Alan Shore: I'll tell you this, Eugene, if you take life too seriously it ceases to be funny. I tried to impart that, and other little wisdoms to you. Which you never took. But you always took the money.

At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Matthew and Alan walk into the conference room.

Matthew Billings: Alan! I don't know what you're doin'.

Alan Shore: Ha.

Matthew Billings: You say you wanna settle, but, I don't think you know what you want.

Tara is there, Alan walks over and gives her a kiss on the top of her head.

Matthew Billings: Tara? I plan to keep your testimony very simple. Basically, I want you to establish that he was open and notorious with his antics from the beginning.

Tara Wilson: Okay.

Matthew Billings: I will not put you in the position of attacking Eugene or Eleanor, and I don't want you to.

Denny comes in.

Alan Shore: Denny? This is Tara Wilson, a law student I spoke of.

Denny Crane: In need of employment?

Alan Shore: Yes. She's extremely talented; I can personally vouch for her skills as a paralegal as well as...

Denny Crane: Stand up please. **Tara stands up.** Turn around please. **Tara looks to Alan, he gives her a 'Go with it' look. She turns around.** Lips real?

Tara Wilson: Yes. Yours?

Denny Crane: Let me tell you something, Tara. We hire only pretty people in this firm. Pretty people get better results. Pretty girls keep me aroused. I think more clearly when I'm aroused. Are you a pretty girl, Soldier?

Tara looks to Alan. He looks down.

Tara Wilson: I am. Sir.

Denny Crane: Good girl. At ease. **He starts to leave.**

Tara Wilson: **She puts her hand out to stop Denny.** I'm always at ease. Sir.

Denny Crane: **To Alan.** I like her!

In a bar Jimmy and Lucy Hatcher are sitting at a table over drinks.

Jimmy Berlutti: The truth is it's been a horrible year. I haven't liked goin' to work since he's been there. My cases... seems he's gotten all the good ones.

Lucy Hatcher: How's your love life?

Jimmy Berlutti: **He scoffs.** Sounds like I hate my life, doesn't it?

Lucy Hatcher: Very much so. Why don't you change it?

Jimmy Berlutti: How?

Lucy Hatcher: Well, what do you wanna do? **A beat. She sighs.** Jimmy? You mean you haven't even asked yourself the question?

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, Matthew is questioning Tara who is on the stand.

Tara Wilson: Dishonorable? No. Ethically challenged? Perhaps.

Matthew Billings: What's the difference?

Tara Wilson: He was honest with how he dealt with his friends and his fellow-partners. Where he was perhaps underhanded was with opposing counsel.

Matthew Billings: Did the partners at the firm know about his underhandness?

Tara Wilson: Ha. Yes. They would often protest and threaten him. But as Alan correctly points out, at the end of the day they would cash the checks.

Matthew Billings: And Ms Wilson, you had the opportunity to see the financial records at Young, Frutt and Berlutti?

Tara Wilson: I did.

Matthew Billings: And what kind of impact did Alan Shore have on their business?

Tara Wilson: In dollars? **Matthew nods.** He more than tripled it.

Attorney Noel Burke: Obviously, you're friends with Alan Shore?

Tara Wilson: I consider him a friend, yes.

Attorney Noel Burke: Forgive my indiscretion, uhm, and admittedly, I'm speculating. Have you had sex with him?

Tara Wilson: No.

Alan Shore: **He gets up.** Objection!

Judge Harvey Gleason: She answered the question.

Alan Shore: That's what I'm objection to. I want to have sex with her! She keeps saying, "No!"

The Judge motions for Alan to sit. He does.

Attorney Noel Burke: I believe you've witnessed Mr Shore committing acts of sexual harassment in the workplace? Have you not?

Tara Wilson: I have.

Attorney Noel Burke: In fact you once complained to Eugene Young that he repulsed you. That, that you thought he was vulgar?

Alan Shore: **He gets up.** I believe the witness said she had vulgar thoughts that involved me. There's a difference there. Please rephrase.

The Judge motions for Alan to sit. He does.

Tara Wilson: As you can see his behavior is quite incorrigible, but I...

Attorney Noel Burke: Incorrigible? He lies! He steals! He conceals evidence! He openly defies the partners! And that's the word you use? Incorrigible?

Tara Wilson: Well...

Attorney Noel Burke: I'm just curious? Is Mr Shore helping you to find new employment?

Tara Wilson: Actually, he just helped me find a new job. Yes.

Attorney Noel Burke: Oh? Well! That's interesting. So? Might you say you're in his debt? A little?

Tara Wilson: I would.

Attorney Noel Burke: Thank you very much. Ms Wilson. **He goes to sit down.**

Alan Shore: **He starts to get up.** Isn't it true you really do wanna sleep with...? **Matthew jerks Alan back down. Alan raises his hand to the Judge.** Nothing further.

Outside the courtroom Alan and Tara go off to the side to talk. Matthew and Denny walk in another direction.

Denny Crane: Matthew? Client confuses me. Does he wanna lose?

Matthew Billings: No! He, he just... He can't contain himself sometimes, and he's... He's a complicated guy.

Denny Crane: This is not good behavior. This is not consistent with somebody who wants to win.

Matthew Billings: I understand.

Denny Crane: I'm concerned, Matthew. Client confuses me.

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, Attorney Noel Burke is questioning Jimmy who is on the stand.

Jimmy Berlutti: He called me fat!

Attorney Noel Burke: Mr Shore did?

Jimmy Berlutti: Almost every day. Usually in front of other people to humiliate me. With some remark about my body, or... He'd also call me stupid. This is an associate directing insults at partners! And he's all shocked that we didn't want him.

Attorney Noel Burke: So, that's why you voted to discharge him? Because of all the insults?

Jimmy Berlutti: No! That's not the only reason. He violated legal ethics! He ignored privilege! **He struggles to find words.** I voted to discharge him because we're not just a place of business. We're not simply a corporate entity that exists to generate profits. We're a practice at law. The people in our practice have respect for the profession. Respect for each other as people. He didn't. I voted to discharge because it is not okay to ignore the ethical rules of the practice. I voted to discharge him because it is not okay to belittle people. To treat them with cruelty or ridicule. And if he wants to build a firm where that kind of behavior is okay, let him build his own firm. But he was an associate at ours. And he dishonored it. And us. Daily.

A beat.

Attorney Noel Burke: Thank you, Sir. **He goes to sit down.**

Matthew moves to get up. Alan puts his hand out and motions, "No."

Alan Shore: **He gets up and walks over to stand in front of Jimmy. He speaks softly.** You spoke with a great deal of emotion, Jimmy. **Jimmy doesn't reply.** You don't like me, do you?

Jimmy Berlutti: No. I don't.

Alan Shore: Is it possible for you to completely separate your personal dislike of me, from your objective opinion of me as an attorney? Honestly?

Jimmy Berlutti: Probably not.

Alan Shore: Thank you.

In a bar, Alan is alone having a drink. Eleanor joins him.

Alan Shore: Are you testifying against me, Eleanor?

Eleanor Frutt: Alan, what do you want? The jury can't order us to rehire you. You claim it's not about the money. So? What is it that you want?

Alan Shore: I don't know. **A beat.** Maybe just to be... **Another beat.** Well, let's leave it at that. Just to be.

Eleanor Frutt: Are you trying to get the jury to judge you negatively? To confirm some twisted...

Alan Shore: **He gets up.** Ahhh. Again with the psychoanalysis. I don't have time, Eleanor. I've got a long day in court tomorrow. **He takes money out of his wallet, puts it on the counter and leans over to kiss Eleanor on the cheek.** Do you?

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, Attorney Noel Burke is questioning Eugene who is on the stand.

Eugene Young: He had no contract. It was 'employee at will'. And legally we're entitled to terminate an associate for personal reasons. But it wasn't just personal reasons. We had to protect the integrity of our practice.

Attorney Noel Burke: But, Eugene, as it's been said, you did take the money?

Eugene Young: Yes. He earned revenue in his capacity as an associate. But that didn't give him tenure! You heard all the things he did against the law, against the canons of law, against us! How do we employ a person we can't even trust? Fiduciary duty, that has to mean something in a partnership as an implied obligation to deal fairly with one another. Honestly! **He points to Alan.** That man never did! As a result, he had to go. He had to go.

Attorney Noel Burke: Thank you. **He goes to sit down.**

Nobody gets up. Alan looks down towards Denny.

Denny Crane: **He gets up.** I want you to know, I agree with everything you said. And if what you said about my client is true, I'd have fired his ass too! Good work, Soldier! Nothing further. **He walks back to the table and sits down, then gets back up.** Ah... I imagine this business about fiduciary duty, obligation to deal fairly, honestly, goes both ways? You would have a duty to be fair and above board with Alan Shore?

Eugene Young: I would. And I did.

Denny Crane: Good man. **He sits down. Alan looks at Denny. Denny gets back up.** You had a meeting with, Samuel Gould, a client of Al Shore's last week? Did you not?

Eugene Young: I did.

Denny Crane: Longtime client of Al Shore's. Am I right?

Eugene Young: Yes.

Denny raises his hand in which he is holding a miniature tape recorder. He pushes a button.

Eugene Young: **Via the tape recorder.** I must strongly caution you against going with Alan Shore.

Samuel Gould: **Via the recorder.** Why?

Eugene Young: **Via the recorder.** It is our belief that he is unstable, that he has self-destructive personality tendencies. That he's also prone to committing unethical sometimes even criminal acts. Wherever you take your business? I would urge you again, not to take it to Alan Shore.

Denny Crane: **He pushes a button on the recorder.** That was you! Trying to steal Al Shore's client. Was that a fiduciary stab in Al's back?

Eugene Young: At the time of that discussion, Samuel Gould was a client of the firm.

Attorney Noel Burke: **He gets up.** Your Honor, it is illegal to secretly tape record...

Denny Crane: There was nothing secret about it! Mr Gould taped all his meetings! The firm knew it! **The Judge nods. Denny waves the recorder at Eugene.** Did you forget? **He pushed a button.**

Eugene Young: **Via the recorder.** ...he is unstable, that he has self-destructive personality tendencies.

Denny Crane: That's slander, Mr Young.

Eugene Young: Truth is a complete defense to slander. I spoke the truth.

Denny Crane: You know, son? I'm senior partner the way you are in yours. And here's the thing about good leadership, and you tell me if you disagree. It's not enough to insist on fidelity, or honesty or fair dealing. A good leader has to practice it! **He looks at the jury.** Denny Crane.

Outside the courtroom, Alan is talking to Matthew.

Alan Shore: Was it my imagination, or was he quite infective?

Matthew Billings: I keep telling you, once he gets in the courtroom all the plaque on his brain just... dissolves.

Alan Shore: I don't know what the hell it is, but I think it was effective.

Denny Crane: **He comes up.** I don't like it when people talk about me like I'm not in the corridor. Last time I checked? I was in the corridor. **He walks away.**

A door opens. Alan turns to watch the Young, Frutt and Berlutti team come out of the courtroom.

Eleanor cannot meet his gaze.

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, Attorney Noel Burke is questioning Eleanor who is on the stand.

Eleanor Frutt: He said that he had been fired by his firm and that he needed a break.

Attorney Noel Burke: Did he say why he was fired?

Eleanor Frutt: He embezzled. He said it was a half Robin Hood kind of thing. That he took from the rich, and kept it.

Attorney Noel Burke: And knowing this, you hired Alan Shore?

Eleanor Frutt: Yes.

Attorney Noel Burke: Why?

Eleanor Frutt: He was a friend who... well, like he said, he needed a break.

Attorney Noel Burke: And this testimony, today? This is difficult?

Eleanor Frutt: You have no idea.

Attorney Noel Burke: In fact, despite all the infractions he's committed since joining your firm, you've continued to defend him. **Eleanor nods.** Why, Eleanor?

Eleanor Frutt: I think Alan is deeply troubled. As talented as he is, as terrific as he is, I don't think he likes himself. And on some psychological level...

Matthew Billings: **He gets up.** Objection! Foundation.

Attorney Noel Burke: This will be a lay opinion from a friend, Your Honor.

Judge Harvey Gleason: I'll allow it.

Attorney Noel Burke: Please continue.

Eleanor Frutt: I think to service his own self-loathing he breeds contempt from others.

Attorney Noel Burke: We heard Eugene Young use the words self-destructive?

Eleanor Frutt: That would be fair. I've said that to Alan on more than one occasion. I truly believe he's trying to destroy himself. I don't think it was ever his intent to damage the firm. But that's what he started to do.

Attorney Noel Burke: So? You agree then with the decision to discharge him?

Eleanor Frutt: I do.

Attorney Noel Burke: Thank you, Eleanor. **He sits down.**

Matthew Billings: **He leans over to Alan.** You really wanna do this one? **A beat.** Alan?

Alan Shore: Yeah. **He gets up and walks over to stand in front of Eleanor.** You think its best that I leave?

Eleanor doesn't reply. Alan notices his jacket isn't yet buttoned. He does so. Did you not you say last week, "Let's work this out?" Did you not say you couldn't bear the idea of going to work at a place without me?

Eleanor Frutt: I said that.

Alan Shore: Did you mean it?

Eleanor Frutt: I meant it. But Alan, I said that unobjectively, as your friend. As a person who continues to care deeply for you. But... I don't think you're entirely well. You are gonna self-destruct one day, and I can't prevent that. But I can't let you destroy my partners in the process. I'm sorry.

Alan Shore: I see. **He briefly touches her hand and goes to sit down.**

Eleanor struggles to keep her composure.

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, Eugene is giving his closing.

Eugene Young: We live in a time where breaking rules, being a rebel, flashing irreverence for any kind of convention is cool. Is hip. Alan Shore is a hip, cool guy. He's entertaining too. It can be fun watching him do his thing. But when he's doing it to you, or people you love, or something you love...? **He points to Eleanor and Jimmy.** You see these people here? We don't have husbands and wives. Eleanor has a child, I have a son. But, no one can't accuse us of living rounded, balanced lives. Our lives are that law firm! Our lives are each other. And working together? In a place together? That's something. **A beat.** I might even call that everything. This man couldn't get that. He came in from the very first day and behaved in way that said, "People here don't have to be moral. People here don't have to conduct themselves with integrity. That people here don't need to be honest." You heard the list. Blackmail, extortion, breaking privilege, impersonating

opposing parties, stealing evidence! It goes on and on. He did this acting as an agent of the place we built. Alan Shore thinks he got fired because we were afraid he'd bring the firm down! What he can't seem to get is that he's already brought us down! Like I said, I know scandal is hip these days. For sure it's profitable. But at Young, Frutt and Berlutti? Character still counts. It must count. Our dignity is not fundable thing. Not to Eleanor. Not to Jimmy. Not to Jamie. Not to me. Alan Shore just can't get that. **He goes to sit down.**
Alan Shore: **His gaze follows Eugene as he goes to sit down. Alan is deep in thought for a long moment. Then he gets up.** When this firm hired me, they knowingly engaged the services of an embezzler. They let me go about my evil sinister business and make them rich. And then they tossed me. I had an uncle. He'd bring a delicious dessert to every family get-together. And everyone would fawn and gush saying, "You're so thoughtful, Charles. You're so generous." He admitted to me, he wasn't generous at all. He was hungry. And his logic was, if he brought a pie, he'd get a slice. I brought the pie, ladies and gentlemen. They didn't give me my slice. As for all my despicable, unethical, immoral, treacherous, sleazy conduct. They called me everything but a terrorist, didn't they? This business is not an ethical arena! Our legal system is adversarial by nature. Where it is often the very function of a lawyer's job to prevent the truth from ever coming out. We get paid to suppress, and squash and conceal evidence. Remember, this is the system that freed OJ, but also convicted Rubin Hurricane Carter. Every first year law student is taught don't ever, ever equate legal ethic with morality. They're almost always mutually exclusive! It's an ugly world where underhandedness is often celebrated. I didn't enter Eugene Young's Church. It was a law firm! A criminal law firm! The dirtiest kind! Where lawyers get up in court, as Mr Young has many times, and knowingly, falsely accuse innocent people of murder! Why? For the noble cause of getting the real killer off. Eugene Young has put guilty people back on the street to kill again. He's in the business of freeing serial rapist. But, hey! I brought the firm down by pretending to be an airline executive. I'm sorry! I guess I just don't get it! He goes behind my back, tells my client I'm unstable, for the purpose of stealing that client. This somehow falls within the bounds of integrity. I guess I just don't get it. **A beat.** There's a couple of things Eugene Young doesn't seem to get. First, I'm just an unscrupulous guy, trying to get by in an unscrupulous profession. And second, I respect him profoundly! There's perhaps nobody I respect more. **To Eugene.** In the eight or so months I've know you, I've found you to be utterly beyond reproach. Which is why I'm so surprised he would take all that money I brought in, fire me, then go through all this, just to avoid giving me my slice.

At Crane, Poole and Schmidt, Alan, Matthew and Denny come off the elevator. Tara walks up to Alan.

Tara Wilson: Hey! How'd it go?

Alan Shore: They're deliberating. Can we talk about the outfit?

Tara Wilson: All the assistants here where uniforms!

Alan Shore: I like it? **He chuckles.**

Tara Wilson: Do you? Well, as soon as I pass the bar it's coming off.

Alan Shore: I can't wait. Let's go to the bar now.

Denny Crane: **He comes up.** We conduct our sexual harassment behind closed doors here, Sailor.

Alan Shore: I shudder to think.

Denny Crane: **To Tara.** Excuse me. **He takes Alan off to the side.** That was a hell of a closing. I like what I see so far. Nine million dollars, portables, a closing like that. What do you say? We take our relationship to the next level?

Alan Shore: Are you a homosexual, Denny?

Denny Crane: I'm offering you a job, Sailor!

Matthew Billings: **He's on the phone a few feet away.** You can't be serious! They already have a verdict.

Alan Shore: What?

Denny Crane: That means they never got to damages. You lost, Pilgrim.

Matthew Billings: Come on.

In Judge Harvey Gleason's courtroom, all parties are present as the jury files in.

Alan Shore: **To Eugene.** It's exciting.

Judge Harvey Gleason: Alright. Mr Foreman? The jury has reached a verdict?

Foreman: We have, Your Honor.

Judge Harvey Gleason: What say you?

Foreman: On question one, was the defendant's termination of the plaintiff wrongful? We find in the affirmative.

Denny Crane: That means, "Yes."

Alan Shore: Ah.

Foreman: On question two, concerning damages we order the defendant to pay the plaintiff compensatory damages in the amount of two point three million dollars.

Matthew Billings: *To Alan.* Congratulations.

Alan Shore: Thank you.

At Young, Frutt and Berlutti, Jamie and Lucy are in the outer office. Eleanor, Jimmy and Eugene come in.

Eleanor Frutt: Lost. Two point three million.

Jamie Stringer: Two?

Jimmy Berlutti: We've appealed. Let's not...

Lucy Hatcher: Will this affect payroll? I mean, can we still finance our cases? Do you guys need me to open up a separate account?

Eugene Young: Look. I'll advise you want to do, Lucy. Okay? Jimmy? Eleanor? In the conference room please?

The door opens. Alan comes in.

Alan Shore: *A beat.* I don't want the money.

Eugene Young: If the judgment holds up we'll pay you the money.

Alan Shore: I don't want it.

Eugene Young: Well, you'll get it. Do with it what you want, but this firm always meets its financial obligations.

Alan Shore: Maybe we can donate it to a cause that we mutually... Legalization of prostitution! Something that... *A beat.* Whatever.

Eugene Young: Why are you here?

Alan Shore: I'm here, because... I'm a sucker for closure, I guess. Not to be confused with sentimentality, but... I wanted you all to know two things. First, I'm sorry for any embarrassment that... Well, any embarrassment. And second. I really loved working here. I know my coming back isn't an option. But... people should know where people stand. I've always believed that. And... **He looks around.** I loved working here. I wanted you to know. **Nobody speaks. He leaves.**