



DRAGNET

CHESTERFIELD #48

NBC #216

RELEASE DATE: TUESDAY, OCT. 6, 1953

DIRECTOR: JACK WEBB

SPONSOR: CHESTERFIELD CIGARETTES

WRITER: JOHN ROBINSON

AGENCY: CUNNINGHAM-WALSH

MUSIC: WALTER SCHUMANN

COMMERCIAL-SUPERVISOR: PETE PETERSON

SCRIPT: JEAN MILES

TECHNICAL ADVISORS:

SOUND: BUD TOLLEFSON &
WAYNE KENWORTHY

SGT. MARTY WYNN: L.A.P.D.

ENGINEER: RAOUL MURPHY

SGT. VANCE BRASHER: L.A.P.D.

ANNCR. #1 GEORGE FENNEMAN

CAPT. JOHN DONOHUE: L.A.P.D.

ANNCR. #2 HAL GIENEY, NEC

CASE: "THE BIG LITTLE MOTHER"

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

RECORDING: FRIDAY, SEPT. 25, 1953

CAST AND SOUND: 12:30 - 3:00 P.M.

EDITING: T.B.A.

SCORING: T.B.A.

ORCHESTRA:

ANNCRS: T.B.A. (COMMERCIAL)

BROADCAST: 9:00 - 9:30 P.M. -- STUDIO J - BY T.R.

*Ag...
C... T... med*

..... PAUL NELSON
 EVELYN NELSON
 ALICE (DBL)
 MRS. ALLEN
 DONALDSON
 MYRA
 OFF FRANK SMITH
 BEN ALEXANDER
 SGT. JOE FRIDAY
 JACK WEBB

C A S E

"THE BIG LITTLE MOTHER"

DRAGNET - RADIO

"THE BIG LITTLE MOTHER"

N.B.C. #217 CHESTERFIELD # 49

FOR BROADCAST OCT. 13, 1953

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 about
10 to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect
11 the innocent.

12 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

13 FENN: You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to Forgery
14 Detail. For the past 6 years, a forger has been passing
15 worthless checks in your city. The victims describe the
16 suspect as a woman. Her M.O. is simple, but it continues
17 to work. Your job...stop her.

18 MUSIC: UP AND FADE FOR

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

1
2
DRAGNET
Oct. 6, 1953

FIRST COMMERCIAL 57

1 FENN: Smokers by the thousands are now changing to Chesterfield.
2 No wonder...more and more smokers are learning this fact
3 for themselves. Chesterfield - low in nicotine - highest 1/15
4 in quality. A published fact proved by chemical analyses
5 of the country's six leading cigarette brands.
6 Chesterfield...the only cigarette ever with a record like
7 this. Regular or king-size....Chesterfield is best
8 for you.

1130

1 MUSIC: THEME

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

9 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI BUTTON AND FADE ON SUSTAINED CHORD

10 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK'S STEPS ALONG CORRIDOR IN DEPARTMENT STORE.

11 CROWD B.G. AND CHIME

12 JOE: It was Friday, September 18th. It was warm in Los
13 Angeles. We were working the day watch out of Forgery
14 Detail. My Partner's Frank Smith. The boss is
15 Captain _____, My name's Friday. We were on
16 our way out from the office and it was 10:42 A.M.
17 when we got to the ninth floor of the Beckworth
18 Department store...(SOUND: DOOR OPEN)....the credit
19 manager's office.

20 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK ENTER THE OFFICE.. THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND

21 THEM. B.G. OUT. WE HEAR A TYPEWRITER OFF MIKE. JOE

22 AND FRANK TAKE A FEW STEPS AND THE TYPEWRITER FADES ON,

23 THEN STOPS

24 MYRA: (LITTLE OFF) Yes?

25 JOE: Like to see Mr. Donaldson, please.

26 MYRA: May I say who's calling?

27 JOE: Sergeant Friday, Los Angeles Police Department.

28 MYRA: Oh yes....he's expecting you...just a moment.

29 SOUND: SHE FLIPS KEY ON INTERCOM

1 DONALD: (ON FILTER) Yes?
2 MYRA: The gentlemen from the police department are here,
3 Mr. Donaldson.
4 DONALD: (ON FILTER) Send them in please.
5 MYRA: Yes sir.
6 SOUND: MYRA FLIPS SWITCH
7 MYRA: You want to go right in? That's the door.
8 JOE & FRANK: Thank you.....thanks.
9 SOUND: THEY WALK ON HARD SURFACE AND STOP. DOOR OPEN AND THEY
10 ENTER THE OFFICE. FLOOR OF OFFICE IS CARPETED
11 DONALD: (OFF) Come on in gentlemen.
12 SOUND: THEY CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND THEM
13 JOE: Mr Donaldson?
14 DONALD: Yes.
15 JOE: I'm sergeant Friday....this is my partner Frank Smith.
16 DONALD: How 'd'ya do etc.
17 FRANK: Hello.
18 DONALD: Sit down.
19 JOE: Thanks. You want to tell us what this is about sir?
20 DONALD: It's the Little Mother again. I've got the receipts
21 here in the desk.
22 SOUND: HE OPENS DESK DRAWER AND TAKES OUT FOLDER. HE OPENS
23 THE FOLDER AND TAKES OUT SEVERAL SALES SLIPS
24 DONALD: Is Sergeant Ferguson still working on this case?
25 JOE: Yes sir.

1 DONALD: I talked to him the last time we were stuck.
2 FRANK: Usual type of things charged?
3 DONALD: Yea....Children's shoes...dresses...sweaters. Same as
4 always.
5 JOE: Wonder if I might have the slips, Mr. Donaldson?
6 DONALD: Sure...here you are. (EFFORT AS HE REACHES ACROSS THE
7 DESK) All made out the same day.
8 JOE: Uh huh....August 22.
9 DONALD: Yes....our experience is that she usually comes in on a
10 Saturday. Seems that the store is more crowded then...
11 the girls don't take any more time to verify the accounts
12 than they have to.
13 FRANK: C'n I see those Joe?
14 JOE: Yeah....here.
15 SOUND: JOE HANDS THE SLIPS TO FRANK
16 JOE: (TO DONALDSON) Wonder if we could talk to the
17 sales girl who handled her.
18 DONALD: Sure. I'll have her sent up.
19 SOUND: HE TURNS AND FLIPS THE INTERCOM
20 MYRA : (ON FILTER) Yes sir.
21 DONALD: Miss Firestone, would you please have Mrs. Allen sent up?
22 MYRA: Yes sir.
23 SOUND: HE FLIPS KEY
24 FRANK: I notice here that the only item she charged not for
25 children is a woman's slip.
26 DONALD: Yes. We've had a couple of them in the past. Pieces
27 of women's clothing. I talked to Sergeant Ferguson
28 about it when he was here.

1 JOE: Uh huh. Did you get the bulletin we sent out this month?
2 DONALD: Beg pardon?
3 JOE: The bulletin...giving the woman's description...samples
4 of her handwriting...did you get it.
5 DONALD: Yes sir...we did. You've got to understand Sergeant.
6 This is one of the biggest stores in the city. We do a
7 lot of business. It'd be almost impossible to alert all
8 of the salesgirls to watch for the woman.
9 JOE: Yes sir...we understand that...but was the description
10 sent to the children's departments?
11 DONALD: It was. Didn't do any good though. If the woman
12 charged large amounts it might be easier...but look at
13 the sales slips yourself. 4 dollar shoes...3 dollar
14 dresses....There's nothing to make a charge like that
15 stand out. We make sure that there's an account in the
16 name and let it go.
17 FRANK: Don't you use the chargaplate system?
18 DONALD: Yes we do...But if a customer wants to charge an item
19 and hasn't got the plate...we usually just verify the
20 account and let them sign the sales slip
21 FRANK: How about identification?
22 DONALD: Normally we do ask for it. But as I said...these sales
23 are such small amounts and the woman comes in when the
24 store is crowded....The girls just call the credit
25 department and let her sign the receipt.
26 JOE: Uh huh.
27 SOUND: INTERCOM BUZZ
28 DONALD: Excuse me.

1 JOE: Sure.

2 SOUND: DONALDSON FLIPS THE SWITCH

3 DONALD: (INTO INTERCOM) Yes.

4 MYRA: (ON FILTER) Mrs. Allen's here.

5 DONALD: Alright. Just a moment.

6 MYRA: (O.F.) Yes sir.

7 SOUND: INTERCOM SWITCH

8 DONALD: The woman who waited on her is out in the office. Do
9 you want to talk to her in here?

10 JOE: We don't want to take up any more of your time sir. We
11 can see her out there.

12 DONALD: Alright. If there's anything else you need...I'll
13 be here.

14 JOE: Yes sir.

15 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK GET UP AND START TO THE DOOR

16 DONALD: (OFF) Officer.

17 JOE: Yes sir.

18 DONALD: Y'know...I feel a little funny about this thing.

19 JOE: Why's that sir?

20 SOUND: DONALDSON GETS UP FROM HIS DESK AND FADES IN

21 DONALD: Well, the things she's charged.

22 FRANK: What?

1 DONALD: The things she's taken...Almost all kid's clothes. She
2 doesn't seem to be interested in anything else. The total
3 amounts of the articles she's taken don't add up to much.
4 It's the principal of the thing more than the value. It
5 just seems that the only thing she's interested in is the
6 children. It feels a little funny to call the police
7 about a person like that.

8 JOE: Yes sir.

9 DONALD: We've got a lot of this going on but the others...they
10 take things for themselves...luxuries...expensive items.
11 But she doesn't...just for the kids. She doesn't seem
12 to be at all interested in herself.

13 JOE: Well, we are.

14 BEAT:

15 DONALD: Yeah...I suppose so, Well, I'll be here if you need
16 anything more.

17 FRANK: All right Mr. Donaldson...thank you. We'll be in touch
18 with you.

19 DONALD: You'll bring the sales slips back won't you?

20 JOE: Yes sir...as soon as we have had the chance to photograph
21 them.

22 DONALD: Uh huh. Well, I hope you can do something about it.

23 JOE: Yes sir...so do we.

24 SOUND: DOOR OPEN. JOE AND FRANK STEP THROUGH THE DOOR

25 DONALD: (OFF) Anything you need you let me know.

26 JOE: Yes sir...thank you.

27 SOUND: DOOR CLOSE...COUPLE OF STEPS

28 MYRA: Just a moment. (UP) Mrs. Allen?

29 MRS.A: (OFF) Yes?

1 MYRA: These are the police officers.
2 SOUND: MRS. ALLEN WALKS TO THE OFFICERS
3 JOE: How do you do Ma'am. I'm Sergeant Friday...this is my
4 partner Frank Smith.
5 FRANK &
MRS. A: EXCHANGE HELLO 'S
6 FRANK: You want to sit down over here Mrs. Allen?
7 ALLEN: Yes...all right.
8 SOUND: THEY TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS AND SIT DOWN
9 MRS.: I feel just terrible about this.
10 JOE: Ma'am?
11 MRS. A: All this forgery thing.
12 SOUND: IN THE B.G. WE HEAR THE TYPEWRITER AND FROM TIME TO TIME
13 THE PHONE RINGS.
14 FRANK: You waited on the woman did you?
15 MRS.A: Yes...at least in the little girl's department.
16 JOE: Uh huh. Wonder if you could describe her for us?
17 MRS.A: I suppose so. I remember her because she was so careful
18 about what she picked out. I was sure surprised when they
19 told me that she didn't have any right to charge those
20 things.
21 JOE: According to the sales slips, she signed the name..(SOUND:
22 HE TAKES THE SLIPS FROM HIS POCKET)...Mrs. Timothy O'Brien.
23 MRS.A: Yes...that's the name she used.
24 FRANK: Did you ask her for any identification?
25 MRS.A: No...I should have but I didn't. Y'see she came in about
26 3 on Saturday afternoon. The department was pretty
27 crowded. All of us girls were trying to take care of
28 several customers.

1 JOE: Huh.

2 MRS .A: I spent quite a bit of time with her as it was and when
3 she finally decided on the things she wanted...I wrote up
4 the slip and she signed it. Oh of course I called up
5 here to make sure there was an account.

6 JOE: Yes Ma'am. 'bout the description.

7 MRS .A: Well, she was a little woman...I'd say a 10.

8 FRANK: Beg pardon?

9 MRS .A: A size 10. Five-one. Bout a hundred and 5 pounds. Cute
10 as a button.

11 JOE: Uh huh. Did she have the children with her?

12 MRS .A: No...no she didn't. I thought it was a little funny at
13 the time...but as I say...we were so busy with the school
14 rush that afternoon that none of us girls had a chance to
15 really think about anything.

16 FRANK: Yes ma'am. What color hair did she have?

17 MRS .A: Kind of a sandy color. I guess you'd call it a blonde.
18 Wore it up in a bun...(INDICATES) Back here...y'know.

19 JOE: Yes Ma'am.

20 MRS .A: The other girls noticed it. Long...looked nice..different
21 than all the short haircuts...kinda old fashioned and
22 homey.

23 JOE: How was she dressed?

24 MRS .A: Not very well. Had a little blue hat...dark coat. Cloth
25 coat. Collar came down like this...(INDICATES)...slash
26 pockets. Nice but not expensive.

27 FRANK: Would you know her again if you saw her?

28 MRS .A: Oh my yes. Sure would. I tell you Mr...(SHE'S FORGOTTEN)
29 I'm sorry.

30 JOE: Friday...Joe Friday.

1 MRS .A: Yes...Well, Mr. Friday...she was just as cute as a button.
2 She knew just exactly what she wanted. Told me and then
3 when I brought the dresses...she really looked them over.
4 Looked at how they were made. How they were cut. She
5 knew what she wanted and wouldn't be satisfied with
6 anything else.

7 JOE: Uh huh. Finally picked two dresses...Four fifty. Said
8 that they'd do. I tried to show her some more expensive
9 models but she wouldn't hear of it. Said that four-fifty
10 was enough to pay for a dress for school. Funny now...
11 when you figure it wasn't her money she was spending.

12 JOE: Yes ma'am. Did you notice anything about the way she
13 spoke...Any sort of an accent...something like that?

14 MRS .A: No.

15 JOE: Uh huh. Well, we'd like you to come over to our office
16 and look at some pictures.

17 MRS .A: All right...I'll have to talk to the floor manager.

18 FRANK: We'll take care of that Mrs. Allen.

19 MRS .A: All right. You think that you might have a picture of her?

20 JOE: We don't know.

21 MRS .A: I kinda hope not.

22 JOE: Ma'am?

23 MRS .A: I hope you don't have a picture. I guess it's a little
24 sinful to even think it...but she had a reason for what
25 she did. I'm sure of it.

26 FRANK: Why do you say that Mrs. Allen?

27 MRS .A: Officer...I've been selling for a long time. I've met a
28 lot of people in that time. Nice ones...nasty ones. And
29 believe me...this is one of the sweetest people I've ever
30 served.

1 FRANK: Uh huh.
2 MRS. A: I understand that you call her the Little Mother....
3 that right?
4 JOE: Yes ma'am...that's what the papers named her.
5 MRS. A: Well, it fits her to a "T". Right to a "T." Way she
6 bustled around those dresses. Lookin'.....testing....
7 she was just like a mother hen tryin' to find something
8 for her brood. A little doll. Cute as a button. She's
9 just got to have a reason for what she's doin'.
10 SOUND: DOOR TO DONALDSON'S OFFICE OPENS AND DONALDSON COMES OUT:
11 DONALD: (FADING IN) Sergeant Friday.....
12 JOE: Yes, Mrs. Donaldson?
13 DONALD: I'm glad I caught you. I think we've got it?
14 JOE: Sir?
15 DONALD: The little mother....she's downstairs now.
16 (END SCENE I)

1 JOE: For the last six years the same woman had been operating
2 in the downtown department stores. During that period
3 she'd forged a total of 13 hundred dollars worth of
4 merchandise that we knew of. Because of her M.O.,
5 there was no way of telling how much more had gone
6 undetected. The operation was simple, she'd enter a store
7 and go to one of the departments. There, she'd pick
8 articles of apparel, mostly for children and then ask
9 to charge them. She'd explain that she'd forgotten her
10 chargeplate and after the account had been verified, she'd
11 sign the charge slip. These slips would be put in the
12 mail to the people who maintained the account and it
13 wouldn't be until they noticed a discrepancy, that we'd
14 be notified. In this interim, usually a month would pass
15 between the time, the clothing was taken and we were
16 told of it. In the 6 years the "Little Mother," as
17 the newspapers had named her, had been working, almost
18 every team of detectives in the forgery detail had worked
19 on the case. Statements from salesgirls who'd waited on
20 her were taken. Photostats of the sales slips were made,
21 Witnesses were interrogated and when the sum total of
22 actual physical evidence was weighed and sifted, there
23 was no lead to the identity of the forger. The police
24 department had gotten out printed bullitens and copies
25 of composite drawings of the suspect and these had been
26 distributed to all department stores in the area, but
27 because of the suspects appearance and the way she operated
28 none of the victims became suspicious in time to notify us.
29 The evidence continued to pile up.

(MORE)

1 JOE:The operation continued to work. When the
(CONT'D)
2 manager of Beckworth's department store told us that the
3 suspect was in the store, Frank and I were able to come
4 up with the first concrete lead since we'd been working
5 on the case. In the company of the manager, the
6 saleswoman, Mrs. Myra Allen, Frank and I went down to
7 the Boy's department, where the suspect was reported to
8 be.
9 SOUND: ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN. CROWD IN B.G. JOE, MYRA, DONALDSON,
10 FRANK WALK RAPIDLY DOWN THE AISLE.
11 DONALD: (HURRYING) Down this way.
12 JOE: Yes sir.
13 DONALD: The girl said she was over by boy's suits. I hope they
14 were able to hold her.
15 JOE: Uh huh.
16 DONALD: Just a minute.
17 SOUND: THEY STOP WALKING.
18 JOE: Yes sir.
19 FRANK: Uh huh.
20 DONALD: I know I don't have to tell you gentlemen about the store's
21 liability in a situation like this.
22 FRANK: No sir.
23 DONALD: Now, I'm sure it's her.....but it could be very
24 embarrassing and expensive to the store if we made a
25 mistake.
26 JOE: It's alright sir,....we understand.
27 DONALD: Good. Over here.
28 SOUND: THEY START WALKING RAPIDLY AGAIN.

1 ALICE: (OFF) Mr. Donaldson.....Mr. Donaldson.

2 ~~SOUND: THEY WALK OVER TO ALICE:~~

3 DONALD: Yes Miss Franklin. Where is she?

4 ALICE: It's not my fault Mr. Donaldson.....You've got to believe
5 that.

6 JOE: What's the matter Miss?

7 DONALD: Don't tell me you stopped the wrong person.....you cause
8 trouble with an innocent party and she could sue the
9 store blind.

10 ALICE: I'm sorry Mr. Donaldson.

11 JOE: Where is the woman Miss?

12 ALICE: That's what I'm trying to tell you.

13 JOE: What?

14 ALICE: She wouldn't wait.

END SCENE II

1 JOE: A quick search of the immediate vicinity in the store
2 failed to turn up the suspect. The department store
3 security staff was notified, and a watch was put on all
4 of the doors to the streets. We checked with the elevator
5 operators. We found one who told us that she'd seen a
6 woman who answered the description, get in her car. She
7 explained that the woman seemed to be in a hurry and had
8 left the elevator as soon as it had reached the main floor.
9 A further check of the store netted us nothing. The
10 suspect had escaped. In the downtown crowds, it would
11 have been almost impossible to try to find her on the
12 streets however, an additional broadcast was gotten out
13 on her, and all cars in the area were on the look out
14 for the woman. The first good chance we'd had for
15 apprehending her was gone. We had to go back to the
16 legwork and waiting. Three months passed. During that
17 time, Frank and I cleaned up a series of counterfeit
18 payroll check cashings. Another 30 days went by without
19 activity for the "Little Mother." There were four new
20 sales slips added to the file but when the leads resulting
21 from these were checked out, we were no closer to her
22 than we'd been 6 years before. Thursday, December 17th,
23 12:35 P.M. I checked into the office.

24 SOUND: SQUADROOM DOOR CLOSE.....SQUADROOM B.G.

25 FRANK: (LITTLE OFF) Joe? That you?

26 JOE: Yeah.

27 SOUND: JOE WALKS TO FRANK

28 JOE: What've you got?

29 FRANK: Just talked to the Skipper.

1 JOE: Yeah?

2 FRANK: Got a couple of more beefs about the Little Mother
3 Forger.

4 JOE: When'd they come in?

5 FRANK: This morning.

6 JOE: Where are they?

7 FRANK: Bergman's got 'em. Checking the handwriting.

8 JOE: How 'bout the names she used?

9 FRANK: Wait a minute.....I got 'em here.

10 SOUND: HE TAKES A NOTEBOOK OUT OF HIS POCKET AND TURNS A COUPLE
11 OF PAGES.

12 FRANK: (FINDING THE NAMES) Here.....Mrs. Norris Farrel.....Mrs.
13 James Slagel and a Mrs. Ross Nieman. I called the
14 stores and got the information on the people.

15 JOE: You talked to 'em?

16 FRANK: Yeah. Asked all the routine stuff. None of 'em can
17 think of any friends who match the description.

18 JOE: How 'bout the things she charged? Anything there?

19 FRANK: No.....Usual items. (REFERS TO NOTEBOOK AGAIN) Two
20 pair of Levi's for kids.....one child's cotton dress.
21 One thing's different.

22 JOE: What's that?

23 FRANK: I checked the sizes of the clothes. Last bunch of
24 sales slips we had, the dresses were for a 10 year old.

25 JOE: Yeah.

26 FRANK: This time she bought 'em for an eleven year old. Kids
27 are gettin' bigger.

1 JOE: Yeah.....well, that's a big help. All we gotta do is
2 look for a couple of kids that're growing.
3 FRANK: I'm just tryin' to help Joe.
4 JOE: I'm sorry Frank. Just that there doesn't seem to be
5 anywhere to go. All the time we've put in.....all the
6 people we've talked to.....and all we've got for it is a
7 file drawer all to ourself on the thing.
8 SOUND: PHONE RING
9 JOE: I'll get it.
10 SOUND: HE TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AND PUNCHES A BUTTON ON THE
11 PHONE. PICK IT UP
12 JOE: Forgery, Friday. Who?.....yes ma'am. Uh huh, Yes
13 ma'am. I remember. Yes ma'am. Where is she now? I
14 see. Uh huh.....well, we can be right over. Yes
15 ma'am. Right.....G'bye.
16 SOUND: HE HANGS UP THE PHONE.
17 JOE: We got it.
18 FRANK: Huh?
19 JOE: That was Mrs. Allen.....remember the sales lady over at
20 Beckworths?
21 FRANK: (NOT TOO SURE) Oh.....yeah....I think I do. What'd
22 she have to say?
23 JOE: Told me she's having lunch in a restaurant at the corner
24 of Jackson and Hill.
25 FRANK: Yeah.
26 JOE: Our suspect's sitting next to her.
27 END SCENE III

1 JOE: 12:42 P.M. We checked out of the office and drove over
2 to the restaurant. It was located at the rear of a
3 large drugstore. When we came into the place, Mrs.
4 Allen met us at the entrance. She took us back down
5 the counter, and pointed out a small woman sitting on
6 the last stool.
7 SOUND: RESTAURANT B.G.
8 MRS. A: That's her.
9 JOE: Are you sure ma'am?
10 MRS. A: I'm positive. That's her.
11 BEAT
12 JOE: Alright Frank.
13 FRANK: Yeah.
14 JOE: You want to wait here Mrs. Allen?
15 MRS. A.: Certainly.
16 SOUND: THE TWO OFFICERS TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS AND STOP
17 EVELYN: Something you gentlemen want?
18 JOE: We're police officers ma'am. We'd like to talk to you.
19 EVELYN: Police?
20 JOE: Yes ma'am. Do you wanna step over there to talk. Might
21 be better.
22 EVELYN: If you want to say anything to me...you can do it
23 right here. I haven't done anything wrong.
24 JOE: I wonder if we could see you're identification?
25 EVELYN: Why?
26 JOE: You're identification ma'am...could we see it?
27 BEAT

1 EVE: Alright...just a minute. I've got it in my purse.
2 JOE: Yes ma'am.
3 SOUND: EVELYN SHIFTS THE PACKAGES SHE'S CARRYING AND FINDS HER
4 PURSE. SHE OPENS IT. AND LOOKS THROUGH IT FOR HER I.D.
5 EVE: (AS SHE WORKS) Getting terrible....I don't know what
6 you officers are trying to find out, but I'm going to
7 tell you right now that if you can't prove you've got
8 a reason for making me do this....you're in trouble.
9 JOE: We're not making you do anything...we don't want to
10 cause you any embarrassment.
11 EVE: Funny way of showing it. I want to tell you that my
12 husband knows people in this town. When he hears about
13 this....(SHE FINDS HER I.D.) Here you are....here's
14 my drivers' license.
15 JOE: Would you take it out of the wallet, please.
16 SOUND: SHE TAKES THE CARD OUT OF A CELLULOID HOLDER.
17 EVE: Here.
18 JOE: (LOOKING AT THE LICENSE) Uh huh. Mrs. Evelyn Nelson.
19 EVE: That's who I am.
20 JOE: This your present address?
21 EVE: No it isn't. We moved a few months ago but I haven't
22 had the chance to have it changed. Is that all you
23 want?
24 JOE: No Mrs. Nelson. I wonder if we could talk to you in
25 our office?
26 EVE: Why? I always thought that you had to arrest people
27 before you could order them around.

1' JOE: We're asking you to come over to the city hall with us.
2 There are a few things we'd like to check out.
3 EVE: What things?
4 BEAT
5 JOE: I wonder if we could see what you've got in the bags
6 here?
7 EVE: What're you looking for?
8 JOE: Just like to see.
9 EVE: They're just some clothes for my children. Nothing in
10 there that'd interest you.
11 JOE: Then it wouldn't hurt if we looked would it?
12 BEAT
13 EVE: Go ahead...you won't find anything.
14 JOE: Wanna give me a hand Frank?
15 FRANK: Yeah.
16 SOUND: THEY TAKE A COUPLE OF THE PAPER BAGS AND OPEN THEM
17 EVE: Well, what about it? You find anything wrong? Maybe
18 a gun.
19 JOE: No ma'am. But I wonder if you can explain this?
20 EVE: What's that?
21 JOE: Charge slip here...
22 SOUND: JOE TAKES THE CHARGE SLIP OUT OF THE BAG
23 JOE: (READING) Signed by a Mrs. Ross Nieman.
24 EVE: Certainly that was probably in the bag when I bought
25 the things. I don't know anything about it.
26 JOE: Alright Mrs. Nelson...I'm afraid we're gonna have to
27 ask you to come with us.

1 EVE: On what charge?
2 JOE: Suspicion of forgery.
3 EVE: Me? You can't be serious.
4 FRANK: I'm afraid we are Mrs. Nelson.
5 BEAT
6 EVE: You just wait until my husband hears about this. You
7 officers are really gonna be in trouble.
8 JOE: Yes ma'am. D'ya wanna go.
9 EVE: Just a minute. I've got to pay my check.
10 JOE: Alright Mrs. Nelson.
11 SOUND: SHE TAKES A FEW COINS OUT OF HER PURSE AND TOSSES THEM
12 ON THE COUNTER
13 FRANK: Can I help you with those packages?
14 SOUND: EVE IS PICKING UP THE PACKAGES
15 EVE: Don't bother.
16 SOUND: THEY TAKE A COUPLE OF STEPS. AS THEY DO WE HEAR MRS.
17 ALLEN FADE IN
18 MRS. A: (LITTLE OFF) Officer?
19 JOE: Yes ma'am?
20 MRS. A: I wonder if I could see you a minute?
21 JOE: Sure...You wanna go ahead Frank?
22 FRANK: Yeah.
23 SOUND: FRANK AND EVELYN FADE OFF INTO THE CROWD
24 JOE: What is it Mrs. Allen?

1 MRS. A: Is that her? Is she the one?
2 JOE: Well yes ma'am...it looks like it.
3 MRS. A: That's a load off my mind.
4 JOE: Ma'am?
5 MRS. A: While you were talking to her....Just all of a sudden
6 it hit me...
7 JOE: Yeah?
8 MRS. A: I'm not sure it is.
9 END SCENE 4
10 END ACT 1
11 GIBNEY: You are listening to Dragnet, the authentic story of
12 your Police Force in action.

(COMMERCIAL INSERT)

DRAGNET
Oct. 6, 1953

SECOND COMMERCIAL

16104

- 1 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. 16115
5 FENN: ~~/~~Smokers by the thousands...yes, smokers by the thousands...
6 are now changing to Chesterfield -- the only cigarette
7 ever to give you -
8 GIBNEY: One....Proof of low nicotine - highest quality. Chemical
9 analyses of the country's six leading brands confirms
10 that. 16130
11 FENN: Two - the only cigarette ever to give you this proven
12 record with smokers. Again and again, over a full year
13 and one-half....a group of Chesterfield smokers have been
14 given thorough medical examinations. The doctor's
15 reports are a ~~/~~matter of record. 16145
16 GIBNEY: No adverse effects to the nose, throat and sinuses from
17 smoking Chesterfield.
18 FENN: A responsible independent research laboratory supervises 17100
19 this continuing program. ~~/~~Chesterfield - the only cigarette
20 ever with a record like this. Chesterfield - Best for you.

16115

1 JOE: With the possibility that the identification of the
2 saleslady Mrs. Allen might be wrong, the position we were
3 putting the police department and ourselves in became
4 uncertain. If we were wrong, and Mrs. Nelson was not the
5 suspect we were after, we were putting ourselves in
6 jeopardy for a suit based on false arrest. It was
7 possible that the sales-slip found in the paper bag, was
8 left there when it was given to her. It was an outside
9 chance...but it was possible. We returned the suspect
10 to the city hall for questioning. While Frank checked
11 her name through the files, I tried to get her to talk.
12 For twenty minutes her attitude was one of surprise and
13 she answered the questions I put to her with indignance.
14 Finally, she lapsed into silence and wouldn't reply at
15 all to further interrogation. Frank came back from R & I
16 with the information that there was no arrest record for
17 the information that there was no arrest record for the
18 Mrs. Nelson. We put out calls to the sales - girls
19 who had waited on the "Little Mother" in the past and
20 asked them to come down to the office to see if they could
21 identify the suspect.

22 SOUND: SQUADROOM B.G.

23 FRANK: (INTO PHONE) Yes ma'am.... Room 29. Come right in the
24 first street entrance and turn right into the police
25 department. That's right....through the arch. Uh huh...
26 straight down the hall and to the left.....It's the only
27 way you can go...yes ma'am. It's on the left as you go
28 down the hall. That's right....29....Uh huh. If you'll
29 just ask for Sergeant Friday or Officer Smith. No ma'am
30 Smith. Alright ma'am...We'll expect you. Thank you. G'bye.

31 SOUND: HE BREAKS THE CONNECTION TO THE PHONE

1 FRANK: I'll call the next one

2 JOE: Yeah.

3 SOUND: FRANK MAKES THE CONNECTION....DIALS NINE AND THEN NUMBERS

4 JOE: (WHILE FRANK IS DIALING) You'd save yourself and us a
5 lot of trouble if you'd tell us the truth Mrs. Nelson.

6 PAUSE:

7 JOE: Mrs. Nelson?

8 FRANK: (INTO PHONE) Hello...may I speak with Miss Brundage
9 please...In Childrens wear? Yes ma'am...I will.

10 BEAT:

11 EVE: Hang up the phone.

12 JOE: Beg pardon?

13 EVE: You don't have to go through any more of this.

14 SOUND: FRANK HANGS UP THE PHONE.

15 BEAT:

16 JOE: Alright ma'am.

17 PAUSE:

18 FRANK: You wanna tell us about it?

19 PAUSE:

20 JOE: You feel alright Mrs. Nelson?

21 PAUSE:

22 EVE: (QUIETLY) I only did it for them, the kids. I didn't
23 want to. How do you think I felt when I knew I was
24 stealing? How do you think I felt?

1 JOE: Go ahead.

2 EVE: My husband Paul's a good man. What he's done he thinks
3 is right. I can't quarrel with him. But he doesn't
4 know. He doesn't understand. (SHE STARTS TO CRY) It
5 isn't that he doesn't love the kids. He does. He
6 really does. It's just that he doesn't understand. You
7 can see that can't you? He doesn't understand about
8 them.

9 FRANK: Can we get you a glass of water Mrs. Nelson?

10 EVE: No thank you... Do either one of you have a handkerchief,
11 ...I came away this morning without one.

12 JOE: Here you are.

13 EVE: Thanks.

14 SOUND: SHE TAKES THE HANDKERCHIEF AND BLOWS HER NOSE...GENTLY!!

15 BEAT

16 JOE: You want to go on?

17 EVE: Y'see. With me it wasn't so bad. I knew that Paul just
18 wanted security., Money in the bank... enough so he
19 wouldn't ever have to worry. I knew that and I could
20 see what he was trying to do. But the kids. They didn't
21 know. They thought that their father didn't care. I
22 love Paul. I couldn't let his children feel anything
23 less than that for him.

24 JOE: I don't think I understand.

1 EVE: All his life he's worked. Put in long hours without a
2 thought to what he was doing to himself. Every nickel
3 he made was put away so he'd be able to feel secure. So
4 he wouldn't have to worry about anything. It was alright
5 when we first got married. I could understand it then.
6 I went along with what he thought. But the last few
7 years, it's gotten to be an obsession with him. The
8 almighty dollar. That's all that seems important to him.

9 FRANK: What business is your husband in Mrs. Nelson?

10 EVE: He owns a grocery store. Small place but it does good.
11 Makes a good living...only we aren't living. We're
12 existing.

13 JOE: Uh huh.

14 EVE: He gives me ten dollars a week to run the house on and
15 buy clothes for the kids. I've tried. Lord knows I've
16 tried. Budget meals...cheap cuts of meat...day old
17 bread. Anyway you spend it..no matter how you figure..ten
18 dollars doesn't go very far.

19 (SHE BLOWS HERE NOSE AGAIN)

20 JOE: Anything we can get for you Mrs. Nelson?

21 EVE: No. Now that I'm telling you...it feels better, It
22 doesn't seem so bad. I'd like to go ahead...get it all
23 out.

24 JOE: Alright ma'am.

1 EVE: When the kids were little it was easier. Then they
2 started to school. I'd walk down with them. Watch them
3 go in. See them say hello to their little friends and
4 see the look that came into their eyes when they noticed
5 that all kids clothes weren't mended. That some of them
6 even had shoes that hadn't been worn by their older
7 brother. Hardest thing in the world..to stand there and
8 see your children think they aren't as good as their
9 friends.

10 FRANK: Didn't you talk to your husband about it? Didn't you ask
11 him for additional money for the expenses?

12 EVE: Yes...I'd ask him and he'd tell me that I had to make do.
13 All the time..make do. Just a little longer until he had
14 the money in the bank. Then we'd be all right. Only the
15 more it went on...the worse it got. It didn't seem to
16 make any difference how much money we had...how the
17 total in the pass book went up..he wasn't satisfied. It
18 had to be more. A little more. (CRIES A LITTLE) I guess
19 I'm feeling sorry for myself. But y'see he could afford
20 to buy the kids decent clothes. At least that. You
21 agree with me don't you?

22 JOE: It's hard to say ma'am.

1 EVE: Not for me. I'll never forget the day when my boy came
2 home. Crying. He'd been fighting. One of the other
3 boys at school had said something about the patches on
4 his clothes. Just a little kid, that's all he was.
5 Ridiculed by his friends. That's when I made up my mind
6 to do something about it.

7 JOE: Does your husband know anything about your activities?

8 EVE: No...nothing.

9 FRANK: How'd you explain the new clothes for the youngster's to
10 him?

11 EVE: I didn't have to. Last year, he's been working so hard
12 at the store that I hardly ever see him. The kids don't
13 hardly know him. He even spends Sunday at the store
14 dressing the windows.

15 JOE: Y'mean he spends all his time there?

16 EVE: Every minute he's not asleep. He let the one clerk he
17 had go, so he could save the money. Always save the
18 money. It doesn't make any difference who get's hurt.
19 Get that dollar and put it away. That's what counts...
20 put the dollar away. (SHE CRIES) Y' know something
21 Officer.....?

22 JOE: What's that Mrs. Nelson?

1 EVE: I haven't been able to sit down and talk to my husband
2 for six weeks. Six weeks, he gets home at 12:30
3 1 o'clock in the morning. He's up and gone at 6:30.
4 Kids are always asking when daddy's comin' home. How do
5 you answer 'em. How do you make them understand. I can't
6 ..I've tried the only way I know how...and I did it so
7 wrong (SHE CRIES)

8 FRANK: All right Mrs. Nelson...we'll try to work it out.

9 EVE: Can I use your phone? I've got to tell the children what
10 to do about dinner.

11 JOE: I'll call for you ma'am..what's the number?

12 EVE: Hollywood 9-88-44.

13 SOUND: JOE GOES TO THE PHONE AND DIALS THEN HO.....9-88-44.

14 JOE: (AT THE PHONE WHILE HE DIALS) Where's your husband now,
15 Mrs. Nelson?

16 EVE: At the store, I guess. You gonna call him?

17 FRANK: I think we should ma'am...let him know what's happened.

18 EVE: I guess so. Somebody's got to take care of the kids.

19 JOE: (INTO THE PHONE) Hello...I'm calling for Mrs. Nelson...I
20 wonder if I could speak to her son?....This is Sergeant
21 Friday, Los Angeles Police Department. Who? Yes, No...
22 she's down here now. Yeah...Room 29...All right.

23 SOUND: PHONE HANG UP

1 EVE: Was that my boy? I wanted to talk to him?

2 JOE: No ma'am.. .it was your husband.. .he's on his way down
3 here.

4 END SCENE 5

5 JOE: 2:14 P.M. Paul Nelson walked into the office. Frank and I
6 took he and his wife to the interrogation room. She'd
7 asked us while we waited for him if we'd let her talk to
8 him for a few minutes alone. We stayed out in the hall
9 and after a brief wait, Paul Nelson opened the door and
10 asked us to come into the room. His wife had evidently
11 told him the full story because he was visably shaken. He
12 walked over to his wife and sat down beside her.

13 PAUL: Well, I guess I've really done it haven't I?

14 FRANK: Sir?

15 PAUL: I've really ruined everything. My home... my kids.....
16 everything. All the time it was happening, I never knew
17 it. Never had an idea.

18 EVE: Don't blame yourself too much Paul.

19 PAUL: But I should have known. I should have seen it myself.
20 Even when you tried to tell me, I was too busy to see it.
21 Too wrapped up with the business.

22 EVE: It wasn't for me Paul....it was for the children.

23 PAUL: It doesn't make any difference who it was for.....I'm the
24 one who caused it. I'm the one....it's my fault. I'm
25 sorry Evelyn....How can I ever make it up to you.

26

1 EVE: Don't think about that now Paul. It won't do any good.
2 What's been done can't be changed.

3 PAUL: How 'bout it, officer?

4 JOE: Sir?

5 PAUL: What happens now?

6 JOE: Well, your wife will be given a preliminary hearing.
7 She'll have the chance to plead guilty. If she does, the
8 court will decide what to do.

9 PAUL: What is the punishment for what she's done?

10 JOE: According to Section four seventy three of the penal code,
11 it's imprisonment in the State penitentiary for 1 to
12 fourteen years or for not more than a year in the country
13 jail.

14 PAUL: Is there any way out of it?

15 JOE: What d'ya mean?

16 PAUL: Any way of getting Evelyn out of it. If I went to the
17 judge and told him why she did it. If I told him that it
18 was my fault...would that make a difference?

19 JOE: I don't know Nelson....that's be up to the court.

20 PAUL: But I could try.

21 JOE: Yes sir....

22 PAUL: If I paid the money back. For all the things she's taken.
23 I can afford it. I could go to the stores and pay them.
24 Maybe they'd feel different then. I could make it up to
25 'em. Everything would be alright.

26 JOE: This things been going on for 6 years Nelson.

1 PAUL: But if I did pay the stores back....it'd make it up to
2 them wouldn't it?

3 JOE: Maybe....but how 'bout your wife.

4 PAUL: What?

5 JOE: How you gonna make it up to her?

6 END SCENE 6

7 JOE: The following morning, the suspect was released on bail.
8 That afternoon, Frank and I met with Mr. and Mrs. Nelson
9 and their Attorney. We talked over the case. It seemed
10 that the husband's change of heart was permanent. He swore
11 that he would never give his wife cause for unhappiness
12 again. Two weeks later, in department 89 of the
13 Superior court, Mrs. Nelson entered a plea of guilty to
14 14 counts of forgery. When the court reviewed the
15 circumstances and was informed that Mr. Nelson intended
16 to make full restitution, the suspect was placed on
17 probation for a period of three years. After the hearing,
18 Frank and I had a brief talk with the couple. They
19 thanked us for our consideration and understanding.
20 Apparently, the cause of trouble between the Nelsons had
21 been erased. Another two weeks by. January 22nd. Frank
22 and I got back from lunch and checked into the office.

23 SOUND: SQUADROOM DOOR CLOSE...FEW FOOTSTEPS TO BRING THEM INTO
24 THE ROOM.

1 PAUL: (LITTLE OFF) Here they are dear.

2 EVE: Mr. Friday ... Mr. Smith.

3 SOUND: JOE AND FRANK WALK OVER TO THEM

4 JOE: Mr. and Mrs. Nelson...how are you.

5 EVE: Just fine, sergeant. How are you two.

6 FRANK: 'Bout breakin' even. What can we do for you?

7 PAUL: It's what we want to do for you.

8 JOE: Sir?

9 EVE: (TO PAUL) You got the boxes honey?

10 PAUL: Yeah...here they are.

11 SOUND: PAUL TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS OFF MIKE AND PICKS UP TWO

12 BOXES OF COOKIES.

13 EVE: It's not much...but we thought that you'd like them.

14 Made 'em ourselves. To say thanks.

15 JOE & FRANK: That's not necessary....Y'didn't have to do that. Etc.

16 PAUL: No...we wanted to. Toll House cookies...Eve made a box
17 for each of you. Real good...lots of chocolate.

18 JOE: That's real nice.

19 EVE: We just hope you'll enjoy 'em.

20 JOE: I'm sure we will.

21 FRANK: Yes ma'am.

22 JOE: How're things goin' with you...?

23 EVE: Just fine. Paul and I've gotten everything straightened
24 out. I help him out in the store now...that way he's got
25 more time to spend with the kids. Things just couldn't
26 be much better.

1 JOE: Well, we're glad to hear it.

2 EVE: It's a funny thing to say Mr. Friday...but it's true.
3 Best thing that ever happened to us.

4 JOE: What's that Mrs. Nelson?

5 EVE: My gettin' arrested.

6 MUSIC: SIGNATURE

7 FENN: (EASILY) The story you have just heard is true. The names
8 were changed to protect the innocent.

9 GIBNEY:

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

11 WEBB: COMMERCIAL INSERT

DRAGNET
Oct. 6, 1953

28/13

CLOSING COMMERCIAL

1 FENN: Now, here is our star - Jack Webb.
2 WEBB: Thank you, George Fenneman. Friends, we've been getting
3 letters from people all over the country telling us that
4 they've switched to Chesterfield. Just as I've been
5 telling you...thousands of smokers are changing to
6 Chesterfield because only Chesterfield gives proof of
7 low nicotine....highest quality. That's why I recommend
8 you try them today. Regular or king-size....You'll find
9 Chesterfield best for you.

28/32