

"THE BIG TOOTH"

C A S T

SGT. JOE FRIDAY.....JACK WEBB  
OFF. FRANK SMITH.....BEN ALEXANDER  
ELLEN RANDALL.....JUNE WHITLEY  
HENRY SCHRODER.....HARRY BARTELL  
MIKE ARMSTRONG.....KURT MARTELL

1 MUSIC: : "SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD"  
2 GIBNEY : Sound off for Chesterfield.  
3 MUSIC : SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD...DRUM ROLL  
4 GIBNEY : Chesterfield, the only cigarette in America to give you  
5 premium quality in both regular and king size.....  
6 MUSIC : DRUM ROLL CONTINUES  
7 GIBNEY : ...brings you Dragnet.  
8 MUSIC : UP AND FADE FOR:  
9 FENN : (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are  
10 about to hear is true. The names have been changed  
11 to protect the innocent.  
12 MUSIC: : UP AND FADE FOR:  
13 FENN: : You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to  
14 Homicide Detail. A young woman calls you to say  
15 that her mother has disappeared. There's no trace  
16 of her whereabouts. Foul play is suspected. Your  
17 job ... investigate.  
18 MUSIC : UP AND FADE FOR:

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

FIRST COMMERCIAL:

1 FENN : First we read you the 6 months' report, then the 8 months'  
2 report. Now, here is 10 full months' of scientific evidence  
3 on smoking Chesterfields.

4 GIBNEY: A medical specialist is making regular bi-monthly examinations  
5 of a group of people from various walks of life. 45% of this  
6 group have smoked Chesterfields for an average of over 10 years.  
7 After 10 full months, almost a year now, the specialist reports  
8 he observed no adverse effects on the nose, throat and sinuses  
9 of the group from smoking Chesterfield.

10 FENN : That's the report. And, Chesterfield is the first and only  
11 cigarette with premium quality throughout in both regular  
12 and king-size. Fine tobaccos, the world's best, costly  
13 moistening agents to keep them always tasty, always fresh, and  
14 the finest cigarette paper money can buy. Yes, everything  
15 that goes into your Chesterfield makes it the premium quality  
16 cigarette. And, it's the only cigarette that gives you this  
17 scientific evidence of real smoking pleasure. Try much milder  
18 Chesterfield today. They're best for you.

1 MUSIC : THEME

2 GIBNEY : Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime.

3 ' For the next thirty minutes, you will travel step

4 by step on the side of the law through an actual case

5 transcribed from official police files. From

6 beginning to end...from crime to punishment..Dragnet

7 is the story of your police force in action.

8 MUSIC : UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD.

9 SOUND : JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS. THEN UP STAIR AND STOP

10 JOE : It was Tuesday, August 5th. It was hot in Los

11 Angeles. We were working the day watch out of

12 Homicide Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss

13 is Thad Brown, chief of detectives. My name's Friday.

14 We were on the way out from the office and it was

15 10:46 A.M. when we got to 14298 North Estrella Street..

16 (SOUND: DOOR KNOCK) The front door.

17 SOUND: : OUTDOOR B. G.

18 FRANK : Hot.....

19 JOE : Yeah.

20 FRANK : This Mrs.....What was her name?

21 JOE : Randall...Ella Randall.

22 FRANK : Yeah. She say what this was about?

23 JOE : Just said that her mother had disappeared. That she

24 wanted to talk to us about it.

1 FRANK: Uh huh.  
2 SOUND: DOOR OPEN  
3 ELLA: Yes?  
4 JOE: Mrs. Randall?  
5 ELLA: Yes, that's right.  
6 JOE: Police officers, ma'am.  
7 ELLA: Oh yes. Come in, won't you?  
8 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK INTO HOUSE  
9 ELLA: Warm out. I think I'll leave the door open. Hope the  
10 flies don't come in.  
11 SOUND: SHE WALKS IN WITH THE OFFICERS  
12 JOE: I'm Joe Friday, Mrs. Randall. This is my partner, Frank  
13 Smith.  
14 ELLA AND FRANK SAY HELLO TO EACH OTHER  
15 JOE: Could you tell us just what it was you wanted to see us  
16 about, ma'am?  
17 ELLA: Of course. Sit down, won't you?  
18 FRANK: Thank you, Mrs. Randall.  
19 SOUND: THEY MOVE TO CHAIRS AND SIT  
20 ELLA: You like some tea or something? I have some ready in  
21 the kitchen.  
22 JOE: No, thank you, ma'am.  
23 FRANK: Just what was it about your mother, Mrs. Randall?

1 ELLA : Well, now that you're here, I guess maybe I could  
2 be wrong about it. I was so sure.  
3 JOE : Well, just what is it, ma'am.  
4 ELLA : Well, mama's gone. I don't know how long it's been  
5 but she isn't with poppa.  
6 JOE : What's your Mother's name, Mrs. Randall?  
7 ELLA : Bertha. Bertha Schroder. My father's Henry.  
8 JOE : Uh huh. Well, what makes you think that there  
9 might be something wrong? You said on the phone  
10 that you were pretty sure that something'd happened  
11 to her.  
12 ELLA : Well, yes. I guess I oughta start at the beginning.  
13 Kind of a dull story..but maybe it'd be the best way.  
14 JOE : Alright, ma'am.  
15 ELLA : You sure you wouldn't like a glass of iced tea?  
16 JOE : No, ma'am. Thanks just the same.  
17 ELLA : You mind if I get some? Just take a minute.  
18 SOUND : SHE GET'S UP AND LEAVES ROOM  
19 FRANK : (AS HE LOOKS AROUND) Nice place.  
20 JOE : Yeah.  
21 FRANK : Sure has it decorated up nice. See those trivits  
22 JOE : What?

1 FRANK : Trivits...those things over the fireplace...brass?  
2 JOE : Oh yeah.  
3 FRANK : Fay's been wantin' some of those. Used to use them to  
4 hold irons.  
5 Y'know they'd get hot and you'd put them on the  
6 ironing board so they wouldn't burn the cloth.  
7 SOUND : UNDER THE ABOVE, WE HEAR ELLEN FADE IN. SHE IS  
8 CARRYING A PITCHER OF ICED TEA. AND SOME GLASSES  
9 ON A TRAY. WE CAN HEAR THE ICE CLINK ETC.  
10 ELLEN : I brought a couple of extra glasses in case you  
11 decided you wanted some.  
12 SOUND: : SHE SETS TRAY DOWN ON TABLE AND POURS GLASS.  
13 JOE : If you'd go ahead with the story, Mrs. Randall.  
14 ELLEN : Yes. Well, to understand it really, you'd have to  
15 know poppa.  
16 JOE : Uh huh.  
17 ELLEN : He came over to this country when he was just a boy.  
18 Only about 16 or so. Landed here and couldn't speak  
19 more than a dozen words of English. Went to work  
20 in New York. Worked as a construction man. Worked  
21 hard. He met mama there and they got married. Right  
22 after that they moved out here. Bought a house and  
23 poppa went into business for himself.  
24 JOE : Yes ma'am.

1 ELLEN: Well, maybe it was the life he'd had when he got here.  
2 I don't know. But he always treated mama like she was  
3 so much dirt. Mean. Time went on, and he got meaner  
4 to her. I remember when us kids were in school, he  
5 used to yell at her all the time. He'd get in a mood,  
6 and he wouldn't talk to any of us for days at a time.

7 FRANK: Is that so?

8 ELLA: I never knew how mama took it. She'd never say anything.  
9 Just stand there and let him scream at her. Then when  
10 he was finished, she'd just kinda shrug her shoulders  
11 and take us kids out of the house. We'd walk around for  
12 a while and then go back to the house. By that time,  
13 Poppa was so he wouldn't talk to anyone.

14 JOE: Uh huh. Go ahead.

15 ELLA: Well, all of us kids married young. I got married when  
16 I was 16. Rest of the kids weren't much older than  
17 that. Poppa didn't want us around after that. Said  
18 for us to get out and make our own way. Said that we  
19 had to. So there was no reason that we shouldn't. (SHE  
20 STOPS AND TAKES A DRINK OF ICED TEA) You sure you  
21 don't want some of this?

22 JOE AND FRANK SAY NO.

23 JOE: Go ahead, Mrs. Randall.



1 ELLA : Well, a couple of months ago, I tried to call Mama. The  
2 operator told me that the phone had been disconnected.  
3 I waited a couple of days...y'know, I figured that  
4 mama'd call me.

5 FRANK : Yes ma'am.

6 ELLA : She didn't. Y'see, once were out of the house, none  
7 of us went back. Poppa's retired and none of us  
8 wanted to see him. It's a terrible thing to say Mr.  
9 Friday, but it's true.

10 JOE : Ma'am?

11 ELLA : We all hated him. All of us kids. For what he'd  
12 done to us... the beatings and all but most for  
13 what he'd done to ma'ma. She's only 52 and she looks  
14 liks she was 92. Terrible the way he treated her.

15 JOE : Uh huh.

16 ELLA : Like I said, we'd never go over there but mama'd come  
17 to see us. Whenever she could, she'd come over.  
18 Visit for a little bit. Y'know talk about the kids  
19 and things.

20 JOE : Yes ma'am.

21 ELLA : Well, when I didn't hear from her, I got a little  
22 worried that maybe she was sick. If she was I know  
23 that poppa wouldn't tell us. So I went over to the  
24 old house. I rang the bell. I was kinda braced  
25 because I thought I'd see poppa and there'd be an  
26 argument. But there wasn't.

27 FRANK : Ma'am?

1 ELLA: No argument. Poppa didn't answer the door. Some young  
2 woman answered it, and I asked if I could see Mrs.  
3 Schroder. Right away I knew there was something wrong.  
4 JOE: How's that, ma'am?  
5 ELLA: Well, I could see inside the front door. The living  
6 room had been all changed around. New furniture...  
7 looked like the walls had been painted.  
8 JOE: Uh huh. What did the woman say when you asked for your  
9 mother?  
10 ELLA: Said they didn't live there anymore. Said that they  
11 rented the house. That they'd been living there for  
12 the past month.  
13 JOE: Uh huh.  
14 ELLA: At first, I don't think I believed her. I asked her  
15 who rented the house to her. She said Poppa did. Then  
16 I asked her where he was.  
17 JOE: What'd she say?  
18 ELLA: Gave me his address. I went over there to talk to him.  
19 Little tiny apartment. Just off La Brea. He said that  
20 Mama was gone. I asked him where she'd gone, and he  
21 said that she was on a vacation.  
22 JOE: Uh huh.  
23 ELLA: Well, I know him well enough to know that he'd never let  
24 her go away. Be no one to darn his socks and keep the  
25 house clean.  
26 FRANK: Yeah?

1 ELLAN : I wanted to know where she'd gone on this vacation.  
2 He said back to the old country. Said she wanted to  
3 see her family. He said that they'd gotten a letter  
4 from her sister, that she was sick and wanted to see  
5 mama.  
6 JOE : Uh huh.  
7 ELLAN : Right then I called him a liar. Told him right to his  
8 face that he was lying. I kinda thought that he'd  
9 hit the ceiling but he didn't. Just smiled and  
10 said that I had no call to say that. Asked me why I  
11 I said it.  
12 JOE : Yeah.  
13 ELLAN : I told him that if mama had left, she'd have written.  
14 Maybe not to me, but to one of the kids. I called  
15 around when I didn't hear from her....none of the kids  
16 had. They were all worried about her too.  
17 JOE : Uh huh. What'd he say to that?  
18 ELLAN : Said that he couldn't understand it. Said that he'd  
19 gotten a letter. Said that he'd gotten it not more'n  
20 a day or so before. That she'd arrived safe and was  
21 having a wonderful time. I told him that I thought  
22 he was lying. Then he said that he'd show me the  
23 letter.  
24 JOE : Did he?  
25 ELLAN : Yeah. He wouldn't show me the envelope..just the  
26 letter. Said that he'd thrown the envelope away.

1 JOE: Was the letter from your Mother?  
2 ELLA: From the words it was. Told all about her trip and how  
3 she was enjoying herself. Said that she was with her  
4 sister and that she was getting better. And then she  
5 went on to tell how much she missed poppa and all.  
6 FRANK: Uh huh.  
7 ELLA: Right away I could tell that ti wasn't mama's  
8 handwriting. She never wrote that letter.  
9 JOE: Uh huh.  
10 ELLA: That's when I thought about calling you. Then later I  
11 remembered something and then I made up my mind.  
12 JOE: What's that Mrs. Randall?  
13 ELLA: Mama only had one sister living....She died three years  
14 ago.  
15 END SCENE I

1 JOE : 11:13 A.M. We continued to talk to Ella Randall.  
2 She told us that she was sure that her mother would  
3 not have gone off of her own free will. She said  
4 that when she last saw Mrs. Schroder, she appeared  
5 in good health and in good spirits mentally. We got  
6 the names of the other children of the Schroder family  
7 and their addresses. We also got the address of the  
8 Schroder relatives in the old country. Ellen  
9 Randall told us that we could find her father at the  
10 apartment and she gave us the address and the  
11 apartment number. 12:51 P.M. Frank and I drove over  
12 to see him.

13 HENRY : This is ridiculous. Utterly ridiculous!

14 JOE : Maybe so, sir. But we'd like to see the letter you  
15 say came from your wife.

16 HENRY : Well, now officer, I'd like very much to show it to  
17 you. Really I would but I can't.

18 FRANK : Why not sir?

19 HENRY : For the reason that I haven't got it any more. I  
20 destroyed it. Burned it a couple of days ago.

21 JOE : Who is your wife staying with sir?

22 HENRY : With her sister.

23 JOE : Uh huh. Well, from what we can find out sir, your  
24 wife's sister died three years ago. Now how could  
25 your wife be staying with her.

1 HENRY : Oh alright. I suppose I might as well tell you about  
2 it. Dosen't seem to be any other way.  
3 FRANK : Alright sir....go ahead.  
4 HENRY : First off....my wife is not in the old country. She's  
5 not with her sister. What you heard is true.  
6 JOE Uh huh.  
7 HENRY : Officer. What I have to tell you is very hard to say.  
8 I find it hard to find the right words.  
9 JOE : That's alright sir. You just go ahead.  
10 HENRY : We;ve been married for 30 years. 30 years man and  
11 wife. And then she did this. Almost broke my heart  
12 Officers. Either one of you married?  
13 JOE : Yes sir.....my partner is  
14 HENRY : (TO FRANK) Then you'd know what I mean. You'd know  
15 how it is.  
16 FRANK : Sir?  
17 HENRY : She left me. Packed her things and left. Didn't  
18 give me any reason.....Just said she didn't want to  
19 be my wife anymore. Said she didn't want to share  
20 my roof. Just left. 30 years. All that time and  
21 and she left.  
22 JOE : What kind of terms were you and your wife on sir?  
23 HENRY : What do you mean? This "terms"?  
24 JOE : Well, did you and your wife get along alright?

25

1 HENRY : Certainly. As I said we were married 30 years.  
2 JOE : Yes sir. but did you have any quarrels?  
3 HENRY : Sergeant? All married people have quarrels. Maybe the  
4 house isn't clean...maybe dinner isn't big enough.  
5 Maybe the children get too loud...all married couple  
6 have quarrels. It's part of living together.  
7 JOE From what we hear, sir, some of the arguments you and  
8 your wife had were pretty serious.  
9 HENRY : The people who said that are liars.  
10 FRANK : They seemed pretty sure sir.  
11 HENRY : Liars. That's what they are. Oh some times, maybe  
12 I'd forget myself and get a little loud. But serious?  
13 Never.  
14 JOE : How'd you get along with your children, Mr. Schroder?  
15 HENRY : What? My children?  
16 JOE : Yes sir....how'd you get along with them?  
17 HENRY : Alright. They were a little wild. All children over  
18 here are like that. Wild. They don't respect their  
19 elders. But I got along good.  
20 JOE : .....but there seems to be a difference of  
21 opinion on that too. Sees that we've heard that you  
22 and your children weren't on too friendly terms.

1 HENRY : And you believe this? You think that this is true.  
2 Mr. Friday.....Mr. Smith. These were my own flesh  
3 and blood. I loved them.....still do. Maybe that  
4 sounds hard to believe. I can imagine what you've  
5 heard...I know. I've heard about this before. I know  
6 who told you. You didn't think I'd know but I do.  
7 It was Ellen wasn't it?  
8 BEAT  
9 HENRY : Wasn't it?  
10 JOE : Who told us is not important sir.  
11 HENRY : But it is. You see....and this is very hard for me  
12 to say. 30 years married and it all a mistake.  
13 I knew it from the start. She was a shrew Mr.  
14 Friday. I knew it right away. A shrew.  
15 JOE : Sir?  
16 HENRY : My wife, Bertha. Almost from the day we were  
17 married she was a nag. All I wanted in life was to  
18 do a day's work and come home and read the paper....  
19 maybe have a pipe of tobacco. Rest. Work and have  
20 my home. Maybe, someday, when the children were  
21 grown they'd say, Poppa was good. He gave us a good  
22 house and he was good! That's all I wanted.  
23 JOE : Yes sir



1 HENRY: Bertha didn't want that. Always wanted more. For the  
2 children she said. When I wouldn't kill myself with  
3 work, she'd get angry. Talk loud to me. All I wanted  
4 was peace. When the children came along.... She taught  
5 them. Just like her.

6 FRANK: Sir?

7 HENRY: Told them what a mean man I was. Turned them against  
8 me. My own children. Taught them to hate their father.  
9 Their own father.

10 JOE: Uh huh.

11 HENRY: I saw it in them. I knew about it. At first I thought  
12 that maybe I should stop it. But then, I thought that  
13 the time would come when they'd know themselves. When  
14 they'd know that all I wanted for them was their own  
15 place in the world. Where they could have their own  
16 families. Where they could be happy. When they left  
17 home, none of them ever came to see me. Lonely, Mr.  
18 Friday. Very lonely.....and there was nothing I could  
19 do about it. I had to just wait and see if they would  
20 wake up to me.

21 JOE: Uh huh. Well, why didn't you tell your children that  
22 your wife left you?

1 HENRY: No, Mr. Friday. I couldn't do that. Each of them has  
2 their own home. They all have their own problems. No  
3 need for me to bring more grief into their houses. This  
4 would break their hearts. They might hate me, but I don't  
5 want them to hate their mother. I couldn't do that. The  
6 Lord would never forgive me for that.

7 JOE: Have you heard from your wife at all since she left?

8 HENRY: Not a word. I made up that letter so the children wouldn't  
9 find out. I couldn't have that.

10 JOE: She take any money with her, do you know?

11 HENRY: Yes, she did. We have a joint account at the bank, two  
12 blocks over. She made a large withdrawal the day she left.

13 FRANK: Why'd you rent your house?

14 HENRY: I was all by myself. The house was full of Bertha. All  
15 the things were hers. Everywhere I looked, I saw her. It  
16 hurt me, Mr. Smith. To see her and know that she was gone.  
17 I had to get out. So I came here. It's not much, but I  
18 can read the paper...and now and then have a pipe of  
19 tobacco. It's peaceful. It's all I need.

20 JOE: Uh huh. What'd you do with your wife's personal effects?

21 HENRY: I don't think I understand, Sergeant.

22 JOE: Her clothes...the furniture from the house, things like  
23 that?

24 HENRY: They're in storage. I had some men come out and take all  
25 of it away, stored it away. Thought that maybe someday  
26 Bertha would come back and we could take up where we left  
27 off.

1 JOE: Yes, sir. Could you give us the name of the storage  
2 company where you left the furniture?  
3 HENRY: Certainly. It's out on Pico. I can give you the address.  
4 Is that important?  
5 JOE: No, sir. Not really. Just something we should cover.  
6 FRANK: Don't you think it might be better if you told your  
7 daughter about all of this, sir? What's happened?  
8 HENRY: No, Mr. Smith. It wouldn't prove anything. Nothing at  
9 all.  
10 JOE: If that's the way you want it, sir, there's nothing we can  
11 do about it.  
12 HENRY: It's better, Mr. Friday....believe me. I know. If they  
13 hate me, there's not much I can do about it. But I don't  
14 want to bring them any unhappiness. I couldn't do that.  
15 JOE: Yes, sir.  
16 HENRY: I'm 65 years old, Mr. Friday. I've worked hard all that  
17 time. Harder than most men. Had four children. They're  
18 all grown and have families of their own. All this, and  
19 I've got nothing. Nothing but lonely days and empty  
20 nights.  
21 JOE: Yes, sir.  
22 HENRY: It's an awful thing..... just awful.

1 JOE: Sir?

2 HENRY: To work all your life and have nothing to show for it.

3 END SCENE 2

4 JOE: 1:37 P.M. We got the address of the storage company from  
5 Henry Schroder and then Frank and I left to go back  
6 to the office. At this point we had two stories. Both  
7 of them could be true. Both of them could be lies.  
8 There was no way of knowing. In the meantime, it was  
9 merely a matter of checking. Until it could be proved  
10 one way or the other, there was little action we could  
11 take. 2:15 P.M. Frank and I checked back into the  
12 office and I put in a call to the storage house.

13 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

14 JOE: (ON PHONE) Yessir....I'll wait while you check it?

15 FRANK: I dunno, Joe, Sure seems like the old guy's tellin'  
16 the truth.

17 JOE: We check this out and we'll know one way or the other.

18 FRANK: Such a nice little guy. Seems hard to believe that he'd  
19 do anything wrong.

1 JOE: I suppose....(TO PHONE) Yes sir. What was that....uh  
2 huh. Could you tell me when? Yes sir. What was the  
3 name? Uh huh.....that's right. Yes sir. Alright...  
4 uh huh. Right.....thank you.....That's right. Joe  
5 Friday....Michigan 5211....Extension 2521....,that's  
6 right 2521. Right. Alright sir thanks again.

7 SOUND: PHONE HANG UP

8 FRANK: How 'bout it?

9 JOE: He stored the furniture alright.

10 FRANK: Yeah?

11 JOE: They remembered him alright. Talked to 'em a couple  
12 weeks ago.

13 FRANK: Uh huh.

14 JOE: Told 'em to sell everything.

15 END SCENE 3

1 JOE: We drove out to the storage house and talked to the owner.  
2 He said that Schroder had called them out to pack the  
3 furniture and then ordered it stored. A week later, he  
4 called back and told them to dispose of all of the  
5 furnishings and personal effects. We called Schroder's bank  
6 and they told us that there'd been no large withdrawals on  
7 the date of her disappearance. Also, she'd drawn no checks  
8 since. We got in touch with the other children, and they  
9 verified their sister's story of Schroder. They all said that  
10 the father was a mean man and had, on several occasions,  
11 struck Mrs. Schroder. They told us that it was possible that  
12 she had left her husband, but that if she had, she would  
13 certainly have gotten in touch with one of them. They said  
14 that as far as they knew, Mrs. Schroder was in good health  
15 and was in good condition mentally. One of the daughters  
16 said that they were planning on a shopping trip to buy school  
17 clothes for one of the grandchildren. The woman went on to  
18 say that as far as she knew, Mrs. Schroder would not have left  
19 without saying something to her about not being able to keep  
20 the appointment. We got in touch with Ella Randall, and she  
21 said that she would like to accompany us when we talked to the  
22 neighbors of the Schroder woman. She said that she could  
23 point out her mother's friends, and that she would be able to  
24 trace her mother's movements about the neighborhood for us.  
25 4:15 P.M. We picked her up. We talked to the neighbors, and  
26 they told us of hearing loud voices coming from the house.  
27 They said that Mr. Schroder was always angry at his wife, and  
28 made no attempt to hide it. 7:30 P.M. We went to talk to  
29 the people who had rented the Schroder home.

- 1 MIKE: Sure you can come. No reason you can't.
- 2 JOE: Thank you very much Mr. Armstrong. This is my partner,  
3 Frank smith...this is Mrs. Randall.
- 4 MIKE: Yes, Mrs. Randall and I have met before. How are you  
5 Mrs. Randall?
- 6 ELLAN: How are you Mr. Armstrong.
- 7 SOUND: THEY COME INTO THE HOUSE AND CLOSE THE DOOR.
- 8 MIKE: Now what's all this about?
- 9 JOE: Like to ask you some questions about the Schrodgers.
- 10 MIKE: Well, Mrs. Randall here would be able to answer them better  
11 for you. They're her parents.
- 12 JOE: Yes sir...but we'd like some information from you.
- 13 MIKE: Alright...go ahead. Don't think there's much that I can  
14 tell you.
- 15 JOE: Did you see Mrs. Schroder when you rented the house?
- 16 MIKE: No...come to think about it I didn't. Mr. Schroder talked  
17 about her but I didn't see her when we took the house.
- 18 FRANK: Uh huh. How did Mr. Schroder act when you rented the  
19 place?
- 20 MIKE: I don't think I understand.
- 21 FRANK: Did he seem upset. Anything at all unusual about him?
- 22 MIKE: As a matter of fact there was.
- 23 FRANK: Sir?

1 MIKE: Well, the house was kinda old. Y'know...paint missing  
2 from some of the woodwork. Some of the paper was a little  
3 faded. And we asked him if he planned to fix it up before  
4 we moved it. Y'know if he'd foot the bill.

5 JOE: Yeah.

6 MIKE: Right away I kinda expected an argument. He just seemed  
7 like that kind of a guy. Y'know...who wouldn't spend a  
8 nickle that he didn't have to.

9 JOE: Yes sir.

10 MIKE: But it wasn't like that. Just smiled and said anything  
11 that we wanted he'd have done. Real nice. Sure hasn't  
12 caused us any trouble. Course there's no reason for him  
13 to. We pay the rent on time. Take care of the lawn and  
14 the flowers. I think we're pretty good tenants.

15 ELLAN: Sure is a difference. Never looked like this when we lived  
16 here. I remembered that mama would ask him to paint up  
17 the place a little. He'd always raise the roof. Said that  
18 there wasn't any reason to do it. Said to wait until the  
19 kids were grown and appreciated a house.

20 MIKE: Not like that with us.



1 ELLAN: Well, he was with his own family. Even when we were gone.  
2 After we'd left the house he said that there wasn't any  
3 reason to fix the place up. Said that mama and him were  
4 the only people who ever saw the inside of it. Didn't  
5 matter to them.

6 MIKE: Like I said,..couldn't ask for a better landlord.

7 ELLAN: I hate to ask this....

8 MIKE: Yeah.

9 ELLAN: I wonder if I could see the rest of the house. I'd like to  
10 see what he did to it.

11 BEAT:

12 MIKE: Well, I guess it's okay. If you won't take too long. I  
13 gotta eat pretty quick. Gotta bowl tonight. The team's  
14 playing in the League championship tonight.

15 ELLAN: Just a look. I won't keep you.

16 MIKE: Okay. Well, you know the house...

17 ELLAN: Yes.

18 MIKE: This is the living room....

19 SOUND: FOLLOW THEIR MOVEMENT UNDER.

20 MIKE: Bedroom's are down the hall. This is the dining room.

21 ELLAN: Pretty paper. It'd have made mama so happy to have this.

22 MIKE: This here's the bath.

- 1 ELLAN: All new tile. Just beautiful.
- 2 MIKE: Yeah. Makes it nice.
- 3 SOUND: STEPS AND DOOR OPEN.
- 4 MIKE: This is the master bedroom.
- 5 ELLAN: This was papa's room. Sure is nice. Pretty curtains.
- 6 MIKE: Those are ours. He said that he'd put in drapes if we  
7 wanted 'em but Sally...that's the wife...she likes  
8 curtains.
- 9 JOE: Uh huh.
- 10 SOUND: THEY MOVE DOWN THE HALL
- 11 MIKE: We use this for the oldest boy.
- 12 SOUND: DOOR OPEN.
- 13 ELLAN: This was mama's room. Just beautiful. That's a beautiful  
14 carpet.
- 15 MIKE: Yeah...he put that in too. Didn't even have to ask for  
16 that. His own idea.
- 17 ELLAN: Wall to wall carpeting. Mama always wanted it.
- 18 MIKE: The only room in the house that has it.
- 19 JOE: You have a cellar to the house Mr. Armstrong?
- 20 MIKE: Yeah. We use it for the freezer. Sally puts up canned  
21 goods in the summer. Keep them down there.
- 22 JOE: Wonder if we could see it please.

1 MIKE: Sure. But there isn't any change down there. He didn't  
2 do anything to the cellar. Just like when we looked  
3 at the house.

4 JOE: If it's alright..we'd like to see it.

5 MIKE: Well, sure. Like to make it fast though. I gotta eat  
6 y'know.

7 JOE: Yes sir. Won't take a minute.

8 MIKE: Sure...It's down this way.

9 SOUND: THEY WALK BACK DOWN HALL AND STOP.

10 MIKE: (OVER WALK.) Had to run electricity down there for the  
11 freezer. I guess he'd have done it but it was just an  
12 extension cord. Thought about having it down permantly  
13 but no real reason to.

14 JOE: Uh huh.

15 SOUND: STEPS STOP AND MIKE OPENS THE DOOR.

16 MIKE: I'll go ahead and get the light.

17 SOUND: MIKE GOES DOWN WOODEN STAIRS

18 JOE: You wan't to wait here, Mrs..Randall?

19 ELLAN: Why?

20 JOE: No reason ma'am. Just thought that it might be better.

21 ELLAN: Alright...I'll wait in the living room.

22 JOE: C'mon Frank.

23 FRANK: Yeah....

24 SOUND: THEY GO DOWN THE STAIRS.

1 MIKE: Not very big. Just room enough for the freezer and a few  
2 shelves.  
3 JOE: Uh huh.  
4 FRANK: Cement floor, huh?  
5 MIKE: Yeah.  
6 JOE: Frank?  
7 FRANK: Yeah.  
8 JOE: You wanna swing that light up here. Wanna check something?  
9 FRANK: (AS HE MOVES) Yeah sure.  
10 JOE: What's this room under, Mr. Armstrong?  
11 MIKE: Let's see. That'd be the master bedroom about to there  
12 (POINTS) And then the room next to it would begin there.  
13 JOE: Uh huh. That'd be Mrs. Schroder's room.  
14 MIKE: Form what Mrs. Randall said yeah.  
15 JOE: Uh huh. Gotta piece of paper sir. Like to get up on the  
16 freezer. Don't want to scratch it up.  
17 MIKE: Why.....something you want?  
18 JOE: Just like to look sir. If I could have the paper.  
19 MIKE: Don't see any. Go ahead. Just don't scrunch your feet  
20 around. It'll be alright.  
21 JOE: Alright sir. (GRUNTS AS HE CLIMBS ON FREEZER) Frank?  
22 Swing the light around huh?

1 FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) What is it Joe?  
2 JOE: Not sure. You got your flash?  
3 FRANK: Yeah....here you go.  
4 SOUND: CLICK AS JOE TURNS ON FLASH  
5 (BEAT)  
6 MIKE: What is it? What do you see up there?  
7 SOUND: JOE JUMPS DOWN OFF FREEZER  
8 JOE: Better call the crime lab....get 'em right out here..  
9 FRANK: What is it?  
10 JOE: Seeped through the flooring up there.  
11 FRANK: Yeah.  
12 JOE: Looks like blood.  
13 END SCENE 4  
14 END ACT 1

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

T

SECOND COMMERCIAL:

1 GIBNEY : All over America, smokers are changing to Chesterfield  
2 because Chesterfield is the first and only cigarette with  
3 premium quality throughout in both regular and king-size.  
4 FENN : King-size Chesterfield contains tobaccos of better quality  
5 and higher price than any other king-size cigarette.  
6 That's certainly important to every king-size smoker.  
7 Of course, it's the same fine tobacco as in regular  
8 Chesterfield.  
9 GIBNEY : So remember, the modern way to sell cigarettes is the  
10 Chesterfield way. First and only cigarette with premium  
11 quality throughout in both regular and king-size.  
12 Chesterfield is much milder. Chesterfield is best for you.

1 JOE: 8:14 PM. The crime lab was called and they came out to  
2 go over the place. A benzidine test was run on the stains  
3 and it was proved that they were bloodstains. The carpet  
4 in the bedroom was removed and additional stains were  
5 uncovered. Frank and I checked the cellar floor but it  
6 was solid and there was no evidence that any part of it  
7 had been torn up. A preliminary check was made of the  
8 yard but nothing was turned up. The next morning at  
9 7:58 A.M. We called the crime lab. They'd finished  
10 their investigation and told us that the stains were  
11 made by human blood. 8:10 A.M. Frank and I drove out  
12 to the house to make a further investigation. We turned  
13 up nothing.

14 SOUND: OUTDOOR B.G.

15 FRANK: Boy, it's gonna be a scorcher.

16 JOE: Yeah. Looks that way. You check that corner of the  
17 yard?

18 FRANK: Yeah. Doesn't look like any things been disturbed.

19 JOE: Well, let's talk to the neighbors again. Gotta be an  
20 answer someplace.

21 FRANK: Okay.

22 SOUND: THEY WALK DOWN CEMENT PATH

23 FRANK: Gotta tell Fay to get me some of those shirts with the  
24 holes in 'em.

25 JOE: What d'ya mean...hole's in 'em.

1 FRANK: You know...like they wear back East. Little bitty holes  
2 between the material. So you don't get so hot.  
3 JOE: Yeah. You can wear it with that coat with the hood you  
4 got.  
5 FRANK: Uh. Wait a minute Joe?  
6 JOE: Huh?  
7 FRANK: Something on the grass over there by the rose bed.  
8 Shiny.  
9 JOE: Probably a locket or something one of the kids dropped.  
10 FRANK: Yeah. I'll get it. Give it back to Armstrong.  
11 SOUND: FRANK WALKS OFF MIKE A LITTLE BIT AND STOPS..THEN SLOW  
12 STEPS BACK ON MIKE  
13 JOE: What is it?  
14 FRANK: Might be what we're lookin' for.  
15 JOE: Yeah?  
16 FRANK: Piece of dental bridgework....looks like it's been  
17 burned,  
18 END SCENE 5



1 JOE: The crime Lab was called back and they came out and went  
2 over the back yard. They checked the incinerator and  
3 under several weeks of ashes they found several pieces  
4 of bone. They took a sample of the ash back to the lab  
5 to examine it. We got in touch with the daughter, Mrs.  
6 Randall and got the address of Mrs. Schroder's dentist.  
7 Frank and I drove out to talk to him. We showed him  
8 the piece of dental bridgework that we'd found and he  
9 identified it positively as belonging to Mrs. Schroder.  
10 He showed us the card from his files which gave the date  
11 that he'd installed the bridge. 11:56 A.M. we called the  
12 crime lab and Lt. Lee Jones told us that the ash and  
13 the particles of bone he'd recovered could be of human  
14 origin. 12:15 P.M. we drove out to the apartment and  
15 took Mr. Schroder into custody. Frank and I took him  
16 downtown and talked to him in the interrogation room.  
17 HENRY: I don't understand all this. None of it makes any sense.  
18 JOE: It's pretty simple Mr. Schroder.  
19 HENRY: Simple. You say that I killed Bertha and you say it's  
20 simple. How can you say that. Why do you say that.  
21 You must have a reason. I've told you all I know.  
22 FRANK: Couple of things you didn't tell the truth about sir.  
23 HENRY: What?

1 JOE: You said that just before your wife left you, she made  
2 a large withdrawal from your account.  
3 HENRY: That's right. She did. She did take the money.  
4 JOE: In checking your bank account we found no record of any  
5 such withdrawal.  
6 HENRY: You've got no right to go through my bank account. You've  
7 got no right.  
8 FRANK: This is a murder investigation Mr. Schroder. We've got  
9 the right to clear it up.  
10 HENRY: But she did take the money. She did. You've got to  
11 believe me.  
12 JOE: That's a little hard to do Schroder. Since your wife  
13 disappeared she hasn't drawn any money out of the  
14 account. Before that she drew checks to pay the local  
15 store bills. How do you explain that?  
16 HENRY: I can't. I can't. I don't know what you are trying to  
17 say. I don't know what you're trying to get me to say.  
18 JOE: We're trying to get you to tell the truth. That's all.  
19 HENRY: But I am. I am.  
20 FRANK: You said that you put all the furniture from your house  
21 in storage. That right?  
22 HENRY: Yes....I said that.  
23 FRANK You said that you wanted to keep it in case your wife  
24 came back and you two started all over again?

1 HENRY: Yes that's the truth.

2 FRANK We checked the storage company, they told us that you  
3 called them and ordered everything sold. Told them to  
4 sell it as soon as possible. Now how do you explain that?

5 HENRY: You're getting me so confused. I can't think.

6 FRANK: We checked the house. The one where you and your wife  
7 lived. We found bloodstains. Lot of 'em. They're  
8 human blood.

9 HENRY: I don't know....I don't know.

10 JOE: People who live there now said that you put a carpet over  
11 the floor. Only room in the house that has it. They say  
12 it was your idea.

13 HENRY: I can't think...I don't know what you're saying.

14 JOE: We found this.

15 SOUND: JOE TOSSES DENTAL BRIDGE ON TABLE.

16 JOE: Found it in the yard. Found pieces of bone too. Human bone.

17 BEAT

18 JOE: How 'bout it Mr. Schroder?

19 PAUSE

20 FRANK Mr. Schroder?

1 HENRY: (STARTS TO CRY) I didn't mean it. 30 years. 30 years  
2 married. I didn't mean to do it. I came home late.  
3 Real late. I'd been drinking. We had words. I hit her.  
4 I don't know what happened. I knew what I was doing.  
5 I kept hitting her. Then she was dead. I didn't mean to  
6 do it. I didn't mean to. She turned the kids against  
7 me. Turned everybody against me. 30 years married and  
8 she turned everybody against me.  
9 JOE: You got it wrong mister.  
10 HENRY: Huh?  
11 JOE: You did that yourself.  
12 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

1 FENN: The story you have just heard was true. The names were  
2 changed to protect the innocent.

3 GIBNEY: On December 10th, trial was held in Department 87 Superior  
4 Court of the State of California, in and for the County  
5 of Los Angeles. In a moment the results of that trial.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

CLOSING:

1 FENN : Now, here is our star, Jack Webb.

2 WEBB : Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, remember this.

3 Chesterfield is the first and only cigarette with premium

4 quality throughout in both regular and king-size.

5 Chesterfield is the cigarette that gives scientific evidence

6 of real smoking pleasure. So, try Chesterfields today.

7 Either way, regular or king-size, Chesterfield is much milder.

8 Chesterfield is best for you.

9 \* \* \* \* \*

10 GIBNEY : For a million laughs, tune in Chesterfield's Martin & Lewis

11 Show Tuesday night on this same NBC station, And, Sound Off

12 for Chesterfield, regular or king-size, you'll find premium

13 quality Chesterfields much milder. Chesterfield is best

14 for you.

15 FENN : Chesterfield has brought you "Dragnet" transcribed from

16 Los Angeles.

TRIAL PAGE

1 GIBNEY:Henry Rudolph Schroder was tried and convicted of murder  
2 in the first degree. He was executed in the lethal gas  
3 chamber, at the state penitentiary, San Quentin, California.

END PAGE

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 THEME: UNDER

3 GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet - a series of authentic  
4 cases from official files. Technical advice comes from  
5 the office of Chief of Police, W.H. Parker, Los Angeles  
6 Police Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack  
7 Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard  
8 tonight were Ben Alexander \_\_\_\_\_  
9 \_\_\_\_\_  
10 \_\_\_\_\_

11 Script by John Robinson. Music by Walter Schumann.  
12 Hal Gibney speaking.

13 MUSIC: THEME UNDER.....(CONTINUES)

14 FENN: Sound off for Chesterfields. Either way you like 'em -  
15 regular or king size, you will find premium quality  
16 Chesterfields much milder.

17 GIBNEY: Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet, transcribed from  
18 Los Angeles.