

MIKE  
REVISED  
10/15

INT. PENINSULA SHOWROOM - NIGHT

Nicky is trying to talk to Eddie, but he's smooth-- fobbing her off.

EDDIE

My bro Mike, he'll answer all your questions!

Frustrated, Nicky turns to MIKE SLAKTER, the company's CFO. Charming, self-deprecating... mellow vibes. She's annoyed to have lost face time with Eddie.

MIKE

Mike Slakter, Peninsula CFO.

NICKY

Nicky. Hi.

Mike, reading Nicky's energy--

MIKE

I know Eddie can be pretty... Eddie. But he's just got a lot of... passion for the company.

NICKY

Passion? That's one word for it.

MIKE

What did you want to know?

NICKY

I want to know why your worker Faye Huang is in danger of being fired... just for getting sick.

Mike looks concerned.

MIKE

Faye's sick?

NICKY

Yeah, she's in the hospital.

MIKE

I didn't know. Of course we're not going to fire her for that--

NICKY

But you will fire her if she goes ahead with her union drive?

MIKE

No.

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KUNG FU #103

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Mike appears genuinely surprised that Nicky would think that.

NICKY  
Wouldn't it make your life easier?

MIKE  
It would, but I still wouldn't do it. It's wrong.

Nicky looks at him skeptically.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
I'm on Faye's side, Nicky. Heck, I even helped her fasttrack her union petition-- I've got a friend at the NLRB.

NICKY  
You've got a friend at the NLRB?

MIKE  
Yeah.  
(off her look)  
I may be a money guy now, but that's-- an accident. Eddie and I grew up together in Alameda. He had this... gift. Started making clothes, kids at school loved them, he couldn't keep up... I started helping. Just keeping his expenses straight. Turns out, I'm good at numbers.

(then)  
I do business, I manage this company's finances, but I've just been going along for the ride, helping Eddie fulfill his dream. No regrets, it's a good job and I have a lot of fun. But I'm hardly some... arch-capitalist.

(then)  
My dad was a union man. Believe it or not-- I'm on Faye's side.

Nicky takes that in, surprised. He's charmed her. But still--

NICKY  
I'm still keeping my eye on you and Eddie.

He laughs.

MIKE  
Of course. Faye's lucky to have you in her corner.

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Nicky moves off at the party, but we hold on MIKE... and watch as his mask drops. Gone is the charming, self-deprecating guy. We see he's anxious... anxious and pissed. Once Nicky's out of sight, he pulls out his phone. Calls someone.

MIKE (CONT'D)

We've got a problem.

(then)

Nicky Shen. She's making a mess... and I need you to clean it up.

Oh shit. Mike's called in a hit on Nicky!

MIKE (CONT'D)

The sooner, the better. Thanks.

He hangs up. He's pale, almost disassociated from the magnitude of what he's set in motion-- but he has zero regrets. He wants Nicky gone.

He adjusts his tie, putting his party "game face" back on-- and steps back into the crowd to mingle, back to charming ole Mike. Pats a buddy's shoulder...

MIKE (CONT'D)

Hey man, how's it going?

Off Mike, back in schmooze mode...

END

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