

THE MASTER ACTOR

SEPTEMBER

WEEK 1

JACKIE

What about you Max?

MAX

What? If I was in Nicolet's place?

JACKIE

No, I mean you, right now. Not if you were somebody else.

MAX

If I saw a way to walk off with a shopping bag full of money, would I take it?

JACKIE

You know where it came from. It's not like it's anybody's life savings. It wouldn't even be missed.

MAX

A half-a-million dollars will always be missed.

JACKIE

You're avoiding the question.

MAX

Okay, sure. I might be tempted. Especially now, since I'm getting out of the bail bonds business.

Jackie looks at him, "wow, that was a statement," but she doesn't say anything.

Max continues.

MAX

I have to stand behind all my active bonds, but I'm not writing any new ones.

JACKIE

Why?

MAX

A lot of reasons. But the main one would be I'm tired of it.

JACKIE

When did you decide?

MAX

It's been a long time coming. I finally made up my mind... I guess it was Thursday.

JACKIE

The day you got me out of jail?

MAX

Yeah, that night I went to pick up a guy. I hear he's staying at this house, so I sneak in, wait for him to come home.

JACKIE

Wait a minute. After we were together you went and snuck into a guy's house?

MAX

Uh-huh. I went to this guy's house in El Monte, and I waited for him.

JACKIE

What do you do when he comes home?

MAX

He never came home. But I'm sitting on the couch, in the dark, holding my stun gun and the whole house smells of mildew. So after a couple hours I think, "What am I doing here? Nineteen years of this shit? So I made up my mind, that's it.

JACKIE

And is that it?

MAX

More or less.

Jackie takes a pause before saying;

JACKIE

I'm not sure you answered my question.

MAX

Which one?

JACKIE

If you had a chance, unemployed now, to walk off with a
half-million dollars, would you take it?

MAX

I believe I said I'd be tempted.

Jackie smiles at him behind cigarette smoke.