Scene 1: First Discussions.

Fade in.

Several people are seated around the table in a small casual restaurant. Two of them are journalists, Bob and Carl, and the other is a popular actor, Robert. Robert, is also a producer, and is interested in buying the movie rights to a book the two journalists have been working on about the story they recently investigated. He is convinced that he can make a good movie out of it, but first he must convince the journalists…

Robert: “I read your manuscript, and of course have kept up with the story as you’ve been covering it in the newspaper. It’s something I’d really like to make into a movie, a movie that shows how journalists work and what they can do.”

Bob: “Look, we agreed to meet with you, but the truth is we’re not really looking to make a movie out of this… We’ve still got so much going on. The full effects of the story are still unfolding as we speak. We’ve got government breathing down our necks, we’re under surveillance… What makes you so interested in our manuscript anyway?”
Robert: “It’s a story that really caught my eye. Everybody knows this story, but not everybody knows the process behind this story. That’s what I want to show in the movie. I think you’re going in the wrong direction with your book, actually. It should focus on you, on what you did, on the act of reporting, not what happened in the end. Everyone knows that part already.”

Carl: “I don’t know. It was never our goal to ‘go Hollywood’.” There are already so many people who say we have ulterior motives. I’d rather not give them any more fodder for those claims.”

Bob: “I also feel that way… I didn’t agree to a meeting with you earlier just because we have more important things to focus on right now.”

Robert: “That’s exactly why I think a movie is important, see? It’s such an important story, and a movie will serve as a tribute to that.”

Carl: “Frankly, I’m a little skeptical about that. I know how movies embellish the facts. I don’t want this story to become just another Hollywood show. And I want to be careful that people don’t think we’re just in this for the glory of being made into a film.”

Bob: “If we do agree to this thing, I’d want to make sure that everything goes through us. I want you to keep faithful to the story that we wrote in our manuscript.”

Robert: “Of course, I understand your concerns. It’s my goal to present as authentic and honest a portrayal of the events as possible.”

*Carl glances at Bob, nods slightly. Bob nods back*

Bob: “If we can agree on that then, I say I’m willing to agree to a movie being made.”
Robert: “Great, glad to hear it. Now if you don’t mind, could you introduce me to your publisher? I’d like to speak with her about it too, since ideally we’d be filming some of the footage on location and…”

*Robert keeps speaking, but his voice fades out as the camera tracks backwards away from the table.*

Scene fades out.

Scene 2: Discussions Continued.

Fade in.

Robert, Carl and Bob are again sitting around a table, this time joined by the journalists’ publisher, Kath. She has agreed to meet them at her home, and they are seated on the porch, drinking tea, talking amiably.

Robert: “The movie I want to make will show how reporters investigate. I want to get down to the real nitty gritty of the process and show what and who’s behind a story like this one. I want to have it be a kind of how-to of reporting, so to speak.”

Kath: “I appreciate the interest. It’s just that I have my doubts about the story making it through the movie process intact. Will it really be the same story afterwards? And how will including my paper’s name effect the public perception of it? Making a movie like this could have a lot of effect on its image. People remember the movies’ portrayals of things, sometimes almost more than the actual things themselves, sad as that may be…”
Robert: “Of course, I want to take every precaution and make it as accurate as possible. We’d like to shoot scenes in the actual newsroom if possible.”

*Turning to Bob and Carl, Robert continues.*

Robert: “I and the other actor playing Carl would also like to shadow you two and get a look into your lives and how you work. We’d like to see how the job is done firsthand.”

*Turning back towards Kath, Robert concludes.*

Robert: “I want to make this movie as accurate as possible. You don’t need to worry about that.”

*Kath sits silently, thinking.*

Kath: “As I said, I have my concerns about a movie being made… And it’s not just authenticity either. I want to be careful about how the newspaper and journalism are presented in this film. There have been plenty of films made portraying journalists in any number of ways, not all of them flattering or realistic. And these portrayals stay with people. They are what people remember, they stay in the public image, and they are what shapes the way the profession is seen by those who don’t know it on a more personal level. A movie version of something I lived through is an exciting thought, but it also scares me in a lot of ways.”

Robert: “That’s understandable. See, what I want to do is show the great things journalism can do, the great power it can have, but also the people who are behind it. And I want to portray it and your paper as authentically as I can. That’s why we’d like to follow your journalists in their everyday activities. That’s why we’d like to film footage in the newsroom. And we have a great actress in mind to portray you too.”

Kath: “Actually, even if there is a movie made, I’d prefer not to be included.”
*Robert pauses, looks briefly confused, but recovers quickly and moves on.*

**Robert:** “If that’s what you want, alright.”

**Kath:** “As for filming in the actual newsroom, I feel like that might end up being more challenging than you think. It is a workspace after all. We can’t shut it down for filming.”

**Robert:** “I’d at least like to try, if it’s alright with you. If it doesn’t work we’ll figure out another way. Do we have your support for a movie then?”

*Kath nods yes. Robert smiles.*

*Sharp cut to black, and then shot opens again in the newsroom, where Robert stands in the hallway. A group of students on a tour have surrounded him, phones out and cameras clicking. Robert then spots Bob walking down the hallway towards them. He motions in Bob’s direction.*

**Robert:** “Everyone, this is the journalist who I’ll be playing in the film I’m making now. He’s the real-life star of this story. Don’t you want to meet him?”

*Cameras stop for a moment. Some heads turn towards Bob, but many stay focused on Robert or look confused.*

**Student 1:** “Who?”

**Student 2:** “No, not really.”

*Bob nears Carl who is standing over by the wall in the newsroom, and smiles slightly, stopping to stand next to him and look back over towards Robert.*

**Bob (laughing slightly):** “It seems I’m already being overshadowed by my movie counterpart, and the movie hasn’t even been made yet.”
*Carl smiles slightly in response.*

**Carl:** “We’re not in it for the glory, right? But I still don’t know if this movie is a good decision or a bad one… I guess we’ll see.”

*Shot again shows Robert. The students have moved on, for the most part, continuing down the hallway on their tour.*

**Bob:** “I wonder... It could end up being a bad decision, or the very best. I guess we’ll see soon.”

*Scene fades out.

End.