

PLANNING MURDER - role of Joe, Male age 30s and older
Synopsis: A desperate man Joe asks his little brother Peter to kill him.

JOE

Listen... Peter, I need you to kill me.

PETER

What? What did you say?

JOE

I said I need you to kill me.

PETER

I heard what you fucking said. I don't get the joke.

JOE

For the sake of my family.

PETER

What are you talking about?

JOE

My insurance policy still covers me. The death benefit is 12.5 million dollars.

PETER

Oh my god. You're serious. Are you fucking crazy?

JOE

No. I'm not crazy. I'm saner than I have ever been. I need the money.

PETER

You need the money? Why don't you just get a loan or something, from a bank or whatever-

JOE

I already tried that. I got denied by seven different lenders.

PETER

Well then go to your friends Joe. Ya got those fuckin' rich friends or whatever; just ask them for help.

JOE

I did. There's only so much you can ask for.

PETER

Well, then, fuck it. Just declare bankruptcy like everybody else.

JOE

And then what? Get a studio apartment in Pacoima for me, Zo and Christine? Live off top ramen and mac and cheese everyday while I run around knocking on doors trying to get a job that pays half of what I used to clear?

PETER

Yeah, well, who says you couldn't?

JOE

I've been out of work for two years, with zero prospects. Not only am I gonna lose the house, but they're gonna repossess the car any minute. Meantime our six figure debt continues to mount. I've thought it all through, okay? My family has only one way out of this.

PETER

Jesus man, can you even fuckin' hear yourself? You're saying you would rather die than lose your big house in the hills and your precious fuckin' beamer? Get the fuck outta here!

JOE

No, I'm saying I'd rather die than have Zo lose the education she's getting and the medication she needs. I'm saying I'd rather die than have Christine break her back working double shifts just so we can ... stop.

PETER

Stop what?

JOE

Stop trying to figure out different ways to talk me out of this. I'm doing this. All I need now is someone to help me do it.

PETER

Why?

JOE

Because I can't have it look like a suicide.

PETER

And what makes you think that I would actually help you do this? Name one fuckin' reason.

JOE

I'll give you 2.5 million reasons.

PETER

What are you talkin' about?

JOE

That would be your share. You're a 20% beneficiary. I made you that a long time ago because I wanted to make sure that you were taken care of. Peter, you know you need this money as much as my family. Think of what you could do with it. You could get out of this shithole. Start a new life for yourself, anywhere you want. This would not make you a murderer.

PETER

Oh, no? What would it make me?

JOE

A millionaire. That's all you gotta remember.