139A INT. TOWN CAR - NEIL MCCAULEY

Neil didn't expect this contact. What does Hanna intend? Both men look at each other.

NEIL

So?

HANNA

Let's talk.

NEIL (beat; then)

Sure. Buy me a cup of coffee.

As Hanna crosses back to his car...

140 INT. RESTAURANT - HANNA + NEIL - NIGHT

at a table. Headlights stream by: business people, families going on vacations, people living normal lives who have never used guns, never experienced physical violence, never been stolen from and never steal. Surrounded on all sides by this flow of normalcy:

HANNA

Seven years in San Quentin. In the hole for three. McNeil before that.

NEIL

Yeah.

HANNA

McNeil as tough as they say?

NEIL

You looking to become a penologist?

HANNA

You lookin' to go back? I chased down some crews, the guys looked at bein' out as a run: steal until they got busted back.

NEIL

You must have worked some dip-shit crews.

HANNA

I worked all kinds.
NEIL
(pause)
You see me doing thrill-seeker liquor store holdups with a 'Born to Lose' tattoo on my chest?

HANNA
No, I do not.

NEIL
Right. And I...
(low threat)
I am never going back.

The adversarial intensity is eye-to-eye.

HANNA
Then don't take down scores.

NEIL

HANNA
You never wanted a regular-type life?

NEIL
What the fuck is that? Barbecues and ballgames?

HANNA
Yeah.

NEIL
This regular-type life? That your life?

HANNA
No. My life is a disaster zone. I got a step-daughter who's fucked-up 'cause her real father's a banal asshole. My wife and I are passing each other on the downslope of our marriage. Cause every moment I got I spend chasing guys like you around the block.
NEIL
A guy told me one time, don't let yourself get attached to anything you're not willing to walk out on, if you feel the heat around the corner in 30 seconds flat.
(pause)
So, if you are on me and you gotta move when I move, how do you expect to keep a marriage?

HANNA
What are you, a monk?

NEIL
No.
(pause)
I got a woman.

HANNA
What do you tell her?

NEIL
She thinks I'm a salesman.

HANNA
And if you spot me around the corner... You gonna walk out? Not say goodbye?

NEIL
(yes)
That's the discipline.

HANNA
That's pretty vacant.

NEIL
Yeah?
(beat)
It is what it is. That or go do somethin' else.

HANNA
I don't know how to do anything else.

NEIL
Neither do I.

HANNA
And I don't much want to.

TO MM: focus as very low-key challenge: adversarial tone.

VARIATION: add
TO N: You get the same right to choose to do in life as he does.

NEIL
(the shared confession)
...neither do I.

HANNA
You know, I get this recurring dream. I'm at this big banquet table and all the victims of all the murders I've worked are at the banquet table. They're looking at me with black eyeballs 'cause they got eightball hemorrhages from head shot wounds. Big bloated balloon people 'cause I found 'em after two weeks under the bed when the neighbors reported the smell. They're all there.

NEIL
What do they say?

HANNA
Nothing.

NEIL(05)
There's no talk?

HANNA
No. They don't have anything to say. We look at each other. They look at me. That's the dream.

NEIL
I have one where I'm drowning. And I gotta make myself wake up and start breathing or I'll die in my sleep.

HANNA
You know what it's about?

NEIL
Yeah. Having enough time.

HANNA
Time enough to do what you want to do?

NEIL
That's right.

HANNA
You doing it now?
NEIL
No. Not yet.

Both of these guys look at each other and recognize the mutuality of their condition. Hanna's light laughter.

HANNA
We're sitting here like a coupla regular fellas. You do what you do. I do what I gotta do. And now that we been face-to-face, if I am there and I got to put you away?
(pause)
I won't like it. But, if it is you or some poor bastard whose wife you're going to turn into a widow, brother, you are gonna go down.
'Cause you did not have to be there. You coulda been a...been a mailman.

NEIL
There's a flip side to that coin. What if you do got me boxed in, and I gotta put you down.
(beat)
'Cause no matter what, you will not get in my way.
(beat)
Now that we been face-to-face... But I will not hesitate. Not for a second.

HANNA
(smiles)
Maybe it'll happen that way. Or who knows...

NEIL
...maybe we'll never see each other again.

They look at each other for a moment. Neil's wry smile.

HANNA
(to waitress)
Can we have the bill.

CUT TO:

141 INT. HANNA'S OFFICE - HANNA - NIGHT

entering.