"THE BIG RAIN"

FOR BROADCAST: NOVEMBER 3, 1953

1 MUSIC: DRAGNET SIGNATURE

2 FENN: (EASILY) Ladies and gentlemen, the story you are about to hear is true. The names have changed to protect the innocent.

5 MUSIC: DRUM ROLL

6 GIBNEY: Dragnet is brought to you by Chesterfield...made by Liggett and Myers...first major tobacco company to give you complete line of quality cigarettes.

9 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR:

10 FENN: (EASILY) You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Homicide detail. You got a call that a woman has been badly beaten. The circumstances indicate foul play. Your job...check it out.

14 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
The nation's top golfers and sports writers have named Ben Hogan "Professional Golfer of the year." Ben, of course, smokes Chesterfields. But, let's hear what he has to say about them himself.

I'm a Chesterfield smoker and have been for seven years. The reason's simple. Chesterfield is best for you... They're milder and they taste great. Try them yourself.

Take that suggestion from Ben Hogan today. Try Chesterfield ... regular or king-size. They're low in nicotine ... highest in quality ... really mild ... really satisfying. Chesterfield - Best for you.
FAUN: Dragnet, the documented drama of an actual crime. For
the next thirty 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 AND FRANK'S STEPS DOWN CORRIDOR. SLIGHT ECHO AND B.G.

JOE: It was Tuesday, November 17th. It was Raining in Los
Angeles. We were working the night watch out of Homicide
Detainl My partner's Frank Smith. The boss is Captain
Lohman. My name's Friday. We were on our way back from
the main jail and it was 11:27 P.M. when we got to Room
42... (SOUND: DOOR OPEN) ... Homicide.

SOUND: THE TWO OFFICERS WALK INTO THE ROOM. THE DOOR CLOSES
BEHIND THEM. B.G. CHANGE.

FRANK: We gotta get that radio fixed. Gettin worse all the time.
Yeah, we can take it over in the morning.

FRANK: Thing almost knocked me right out of the seat when I
called in tonight. Soon's you press the button you get a
shock.

JOE: I was out with Lopie yesterday. He picked the mike up and
I thought he was going to climb right out of the window.
FRANK: Pretty funny as long as you don't have to use the thing.

JOE: Must be a short someplace.

FRANK: Don't make any difference what it is as long as we can get it fixed.

I must have used a dollars worth of dimes calling in today. This keeps up and I'm gonna have to give up lunches.

JOE: That wouldn't hurt you any either.

FRANK: That's not kind Joe. I've lost 7 pounds in the last two weeks.

JOE: You haven't lost it...you just misplaced it.

FRANK: I'm gonna see about a transfer.

JOE: Let's finish up these reports and we can get out of here.

FRANK: I'm with you.

SOUND: THEY TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS AND WE HEAR THE HOT SHOT PHONE RING.

JOE: You can go.

FRANK: I'm gonna see about a transfer.

JOE: I wanna do is get home and get some dry socks on. My feet are killin' me. Someday somebody's gonna invent some kind of sock that when it get's wet doesn't creep up. Feels like I got a tourniquet around my ankle.
JOE: Yeah...well, if you'll stop yakkin' and pick up a pencil, we can get out of here.

SOUND: HOT SHOT AGAIN

JOE: There it goes again.

FRANK: I'll get it.

SOUND: FRANK WALKS TO THE PHONE AND PICKS IT UP, PAUSE THEN HANG UP.


JOE: Man or woman?

FRANK: Woman. Found her laying in a gutter.

JOE: She still alive?

FRANK: She was when they got the call...but we better step on it.

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: They don't know how long she's gonna last.

END SCENE 1
When we got to the address we'd been given by the complaint board, two radio cars from Hollywood Division were already there. An ambulance had arrived and the crew was doing what they could for the victim. She was still alive but the attendants said that she appeared to have a skull fracture in addition to possible internal injuries. From one of the officers who answered the call, we found that the victim had been sprawled across the sidewalk, her head in the gutter. Because of the heavy rain, a stream of water was running down the gutter and into a storm drain. The fact that the drain was above the victim's head appeared to be the only thing that saved her from drowning. The crime lab had been called and the men from Hollywood Division were doing what they could to keep the crowd back in order to preserve any physical evidence that might have been left. The victim appeared to be a woman in her early forties. The clothes she wore looked expensive but were badly torn. Her face was cut and the men in the ambulance crew removed her immediately to Hollywood emergency hospital for treatment. When she was found, her left shoe was missing and there was no sign of any purse or wallet. None of the people who'd gathered in the crowd could give us an identification of her. The homes in the vicinity were big large lots and the area was sparsely populated. The nearest house to the place where the victim was found was at least 300 feet down the street.

(MORE)
We talked to the people in the crowd and found that the man who'd made the original call was still supposed to be there. We checked with the officers in the radio unit but they said they hadn't seen him. From them however, we found that the call had been from the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hefflin. We contacted them and they came back to the scene and pointed out the man. Frank and I took him to our car for questioning.

SOUND: INT CAR, HEAVY RAIN OUTSIDE.

Alright, Johnson...you wanna tell us what happened?

I don't know...

You called the police didn't you?

Yeah...I called 'em.

You found her?

Yeah...she was alyin' in the street like that. I got scared and called the police. I thought, maybe she was dead.

What were you doing up here this time of night?

Just walkin' around.

You live up here?

No.

Where do you live?

I got a room down on Fountain.

Empty your pockets.

What?

C'mon...your pockets...empty them out.
CECIL: Ain't nothin' in there you want. I haven't got any money.

FRANK: Alright mister... take the stuff out of your pockets.

CECIL: Okay... here... my comb, handkerchief, pack of cigarettes, matches, and a quarter. That's all.

JOE: New 'bout the back.

CECIL: Huh?

JOE: The back pockets. Let's see what's in them.

CECIL: Oh yeah... here's my wallet.

JOE: Any money in it?

CECIL: No.

JOE: Lemme have it.

CECIL: Yeah.

JOE: This your true name? Cecil August Johnson?

CECIL: Yeah.

JOE: Who's Mary Johnson?

CECIL: What?

JOE: Mary Johnson? Who is she?

CECIL: My sister.

JOE: This her address here on the card?

CECIL: Yeah... you aren't gonna call her are you? You aren't gonna call her?

JOE: Why?

CECIL: She'd be pretty sore about it if you did. She don't like for me to get mixed up with the cops. She don't like it at all.
JOE: You ever been in an institution?
CECIL: What?
JOE: A state institution. You ever been in one?
CECIL: Yeah...I was in Camarillo once.
JOE: How long ago did you get out?
CECIL: A long time ago...three days...a long time ago. I haven't been there for a long time.
FRANK: What were you there for?
CECIL: Molesting people.
FRANK: Who?
CECIL: I was in Camarillo.
JOE: Why'd they send you there?
CECIL: To get well.
JOE: From what?
CECIL: Just well.
JOE: Yeah I know...but what did they want you to get well from?
CECIL: I was never in Camarillo.
JOE: You been drinkin' tonight?
CECIL: What?
JOE: You been drinking' tonight?
CECIL: Yeah a little bit.
FRANK: Where?
JOE: When they sent you to the hospital...what was the reason?
CECIL: I never been in no hospital.

JOE: You told us that you'd been in Camarillo.

CECIL: That was to get well.

JOE: I asked you before...what for?

CECIL: They thought that I was molesting people.

JOE: Were you?

CECIL: No. I didn't hurt anybody.

FRANK: Did they say you did?

CECIL: Yeah.

JOE: Who?

CECIL: A lady. They said I hit her.

JOE: Did you?

CECIL: What?

JOE: Did you hit the woman?

CECIL: No. I never hurt anybody.

JOE: You know who the woman you found is?

CECIL: You aren't gonna call my sister are you?

JOE: Do you know who the woman is?

CECIL: What woman?

JOE: The one you found tonight?

CECIL: Yeah. I've known her for a long time.

JOE: What's her name?

CECIL: Grace.

FRANK: You know her last name?

CECIL: What?

JOE: You know her last name?
CECIL: No. Y'know...I never really been in Camarillo. I just
told you that.

JOE: Why?

CECIL: I dunno. Just sometimes...I like to do things like that.
I don't have any reason. I just like to do that. Like
once I told my sister that I'd killed a man. She almost
fainted. I just like to do that once in a while. Things
get dull and I like to get 'em started.

JOE: Where'd you meet Grace?

CECIL: Bar down on Hollywood. I go in there all the time. I
met her there.

JOE: You meet her tonight?

CECIL: Yeah. She was there. Said she had a fight with her
old man. Said they had a real beat. She told me that
he hit her...belted her right in the mouth. What d'ya
think of a guy that'd do a thing like that to a woman.

JOE: I dunno.

CECIL: Any man that'd do a thing like that's no good. No good
at all. They said that I did it. They told my sister
that I hit a woman.

JOE: Who said that?

CECIL: The other cops. When they arrested me.

FRANK: When was this?

CECIL: When I was at Camarillo to get well.

JOE: Are you under a doctor's care now?
CECIL: No....I got real well at Camarillo. Real well. They let me go.

JOE: You just got through telling us that you'd never been there.

CECIL: I'm a liar. You can't believe anything I say. Real liar. My sister's all the time saying that about me. That's one of the reasons that she used to get sore at me....I'm such a liar. I was never there.'

JOE: You know where Grace lived?

CECIL: No....I think it was up on Ledgewood drive. I think that's where it was...On Ledgewood drive.

JOE: You know where the house is?

CECIL: Uh huh. I never saw it. I was going to go up there one day and punch her old man in the nose...y'know because he hit Grace. I was plenty sore about it. He gave her a black eye. I was plenty sore. But I didn't. Y'know why?

JOE: No.

CECIL: Because I thought my sister'd get mad at me. She always gets mad when I get in fights and when I lie. Real sore.

JOE: She's got no sense of humor.

CECIL: (GRUNTS)

There was a guy at the hospital who had a real sense of humor. Funny. He had a piece of inner tube and he wore it like a hat. Floppy. Y'know? He had a real great sense of humor....but my sister. She don't like anybody to laugh.
1 JOE: How many times have you been arrested?
2 CECIL: Maybe a couple.
3 JOE: Here in Los Angeles?
4 CECIL: Yeah...all the time in L.A. The cops here don't like me. They got no sense of humor. None. Never saw such dull cops.
5 JOE: Alright Johnson. You wait here. We got a few things to check out and then we wanna take you downtown.
6 CECIL: You aren't gonna arrest me are you?
7 JOE: We'll see.
8 CECIL: Hope not...my sister'd be real sore.
9 JOE: Johnson?
10 CECIL: Yeah?
11 JOE: Did you hit her?
12 CECIL: Y'mean did I hit Grace? Is that what you mean?
13 JOE: Yeah.
14 BEAT
15 CECIL: No. I met her tonight and she asked me to take a walk with her. Take a walk, that's all. Then all of a sudden, she was lyin on the ground. I was pretty drunk... I don't know what happened...Just all of a sudden she was there. And I got scared so I called the cops. But I didn't hit her. I wouldn't do a thing like that to Grace. Not me.
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26 BEAT
1 CECIL: You believe that don't you? (BEAT) Don't you? (BEAT)
2 You gotta buy it. You gotta. It's the truth.
3 JOE: Yeah?
4 CECIL: Sure....it's the truth. Every word.
5 JOE: You said it yourself.
6 CECIL: Huh?
7 JOE: You're an awful liar.
8 END SCENE 2
12:52 A.M. While one of the officers from a radio unit
stood by with Cecil Johnson, we talked with Lt. Lee
Jones from the Crime Lab. He told us that what
footprints they'd found in the immediate vicinity of the
victim, had been destroyed by the rain. He told us that
his crew was unable to find any useful physical evidence.
The area was searched but we failed to find either the
missing left shoe or the woman's purse, if she'd carried
one. We put in a call to Hollywood Receiving hospital.
The doctor in charge there, told us that the victim was
suffering from a fracture of the skull and apparently
several broken ribs. He told us that the woman was in a
deep coma and couldn't be questioned at the time. We
asked him to contact us through the business office in
the event that she regained consciousness. We questioned
the people in the neighborhood, but they were of no aid.
None of them recalled hearing any automobiles in the
streets and none of them could testify as to people
loitering in the area. 1:10 A.M. We took Cecil Johnson
and had him detained at the city jail pending further
investigation. A check of his record showed that he'd
been sent to Camarillo twice, on charges of molesting
and violation of section 245 P.C. He'd been released into
custody of his sister three weeks previously. Before
he was placed in a cell, we got the name and address of
the bar where he said he'd met the woman he called Grace.
1:40 A.M. Frank and I drove out to the place. It was located on Hollywood boulevard near Las Palmas avenue. There was only one other customer in the place when we went in. The bartender was cleaning up for the night.

**SOUND:** JUKE BOX IN THE B.G. VERY LOW. JOE AND FRANK WALK UP TO THE BAR AND STOP

**JUDE:** What'll it be?

**JOE:** Lookin' for Emil.

**JUDE:** I'm him. What'd ya want. It's not about that lousey Jackie is it?

**JOE:** What?

**JUDE:** You're cops aren't you? Isn't this about Jackie?

**FRANK:** We're police officers, yes.

**JUDE:** You gotta understand...I thought he was an actor...y'know. I thought he was just hangin around the phone to take work calls. That's what he told me. I didn't have no way of knowin' different. It's the truth.

**JOE:** We don't know anything about Jackie. We'd like to ask you some questions about a man named Cecil Johnson.

**JUDE:** That crackpot. Y'know...I thought you were after me because of Jackie.

**SOUND:** PHONE RING
EMIL: There it goes again... excuse me.

SOUND: He takes a couple of steps and takes the receiver off of a wall phone.

EMIL: Hello... yeah it is... No he ain't here no more. What?

I don't care how the horse did. Jackie ain't here. Now don't call no more.

SOUND: He slams up the phone. And walks back on.

EMIL: Y'see? This guy Jackie's a book. All the time he's using my phone and I don't know it. Yesterday a couple of cops came in and put the arm on him. All day the phone's been ringin'.

JOE: Yeah.

EMIL: From what they say... he's lucky he got arrested. He must have lost his shirt yesterday. Horse come in that paid 20 to one. Boy he really musta had it.

JOE: Uh huh. What d'ya know about Cecil Johnson?

EMIL: Creep... real creep.

JOE: You see him tonight?

EMIL: Yeah... he was in.

JOE: About what time?

EMIL: Let's see. It was just before the fight on T.V.... that'd make it about 6:45. Yeah... about then. 6:45.

FRANK: He come in alone?

EMIL: Oh yeah... always does. He don't have no friends.

JOE: What time'd he leave?
EMIL: He stayed around and watched the fight. Got into an argument with a guy...then he left about...let's see...
I guess it musta been about 9:30 ...quarter to ten.
JOE: You know a woman named Grace? Understand she's in here quite a bit?
EMIL: Grace huh? We got a couple of Graces come in here....
what's your's look like?
JOE: About 42...dark hair. Wearing a tweed coat.

EMIL: Excuse me a minute huh?
JOE: Yeah.

EMIL: Hello...yeah it is. No he's not here....he won't be back, so stop callin'. I don't care if it did pay that.... Look Bud I got no part in the action...now forget the number huh? Jackie's gone...he's in the can. Yeah....

pinched. Now lay off huh?

EMIL: Let's see....dark hair...tweed coat. Yeah...that'd be Grace Dillon.
FRANK: Dillon?
EMIL: Yeah...she's pretty much of a regular.
FRANK: (WRITING) D-I-L-L-O-N?
EMIL: Yeah...I guess so. D-I-L-L-O-N. I guess that's the way to spell it. What's all the questions? Something wrong?
JOE: What time was she in here tonight?
EMIL: Who says she was?

JOE: That's what we understand.

EMIL: Oh... yeah well, there's nothin' wrong around here... no reason not to cooperate. She was here. Came in about 8.

JOE: What time'd she leave?

EMIL: Guess it was about 9:30... 45.

JOE: She leave alone?

EMIL: I gotta think about that. Lotta people in here with the fights. Lemme think...

SOUND: PHONE RING

EMIL: I'm gonna tear that thing right outta the wall.

SOUND: HE WALKS OVER TO THE PHONE AND PICKS UP THE RECEIVER

EMIL: He ain't here... he's been pinched. I don't know when he'll be back and I don't care.

SOUND: HE SLAMS UP THE RECEIVER. WALKS BACK ON MIKE

EMIL: Come to think about it, I think she left with that Cecil.

FRANK: Johnson?

EMIL: Yeah.

JOE: Did either of them have much to drink?

EMIL: Cecil had a couple of beers. That's all he needs. Don't take much with him.

FRANK: How 'bout the Dillon woman?
EMIL: She was feelin' no pain when she got here. Really

carryin' a load. I finally told her to take a walk.

Told her I couldn't serve her no more. That's when she

left. Her and Cecil were sittin' right there...next to

each other. When I told her I wouldn't pour no more for

her, she got hacked and her and Cecil left.

JOE: You know where she lives?

EMIL: Not right off...I can look it up. We keep a list of

people who come in. Send 'em announcements about things

...like when we get a new piano player...things like

that.

JOE: Uh huh.

EMIL: I can look it up for you...just a minute.

SOUND: EMIL REACHES UNDER THE BAR AND TAKES OUT A FILE DRAWER.

HE PULLS OPEN THE DRAWER AND GOES THROUGH THE CARDS

EMIL: (GOING THROUGH THE CARDS) A....B....C....Here it is...

Darby....Dexter...Dibbs...he'd come in and pick

up the tab we're carrying.....let's see...Here

it is.....2917 Ledgewood Drive.

JOE: Thanks.

EMIL: You can take the card if you want. Don't make any

difference to me if she never comes back. Way she

carried on tonight. People just don't understand y'know.
1 JOE: What's that?
2 EMIL: Y'can just serve 'em so much. After that you're pourin
3 a hundred proof trouble. Y'gotta shut 'em off sometime.
4 JOE: Uh huh. She ever come in here with her husband?
5 EMIL: Dillon?
6 JOE: Yeah.
7 EMIL: Couple of times. Quite a while ago though. They came
8 in late one night. Sat back there in the booth. Had
9 a couple of quick belts. He drinks Irish Whiskey. Likes
10 it neat. They had a big beef. I finally hadda go back
11 and ask 'em to get out. He's a real bum. Mean.
12 JOE: Yeah.
13 EMIL: The kinda guy where to know him is to hate him. Y'know
14 the kind?
15 SOUND: PHONE RING...STEPS TO THE PHONE AND PICK UP
16 EMIL: He ain't here...I don't care how much you lost...he's
17 in the can and...What? Oh yeah, honey...well I didn't
18 know it was you. Uh huh. Early. Soon's I close up.....
19 right. Yeah...Well, I do too. What? Alright honey...
20 I love you. I do too mean it. Look there are a couple
21 of men here I gotta talk to...Yeah..as soon as I close
22 up. Yeah. G'bye...What...Oh Honey...Alright. (GIVES
23 KISS INTO PHONE) There.....Bye.
24 SOUND: HAND UP, EMIL WALKS BACK ON
EMIL: (EMBARRASED) The wife. We just been married a couple of weeks. She's kinda...you know.

FRANK: Yeah.

JOE: Did Dillon ever hit his wife do you know?

EMIL: Yeah he did. She came in here one night with a mouse that had no end. Said her old man gave it to her.

JOE: What's all this about anyway? There something wrong with Grace? Something happen to her?

EMIL: Well, we don't know sir.

JOE: Well, lemme give you this for free. If there's anything happened to her, six two and even if it was her old man. Real bum. Mean. Anything wrong and it's him that caused it. You better talk to him...you'll find out.

JOE: Alright sir...thank you very much.

FRANK: (WITH JOE) Yes sir...thanks.

EMIL: Not at all....Glad to help out.

JOE: Alright sir...Good night.

EMIL: Say...you guys goin' downtown?

JOE: Yes sir.

EMIL: To the jail?

JOE: Yes sir.

EMIL: Well if you see Jackie...will you give him a message for me?

JOE: What's that?
EMIL: Tell him if he gets out, I don't want him back here no more.

JOE: Okay.

EMIL: Guy ties up my phone.

END SCENE 3
JOE: 2:26 A.M. We got a description of the victim's husband and checked the name through R and I. We were unable to come up with any criminal record on him. Frank and I drove out to the address given us by the bartender. It was a large English Stucco house five blocks from where Grace Dillon had been found. We rang the bell and waited. An elderly woman answered the door and told us that Herman Dillon was not in. She explained that she was a baby sitter and had been called to take care of the couple's three children. She went on to say that Mr. Dillon had left the house at approximately 10:15 P.M. and had not returned. We called the office and arranged for a stakeout to be set up on the house. While we waited for the officers to arrive, the baby sitter told us that the Dillons had constant fights. She said that on several occasions, Mr. Dillon had threatened to kill his wife if she didn't spend more time at home taking care of the children. She explained that there had been an argument that evening and that after a loud fight, the wife had left the house. After she'd been gone for over an hour, Herman Dillon left to find her. 3:02 A.M. the officers arrived. We asked them to wait for the husband to return and then to notify us immediately. Frank and I drove downtown and checked into the crime lab. We talked with Lt. Lee Jones regarding his findings. He told us that he'd gone over the victim's clothing but was unable to find any physical evidence to help us in finding her assailant. 3:46 A.M. we checked into the office and put in a call to the Hospital.

SCOUND: THERMAL NOISE IN CITY HALL, NO VOICES.
JOE: (ON PHONE.) Yes sir. Uh huh. How do you spell that...
(WRITING) uh huh. A-D-E. Yes sir. Do you have any idea when that might be? I see. Yes sir...well, if you'll let us know. Right. The business office here will know how to reach us. Right. Thanks again. G'night.

SOUND: JOE HANGS UP THE PHONE.

FRANK: How is she.

JOE: Doctor says he's finished his examination. She's got a frontal bone fracture, three broken ribs, cuts and contusions.

FRANK: She gonna be all right?

JOE: He thinks so. Says she might come out of it at any time. He says it looks like she might have been thrown from a car.

FRANK: That'd explain the missing shoe and purse.

JOE: Yeah.

FRANK: He have any idea when we can talk to her?

JOE: No....might not do any good anyway.

FRANK: What d'ya mean?

JOE: This kind of fracture can produce a retrograde amnesia.

FRANK: Yeah.

JOE: She won't remember anything.

END SCENE 4

END ACT 1

GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of your police force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)
DRAaNET RADIO
Nov. 3, 1953

SECOND COMMERCIAL

1 GIBNEY: It's taking place at your dealers ... cigarette
2 dealers coast-to-coast!
3 FENN: Smokers by the thousands are now changing to
4 Chesterfield. Join 'em today ... And you'll be smoking
5 the only cigarette that gives you proof of low nicotine-
6 highest quality. I want you to know that's a matter of
7 record. And so's this. As I've been telling you ... 1913
8 Chesterfield is the only cigarette with this proven
9 record with smokers ... No adverse effects to the
10 nose, throat and sinuses from smoking Chesterfields.
11 Good reasons why you should change to Chesterfield?
12 You bet. Ask for Chesterfield ... regular or king-size.
13 Best for you. 1918
JOE: 4:02 A.M. Frank and I signed out of the office and went home. At 5:13 A.M. I got a call that the husband of the victim, Herman Dillon had returned home. The officers who called said that they were bringing him down to the city hall. I got in touch with Frank and by the time we got to the squadroom, Dillon was already there. He appeared dazed and acted as if he'd been drinking heavily. We sent out for some black coffee for him. He apparently didn't know what'd happened to his wife.

SOUND: THERMAL NOISES IN CITY HALL.

HERMAN: What's all this about anyway. What're you draggin' me out of my house like this for?

JOE: We got a few questions we want to ask you.

HERMAN: What've you got that's so important you got to go through it at 6 in the morning?

JOE: When'd you see your wife last?

HERMAN: 'Bout 7:30 last night. Why?

FRANK: How do you and your wife get along?

HERMAN: We been married for 10 years.

JOE: That's not an answer.

HERMAN: You're not married. Been married ten years and it's an answer. Been married ten years and it's all the answer you need.
FRANK: Maybe you better spell it out for me.

HERMAN: After that long you have a few disagreements. Bound to.

Y'know...being together all that time.

JOE: You and your wife have a disagreement last night?

HERMAN: Yeah...we had a discussion.

FRANK: What about?

HERMAN: I don't think that's any of your business.

JOE: What'd you argue about?

HERMAN: Her runnin' around. Wasn't a real argument. Just a discussion.

JOE: Way we got it, it was more than that.

HERMAN: Then you got it wrong.

FRANK: We heard you hit her a couple of times.

HERMAN: That's a lie. (BEAT) I mighta shoved her a little. She had it comin' though. All the time runnin' around. We got three kids. Three little kids. She doesn't care that (SNAPS FINGERS) for 'em. Always goin' out. Hangin' around those cheap bars. Boozin' it up. I came home the other night and she'd walked out and left the kids all alone. All by themselves. Didn't even get a sitter for 'em.

JOE: Where've you been tonight?
HERMAN: The baby's teething. But that don't make any difference to her. She just lets the poor little kid cry. Let's her sit up in her room and bawl. Terrible. The cops were over the other night. One of the neighbors called 'em. Y'know what Grace said? Y'know?

JOE: No sir.

HERMAN: Said the kid was spoiled...just spoiled. Kid don't cry like that just because she's spoiled. There's gotta be somethin' wrong. Grace wasn't ever much of a mother. All the time she said the kids got on her nerves. Never paid any attention to 'em. Always gettin' somebody else to take care of 'em. All the time...somebody else. Said they tied her down. If she didn't want to be tied down why'd she get married. Why? D'you know?

JOE: No sir.

HERMAN: Neither do I. Been tryin' to figure it out for ten years. Ten of the most miserable years of my life.

JOE: Can you tell us where you've been tonight?

HERMAN: Huh?

JOE: Can you tell us what your movements were tonight. Where you went?

HERMAN: Why? Why do you have to know that?

JOE: Can you tell us?
HERMAN: Yeah...After Grace and me had the fight, she walked out. I waited for her to come home then when she didn't I went out to find her.

FRANK: Did you?

HERMAN: Huh?

JOE: Did you find her?

HERMAN: No. Looked all over for her. All the bars along the boulevard but she wasn't there.

JOE: Where've you been since the bars closed?

HERMAN: Walkin' around.

JOE: In this rain?

HERMAN: Yes. I been tryin' to figure out what to do. Tryin' to make up my mind.

JOE: About what?

HERMAN: What I should do with Grace. Things can't go on like this. They can't. Nobody's happy. Not Grace, not me, and not the kids. The baby's teething and Grace just let's her cry. Says she's spoiled. She isn't spoiled. Her gums hurt. She's not spoiled.

JOE: We've heard from some of your wife's friends that you made threats on her life?

HERMAN: Who told you that?

JOE: We heard it. Is it true?
BERMAN: I suppose so. If I'da found her tonight, I'da maybe
killed her. I never been so mad before.
FRANK: You see anybody you knew tonight?
HERMAN: Huh?
FRANK: When you were walking around...did you see anybody you
knew?
HERMAN: No. Why?
JOE: Then you've got no way to prove where you were?
HERMAN: Why do I have to do that?
JOE: Might make things easier on you?
HERMAN: Say what's this all about anyway. Why're you askin' all
these questions about me and Grace. What're you tryin'
to say. Where is Grace...do you know?
JOE: Yes sir.
(Beat)
HERMAN: Well, where is she? What's happened to her?
JOE: She's in the hospital. She had a bad accident.
HERMAN: What kind of an accident?
JOE: Looks like she was beaten.
HERMAN: And you think I did it.
JOE: Might have been you.
(Beat)
HERMAN: She alive?

JOE: Yes.

HERMAN: And you think I beat her up.

JOE: Did you?

HERMAN: No. I maybe wanted to...knock some sense into her. But I didn't do it.

JOE: You prove where you were between nine and eleven thirty?

HERMAN: Is that when it happened? Why?

FRANK: Can you prove where you were?

(Beat)

HERMAN: No. I don't even know myself. You really think I did it?

JOE: We're tryin' to find out.

(Beat)

HERMAN: Y'know, I was pretty drunk tonight. I got real loaded. That's the terrible part.

JOE: Yeah?

HERMAN: Maybe I did.

(END SCENE 5)
Herman Dillon was detained pending further investigation. We'd called the hospital but there was no change in Mrs. Dillon's condition. Because of the lack of physical evidence, her testimony was essential in apprehending the person who'd beaten her. We had two prime suspects, Cecil Johnson who was known to have been in her company when she left the bar. Johnson's record indicated that he was capable of committing the crime. On the other hand, the victim's husband had stated that he might kill her. He was unable to explain his movements at the time of the attack. The only person who could tell us the true story was the victim herself and we had the doctor's statement that she might not remember the events immediately leading up to the beating. At 10:14 A.M., the following morning, we got a call from the hospital telling us that Mrs. Dillon had regained consciousness and could be questioned. The doctor told us that she was calling for her husband and asked that we bring Dillon with us. We went by the city jail and picked him up and then drove to the hospital. The doctor told us that Mrs. Dillon was in a weak condition and that we couldn't talk to her at any length. Frank, Dillon and I went into her room and waited for her to open her eyes.

GRACE: Is that you Herman?
HERMAN: Yes, dear.

GRACE: You're not mad are you. You're not still mad at me?

HERMAN: No dear. I'm not.

GRACE: That's good. I was afraid you still were mad. (BEAT)

Y'know Herman...you shouldn't have hit me like you did. I know you maybe had a reason...but you shouldn't have hit me.

JOE: Can you tell us what happened Mrs. Dillon?

GRACE: Who're you?

JOE: Police officers.

GRACE: What're you doin' here?

JOE: We're trying to find out who did this to you.

GRACE: Wasn't anybody did it.

JOE: Ma'am?

GRACE: Wasn't anybody. I did it myself. Silly. Did it all by myself.

JOE: I don't understand Mrs. Dillon.

GRACE: Herman and me had a fight and I walked out. I was gonna leave him. I went down and had a few drinks. Just a few and I got to thinkin' about me and Herman. How I was such a bad wife. I got to thinkin' about the kids and how I was a bad mother. You aren't still mad at me are you Herman. Really in your heart?
HERMAN: No Grace, I'm glad you're gonna be alright. That's all that counts.

JOE: You wanna tell us what happened Mrs. Dillon.

GRACE: I was on my way home. I was goin' back. Cecil was walkin' home with me. It was rainin' pretty hard and we came to a gutter that was full of water. I stepped up on the curb to go around it. I didn't want to step in the water and I fell. Fell down the hill. Rolled all the way to the bottom...all the way to the next street. I remember fallin'...I remember layin' in the street down below and how I couldn't move. I don't know about anything else after that...until just when you got here. Until then I don't remember much of anything.

JOE: You mean that you fell yourself. Nobody beat you up.

GRACE: No. Herman hit me when I was home. He got mad at me and hit me. But he was right. You were right honey. Real right. But it's gonna be different. I promise you. Just as long as you ain't still mad at me. That's all that matters...that you ain't mad.

HERMAN: Take it easy honey. Everything's gonna be alright. Now just take it easy and try to get some sleep.

GRACE: I love you Herman. I love you very much...and I'm gonna make it all up to you. All the bad times. I'm gonna make it all up to you.

HERMAN: I love you too Grace. Now you go to sleep. Get some rest.

GRACE: Alright honey.

(HEAT)
1 JOE: Let's go.
2 SOUND: THE THREE OF THEM WALK TO THE DOOR AND EXIT THE ROOM. AS
3 THEY DO WE HEAR THE B.G. OF THE HOSPITAL CORRIDOR COME
4 IN. THEY TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS AND STOP.
5 HERMAN: You gonna want me anymore Sergeant?
6 JOE: No sir...I don't think so.
7 HERMAN: I wonder if she means it. If she really does.
8 JOE: What's that.
9 HERMAN: About makin' it up to the kids. How things are gonna be
10 different.
11 JOE: I dunno. She said she would.
12 HERMAN: That's just it.
13 JOE: Huh?
14 HERMAN: She's said it so many times before.
15 MUSIC: SIGNATURE
DRAGNET RADIO
NOV. 3, 1953

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

1. FENNEMAN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb.
2. WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. 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 ... Chesterfields are really mild...
3. WEBB: ... Really satisfying ... Best for you.

LG 0181228
FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard was true. The names
were changed to protect the innocent.

GINLEY: On November 18th a meeting was held in the Captain's
office, Homicide Division. In a moment, the results of
that meeting.

FENN: Now here is our star; Jack Webb.

WEBB: COMMERCIAL INSERT

Since no crime had been committed,
no legal action was taken against
Mr. and Mrs. Dillon. Cecil August
Johnson was removed to Room 3
Georgia Street Receiving Hospital for
further examination.
3 GIBNEY: You have just heard Dragnet — a series of authentic
cases from official files. Technical advice comes from
the office of Chief of Police, W.H. Parker, Los Angeles
Police Department. Technical advisors: Captain Jack
Donohoe, Sgt. Marty Wynn, Sgt. Vance Brasher. Heard
tonight were: Ben Alexander,

Script by John Robinson. Music by Walter Schumann, Hal
Gibney speaking.

11 MUSIC: THEME UNDER...CONTINUES

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

(FATIMA HITCH HIKE)