

INT - DAY - CAFE

PAUL

Thanks for meeting me here. I would've invited you to my office, but the electric company shut off our power.

JACK

That's unfortunate.

PAUL

Just an issue with the bank and a lack of money in it. Now, as you know, we are very eager to publish your memoirs, but you keep missing your deadlines.

JACK

I know, and I'm sorry, but I am making great progress.

PAUL

Look, we really need a bestseller here at Bookstar Publishing. Things are not that great for me, money wise.

JACK

Aren't you an editor at a major publishing house?

PAUL

Yeah, a publishing house. When was the last time you saw a book?

JACK

I thought I saw someone reading one in the park the other day, but it turned out it was a takeout menu.

WAITRESS

(dropping the check)
Whenever you're ready.

PAUL

(clears throat)

JACK

Ugh.
(he pulls out his wallet)

PAUL

We're living month to month here.
We're kinda counting on your
autobiography to save the company,
no pressure.

JACK

That's actually a lot of pressure.

PAUL

Have you considered working with a
ghostwriter?

JACK

Ugh, no, thank you. Look, just give
me one more week, and I will give
you some pages that'll knock your
ass to the Texas.

PAUL

I'm from Cincinnati. It-- that
doesn't matter. I'll call you in a
week.

JACK

Yes, one week. I'm telling you,
this book is a top priority for me.

CUT TO: