CHESTERFIELD #47  NBC 215

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 29, 1953

DIRECTOR:  JACK WEBB
WRITER:  JOHN ROBINSON
MUSIC:  WALTER SCHUMANN
SCRIPT:  JEAN MILES
SOUND:  BUD TOLLEFSON & WAYNE KENWORTHY
ENGINEER:  RAOUl MURPHY
ANNCR. #1:  GEORGE FENNEMAN
ANNCR. #2:  HAL GIBNEY, NBC
CASE:  "THE BIG TRY"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
RECORDING:  THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1953
CAST AND SOUND:  11:30-2:00P.M.
EDITING:  T.B.A.
SCORING:  T.B.A.
ORCHESTRA:  
ANNOUNCERS:  (COMMERCIAL)
BROADCAST:  9:00 - 9:30 P.M. --- STUDIO J - BY T.R.
CAST

Sgt. Joe Friday...............Jack Webb
Off. Frank Smith...............Ben Alexander
Sid Hughes.....................Vic Perrin
Jan Padicheck..................Walt Connor
Hans............................Hans Kirschner

"THE BIG TRY"

DRAGNET
OCTOBER 6, 1953
Sgt. T9
DRAGNET - RADIO
"THE BIG TRY"

FOR BROADCAST: 10-6-53

1 MUSIC: "SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD"
2 GIBNEY: Sound off for Chesterfield.
3 MUSIC: "SOUND OFF FOR CHESTERFIELD".... DRUM ROLL
4 GIBNEY: Chesterfield...low in nicotine...highest in quality...
5 best for you.
6 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL CONTINUES
7 GIBNEY: Chesterfield brings you Dragnet.
8 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE
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: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're
14 assigned to Homicide Detail. You get a call that a
15 man has barricaded himself in his apartment. The
16 report says that he's going to kill himself. Your
17 job....stop him.
18 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
FIRST COMMERCIAL

PENNMAN:

Smokers by the thousands are now changing to Chesterfield. The only cigarette ever to give you ... One - proof of low nicotine - highest quality. Two - this proven record with smokers. No adverse effects to the nose, throat and sinuses from smoking Chesterfield. Chesterfield ... regular or king-size ... low in nicotine - highest in quality.....

Best for you.
MUSIC: THEME:

GINNEY: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For the next 30 minutes, in cooperation with the Los Angeles Police Department, you will travel step by step on the side of the law through an actual case transcribed from official police files. From beginning to end...from crime to punishment...Dragnet is the story of your police force in action.

MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD

SOUND: JOE'S STEPS IN CORRIDOR, SLIGHT ECHO AND CORRIDOR B.G.

JOE: It was Wednesday, November 18. It was cold in Los Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Homicide Detail. My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain Lohrman. My name's Friday. I was on my way back to the office and it was 10:32 AM when I got to room 42 .... (SOUND: DOOR OPEN) ... Homicide.

SOUND: JOE WALKS INTO THE SQUADROOM...B.G. CHANGE..DOOR SWINGS CLOSED BEHIND HIM

FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) Didn't take too long.

JOE: No...Sol just got the coffee made. Here.

SOUND: HE PUTS DOWN A PAPER BAG AND TAKES TWO CARDBOARD CARTONS OUT OF IT


JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: Y'know Joe?

JOE: What's that?

FRANK: I think Lopie's right about Sol's coffee.
JOE: Huh?

FRANK: He says Sol uses a whip and a chair to get it into the cup.

JOE: Could be .... it's strong enough. You see the skipper this morning?

FRANK: Yeah. I think he's down in Chief Browns office.

JOE: Anything come in?

FRANK: No... pretty quiet. (HE TAKES LAST GULP OF COFFEE)

SOUND: FRANK WALKS A LITTLE OFF MIKE AND DROPS EMPTY CUP INTO WASTE BASKET

FRANK: Sure dismal weather.

JOE: Yeah... feels like it's gonna rain. Paper says it might hit tonight.

FRANK: Hope it clears up before Sunday.

JOE: (AFTER BEAT) What've you got figured this time.

FRANK: Joe... I don't understand why you say it that way.

JOE: You don't?

FRANK: No.

JOE: Uh huh. Well, what have you got figured?

FRANK: Take a look at this.

SOUND: HE TAKES A PAGE FROM THE TIMES HOME SECTION AND UNFOLDS IT

FRANK: Got just the ticket here.

JOE: The ticket?
FRANK: Yes sir...the answer to every home owner's prayer.

Take a look.

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: Gonna be a beauty isn't it.

JOE: If you say so.

FRANK: Joe...look what it says there..."Easy...Simple...Install in a few hours." Just the ticket.

JOE: Do you need one of these?

FRANK: You seen our back yard lately?

JOE: No...not for a couple of weeks. Looked alright last time I did see it.

FRANK: Well, you should see it now. Pretty bad.

JOE: It is huh?

FRANK: Awful. I just stand there and look at Bud's yard and I wanna throw rocks at mine.

JOE: Bud's the fireman isn't he?

FRANK: No Joe...That's Harry you're thinkin' of. He lives on the other side. Bud's the insurance salesman.

JOE: Oh yeah...he's the one who tries all his sales talks on you.

FRANK: Yeah...that's right.

JOE: What's wrong with your yard.

FRANK: Too dry.

JOE: Dry.

FRANK: The hot weather this Summer....the little plants put out dropped like flies.
JOE: Died huh?

FRANK: Like flies. But this is the answer. Right here.

SOUND: HE TAPS PAPER

FRANK: A home sprinkler system...you can install yourself.

Resists corrosion...rust...and rot. Joe....this is the answer.

JOE: It is.

FRANK: Right. Gonna put one of these little gems in my back yard. Just turn on the faucet and (SNAPS FINGERS) everythings all watered. Don't have to stand there with a hose. Just turn it on and (SNAPS FINGERS AGAIN) Watered.

JOE: You gonna put this in yourself?

FRANK: I could Joe...way it says here in the paper...shouldn't be any trouble at all.

JOE: Who's gonna do it?

FRANK: Well, I thought I'd get all the stuff together and then just start on it Sunday. Y'know...about 10...10:30 in the morning. Old Jim and Harry work out in their yards that time.

JOE: Uh huh.

FRANK: They see this little gem...and they're gonna hop over the fence to see what it's all about.

JOE: Then what happens?

FRANK: I gotten.

JOE: Y'have? '

FRANK: Sure Joe. They see me there layin' out the sprinkler system and right off they're gonna want to help.
JOE: Well, if you want 'em to give you a hand...why don't you ask 'em?

FRANK: Y'just can't do it that way Joe. Wouldn't be right.

JOE: It wouldn't.

FRANK: No Joe...y'gotta be subtle. Like the kid that whitewashed the fence. Subtle. Y' see...I got it figured out they'll come over to ask questions. Next thing they'll be workin'. After we get the system in, we'll have a little barbeque. Just sit around...turn on the new sprinkler ... and be cool.

JOE: Uh huh.

FRANK: Sure hope it clears up before Sunday.

JOE: Doesn't matter does it?

FRANK: Sure Joe...If it rains Sunday...old Bud and Harry won't be out in their yards. They won't be able to see me with the hoses and sprinkler heads.

JOE: Yeah, but if it rains...there won't be any need to put it in right away will there?

BEAT

FRANK: Didn't think of that.

SOUND: PHONE RING. JOE PUNCHES BUTTON AND PICKS UP RECEIVER.

JOE: (INTO PHONE) Homicide Friday...Oh yeah Sid. Uh huh. Did you talk to him? Yeah. What'd he say......uh huh. Right. We'll be right over.

SOUND: JOE HANGS UP PHONE AND STARTS TO MOVE TO THE DOOR.
JOE: Grab your coat.
FRANK: What is it?
JOE: Sid Hughes at the Mirror.
FRANK: Yeah.
JOE: Just got a call from a guy who's gonna kill himself.

END SCENE 1

JOE: 10:37 A.M. Frank and I notified the complaint board of what had happened and then left the office. As we drove out of the city hall garage, the predicted rain started to fall. We turned up first street and over Spring. Sid Hughes, the reporter who'd called me, was waiting in front of the Mirror Building.

SOUND: UNIT 1K80 PULLS TO A STOP. CAR DOOR OPEN. RAIN IN THE B.G. WINDSHIELD WIPERS.
FRANK: (UP) Sid...over here.
SOUND: WE HEAR RUNNING STEPS FADE IN THEN SID CLIMBES INTO THE CAR AND SLAMS THE DOOR.
JOE: You got the address?
SID: Yeah. Here...(HE READS) Twenty six-eighty two Ardmore.
Out by the Ambassador. Hi Smith.
FRANK: Hello, Sid.
JOE: (TO FRANK) Let's go.
SOUND: FRANK PUTS THE CAR INTO GEAR AND THEY START TO MOVE.
FRANK SWITCHES ON THE SIREN. UNDER...FROM TIME TO TIME...
WE HEAR TIRE SKIDS AS HE TURNS AROUND CORNERS ETC.
JOE: What've you got on it Sid?
SID: Couple of minutes ago, guy called. I answered the phone.
He told me his name was Jan Padicheck. Said he was gonna
kill himself.
JOE: Yeah.
SID: I talked to him for a couple of seconds, and finally made
up my mind that he wasn't another crank. That he meant
what he said.
JOE: How'd he happen to call you?
SID: I dunno. He said something about the paper treatin' him
right. Said he wanted to thank us.
JOE: You know what he's talkin' about?
SID: No. I got Casey Shawhan (SHAW-HAN) workin' on it now.
He's our city editor.
JOE: Uh huh.
SID: He's checkin' the morgue files. See if he can come up
with anything.
JOE: (TO FRANK) You ever heard of him Frank?
FRANK: Name does nothin' to me.
JOE: (TO SID) How come you figure he's on the level, Sid?
SID: Way he talked. I can't put my finger on it...just
something in the way he sounded. Y'know he ment what he
said.
JOE: Uh huh. What'd you tell him?
SID: Tried to bluff it through. Told him that there wasn't
anything so important that he oughta kill himself over it.
JOE: Yeah.
SID: I asked him to let me talk to him. Asked him to wait until I could see him,
JOE: What'd he say to that?
SID: Told me it wouldn't do any good. Nothin' could make him change his mind. Said I'd be wastin' my time.
JOE: Uh huh.
SID: I told him that I had a lot of it... That it wouldn't do any harm to let me see him.
JOE: He went along with it huh?
SID: Yeah. Said he's wait fifteen minutes. Told me to come alone... not to figure on tryin' anything.
JOE: Yeah. (TO FRANK) Frank... better switch off the siren when we get near the place.
FRANK: Right.
SID: What time you got?
JOE: (LOOKING AT HIS WATCH) 10:42.
SID: Better switch off it.
JOE: Huh?
SID: He said at 11:05 he's gonna pull the trigger.
END SCENE 2
SID: After you're inside...I'll try to get in touch with Casey
...see what he's been able to come up with on Padicheck.

JOE: Right.

SOUND: THEY REACH THE PORCH AND TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS UP ONTO
A FLAT AREA.

SID: Better leave your gun here. I told him I'd come unarmed.

JOE: Okay.

SOUND: HE UNBUTTONS HIS COAT AND TAKES OFF HIS HOLSTER.

FRANK: You think it's a good idea to go in there without a gun.

JOE: We haven't got much to say about it. Sid told Padicheck
he wouldn't bring one. Big thing right now is to get him
out alive.

FRANK: Yeah...guess you're right.

JOE: You wanna hang onto this for me?

FRANK: Right.

JOE: Well...let's give it a try.

SOUND: JOE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND KNOCKS ON DOOR. PAUSE
THEN HE KNOCKS AGAIN.

JAN: (OFF THROUGH DOOR) Who is it?

JOE: It's Sid Hughes, Jan. I told you I'd be here. Let me in.

JAN: (THROUGH THE DOOR) What about the card?
JOE: Twenty six - eighty two Ardmore was a large two story spanish type apartment house. There was a large courtyard in the center of the "U" shaped building. Apartment number eight was at the rear of the yard. When we got there, there were several other people standing by the entrance. Two police units had arrived and the officers were trying to keep the bystanders back from the door to the apartment. 11:03 A.M. We pulled up in front of the place and got out of the car. As we walked back toward Padicheck's apartment, Sid Hughes and I tried to figure some way to talk the man out of carrying out his threat to take his own life.

SOUND: RAIN IN B.G. JOE, FRANK AND SID'S STEPS ON PAVEMENT.

SID: I'm not sure how to handle this thing Joe. I'd feel pretty bad if I went in and botched it up. Wish you could do it.

JOE: This Padicheck ever seen you before?

SID: Don't think so. Why?

JOE: Let's make a switch. We'll tell him I'm Sid Hughes.

SID: Be better, Joe. You got some idea of what to do in there.

JOE: I'm not sure I could swing it.

SOUND: HE TAKES HIS WALLET OUT OF HIS POCKET.

SID: I told him I'd shove a Mirror card under the door. That way he'd know it was me.

JOE: Okay.
JOE: Here it is...I'll shove it under the door.

SOUND: JOE STOOPS AND SHOVES CARD UNDER THE DOOR.

BEAT

JOE: Jan?—(PAUSE)—Jan.

BEAT

FRANK: You see him?

JOE: No...he took the card and went upstairs.

PAUSE

SID: I dunno...I hope this thing works out.

JOE: Try to get in touch with your office will you Sid. See what you can get on him?

SID: Right.

SOUND: SID WALKS OFF THE PORCH AND FADES.

BEAT

JOE: Jan...C'mon Jan...let me in.

JAN: (THROUGH DOOR) The police are there. I'm not gonna let them come in.

JOE: They aren't gonna bother you Jan.

JAN: (THROUGH DOOR) Tell 'em to get away. Tell 'em to get off the porch.

JOE: (TO FRANK) Frank you wanna get the other officers to clear the place out.

FRANK: Right.

SOUND: FRANK LEAVES THE PORCH AND FADES OFF.

BEAT

JOE: There...Jan....The police are gone now. Let me in.

JAN: (THROUGH DOOR) Will you bring in my mail for me?
JOE: What?

JAN: (THROUGH DOOR) My mail, it's in the box. Right on the side of the porch. In the box.

JOE: I'll get it.

SOUND: JOE MOVES TO ONE SIDE OF THE PORCH AND OPENS A TIN MAIL BOX. HE TAKES OUT THREE LETTERS AND COMES BACK.

JOE: Alright Jan. Now let me in.

SOUND: WE HEAR THE SOUND OF THE DOOR BEING UNLOCKED. THEN SWUNG OPEN.

JAN: (LITTLE OFF) C'mon.

SOUND: JOE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND THE DOOR SLAMS.

JAN: Now stand right there.

JOE: You don't need the gun Jan. I'm not gonna cause you any trouble.

JAN: Turn around.

JOE: I told you I was coming unarmed.

JAN: Turn around.

SOUND: JOE TURNS AROUND.

JAN: We'll see.

SOUND: JAN MOVES IN AND DOES FAST SHAKE OF JOE. THEN HE STEPS BACK.

JAN: Alright...let's go upstairs.

JOE: Anyway you want it.

SOUND: JOE STARTS TO CLIMB STAIRS.
JAN: Just a minute.

SOUND: He turns and locks the door.

JAN: Alright...let's go.

SOUND: They climb one flight of carpeted stairs then turn and climb three more steps, then out on level.

JOE: Why don't you put the gun down Jan? You aren't gonna need that.

JAN: I feel better with it.

JOE: You mind if I take off my coat.

JAN: No...go ahead. Make yourself comfortable.

JOE: Thanks.

SOUND: Joe takes off heavy trench coat.

JOE: Here's your mail.

JAN: Thanks.

SOUND: He takes the letters and throws them onto a table.

JOE: Aren't you gonna open them?

JAN: No reason to. There's nothing important.

JOE: You can't tell Jan. Might be.

JAN: There isn't I know that.

JOE: Alright...they're your letters.

JAN: You bet they are. They're mine. They don't belong to anybody else. They're mine.

JOE: Yeah.

JAN: They're mine.

JOE: You mind if I have a cigarette?

JAN: No...go ahead. (As Joe reaches for his cigarettes) Here

....have one of these. I want to be able to see your hands.
BEAT

JOE: Thanks.

SOUND: LIGHT BUSINESS UNDER.

JOE: Now...what's this all about, Jen? Why do you wanna do a thing like this?

JAN: Because there's no other way.

JOE: Have you looked for one?

JAN: All night I've been thinking about it. Since I got home.

JOE: If they think they're going to take me...then they're wrong.

JAN: The authorities. They said I have to go to jail for 90 days. I know about how they plan it. They tell me 90 days and then they'll keep me there for more. I'm not going back to prison.

JOE: Who says you're going to prison?

JAN: The authorities. They said I have to go to jail for 90 days. I know about how they plan it. They tell me 90 days and then they'll keep me there for more. I'm not going back to prison.

JAN: Have you been in jail before?

JOE: Yes...five years.

JAN: What for?

JOE: For nothing. Five years because I didn't agree with what they were doing. I'm not going back...I'm not going, I'll kill myself first.

JOE: Alright take it easy. Calm down. Let's start from the beginning. What happened?

JAN: They said I forged a man's name to a check.

JOE: Did you?
JAN: Yes. But you've got to understand. I didn't have any money. They were going to take my car away from me. I'm behind in my rent here. I owe money. All my creditors were hounding me. I thought that if I could just get a little money...to pay the bills...then I could pay it back when I got a job. I was going to pay it back. All of it. I really was.

JOE: How much was the check?

JAN: Two hundred and fifty dollars.

JOE: Who's name did you sign to it?

JAN: A man I know. I got a check and signed his name. He has the money. I was going to pay him back. I have a job coming up. As soon as I got paid, I was going to put the money back. I didn't mean any harm. I knew it was wrong but it was the only thing I could think of. They were hounding me.

JOE: What about the car... couldn't you sell it?

JAN: I suppose so. But then if I did...I wouldn't be able to get to my job. Tho-one-I was going to get. I needed a car for that. I had to keep the machine.

JOE: You'll have a trial, Jan. If you tell them what happened they'll probably understand. The court will make an allowance.

JAN: I've had a trial. I told them that I was guilty. That I did forge the check. They told me that I had to go to jail.
1 JOE: You said you'd been in prison before.
2 JAN: Yes....for five years. Then I escaped.
3 JOE: Where?
4 JAN: In Czechoslovakia. They put me in prison because I wouldn't do what they told me. They killed my father and mother and then they put me in prison. I know what it's like. I'm not going back.
5 JOE: The prison's here aren't concentration camps, Jan.
6 JAN: That's what you say. But I know different. I've lived in them. You see here....(HE SPREADS HIS LIPS SO THAT JOE CAN SEE HIS FRONT TEETH) You see these four teeth in front?
7 JOE: Yeah... I see them.
8 JAN: You know they aren't mine. They're false.
9 JOE: You'd never know it.
10 JAN: I know it. I know it all the time. I lost the teeth when I was kicked by a guard. You know why I was kicked? You know why he did it?
11 JOE: No Jan.
12 JAN: Because my clothes were torn. That's the reason he kicked me. I tore my clothes so he knocked four teeth out.
13 JOE: But that's all over now Jan. Things like that don't happen here.
JAN: Maybe not out in front of people. But they happen in the
prisons. I'm not going to have it happen to me again.

There were eight hundred of us. All arrested at the same
time. Eight hundred. You know how many is eight hundred,
Mr. Hughes?

JOE: I have an idea, Jan.

JAN: Eight hundred men. People I knew. Eight hundred human
beings, with homes and families. I'm the only one alive
now. All the rest were killed. They were all taken to
Buchenwald and run through the showers. Don't tell me
about prisons Mr. Hughes. I know. I've lived in them.

JOE: Jan?

JAN: Yes?

JOE: You remember the name of the judge who sentenced you?

JAN: Yes.

JOE: Let me call him. Let me get him over here and talk this
thing over. We can work something out. There's no
reason for you to do a thing like you're planning. It's
not that important.

JAN: Maybe not to you.

JOE: It isn't to anybody Jan. We can work something out. Let
me call the judge.

JAN: No. Please sit down Mr. Hughes.

SOUND: JOE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND SITS.
I'm not a stupid man. I have degrees from three universities. I speak four languages. I spent five years jumping every time a guard looked at me. Five years wishing they'd kill me. Five years wishing I could live in Hell because it would be better than the way things were. Now they think they're going to send me back and they're not. You understand that, don't you Mr. Hughes? Don't you?

Yes Jan .... I understand it.

JOE GETS UP FROM THE CHAIR AND TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS.

Look Jan .... You said yourself you thought about it all night. Now isn't it possible that you're making this thing more important than it really is?

No.

Look son .... I wanna help you. I wanna help you help yourself.

(IN FAST) Get your hands off me, Mr. Hughes. I don't want to have to hurt you. Now get over there.

All right Jan, I didn't mean any harm.

I don't know how to tell you, Jan. I don't know how to make you believe me, but none of us want to hurt you. We want you to be happy here. That's one of the reasons you came to this country, isn't it?
Yes. I read the books about freedom. That's why I came here. But now they're trying to take that freedom away from me. Before I even have it, they're trying to take it away. I told them the truth. I admitted it. I told them that I did it. But I told them that I'd pay the money back. That didn't seem to make any difference. They said I still have to go to jail.

Jan, you said yourself that you were put in prison before for not agreeing with the people in power. Isn't that right?

Yes. That's what I said.

They can't do that in this country. Everybody's entitled to his own opinion. To live his own life. But there are laws. Laws that were written by the people to protect the people. You understand that? The people themselves write the law.

Yes...I understand that.

Well, you don't break the law a little bit, Jan. Either you keep it or you don't. There are no grey areas to the law.

Only blacks and whites. You understand?

Yes.

You broke the law. I'm not in any position to argue how badly you broke it. But you did violate a law written by the people. Isn't that right?

I told you I did.
JOE: Alright Jan. Now...these laws are interpreted by people. By human beings. And that's where the greys come in. By the people who decide on the punishment. Did you tell the judge how you felt about prison?

JAN: No.

JOE: Let me get him over here Jan. Let me talk to him. I don't think you need prison as much as you need a doctor. Let me call him. Please.

JAN: I don't know Mr. Hughes. The way you talk, it sounds alright...but I don't know. I try to think...I've thought about it over and over and I can't come to any answer.

SOUND: JAN STANDS UP AND STARTS TO WALK OUT OF THE ROOM.

JOE: Where're you going Jan?

JAN: I'm going to take something for this headache. I've got a bad headache.

SOUND: JOE FOLLOWS JAN INTO THE BEDROOM AND THEN WAITS WHILE JAN GOES INTO THE BATHROOM. UNDER JOE'S CONVERSATION, WE HEAR JAN TAKE A TIN OF ASPIRIN FROM THE MEDICINE CABINET AND TURN ON THE TAP FOR A GLASS OF WATER.

JOE: What's this.

JAN: (LITTLE OFF) What?

JOE: The note here on the bureau?
I cannot accept a jail term. All I want is to find peace and freedom. I guess this is the only way to do it. I'm sorry to cause any trouble. Please take care of my dogs. (BEAT) Jan?

JAN: (LITTLE OFF) Yes.

JOE: You know this is wrong don't you?

JAN: I don't know. I wish I did. But I don't know.

JOE: Then let me try to help you figure it out, Jan. It is wrong. It's not the answer. Believe me.....we can work this thing out. It's gonna be alright. Now......

we're not gonna need this. There's gonna be no reason for it.

SOUND: JOE CRUMPLES UP THE NOTE. AS HE DOES. WE HEAR A CRASH OF A DRINKING GLASS FROM OFF MIKE IN THE BATHROOM AND JAN HURRIES ON MIKE.

You get away from there. You leave my things alone.

You're like all the rest. You don't understand either.

You better get out of here. You better get out right now. You're like all the rest. Now get out of here.

PAUSE

JOE: Alright Jan.....if that's the way you want it....I don't want to cause you any trouble. I don't want to make you unhappy. All I want to do is to try to help you.
JAN: Why did you crumple up the note? Why?

JOE: I didn't think we'd need it. I thought we bad things settled.

JAN: Well, we haven't. Nothing's settled. Nothing.

SOUND: THEY WALK BACK INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

JOE: Jan?

JAN: Yes?

JOE: You said that you'd pled guilty. Admitted that you forged the check. Isn't that right?

JAN: That's what I said.

JOE: How come you're here? How'd you happen to be home?

JAN: They gave me 24 hours to arrange care for my dogs. I put up a bond and they gave me twenty four hours.

JOE: Where'd you get the money for the bond?

JAN: One of the companies by the jail. They put it up for me.

JOE: Uh huh. How 'bout the dogs. Did you take care of them?

JAN: No...not yet.

JOE: Where are they?

JAN: Out in the kitchen.

JOE: Can I see them?

JAN: You like dogs?

JOE: Yeah. I like 'em a lot.
2. SOUND: THEY WALK TO THE KITCHEN AND JAN SWINGS OPEN THE DOOR.

3. AS HE DOES, WE HEAR TWO DOGS START JUMPING AROUND AND WHINING.

5. JAN: There they are. This is Marta and this little one is Eric.

7. JOE: (PATTING THE DOGS) They look like good dogs.

8. JAN: They are. Thoroughbred-Toy-Maltese. The only friends I have.

10. JOE: That's not true, Jan. There are others if you'll let them be friends.

12. JAN: Who...tell me who.

13. JOE: Well, me for one. I'd like to be your friend, if you'll give me the chance.

16. JOE: How 'bout it Jan?

18. JOE: Jan?

19. JAN: What's that on your belt?

20. JOE: What?

21. JAN: The leather case. On your belt? What is it?

23. JAN: You don't have to answer. I'll tell you. It's a case for cartridges. You're not Sid Hughes are you? ... Are you?

26. JOE: No Jan I'm not.
I JAN: No...and I know who you are. You're a policeman. And you're here to take me to prison. But you made a mistake.
2 JOE: A big mistake.
3 JAN: What's that?
4 JOE: Now I know. And it's too late. Neither one of us is going to leave.
5 JAN: If that's the way you want it Jan.
6 JOE: You don't understand.
7 JAN: What?
8 JOE: I'm going to kill you.
9 JAN: END SCENE 3
10 END ACT ONE
11 GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet. The authentic story of your police force in action.
12 (COMMERCIAL INSERT)
SECOND COMMERCIAL

GIBNEY: At cigarette dealers... (SOUND - CASH REGISTER)
2 In vending machines... (SOUND - COIN AND PLUNGER)
3 At supermarkets and stores coast-to-coast......
4 WOMAN: Chesterfields, please.
5 FENN: Smokers by the thousands... yes, smokers by the
6 thousands...are now changing to Chesterfield --
7 the only cigarette ever to give you - One.....
8 GIBNEY: Proof of low nicotine - highest quality.
9 FENN: Chemical analyses of the country's six leading brands
10 confirms that. Two - the only cigarette ever to give you
11 this proven record with smokers. Again and again, over
12 a full year and one-half...a group of Chesterfield
13 smokers have been given thorough medical examinations.
14 The doctor's reports are a matter of record.
15 GIBNEY: No adverse effects to the nose, throat and sinuses
16 from smoking Chesterfield.
17 FENN: A responsible independent research laboratory supervises
18 this continuing program. Chesterfield - the only
19 cigarette ever with a record like this. Chesterfield -
20 Best for you.
SECOND COMMERCIAL

1: GIBNEY: At cigarette dealers...(SOUND - CASH REGISTER)
2 In vending machines...(SOUND - COIN AND PLUNGER)
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18 this continuing program. Chesterfield - the only
19 cigarette ever with a record like this. Chesterfield -
20 Best for you.
1 JOE: 11:18 A.M. I'd been in the apartment with Jan Padicheck for 13 minutes. During that time, he'd held a chrome plated luger pointed at me. We'd gone into the kitchen to see the dogs, and Padicheck had noticed the cartridge case on my belt. When I'd given my gun and holster to Frank, I'd forgotten to take the case off. Padicheck had noticed it when I kneeled down to pet the dogs, he'd looked at it for a minute and then motioned me to go into the living room. He followed, keeping the gun pointed at me. When we got in the center of the room, he told me to sit down and then he walked to the other side of the room and took a chair.

12 JAN: (LITTLE OFF) There are some cigarettes on the table next to you. Will you please give me one?

15 JOE: Yeah...sure.

16 SOUND: JOE OPENS THE BOX AND TAKES A CIGARETTE OUT. HE STARTS TO STAND UP.

18 JAN: (FAST) Just throw it over here.

19 BEAT

20 JOE: Yeah. (LITTLE EFFORT AS HE TOSSES THE CIGARETTE OVER) Here y'go.

22 JAN: Thanks. Take one yourself if you like.

23 JOE: (GRUNTS)

24 SOUND: JOE TAKES A CIGARETTE AND LIGHTS IT.

25 JAN: Who are you?

26 JOE: My name's Joe Friday.
You are a policeman, aren't you?

Yes I am.

That's too bad.

What's it gonna prove if you kill me, Jan?

It may serve as an example.

How do you figure that?

It may show that it's not wise to trick a man.

If you kill yourself, it's not going to help to kill me too, is it?

Killing isn't new to me. I've done it before.

Is that right?

Yes. You see this gun?

Uh huh.

I killed the man who owned it. He was the one at the prison camp. The one who kicked my teeth out. After I escaped, I went back. Now I have the gun. And that makes me a greater person. Now the power is on my side, because I have it buried in my fist. Now I don't have to listen to other people tell me what to do, or when, or how to do it. Now I tell. And you'll listen. You'll listen because you know if you don't, I'll kill you. You know that, don't you?

You don't leave much doubt.

I don't want to Mr. Friday. I've seen a lot of killing. I've lived with the smell of it around me. I know what it is. That's why I won't hesitate to kill you.
JOE: All right .... you've sold me.

JAN: What?

JOE: You've convinced me, you mean what you're saying.

JAN: Oh ... all right.

BEAT:

JOE: What about the people you know here, Jan?

JAN: What about them?

JOE: How are they going to feel after you've done away with yourself?

JAN: It won't matter to them.

JOE: You sound pretty sure about that.

JAN: As sure as I can be.

JOE: You mean that in the two years you've been here, you haven't made any friends that are going to care about you?

JAN: None at all.

JOE: What about the people in the picture?

JAN: Huh?

JOE: Here.

SOUND: JOE GETS UP AND WALKS ACROSS THE ROOM. HE STOPS

JOE: This photograph. "Christmas Party". All the signatures.

JAN: Won't they care?

JOE: No.

JOE: How 'bout this one .... (READ) To Jan ..... With deepest regards" .... Mary Jane. This her?

JAN: Yes.

JOE: Looks like a nice girl.
Yes...she is.

She'll care won't she?

I don't think so.

Why?

Because all of them...they felt sorry for me. All the time. They tried to make it easier because they felt sorry for me. They thought I didn't know. But I did. All the time I did.

Some of the things they wrote on the picture don't make it look like that. Some of 'em are pretty nice.

They didn't mean them.

You really believe that?

I don't have any other choice.

How long's it been since you did believe in anything?

A long time.

How long?

I guess since my mother died.

When was that?

At the beginning of the war. Right after the Conference. They came one night and took her and my father. Took them both. I never saw them again. I heard what happened. I guess that's the time I stopped believing in anything.

How'd you happen to come to this country?

After I escaped, I went to England. I worked with the Czech forces there. Then when the war was over, I got permission to come here.
You said before that you came here because you wanted the freedom. Isn't that right?

Yes.

You found it didn't you?

I guess so.

Anyone ever try to tell you where you could go?

No.

They ever tell you what church to go to?

No.

You can say what you think can't you?

Yes.

Then why do you think that all this is going to change just because you're in jail. Do you really believe that just because a man is a jailer, he's stopped being a human being. Is that what you think?

I try to tell you. I know about prisons. I know what goes on behind the doors. I lived there. I lived and died in them. Have you ever been in one?

Yes.

As a prisoner?

No, not as a prisoner.
1 JAN: That's just it. Maybe they've got you fooled too. I remember when the people from the relief organizations would come along. The guards would take us out in the court of the prison. They make us stand there and tell the people how good they were to us in the prison. If we didn't say it that way, they'd take us back and beat us to death. I know what goes on behind the doors. I know because I saw it...I lived it. Don't tell me what happens. Now...you and your law come along and tell me that you're going to send me back. Well now-it's different. Now I've got the power in my hand. And you're going to listen to me.

13 SOUND: UNDER ABOUT THE DOGS START TO SCRATCH AT THE DOOR. THEY WHINE A LITTLE.

15 JOE: What about them Jan...Who's going to take care of the dogs. Isn't that the reason that you're here. Isn't that the reason that you came home? Who's going to take care of them?

19 JAN: I don't know. Somebody will.

20 JOE: They're going to miss you.

21 JAN: They'll miss me feeding them, that's all.

22 JOE: You know better than that.

23 JAN: (TO THE DOGS) Marta ... Eric. You be quiet.

24 SOUND: THE DOGS QUIET DOWN.

25 JOE: They mind.

26 JAN: They're well trained.

27 JOE: Have you ever shown them?
1 JAN: No.

2 JOE: There're a lot of good dog shows here. You oughta show 'em. They'd probably do real good.

3 JAN: Do they have dog shows in prison?

4 JOE: Jan, I don't know how to tell you. I don't know how to make you believe me. If you'd let me get the judge over here. Let him talk to you. Maybe he can make you believe that it's not going to be like it was in Czechoslovakia. Sure, your movements are restricted. But you're gonna be well fed...you'll get decent clothes and nobody's gonna beat you. We don't do things like that here.

5 JAN: I'm not going to prison.

6 JOE: Let me get the judge over here. Let me call him. He can be here in just a few minutes. He'll tell you. He can do something. There's no reason we can't work this thing out. Please Jan...let me try to help you.

7 JAN: I want to believe you, Mr. Friday. I really do...but it's hard to believe in anything.

8 JOE: I ask you only one thing Jan. That's to trust me. I've never seen you before...I don't know you outside of this room. But I ask you to believe me. I promise...I give you my word that I won't let anything happen to you.

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

10 JOE: Let me have the gun, Jan. Let me take it. Then we can work out things.
1 JAN: You really think we can do it?
2 JOE: I really think we can.
3 SOUND: FROM OFF MIKE, WE HEAR A LOUD KNOCKING ON THE FRONT DOOR.
4 HANS: (FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FRONT DOOR) Jan...Jan...let me in. I want to see you.
5 JAN: They're here now, to take me. You won't let them do it, will you... Please... don't let them take me.
6 JOE: Don't worry, Jan.
7 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO THE HEAD OF THE STAIRS AND STOPS.
8 JOE: (UP) Get away from that door.
9 SOUND: JOE TURNS BACK TO JAN.
10 JOE: C'mon Jan... give me the gun.
11 JAN: I'll go mad if they put me in prison again. I know I will. I don't want to go back.
12 SOUND: THE KNOCKING STARTS AGAIN AND THIS TIME, THE DOGS IN THE KITCHEN START TO BARK.
13 JOE: Jan... c'mon... give me the gun.
14 JAN: (STARTING TO BREAK) I won't go back. If I go this time, it'll be for good. If they take me this time... they'll kill me for what I did. I know they will.
15 JOE: No they won't. Jan... please give me the gun.
16 SOUND: MORE KNOCKING AND THE DOGS ARE BARKING.
17 HANS: (FROM THE DOOR) Jan... let me in.
18 SOUND: JOE GOES TO THE STAIRS AND STOPS.
19 JOE: (UP) Get away from that door and stay away.
They're going to break in... quick... we've got to hide.
If they find us... they'll kill us both.
Jan... believe me. I won't let anybody hurt you. I promise.
I give you my word.
You mean that?
I do.
You won't let them take me?
No. Now, come on... let me have the gun.
I want to believe you. I want to.
Then do it. Trust me, Jan. I won't let you down.

THE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR GETS VERY INSISTANT. JOE TURNS
AND TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS.
(UP) Get away from that door. I'm doing the best I can.

HEAR A SINGLE SHOT. WITH THE SHOT, ALL OTHER SOUND GOES
OUT. THERE IS JUST A BEAT AND WE HEAR THE BODY CRUMPLE TO
THE GROUND.
EXHALES SLOWLY.
WE HEAR JOE WALK SLOWLY DOWN THE STAIRS AND UNLOCK THE DOOR.
HE SWINGS IT OPEN AND AS HE OPENS IT, THE SOUND OF RAIN
COMES IN.

HE'S UPSTAIRS.

We did our best Joe. This guy broke past us. Say's
Padicheck owed him money.
SID: We tried to stop him Joe. Not much we could do.

JOE: Yeah.

HANS: Is he dead?

JOE: Yeah.

HANS: Are you the man who was with him?

JOE: Uh huh.

HANS: Well, you had no business up there. That's what you get for trying to impede justice. That just what you get.

JOE: You mind tellin' me what you were doin' pounding on the door?

HANS: Padjieck owed me money. I heard he was going to jail. I wanted to get it before he left. I had a right to be here. If you'd kept your nose out of this...I'd have gotten it straightened out.

JOE: Jan Padjieck's dead.

HANS: I know that. I heard the shot. I'm out a couple of hundred dollars he owed me. You think I'll ever get it back. I hope you're happy...you just took a couple hundred dollars from me.

JOE: One question.

HANS: Yeah?

JOE: What did you take from him?

MUSIC: SIGNATURE.
The story you have just heard is true. The names were changed to protect the innocent.

GIBNEY: On November 20, an inquest was held in the Coroner's office in and for the county of Los Angeles, State of California. In a moment, the results of that meeting.

FENN: Now here is our star, Jack Webb.

WEBB: (COMMERCIAL INSERT)
WEBB: Friends, we've been getting letters from people all over the country telling us that they've switched to Chesterfield. Just as I've been telling you....

thousands of smokers are changing to Chesterfield because only Chesterfield gives proof of low nicotine...highest quality. That's why I recommend you try them today.

Regular or king-size....You'll find Chesterfield best for you.

Watch an entirely new Dragnet case history each week on your local NBC television station. Please check your newspaper for the day and time. (BEAT) Chesterfield has brought you Dragnet transcribed from Los Angeles.

(PATIMA HITCHHIKE)