

Writing Sample - Elle Sillitoe
'Bargaining Chip' group scene.

After being kidnapped by the Bandit Lord Nero, Canus Minicius, known as 'The Silver Spider', desperately bargains for his life. Claiming to be a high-ranking member of the elusive yet immensely rich Salvian family, Canus persuades Nero to spare his life in exchange for ransom.

Nero has organised a meeting with Augustin, the Mob Boss of the Salvian family, in order to commence a tense round of negotiations.

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED STABLE - NIGHT

AUGUSTIN watches over a sleeping horse, back turned, barely visible in the low moonlight. The door swings open with a THUD. Enter NERO, followed by CANUS who has his mouth gagged with cloth and hands tied.

AUGUSTIN

Took your precious time, Nero.

NERO

Well I'm here, ain't I? And I brought your little spider.

CANUS

(muffled)

Ungag me!

Nero reaches down and removes the gag from Canus' mouth, keeping a knife close to his throat.

CANUS

(spitting out small bits of cloth)

Thank you, sir. How kind.

NERO

Let's cut to the chase. I know that this man is awfully important to you and your family. I also know that you've got access to the Guild's vault. How about we cut a deal?

Augustin looks to Canus, his eyebrow raised with amusement. He smiles.

NERO

Oi! What's so funny?

Augustin crosses his arms. Canus looks a little nervous.

AUGUSTIN

I've never met this man in my
life.

NERO

You what?

Nero looks at Canus in confusion.

NERO (cont'd)

Have you been lying to me?

CANUS

Gentlemen, gentlemen. If we'd
all just take a step back and --

Furious, Nero lowers the knife and grabs Canus by his
hair, yanking him into the air. Nero shouts:

NERO

I'm going to rip you apart, limb
by limb!

Canus positions his bound-hands by the lowered knife.
Then, he lurches forward, wrestling the knife out of
Nero's grip, and sinking it deep into his thigh.
Nero screams in agony, losing his balance.

NERO

Aaaah! You worm! You snivelling,
simpering --

Nero collapses in a pool of blood, sputtering
unintelligible cries of pain. Canus brushes himself off,
looking to Augustin who is watching with vague amusement.

CANUS

That wasn't funny, you know. I
could have been killed.

AUGUSTIN

Oh Canus, grow a sense of
humour. You're a spider - he had
eight limbs to get through.

CANUS

By the Gods... And I thought
accountancy would be boring.

END OF WRITING SAMPLE