

## The Client (1994)

Mark Sway and his little brother, Ricky, are sneaking cigarettes in the forest near their home when they witness the suicide of mob lawyer Jerome Clifford. Prior to his suicide, Clifford reveals to Mark that he is killing himself to avoid being murdered by Barry "The Blade" Muldanno, the nephew of notorious mob kingpin "Uncle Johnny Sulari". As a result of witnessing the suicide, Ricky goes in to shock and is hospitalized. It soon becomes apparent to authorities - and the mob - that Clifford may have revealed to Mark the location of the body of a Louisiana senator believed to have been murdered by Muldanno.

Mark seeks out a lawyer, and finds Reggie Love (Susan Sarandon), a recovering alcoholic who agrees to defend him in court. They quickly run afoul of Roy Foltrigg (Tommy Lee Jones), a celebrated and vain U.S. Attorney, who is attempting to solve the case as a springboard to greater ambitions. In the mean time, it is revealed that Sulari never authorized Muldanno to make the hit on the senator, and is requiring Muldanno to try and figure out how much the kids may know about the location of the body. Muldanno is also required to move the body, but isn't able to immediately because he had buried it in Clifford's boathouse, and the cops are still on the property investigating his suicide.

As all parties become increasingly desperate, Foltrigg tries to go to continued legal lengths to get the location of the body through Mark's testimony, while Sulari eventually orders Muldanno to kill the children and their lawyer to avoid any further screw-ups in trying to deal with the case. He also orders the body moved, now that the investigation at Clifford's home is over.

Mark and Reggie go to New Orleans to confirm that the body is still where he was told it is, knowing that it is their only bargaining chip to get Ricky the help he needs, and to place the family in protective custody. They arrive the same night as Muldanno and his fellow mafia goons, who begin digging up the body but who are stopped by Mark and Reggie. In the melee that follows, the mafia goons flee when the neighbor's alarm is tripped and the authorities are summoned.

Knowing that the body is there, Reggie is able to use the information as a bargaining chip to get the family the full slate of protective custody and medical help for Ricky, as well as a new home and job for the children's mother. Mark and Reggie share a heartfelt goodbye; both of them admit to loving each other. Although not explicitly stated, it becomes apparent that Sulari has had enough of Muldanno and is going to have his nephew killed. With the body recovered, Foltrigg is a lock-in for the newspaper headlines he craves, and makes mention that he intends to run for governor.

## Cast

- Susan Sarandon as Regina "Reggie" Love
- Tommy Lee Jones as "Reverend" Roy Foltrigg
- Brad Renfro as Mark Sway
- Mary-Louise Parker as Dianne Sway
- David Speck as Ricky Sway
- Anthony LaPaglia as Barry "The Blade" Muldanno
- J. T. Walsh as Jason McThune
- Anthony Heald as Larry Trumann
- Bradley Whitford as Thomas Fink
- Anthony Edwards as Clint Von Hooser
- Micolle Mercurio as Momma Love

- Ossie Davis as Judge Harry Roosevelt
- Will Patton as Sergeant Hardy
- Dan Castellana as Slick Moeller
- Ron Dean as Uncle Johnny Sulari
- Kim Coates as Paul Gronke
- William H. Macy as Dr. Greenway
- Kimberly Scott as Doreen
- Walter Olkewicz as Jerome "Romey" Clifford

## Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

**Lawyer's Secretary:** Where are your parents?

**Mark:** Where are yours?

**Lawyer's Secretary:** Are you even injured?

**Mark:** Do I look injured?

**Lawyer's Secretary:** Well, we only do injuries.

**Mark:** Well, I'll just go get hit by a truck and come back.

**Are you even injured?** = sei (almeno) ferito?; **we only do injuries** = ci occupiamo solo di lesioni

**Reggie:** I have been sober for three years.

**Mark:** Yeah right, that's what all the drunks say, how they're gonna get sober and all. They even say they love you but they don't. And then they come home wasted and beat on you and your mother so bad that you gotta hit 'em in the face with a baseball bat!

**Reggie:** You're talkin' about your daddy aren't you?

**Mark:** Yeah, well, I got rid of him. When me and my mom went into court to by our divorce our lawyer SUCKED as usual, so I went up there and told the judge myself about all the beatin's, about how he made us sleep in the street. And that's when my father became my ex-father, and now I got you, and you're a drunk and a bad lawyer too! So now I'm gettin' rid of you, you're fired, okay?

**wasted** = (di alcol) sbronzo; (di droga) strafatto; **to suck** = (informale) fare schifo; **to fire** = (qui) licenziare

**Mark:** Thanks Rev. Roy, you've been a real pain in the ass.

**Roy:** Thank you, son. I can assure you, you have been an even larger pain in the ass.

**pain in the ass** = (volgare) rompicoglioni

**Reggie:** [upon seeing Mark's Led Zeppelin t-shirt] You like Led Zeppelin?

**Mark:** Yeah. Do YOU like Led Zeppelin?

**Reggie:** Oh, sure. They were a great band.

**Mark:** I bet you've never even heard of Led Zeppelin. I bet you're just one of them grown ups who just pretends to like really cool bands just to get close to little punks like me.

**Reggie:** Well, I think we've covered just about everything...

**Mark:** Ok, what's your favorite Led Zeppelin song?

**Reggie:** um... Moby Dick, live version. Bitchin' drum solo.

**bitchin'** = (inglese americano informale) grande, grandissimo; **solo** = assolo

**Reggie:** You've been lyin' to me. You got three to tell me the truth, 1... 2... 3...

**Mark:** YOU'RE THE LIAR! KEEP THE DOLLAR! YOU'RE FIRED!

**You got three to tell me the truth** = hai tempo fino al tre per dirmi la verità

**Roy:** What's the Cloak and Dagger all about Reggie, you know you can trust us?

**Reggie:** You three come here alone?

**Roy:** Uh huh.

**Reggie:** That the truth?

**Roy:** 'course it is!

**Reggie:** [smiles] Well then, why don't you have one of them

[points to the agents]

**Reggie:** Just trot out to one of those cars that aren't in the parkin' lot and get a pen and paper from one of those agents that aren't out there?

**Cloak and Dagger** = mistero

**Roy:** You've been awful busy, Reggie, obstruction of justice, tampering with federal evidence, [pauses as he taps his pen on the table]

**Roy:** contributing to the delinquency of a minor, you've been REAL busy.

**Reggie:** Oh Roy, I am so FLATTERED that you noticed!

**to tamper** = falsificare, manomettere; **evidence** = prove

**Roy:** Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, so sayeth the Psalms!

**Judge Harry Roosevelt:** That's Proverbs 12:22.

**Psalms** = (Bibbia) Libro dei Salmi; **Proverbs** = (Bibbia) Libro dei Proverbi

**Clint Von Hooser:** [Reggie borrows money from Clint so she can take Mark Sway to New Orleans]  
There goes my rent money. Now where am I gonna stay?

**Reggie:** You can stay here and take care of Momma Love. She likes you better than me, anyway.

**Clint Von Hooser:** Well, that ain't hard to do.

**There goes my rent money** = ecco dove vanno a finire i soldi per l'affitto

**Roy:** Okay... what do you want?

**Reggie:** You have access to a private jet?

**Roy:** I do.

**Reggie:** Send it to Memphis, have it pick up Diane and Ricky Sway, bring them here. The whole family enters the Witness Protection program. Well, how are we doing so far?

**Roy:** [writing] Nothing I can't live with.

**Reggie:** The program sets them up with a fair income, and a nice little house. White, with a walk-in closet.

[off Roy's look]

**Reggie:** Well, write it down. "Walk-in closet."

**Roy:** [sarcastic] Is "walk in" hyphenated?

**Is "walk in" hyphenated** = "walk in" si scrive con il trattino?

**Roy:** Help me out here, Reggie. How far is it to that body?

**Reggie:** [leans forward and whispers] Twelve itty, bitty, tiny minutes.

**Roy:** [grins] Thank you, Reggie.

**Reggie:** You're welcome, Roy.

**You're welcome** = prego; piacere mio

Dianne Sway: All I ever wanted was a white house with a walk-in closet.  
**walk-in closet** = stanza guardaroba

**Sources:**

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