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TWELVE ANGRY MEN

by Reginald Rose

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NOTE: The notes on characters are extremely brief, since it is felt that what they are and who they are will be revealed in their dialogue and actions during the course of the film.

FOREMAN: 35 years old. Assistant high school football coach. A small, petty man who is at first wary of, and then impressed with the authority he has. Handles himself quite formally. Not overly bright, but dogged.

Juror #2: 38 years old. Bank clerk. A meek, hesitant man who finds it difficult to maintain any opinions of his own. Easily swayed and usually adopts the opinion of the last person to whom he has spoken.

JUROR #3: 40 years old. Head of a messenger service. A very strong, very forceful, extremely opinionated man within whom can be detected a streak of sadism. A humorless man who is intolerant of opinions other than his own, and accustomed to forcing his wishes and views upon others.

JUROR #4: 50 YEARS OLD. Stockbroker. A man of wealth and position. A practiced speaker who presents himself well at all times. Seems to feel a little bit above the rest of the jurors. His only concern is with the facts in this case and he is appalled with the behavior of the others. Constantly preening himself, combing his hair, cleaning his nails, etc.

JUROR #5: 25 years old. Mechanic. A naive, very frightened young man who takes his obligations in this case very seriously but who finds it difficult to speak up when his elders have the floor.

JUROR #6: 33 years old. Housepainter. An honest, but dull-witted man who comes upon his decisions slowly and carefully. A man who finds it difficult to create positive opinions, but who must listen to and digest and accept these opinions offered by others which appeal to him most.

JUROR #7: 42 years old. Salesman. A loud, flashy, glad-handed salesman type who has more important things to do than sit on a jury. He is quick to show temper, quick to form opinions on things about which he knows nothing. He is a bully, and, of course, a coward.

- JUROR #8: 42 years old. Architect. A quiet, thoughtful, gentle man. A man who sees many sides to every question and constantly seeks the truth. A man of strength tempered with compassion. Above all a man who wants justice to be done, and will fight to see that it is.
- JUROR #9: 70 years old. Retired. A mild, gentle old man, long since defeated by life, and now merely waiting to die. A man who recognizes himself for what he is, and mourns the days when it would have been possible to be courageous without shielding himself behind his many years. From the way he takes pills whenever he is excited, it is obvious that he has a heart condition.
- JUROR #10: 46 years old. Garage owner. An angry, bitter man. A man who antagonizes almost at sight. A bigot who places no values on any human life save his own. A man who has been nowhere and is going nowhere and knows it deep within him. He has a bad cold and continually blows his nose, sniffs a Benzedrine inhaler, etc.
- JUROR #11: 48 years old. Watchmaker. A refugee from Europe who has come to this country in 1941. A man who speaks with an accent and who is ashamed, jumble, almost subservient to the people around him, but a man who will honestly seek justice because he has suffered through so much injustice.
- JUROR #12: 30 years old. Advertising man. A slick, bright advertising man who thinks of human beings in terms of percentages, graphs and polls, and has no real understanding of people. A superficial snob, but trying to be a good fellow. Throughout the film he doodles on a scratch pad.

AND

THE JUDGE
THE COURT CLERK
THE GUARD
THE TWO ALTERNATE JURORS

AND (if desired)

THE COURT STENOGRAPHER

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

FADE IN:

EXT. N.Y. COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS - DAY

A large, imposing building, gray, impressive as a background for the comings and goings of a number of ordinary people on an ordinary day. Camera holds on steps and building front from the distance and then dollies in slowly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE LOBBY - SAME

Seething with activity, people of all kinds walking swiftly, purposefully to and from elevators, newsstands, etc. Others standing, waiting. Guards stationed at various posts. Camera pans across lobby and then dollies into a bank of elevators. A number of people crowd into one. The door closes.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LONG CORRIDOR UPSTAIRS - SAME

The elevators on left. Many doorways to various courtrooms on right. Each door marked with a hanging sign. The first sign reads "Court of General Sessions. Part I". The second sign reads "Court of General Sessions. Part II" etc. An elevator door opens and a number of people exit and walk down the corridor. Other people, men and women, stand in the corridor talking. The whole feeling is one of movement, activity, intense concentration. Everyone has a purpose. Camera dollies down the corridor, following a group of people who exited from the elevator. People peel off from the group at various doors. At each door stands a guard. People move in and out of the doors. Camera reaches the door marked "Part VI", and pans around to face the door. A guard stands in front of it, impassively. No one else is in front of the door, as compared to the knots of whispering people in front of all the other doors. The case going on in "Part VI" obviously has very little general interest. Through the glass window of the door we can see, far in the background, the judge at his bench. He is facing to his left, and talking. We hear nothing. He stops and turns to his right. He raises his hand as if calling the waiter.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COURTROOM - SAME

An empty water glass on a tray.

From the noise of the corridor we are now in the deathlike stillness of a courtroom. A hand places a freshly-filled pitcher of water on the tray. A pair of hands fills a glass from the pitcher. Camera pans with glass as it is raised. Camera holds on close-up of judge, drinking the water. He finishes, puts the glass down, and turns to his left again. He clears his throat. Then he begins to speak.

JUDGE

...and that concludes the court's explanation of the legal aspects of this case. And now, gentlemen of the jury, I come to my final instruction to you. Murder in the first degree - premeditated homicide -- is the most serious charge tried in our criminal courts. You've listened to the testimony and you've had the law read to you and interpreted as it applies to this case. It now becomes your duty to try and separate the facts from the fancy. One man is dead. The life of another is at stake. I urge you to deliberate honestly and thoughtfully. If there is a reasonable doubt -- then you must bring me a verdict of "not guilty". If, however, there is no reasonable doubt, then you must, in good conscience, find the accused guilty. However you decide, your verdict must be unanimous. In the event you find the accused guilty...

CLOSE SHOT THE ACCUSED

A young Puerto Rican man vulnerable and afraid.

JUDGE (CONT)

...the bench will not entertain a recommendation for mercy. The death sentence is mandatory in this case. I don't envy you your job. You are faced with a grave responsibility. Thank you, gentlemen.

There is a brief pause. The jurors file out.

INT. JURY ROOM - DAY

A very hot summer afternoon. It is a large, drab, bare room in need of painting, with three windows in the back wall through which can be seen the New York skyline. Off the jury room is a washroom, with a lavatory beyond. A large, scarred table is C with twelve chairs around it. A bench stands against the wall and there are several extra chairs and a small table in the room, plus a water-cooler, with paper cups and a waste basket and an electric fan over the bench and a clock over the cooler and row of hooks for coats, with a shelf over it. There are pencils, pads and ashtrays on the table. At night the room is lit by fluorescent lighting with the switch next to the door.

The Jurors enter preceded by a Guard. He checks his list. The 9th Juror, an old man, crosses, goes into the washroom, and exits to the lavatory. The 4th Juror begins to read a newspaper. Several jurors open the windows. Others move awkwardly about the room. There is no conversation for a few moments. The 3rd Juror takes out some notes and studies them. The 2nd Juror crosses to the water-cooler, gets a cup of water. The Foreman tears a sheet from the notepad and tears up little slips of paper for ballots. The Guard crosses to the 12th Juror and checks his name. The 7th Juror crosses to the 4th Juror and offers him a stick of gum. The 4th Juror shakes his head.

7TH JUROR
(turning to the 8th Juror)
Do you want some gum?

8TH JUROR
(smiling)
No thanks.

The 7th Juror vigorously chews a piece of gum himself and crosses to the 6th Juror.

7TH JUROR
(mopping his brow)
Y'know something? I phoned up for
the weather. This is the hottest day
of the year.

7TH JUROR (CONT)
(the 6th Juror nods and gazes out
the window)
You'd think they'd at least air
condition the place. I almost
dropped dead in court.

GUARD
Okay, gentlemen. Everybody's here.
If there's anything you want, I'm
right outside. Just knock.

The Guard exits and in the silence the sound is heard of the door being locked.

5TH JUROR

I never knew they locked the door.

10TH JUROR

Sure they lock the door. What'd you think?

5TH JUROR

I don't know. It just never occurred to me.

The 10th Juror crosses and pauses beside the Foreman and indicates the slips of paper.

10TH JUROR

Hey, what's that for?

FOREMAN

Well, I figured we might want to vote by ballots.

10TH JUROR

Great idea! Maybe we can get him elected senator.

He laughs until he begins to cough.

The Foreman looks at his watch and compares it with the clock. The 3rd Juror takes a cup of water from the water-cooler, moves to the 2nd Juror and looks around the room as he sips the water.

3RD JUROR

(to the 2nd Juror)

How'd you like it?

2ND JUROR

(mildly)

I don't know, it was pretty interesting.

3RD JUROR

Yeah? I was falling asleep.

2ND JUROR

I mean, I've never been on a jury before.

3RD JUROR

Really? I've sat on juries, and it always amazes me the way these lawyers can talk, and talk and talk, even when the case is as obvious as this one. I mean, did you ever hear so much talk about nothing?

2ND JUROR

Well, I guess they're entitled.

3RD JUROR

Sure they are. Everybody deserves a fair trial. That's the system. Listen, I'm the last one to say anything against it, but I'm telling you sometimes I think we'd be better off if we took these tough kids and slapped 'em down before they make trouble, you know? Save us a lot of time and money.

The 2nd Juror looks nervously at the 3rd Juror, nods, rises, moves to the water-cooler, refills his cup and stands alone, sipping.

7TH JUROR

(to the Foreman)

Hey, how about getting started here?

3RD JUROR

Yeah, let's get this over with.
We've probably all got things to do.

FOREMAN

Well, I was figuring we'd take a five-minute break. I mean, one man's in the bathroom...

5TH JUROR

(to the Foreman, hesitantly)

Are we going to sit in order?

FOREMAN

What? I don't know. I suppose so.

The 8th Juror is looking out the window.

12TH JUROR

(to the 8th Juror)

Not a bad view.

(the 8th Juror nods)

What d'you think of the case?

12TH JUROR (CONT)

(the 8th Juror doesn't answer)
It had a lot of interest for me. No
dead spots -- know what I mean? I'll
tell you we were lucky to get a
murder case. I figured us for a
burglary or an assault or something.
Those can be the dullest.

(he looks out of the window)
Say, isn't that the Woolworth
Building?

8TH JUROR

That's right.

12TH JUROR

Funny, I've lived here all my life
and I've never been in it.

The 8th Juror gazes out of the window. The 12th Juror looks at him
for a moment then moves away. The 7th Juror, talking with the 10th
Juror, laughs)

10TH JUROR

Yeah, can you imagine, sitting there
for three days just for this?

7TH JUROR

And what about that business with the
knife? I mean, asking grown-up
people to believe that kind of
bullshit.

10TH JUROR

Well, look, you've gotta expect that.
You know what you're dealing with.

7TH JUROR

Yeah, I suppose so.

(the 10th Juror blows his nose
vigorously)

What's the matter, you got a cold?

10TH JUROR

And how. These hot weather colds can
kill you. I can hardly touch my
nose. Know what I mean?

(he blows his nose loudly)

7TH JUROR

Well, your horn's all right. Now try your lights.

(the 7th Juror climbs on to the bench and tries the fan)

Oh, that's beautiful, the fan doesn't work.

(he steps down)

Somebody take a letter to the mayor.

"Dear Stingy..."

The 3rd Juror moves about the 4th Juror, leans over and scans the 4th Juror's newspaper. The Foreman climbs on the bench and examines the fan)

3RD JUROR

(to the 4th Juror)

I didn't get a chance to look at the newspapers today. Anything new going on?

4TH JUROR

I was just wondering how the market closed.

3RD JUROR

I wouldn't know. Say, are you on the Exchange or something?

4TH JUROR

I'm a broker.

3RD JUROR

Really? I run a messenger service. "The Beck and Call Company." The name's by wife's idea. I employ thirty-seven people... started with nothing...

7TH JUROR

(looking at his watch)

Hey, Mr. Foreman, let's go. What d'you say?

FOREMAN

All right, gentlemen. Let's take seats.

7TH JUROR

(to the 2nd Juror)

This better be fast. I got tickets to a ball game tonight. Yankees -- Cleveland. We got this new kid pitching, Modjelewski, or whatever his name is. He's a bull, this kid.

(He shoots his hand forward and out to indicate the path of a curve ball)

Shhoooooom. A real jug handle.

(no reaction at all from the 2nd Juror)

You're quite a ball fan, aren't you?

(He turns to the Foreman)

Where do you want us to sit?

FOREMAN

Well, I was thinking we ought to sit in order, by jury numbers.

(he points with each number)

Two, three, four, and so on, if that's okay with you gentlemen.

10TH JUROR

What's the difference?

4TH JUROR

I think it's reasonable to sit according to number.

10TH JUROR

(rising)

Let it be.

He moves and sits on chair 10.

The Jurors begin to take their seats. The 8th Juror continues to star out of the window. The 9th Juror is still in the lavatory.

12 JUROR

(to the 11th Juror)

What was your impression of the prosecuting attorney?

11TH JUROR

(with a German accent)

I beg pardon?

12TH JUROR

I thought he was really sharp. I mean, the way he hammered home his points, one by one, in logical sequence.

12 JUROR (CONT)

It takes a good brain to do that. I was very impressed.

11TH JUROR

Yes, I think he did an expert job.

12TH JUROR

I mean, he had a lot of drive, too. Real drive.

7TH JUROR

Okay, let's get this show on the road.

FOREMAN

(to the 8th Juror)

How about sitting down?

(the 8th Juror does not hear the Foreman)

The gentleman at the window.

(The 8th Juror turns, startled)

How about sitting down?

8TH JUROR

Oh, I'm sorry.

He moves his chair and sits.

The 9th Juror enters the washroom from the lavatory and washes his hands.

10TH JUROR

(across the table to the 4th Juror)

It's pretty tough to figure, isn't it? A kid kills his father. Bing! Just like that.

12TH JUROR

Well, if you analyze the figures...

10TH JUROR

What figures, it's those people. I'm tellin' you they let the kids run wild up there. Well, maybe it serves 'em right. Know what I mean?

FOREMAN

Is everybody here?

6TH JUROR
(with a gesture towards the washroom)
The old man's inside.

FOREMAN
Would you knock on the door?

The 6th Juror rises and moves to the washroom door.

7TH JUROR
(to the 5th Juror)
Hey, you a Yankee fan?

5TH JUROR
No. Milwaukee.

7TH JUROR
Milwaukee! That's like being hit on the head with a crowbar once a day.
Listen, who they got...
(the 6th Juror knocks on the washroom door)
...I'm asking you, who they got besides great grounds-keepers?

The 9th Juror enters from the washroom.

FOREMAN
(to the 7th Juror)
We'd like to get started

9TH JUROR
I'm sorry.
(he crosses to his seat)

7TH JUROR
Milwaukee!

9TH JUROR
I didn't mean to keep you waiting.

FOREMAN
All right. Now you gentlemen can handle this any way you want to. I mean, I'm not going to have any rules. If we want to discuss it first and then vote, that's one way. Or we can vote right now to see how we stand.

(he pauses and looks around)
Well, that's all I have to say.

4TH JUROR

I think it's customary to take a preliminary vote.

7TH JUROR

Yeah, let's vote. Who knows, maybe we can all go home.

FOREMAN

It's up to you. Just let's remember we've got a first degree murder charge here. If we vote "guilty" we send the accused to the electric chair. That's mandatory.

4TH JUROR

I think we all know that.

3RD JUROR

Come on, let's vote.

10TH JUROR

Yeah, let's see who's where.

FOREMAN

Anybody doesn't want to vote?

(he looks around, the others are silent)

All right. This has to be a twelve-to-nothing vote either way. That's the law. Okay, are we ready? All those voting "guilty" raise your hands.

Seven or eight hands go up immediately. Several others go up more slowly. Everyone looks around the table as the Foreman rises and begins to count hands. The 9th Juror's hand goes up now, and all hands are raised except the 8th Juror's.

FOREMAN

...Nine -- ten -- eleven. That's eleven for "guilty". Okay, "Not guilty."

The 8th Juror slowly raises his hand.

FOREMAN

One. Right. Okay, eleven to one -- "Guilty". Now we know where we are.

He resumes his seat.

10TH JUROR

Boy-oh-boy! There's always one.

7TH JUROR
(after a pause)
So what do we do now?

8TH JUROR
Well, I guess we talk.

10TH JUROR
Boy-oh-boy!

3RD JUROR
(leaning over towards the 8th juror)
Well, look, do you really think he's innocent?

8TH JUROR
I don't know.

3RD JUROR
I mean, let's be reasonable. You sat in court and heard the same things we did. The man's a dangerous killer. You could see it.

8TH JUROR
The man! He's sixteen years old.

3RD JUROR
Well, that's old enough. He knifed his own father. Four inches into the chest.

6TH JUROR
(to the 8th Juror)
It's pretty obvious. I mean, I was convinced from the first day.

3RD JUROR
Well, who wasn't?
(to the 8th Juror)
I really think this is one of those open and shut things. They proved it a dozen different ways. Would you like me to list them for you?

8TH JUROR
No.

10TH JUROR
Then what do you want?

8TH JUROR
Nothing. I just want to talk.

7TH JUROR

Well, what's there to talk about?
Eleven men here agree. Nobody had to
think twice about it, except you.

10TH JUROR

I want to ask you something. Do you
believe his story?

8TH JUROR

I don't know whether I believe it or
not. Maybe I don't.

7TH JUROR

So what'd you vote "not guilty" for?

8TH JUROR

There were eleven votes for "guilty."
It's not easy for me to raise my hand
and send a boy off to die without
talking about it first.

7TH JUROR

Who says it's easy for me?

8TH JUROR

No-one.

7TH JUROR

What, just because I voted fast? I
think the guy's guilty. You couldn't
change my mind if you talked for a
hundred years.

8TH JUROR

I'm not trying to change your mind.
It's just that we're talking about
somebody's life here. I mean, we
can't decide in five minutes.
Suppose we're wrong?

7TH JUROR

Suppose we're wrong! Suppose this
whole building fell on my head. You
can suppose anything.

8TH JUROR

That's right.

7TH JUROR

(after a pause)

What's the difference how long it takes? We honestly think he's guilty. So suppose we finish in five minutes? So what?

8TH JUROR

Let's take an hour. The ball game doesn't start till eight o'clock.

7TH JUROR

(smiling)

Okay, slugger, be my guest.

There is a silence.

FOREMAN

(hesitantly)

Well, who's got something to say?

He looks at the 2nd Juror.

2ND JUROR

Not me.

9TH JUROR

I'm willing to put in an hour.

10TH JUROR

Great. I heard a pretty good story last night. This woman comes running into the doctor's office, stripped to the waist...

8TH JUROR

That's not what we're sitting here for.

10TH JUROR

All right, then you tell me. What are we sitting here for?

8TH JUROR

Maybe for no reason. I don't know. Look, this boy's been kicked around all his life. You know -- living in a slum, his mother dead since he was nine. He spent a year and a half in an orphanage while his father served a jail term for forgery. That's not a very good head start. He's had a pretty terrible sixteen years.

8TH JUROR (CONT)

I think maybe we owe him a few words.
That's all.

10TH JUROR

I don't mind telling you this,
mister. We don't owe him a thing.
He got a fair trial, didn't he? What
d'you think the trial cost? He's
lucky he got it. Know what I mean?

(he rises and looks around at the
others)

Look, we're all grown-ups here. We
heard the facts, didn't we? Now
you're not going to tell us that
we're supposed to believe that kid,
knowing what he is. Listen, I've
lived among 'em all my life. You
can't believe a word they say. You
know that. I mean, they're born
liars.

9TH JUROR

It suddenly occurs to me that you
must be an ignorant man.

10TH JUROR

What do you mean? What's he talking
about?

9TH JUROR

Do you think you have a monopoly on
the truth?

10TH JUROR

What are you making a Federal Case
out of it for?

(to the others)

How d'ya like this guy?

9TH JUROR

(to the others)

I think certain things should be
pointed out to this man.

3RD JUROR

All right. It's not Sunday. We
don't need a sermon in here.

10TH JUROR

Monopoly! For Chrissakes.

The 9th Juror half rises but then feels the 8th Juror's hand firmly on his arm, gently pulling him down. The 12th Juror doodles on his notepad.

4TH JUROR

I don't see any need for arguing like this. I think we ought to be able to behave like gentlemen. If we're going to discuss this case, let's stick to the facts.

FOREMAN

I think that's a good point. We have a job to do. Let's do it. Maybe if the gentleman who's disagreeing down there could tell us why. You know, tell us what he thinks -- we could show him where he's probably mixed up.

11TH JUROR

(looking at the 12th Juror's doodle)

What's that?

12TH JUROR

Mmm?

(he holds up the doodle)

It's one of the products I work on at the AD Agency. Rice Pops. "The Breakfast with the Built-In Bounce." I wrote that line.

11TH JUROR

(smiling in spite of himself)

It's very catchy.

FOREMAN

If you don't mind!

The 2nd Juror rises, goes to the coat-hooks and takes a package of cough drops from his jacket pocket)

12TH JUROR

I'm sorry. I have this habit of doodling. It keeps me thinking clearly.

FOREMAN

We're trying to get some place here. Y'know we can sit here forever...

12TH JUROR

Well, look, maybe this is an idea.
I'm just thinking out loud, but it
seems to me it's up to us to convince
this gentleman --

(he indicates the 8th Juror)
that we're right and he's wrong.
Maybe if we each took a minute or
two. I mean it's just a quick
thought...

FOREMAN

No, I think it's a good one.
Supposing we go once around the
table.

7TH JUROR

Anything. Let's start it off.

FOREMAN

Okay.

(to the 7th Juror)
How about you going first?

7TH JUROR

Not me. I think we oughta go in
order.

FOREMAN

That sounds fair. Okay, in order --
a coupla minutes apiece.

(To the 2nd Juror)
I guess you're first.

2ND JUROR

Oh. Well --

(he pauses nervously)
Well, it's hard to put into words. I
just -- think he's guilty. I thought
it was obvious from the word go. I
mean nobody proved otherwise.

8TH JUROR

Nobody has to prove otherwise. The
burden of proof is on the
prosecution. The defendant doesn't
have to open his mouth. That's in
the Constitution. You've heard of
it.

2ND JUROR

(flustered)

Well, sure I've heard of it. I know what it is. I -- what I meant -- well, the man is guilty. I mean, somebody saw him do it.

He looks around helplessly.

3RD JUROR

Okay.

(he refers to his notes)

Now here's what I think, and I have no personal feelings about this. I'm talking facts. Number one. Let's take the old man who lived on the second floor right underneath the room where the murder took place. At ten minutes after twelve on the night of the killing he heard loud noises in the apartment upstairs. He said it sounded like a fight. Then he heard the kid shout out, "I'm gonna kill you." A second later he heard a body fall and he ran to the door of his apartment, looked out and saw the kid running down the stairs and out of the house. Then he called the police. They found the father with a knife in his chest.

FOREMAN

And the coroner fixed the time of the death at around midnight.

3RD JUROR

Right. I mean, there are facts for you. You can't refute facts. This boy is guilty. Look, I'm as sentimental as the next guy. I know the kid is only sixteen, but he's still got to pay for what he did.

7TH JUROR

I'm with you, pops.

4TH JUROR

(removing his eyeglasses)

It was obvious to me, anyway, that the boy's entire story was flimsy. He claimed he was at the movies during the time of the killing and yet one hour later he couldn't

4TH JUROR (CONT)
remember what films he saw or who
played in them.

3RD JUROR
That's right. Did you hear that?
(to the 4th Juror)
You're absolutely right.

4TH JUROR
No-one saw him going into or out of
the theater.

10TH JUROR
Listen, what about that woman across
the street? If her testimony don't
prove it, nothing does.

11TH JUROR
That's right. She was the one who
actually saw the killing.

FOREMAN
(half rising)
Let's go in order here.

10TH JUROR
(rising, handkerchief in hand)
Just a minute. Here's a woman...
(he blows his nose)
Here's a woman who's lying in bed and
can't sleep. She's dying with the
heat. Know what I mean? Anyway, she
looks out the window and right across
the street she sees the kid stick the
knife into his father. The time is
twelve-ten on the nose. Everything
fits. Look, she's known the kid all
his life. His window is right
opposite hers, across the el tracks,
and she swore she saw him do it.

8TH JUROR
Through the windows of a passing
elevated train.

10TH JUROR
Right. This el train had no
passengers on it. It was just being
moved downtown. The lights were out,
remember? And they proved in court
that at night you can look through
the windows of an el train when the
lights are out and see what's

10TH JUROR (CONT)
happening on the other side. They
proved it.

8TH JUROR
(to the 10th Juror)
I'd like to ask you something.

10TH JUROR
Sure.

8TH JUROR
You don't believe the boy. How come
you believe the woman? She's one of
"them", too, isn't she?

10TH JUROR
(suddenly angry)
You're a pretty smart fellow, aren't
you?

He crosses towards the 8th Juror. Several Jurors rise as if to
intercept the 10th Juror.

FOREMAN
Hey, let's take it easy.

10TH JURY
(angrily)
What's he so wise about? I'm telling
you...

3RD JUROR
Come on. Sit down. What are you
letting him get you all upset for?

The 10th Juror sits.

FOREMAN
Let's calm down now. Let's try to
keep it peaceful in here. Whose turn
is it?

12TH JUROR
(indicating the 5th Juror)
His.

FOREMAN
Okay.
(to the 5th Juror)
You've got two minutes.

5TH JUROR
(looking nervously around)
I'll pass it.

FOREMAN
That's your privilege. How about the next gentleman.

6TH JUROR
I don't know. I started to be convinced, uh -- you know, very early in the case. Well, I was looking for the motive. That's very important. If there's no motive, where's the case? So, anyway, that testimony from those people across the hall from the kid's apartment, that was very powerful. Didn't they say something about an argument between the father and the boy around seven o'clock that night? I mean, I can be wrong.

11TH JUROR
It was eight o'clock. Not seven.

8TH JUROR
That's right. Eight o'clock. They heard an argument, but they couldn't hear what it was about. Then they heard the father hit the boy twice, and finally they saw the boy walk angrily out of the house. What does that prove?

6TH JUROR
Well, it doesn't exactly prove anything. It's just part of the picture. I didn't say it proved anything.

8TH JUROR
You said it revealed a motive for the killing. The prosecuting attorney said the same thing. Well, I don't think it's a very strong motive. This boy has been hit so many times in his life that violence is practically a normal state of affairs for him. I can't see two slaps in the face provoking him into committing murder.

4TH JUROR

(quietly)

It may have been two slaps too many.
Everyone has a breaking point.

FOREMAN

(to the 6th juror)
Anything else?

6TH JUROR

No.

FOREMAN

Okay.

(to the 7th Juror)
How about the next gentleman?

7TH JUROR

Me?

(he pauses, looks around, shrugs)
I don't know, it's practically all
said already. We can talk about it
forever. I mean, this kid is oh for
five. Look at his record. He was in
Children's Court when he was ten for
throwing a rock at his teacher. At
fourteen he was in Reform School. He
stole a car. He's been arrested for
mugging. He was picked up twice for
trying to slash another teenager with
a knife. He's real quick with switch
knives, they said. This is a very
fine boy.

8TH JUROR

Ever since he was five years old his
father beat him up regularly. He
used his fists.

7TH JUROR

So would I. A kid like that.

4TH JUROR

Wouldn't you call those beatings a
motive for him to kill his father?

8TH JUROR

(after a pause)

I don't know. It's a motive for him to be an angry kid. I'll say that.

3RD JUROR

It's the kids, the way they are nowadays. Angry! Hostile! You can't do a damn thing with them. Just the way they talk to you. Listen, when I was his age I used to call my father "Sir". That's right. Sir! You ever hear a boy call his father that any more?

8TH JUROR

Fathers don't seem to think it's important any more.

3RD JUROR

No? Have you got any kids?

8TH JUROR

Two.

3RD JUROR

Yeah, well I've got one. He's twenty. We did everything for that boy and what happened? When he was nine he ran away from a fight. I saw him. I was so ashamed I almost threw up. So I told him right out. "I'm gonna make a man outta you or I'm gonna bust you in half trying." Well, I made a man outta him all right. When he was sixteen we had a battle. He hit me in the face. He's big, y'know. I haven't seen him in two years. Rotten kid. You work your heart out...

He breaks off. He has said more than he intended. He is embarrassed.

3RD JUROR

All right. Let's get on with it.

4TH JUROR

(rising)

I think we're missing the point here. This boy, let's say he's a product of a filthy neighborhood and a broken home. We can't help that.

4TH JUROR (CONT)

We're here to decide whether he's guilty or innocent of murder, not to go into reasons why he grew up this way. He was born in a slum. Slums are breeding grounds for criminals. I know it. So do you. It's no secret. Children from slum backgrounds are potential menaces to society. Now I think...

10TH JUROR

(interrupting)

Brother, you can say that again. The kids who crawl outta those places are real trash. I don't want any part of them. I'm telling you.

5TH JUROR

(rising)

I've lived in a slum all my life... I nurse that trash in Harlem Hospital six nights a week.

10TH JUROR

Oh, now wait a second...

5TH JUROR

I used to play in a back yard that was filled with garbage. Maybe it still smells on me.

10TH JUROR

(his anger rising)

Now listen, sonny...

FOREMAN

(to the 5th Juror)

Now let's be reasonable. There's nothing personal...

5TH JUROR

(loudly)

There is something personal!

The 3rd Juror moves to the 5th Juror and pats him on the shoulder. The 5th Juror does not look up.

3RD JUROR

Come on, now. He didn't mean you, feller. Let's not be so sensitive.

11TH JUROR

This sensitivity I understand.

FOREMAN

All right, let's stop all this
arguing. We're wasting time here.

(he points to the 8th Juror)
It's your turn. Let's go.

8TH JUROR

Well, I didn't expect a turn. I
thought you were all supposed to be
convincing me. Wasn't that the idea?

FOREMAN

Check. I forgot about that.

10TH JUROR

Well, what's the difference? He's
the one who's keeping us here. Let's
hear what he's got to say.

FOREMAN

Now just a second. We decided to do
it a certain way. Let's stick to
what we said.

10TH JUROR

(disgusted)

Ah, stop bein' a kid, will you?

FOREMAN

A kid! Listen, what d'you mean by
that?

10TH JUROR

What d'ya think I mean? K-I-D, kid!

FOREMAN

What, just because I'm trying to keep
this thing organized? Listen.

(he rises)

You want to do it? Here. You sit
here. You take the responsibility.
I'll just shut up, that's all.

10TH JUROR

Listen, what are you gettin' so hot
about? Calm down, will ya?

FOREMAN

Don't tell me to calm down. Here! Here's the chair. You keep it goin' smooth and everything. What d'ya think, it's a snap'? Come on, Mr. Foreman. Let's see how great you'd run the show.

10TH JUROR

(to 11th Juror)

Did y'ever see such a thing?

FOREMAN

You think it's funny or something?

12TH JUROR

Take it easy. The whole thing's unimportant.

FOREMAN

Unimportant? You want to try it?

12TH JUROR

No. Listen, you're doing a beautiful job. Nobody wants to change.

7TH JUROR

Yeah, you're doing great. Hang in there and pitch.

10TH JUROR

All right. Let's hear from somebody.

There is a pause.

8TH JUROR

Well, if you want me to tell you how I feel about it right now, it's all right with me.

FOREMAN

(softly)

I don't care what you do.

8TH JUROR

(after a pause)

All right. I haven't got anything brilliant. I only know as much as you do. According to the testimony the boy looks guilty. Maybe he is. I sat there in court for three days listening while the evidence built

8TH JUROR (CONT)

up. Everybody sounded so positive that I started to get a peculiar feeling about this trial. I mean, nothing is that positive. I had questions I would have liked to ask. Maybe they wouldn't have meant anything. I don't know. But I started to feel that the defense counsel wasn't doing his job. He let too many things go. Little things.

10TH JUROR

What little things? Listen, when these guys don't ask questions, that's because they know the answers already and they figure they'll be hurt.

8TH JUROR

Maybe. It's also possible for a lawyer to be just plain stupid, isn't it?

6TH JUROR

You sound like you've met my brother-in-law.

A few jurors laugh.

8TH JUROR

(smiling)

I kept putting myself in the boy's place. I would have asked for another lawyer, I think. I mean, if I was on trial for my life I'd want my lawyer to tear the prosecution witnesses to shreds, or at least to try. Look, there was one alleged eye-witness to this killing. Someone else claims he heard the killing and then saw the boy running out afterwards. There was a lot of circumstantial evidence, but actually those two witnesses were the entire case for the prosecution. Supposing they were wrong?

12TH JUROR

What do you mean, "Supposing they were wrong?" What's the point of having witnesses at all?"

8TH JUROR
Could they be wrong?

12TH JUROR
They sat on the stand under oath.
What are you trying to say?

8TH JUROR
They're only people. People make
mistakes. Could they be wrong?

12 JUROR
I... No! I don't think so.

8TH JUROR
Do you know so?

12 JUROR
Well, now, listen. Nobody can know a
thing like that. This isn't an exact
science.

8TH JUROR
That's right. It isn't.

3RD JUROR
(rising angrily)
All right.
(to the 8th Juror)
Let's try to get to the point here.
What about the switch-knife they
found in the father's chest?

2ND JUROR
Well, wait a minute. I think we
oughta... There are some people who
haven't talked yet. Shouldn't we...?

3RD JUROR
Look, they can talk whenever they
like. Now just be quiet a second,
will you.
(he turns to the 8th Juror)
Okay, what about the knife? You
know, the one that fine, upright boy
admitted buying on the night of the
murder. Let's talk about that.

8TH JUROR
All right, let's talk about it.
Let's get it in here and look at it.
I'd like to see it again. (He turns
to the Foreman) Mr. Foreman?

The Foreman rises and crosses to the door.

3RD JUROR

We all know what it looks like.

The Foreman knocks on the door. The Guard enters. The Foreman whispers to him. The Guard nods and exits.

3RD JUROR

What are we gonna get out of seeing it again?

5TH JUROR

You brought it up.

4TH JUROR

The gentleman has a right to see exhibits in evidence.

(to the 8th Juror)

The knife, and the way it was bought, is pretty strong evidence. Don't you think so?

8TH JUROR

I do.

4TH JUROR

Good. Now suppose we take these facts one at a time. One. The boy admitted going out of his house at eight o'clock on the night of the murder after being punched several times by his father.

8TH JUROR

He didn't say "punched". He said "hit". There's a difference between a slap and a punch.

4TH JUROR

After being hit several times by his father, Two. The boy went directly to a neighborhood junk shop where he bought a... What do you call these things --

3RD JUROR

Switch-knives.

3RD JUROR/4TH JUROR

--a switchblade knife.

4TH JUROR

(to the 3rd Juror)

Thank you. Three. This wasn't what you'd call an ordinary knife. It had a very unusual carved handle. Four. The storekeeper who sold it to him identified the knife in court and said it was the only one of its kind he had ever had in stock. Five. At, oh, about eight-forty-five the boy ran into three friends of his in front of a diner. Am I correct so far?

8TH JUROR

Yes, you are.

3RD JUROR

(to the 8th Juror)

You bet he is.

(to the others)

Now listen to this man. He knows what he's talking about.

4TH JUROR

The boy talked with his friends for about an hour, leaving them at nine-forty-five. During this time they saw the switch-knife. Six. Each of them identified the death weapon in court as that same knife. Seven. The boy arrived home at about ten o'clock. Now this is where the stories offered by the boy and the State begin to diverge slightly. He claims that he stayed home until eleven-thirty and then went to one of those all-night movies. He returned home at about three-fifteen in the morning to find his father dead and himself arrested. Now, what happened to the switch-knife? This is the charming and imaginative little fable the boy invented. He claims that the knife fell through a hole in his pocket some time between eleven-thirty and three-fifteen while he was on his trip to the movies and that he never saw it again. Now this is a tale, gentlemen. I think it's quite clear that the boy never went to the movies that night.

4TH JUROR (CONT)

No one in the house saw him go out at eleven-thirty. No one at the theater identified him. He couldn't even remember the names of the pictures he saw. What actually happened is this: the boy stayed home, had another fight with his father, stabbed him to death with the knife at ten minutes after twelve and fled from the house. He even remembered to wipe the knife clean of fingerprints.

The Guard enters carrying a curiously designed knife with a tag hanging from it. The 4th Juror goes to the Guard, takes the knife from him. The guard exits.

4TH JUROR (CONT)

Everyone connected with the case identified the knife. Now are you trying to tell me that it really fell through a hole in the boy's pocket and that someone picked it up off the street, went to the boy's house and stabbed his father with it just to be amusing?

8TH JUROR

No. I'm saying it's possible that the boy lost the knife and that someone else stabbed his father with a similar knife. It's possible.

The 4th Juror flicks open the knife and jams it into the table.

4TH JUROR

Take a look at that knife. I've never seen one like it. Neither had the storekeeper who sold it to the boy. Aren't you asking us to accept a pretty incredible coincidence?

8TH JUROR

I'm not asking anyone to accept it. I'm just saying that it's possible.

3RD JUROR

(shouting)

And I'm saying it's not possible.

The 8th Juror stands for a moment in silence, then he reaches into his pocket and swiftly withdraws a knife. He holds it in front of his face and flicks open the blade, then he leans forward and sticks the knife into the table alongside the other. They are exactly alike. There is a burst of sound in the room. The 8th Juror stands back from the table, watching.

6TH JUROR

Look at it! It's the same knife.

7TH JUROR

What is this?

12TH JUROR

Where'd that come from?

2ND JUROR

How d'you like that?

3RD JUROR

(looking at the 8th Juror,
amazed)

What are you trying to do?

10TH JUROR

Yeah. What's going on here? Who do
you think you are?

4TH JUROR

Quiet! Let's be quiet.

(to the 8th Juror)

Were d'you get that knife?

8TH JUROR

I was walking for a couple of hours
last night, just thinking. I walked
through the boy's neighborhood. The
knife comes from a little pawnshop
three blocks from his house. It cost
six dollars.

4TH JUROR

It's against the law to buy or sell
switch-blade knives.

8TH JUROR

That's right. I broke the law.

3RD JUROR

Listen. You pulled a real bright
trick here. Now supposing you tell
me what you proved? Maybe there are
ten knives like that. So what?

8TH JUROR

Maybe there are.

3RD JUROR

So what does that mean? It's the same kind of knife. So what's that? The discovery of the age or something?

11TH JUROR

It would still be an incredible coincidence for another person to have stabbed the father with the same kind of knife.

3RD JUROR

That's right! He's right.

7TH JUROR

The odds are a million to one.

8TH JUROR

It's possible.

4TH JUROR

But not very probable.

FOREMAN

Listen, let's take seats. There's no point in milling around here.

They begin to move back to their seats. The 8th Juror stands watching.

2ND JUROR

It's interesting that he'd find a knife exactly like the one the boy bought.

3RD JUROR

What's interesting? You think it proves anything?

2ND JUROR

Well, no. I was just...

3RD JUROR

Interesting!

(he points at the 8th Juror)
Listen, how come the kid bought the knife to begin with?

8TH JUROR

Well, he claims that...

3RD JUROR

I know. He claims he bought it as a present for a friend of his. He was gonna give it to him the next day because he busted the other kid's knife dropping it on the pavement.

8TH JUROR

That's what he said.

7TH JUROR

Baloney!

9TH JUROR

The friend testified that the boy did break his knife.

3RD JUROR

Yeah. And how long before the killing? Three weeks. Right? So how come our noble lad bought this knife one half hour after his father smacked him and three and a half hours before they found it shoved up to here in the father's chest?

7TH JUROR

Well, he was gonna give the knife to his friend. He just wanted to use it for a minute.

There is scattered laughter.

8TH JUROR

(to the 3rd Juror)

Let me ask you this. It's one of the questions I wanted to ask in court. If the boy bought the knife to use on his father, how come he showed what was going to be the murder weapon to three friends of his just a couple of hours before the killing?

3RD JUROR

Listen, all of this is just talk.
The boy lied and you know it.

8TH JUROR

He may have lied.
(to 10th Juror)
Do you think he lied?

10TH JUROR

Now that's a stupid question. Sure
he lied.

8TH JUROR

(to 4th Juror)

Do you?

4TH JUROR

You don't have to ask me that. You
know my answer. He lied.

8TH JUROR

(to 5th Juror)

Do you think he lied?

5TH JUROR

I think maybe he...

He breaks off and looks nervously around.

3RD JUROR

(leaping into the breach)

Maybe! Now wait a second.

(to 8th Juror)

What are you, the kid's lawyer or
something? Who do you think you are
to start cross-examining us?

8TH JUROR

Isn't that what's supposed to happen
in a jury room?

3RD JUROR

Listen, there are still eleven of us
in here who think he's guilty.

7TH JUROR

Yeah. What do you think you're gonna
accomplish? You're not gonna change
anybody's mind. So if you want to be
stubborn and hang this jury, go
ahead. The kid's be tried again and
found guilty sure as he's born.

8TH JUROR

You're probably right.

7TH JUROR

So what are you gonna do about it?
We can be here all night.

9TH JUROR

It's only one night. A boy may die.

7TH JUROR

Brother. Anybody got a deck of cards?

2ND JUROR

(to the Foreman)

I don't think he ought to make a joke about it.

FOREMAN

What do you want me to do?

10TH JUROR

Listen, I don't see what all this stuff about the knife has to do with anything. Somebody saw the kids stab his father. What more do we need? I got three garages of mind going to pot while you're talking. Let's get done and get outta here.

11TH JUROR

The knife was very important to the district attorney. He spent one whole morning...

10TH JUROR

He's a fifteenth assistant or something. What does he know?

FOREMAN

Okay. I think we oughta get on with it now. These side arguments only slow us up.

(to the 8th Juror)

What about it?

6TH JUROR

(to the 8th Juror)

You're the only one.

8TH JUROR

I have a proposition to make to all of you. I want to call for a vote. I'd like you eleven men to vote by secret written ballot. I'll abstain. If there are still eleven votes for guilty, I won't stand alone. We'll take a guilty verdict in to the judge right now. But if anyone votes not guilty, we'll stay and talk this thing out.

8TH JUROR (CONT)

(he pauses)

Well, that's all. If you want to try it, I'm ready.

3RD JUROR

Well, finally you're behaving like a reasonable man.

12TH JUROR

Check. I'll buy that.

7TH JUROR

Okay. Let's do it.

FOREMAN

That sounds fair.

Some of the Jurors nod. The 8th Juror moves to the window.

FOREMAN (CONT)

Anyone doesn't agree? Okay. Pass these along.

He passes out the slips of paper.

The 8th Juror stands watching the others. The Jurors pass the slips along. Finally each of them begins to write. Now some of them begin to fold their slips and pass them back to the Foreman. The Foreman stacks all the slips on the table in front of him. He picks up the first slip of paper, opens it and reads:

FOREMAN

Guilty.

(he opens and reads the other slips in turn)

Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty.

Guilty. Guilty. Guilty. Guilty.

Not Guilty.

There is a babble of voices. The 8th Juror relaxes, moves to his chair and sits. Foreman reads the last slip.

FOREMAN

Guilty.

10TH JUROR

Boy! How do you like that?

7TH JUROR

And another chap flips his goddam wig!

10TH JUROR

All right, who was it? Come on. I want to know.

11TH JUROR

Excuse me. This was a secret ballot. We agreed on this.

3RD JUROR

Secret? What d'ya mean, secret? There are no secrets in a jury room. I know who it was.

(he crosses to the 5th Juror)
Brother, you're really something! You come in here and you vote guilty like everybody else, and then this golden-voiced preacher over here starts to tear your heart out with stories about a poor little kid who just couldn't help becoming a murderer. So you change your vote. If that isn't the most sickening... Why don'tcha drop a quarter in his collection box?

5TH JUROR

Now wait a minute.

(the 3rd juror turns away)
You can't talk to me like that!

The 3rd Juror turns to face him. The 4th Juror slips in between them and takes the 5th Juror by the arm.

5TH JUROR

No.

(he shakes off the 4th Juror)
Where does he get the right to shout at me?

4TH JUROR

All right. Let's calm down.

5TH JUROR

Who does he think he is? I mean, did you see him?

4TH JUROR

Just sit down. He's very excitable.
Forget it. It doesn't matter.

3RD JUROR

You bet I'm excitable. We're trying to put a guilty man into the chair where he belongs and all of a sudden somebody's telling us fairy tales -- and we're listening.

2ND JUROR

(mildly)

Take it easy.

3RD JUROR

What do you mean -- take it easy! D'you feel like seeing a proven murderer walking the streets? Why don't we give him his knife back? Make it easier for him.

FOREMAN

Okay, let's stop the yelling. Who's got something constructive to say?

11TH JUROR

Please. I would like to say something here. I have always thought that in this country a man was entitled to have unpopular opinions...

7TH JUROR

Let's stick to the subject.

(to the 5th Juror)

What made you change your vote?

9TH JUROR

He didn't change his vote. I did. Would you like me to tell you why?

7TH JUROR

No, I wouldn't like you to tell me why.

9TH JUROR

Well I'd like to make it clear, anyway, if you don't mind.

10TH JUROR

Do we have to listen to this?

6TH JUROR

Hey look! The man wants to talk.

9TH JUROR

Thank you.

(to the 7th Juror)

This gentleman --

(he indicates the 8th Juror)
has been standing alone against us.
He doesn't say the boy is not guilty.
He just isn't sure. Well, it's not
easy to stand alone against the
ridicule of others. He gambled for
support and I gave it to him. I
respect his motives. The boy on
trial is probably guilty. But I want
to hear more.

(The 7th Juror crosses to the
washroom)

For the time being the vote is ten to
two.

(the 7th Juror enters the
washroom, slams the door after
him)

I'm talking here. You have no right
to...

8TH JUROR

(to 9th Juror)

He can't hear you. He never will.
Let's sit down.

3RD JUROR

Well, if the speech is over, maybe we
can go on.

FOREMAN

I think we ought to take a break.
One man's inside there. Let's wait
for him.

The Foreman moves above the table to where the two knives are stuck
into it. He plucks the tagged knife out and closes it.

12TH JUROR

(to 11th Juror)

Looks like we're really hung up here.
I mean, that thing with the old man
was pretty unexpected. I wish I knew
how we could break this up.

(he suddenly smiles)

Y'know, in advertising... I told you
I worked at an ad agency, didn't I?

The Foreman crosses to the door and knocks. The Guard enters. The
Foreman hands him the knife. The Guard exits.

12TH JUROR

Well, there are some pretty strange people -- not strange, really -- they just have peculiar ways of expressing themselves, y'know what I mean?

(the 11th Juror nods)

Well, it's probably the same in your business -- right? What do you do?

11TH JUROR

I'm a watchmaker.

12TH JUROR

Really? The finest watchmakers come from Europe, I imagine.

The 11th Juror bows slightly. The 6th Juror rises, goes into the bathroom.

12 JUROR

Anyway, I was telling you -- in the agency, when they reach a point like this in a meeting, there's always some character ready with an idea. And it kills me, I mean it's the weirdest thing sometimes the way they precede the idea with some kind of phrase. Like -- oh, some account exec'll say, "Here's an idea. Let's run it up the flagpole and see if anyone salutes it," or "Put it on a bus and see if it gets off at Wall Street." I mean, it's idiotic, but it's funny.

8th Juror goes into the washroom and hangs his jacket on a hook.
3rd Juror crosses to 5th Juror.

3RD JUROR

(to 5th Juror)

Look, I was a little excited. Well, you know how it is -- I didn't mean to get nasty or anything.

5th Juror crosses away from 3rd Juror without answering. 7th Juror steps away from the washbasin and dries his hands. The 8th Juror crosses to washbasin.

7TH JUROR

(to 8th Juror)

Say, are you a salesman?

8TH JUROR

I'm an architect.

7TH JUROR

You know what the soft sell is?
You're pretty good at it. I'll tell ya.
I got a different technique.
Jokes. Drinks. Knock 'em on their
asses. I made twenty-seven thousand
last year selling marmalade. That's
not bad. Considering marmalade.

(he watches the 8th Juror for a
moment)

What are ya getting out of it --
kicks? The boy is guilty, pal. So
let's go home before we get sore
throats.

8TH JUROR

What's the difference whether you get
one here or at the ball game?

7TH JUROR

No difference pal.. No difference at
all.

7th Juror exits the washroom. 6th Juror enters from the lavatory,
goes to the washbasin and washes his hands.

6TH JUROR

(to the 8th Juror)

Nice bunch of guys.

8TH JUROR

I guess they're the same as any.

6TH JUROR

That loud, heavy-set guy, the one who
was tellin' us about his kid -- the
way he was talking -- boy, that was
an embarrassing thing.

8TH JUROR

Yeah.

6TH JUROR

What a murderous day. You think
we'll be here much longer?

8TH JUROR

I don't know.

6TH JUROR

He's guilty for sure. There's not a
doubt in the whole world. We shoulda
been done already. Listen, I don't
care, y'know. It beats workin'.

6TH JUROR (CONT)

(8th Juror smiles)

You think he's innocent?

8TH JUROR

I don't know. It's possible.

6TH JUROR

I don't know you, but I'mbettin'
you've never been wronger in your
life. Y'oughta wrap it up. You're
wastin' your time.

8TH JUROR

Suppose you were the one on trial?

6TH JUROR

I'm not used to supposing. I'm just
a working man. My boss does the
supposing. But I'll try one.
Suppose you talk us all outta this
and the kid really did knife his
father?

The 6th Juror looks at the 8th Juror for a moment then goes into the jury room. The 8th Juror stands alone for a few moments and we know that this is the problem which has been tormenting him. He does not know, and never will. He switches out the washroom light, goes into the jury room.

FOREMAN

Okay, let's take seats.

2ND JUROR

Looks like we'll be here for dinner.

FOREMAN

Okay. Let's get down to business.
Who wants to start it off?

There is a pause, then the 4th and 6th Jurors start to speak at the same time.

6TH JUROR/4TH JUROR

Well, I'd like to make a point...

6TH JUROR

(to the 4th Juror)

Pardon me.

4TH JUROR/6TH JUROR

Maybe it would be profitable if we...

4TH JUROR

(to the 6th juror)
I'm sorry, go ahead.

6TH JUROR

I didn't mean to interrupt.

4TH JUROR

No. Go ahead. It's all right.

6TH JUROR

Well, I was going to say, well, this
is probably a small point, but
anyway...

(to the 8th Juror)

The boy had a motive for the killing.
You know, the beatings and all. So
if he didn't do it, who did? Who
else had the motive? That's my
point. I mean, nobody goes out and
kills someone without a motive, not
unless he's just plain nuts. Right?

8TH JUROR

As far as I know we're supposed to
decide whether or not the boy on
trial is guilty beyond a reasonable
doubt. We're not concerned with
anyone else's motives here. That's a
job for the police.

4TH JUROR

Very true. But we can't help letting
the only motive we know of creep into
our thoughts, can we? And we can't
help asking ourselves who else might
have had a motive. Logically, these
things follow.

(he nods towards the 6th juror)
This gentleman is asking a reasonable
question.. Somebody killed him. If
it wasn't the boy, who was it?

3RD JUROR

Modjelewski.

7TH JUROR

You're talking about the man I love!

4TH JUROR

If you haven't got anything to add besides jokes, I suggest you listen.

3RD JUROR

Okay. It's just letting off steam.
I'm sorry. Go ahead.

4TH JUROR

(to the 8th Juror)

Well, maybe you can answer me. Who else might have killed the father?

8TH JUROR

Well, I don't know. The father wasn't exactly a model citizen. The boy's lawyer outlined his background in his closing statement. He was in prison once. He was known to be a compulsive gambler and a pretty consistent loser. He spent a lot of time in neighborhood bars and he'd get into fist fights sometimes after a couple of drinks. Usually over a woman. He was a tough, cruel, primitive kind of man who never held a job for more than six months in his life. So here are a few possibilities. He could have been murdered by one of many men he served time with in prison. By a bookmaker. By a man he'd beaten up. By a woman he'd picked up. By any one of the rough characters he was known to hang out with.

10TH JUROR

Boy-oh-boy, that's the biggest load of crap I ever... Listen, we know the father was a bum. So what has that got to do with anything?

8TH JUROR

I didn't bring it up. I was asked who else might have killed him. I gave my answer.

9TH JUROR

(pointing at 4th Juror)

That gentleman over there asked a direct question.

10TH JUROR
Everyone's a lawyer!

3RD JUROR
Look, suppose you answer this for me. The old man who lived downstairs heard the kid yell out, "I'm going to kill you." A split second later he heard a body hit the floor. Then he saw the kid run out of the house. Now what does all that mean to you?

8TH JUROR
I was wondering how clearly the old man could have heard the boy's voice through the ceiling.

3RD JUROR
He didn't hear it through the ceiling. His window was open and so was the window upstairs. It was a hot night, remember?

8TH JUROR
The voice came from another apartment. It's not easy to identify a voice, especially a shouting voice.

FOREMAN
He identified it in court. He picked the boy's voice out of five other voices, blindfolded.

8TH JUROR
That was just an ambitious district attorney putting on a show. Look, the old man knows the boy's voice very well. They've lived in the same house for years. But to identify it positively from the apartment downstairs... Isn't it possible he was wrong -- that maybe he thought the boy was upstairs and automatically decided that the voice he heard was the boy's voice?

4TH JUROR
I think that's a bit far-fetched.

10TH JUROR
Brother, you can say that again.

10TH JUROR (CONT)
(to the 8th Juror)

Look. The old man heard the father's body falling and then he saw the boy run out of the house fifteen seconds later. He saw the boy.

12 JUROR

Check. And don't forget the woman across the street. She looked right into the open window and saw the boy stab his father. I mean, isn't that enough for you?

8TH JUROR

Not right now. No, it isn't.

7TH JUROR

How do you like him? It's like talking into a dead phone.

4TH JUROR

The woman saw the killing through the windows of a moving elevated train. The train had six cars and she saw it through the windows of the last two cars. She remembered the most significant details. I don't see how you can argue with that.

3RD JUROR

(to 8th Juror)

Well, what have you got to say about it?

8TH JUROR

I don't know. It doesn't sound right to me.

3RD JUROR

Well, suppose you think about it.

(to 12th Juror)

Lend me your pencil

The 12th Juror hands the pencil to 3rd Juror who starts to draw what is obviously a tic-tac-toe pattern on the pad.

8TH JUROR

I wonder if anybody has any idea how long it takes an elevated train...

He sees 3rd Juror and 12th Juror playing tic-tac-toe, snatches up the pad, tears off the top sheet, crumples it and drops it in the waste basket.

3RD JUROR

Wait a minute!

8TH JUROR

This isn't a game.

3RD JUROR

(shouting)

Who do you think you are?

12TH JUROR

(to 3rd Juror)

All right, take it easy.

FOREMAN

Come on now, sit down.

3RD JUROR

I've got a good mind to belt him one.

FOREMAN

Now, please! I don't want any fights
in here.

3RD JUROR

Did you see him? The nerve! The
absolute nerve!

10TH JUROR

All right. Forget it. It's not
important. Know what I mean?

3RD JUROR

This isn't a game. Who does he think
he's dealing with here?

FOREMAN

Come on, now. It's all over. Let's
take our seats.

3RD JUROR

What's all over? I want an apology.

6TH JUROR

O.K., noisy. He apologizes. Now
let's hear what the man has to say.

8TH JUROR

Thank you. I wonder if anybody has an idea how long it takes an elevated train going at medium speed to pass a given point?

7TH JUROR

What has that got to do with anything?

8TH JUROR

How long? Take a guess.

4TH JUROR

I wouldn't have the slightest idea.

8TH JUROR

(to 5th Juror)

What do you think?

5TH JUROR

I don't know. About ten or twelve seconds, maybe.

3RD JUROR

What's all this for?

8TH JUROR

I'd say that was a fair guess.
Anyone else?

11TH JUROR

That sounds right to me.

10TH JUROR

Come on, what's the guessing game for?

8TH JUROR

(to 2nd Juror)

What would you say?

2ND JUROR

Ten seconds. Approximately.

4TH JUROR

All right. Say ten seconds. What are you getting at?

8TH JUROR

This. It takes a six car el train ten seconds to pass a given point. Now say that given point is the open window of the room in which the

8TH JUROR (CONT)
killing took place. You can almost
reach out the window of that room and
touch the el tracks. Right?

5TH JUROR

Right.

8TH JUROR
All right. Now let me ask you this -
- has anyone here ever lived right
next to the el tracks?

6TH JUROR

Well, I just finished painting an
apartment that overlooked an el line.
I'm a house painter, y'know. I was
there for three days.

8TH JUROR

What was it like?

6TH JUROR

What d'ya mean?

8TH JUROR

Noisy?

6TH JUROR

Brother! Well, it didn't matter.
We're all punch in our business,
anyway.

He laughs.

8TH JUROR

I lived in a second-floor apartment
next to an el line once. When the
window's open and the train goes by,
the noise is almost unbearable. You
can't hear yourself think.

3RD JUROR

Okay. You can't hear yourself think.
Will you get to the point!

8TH JUROR

I will. Let's take two pieces of
testimony and try to put them
together. First, the old man in the
apartment downstairs. He says he
heard the boy say, "I'm going to kill
you," and a split second later he

8TH JUROR (CONT)
heard the body hit the floor. One second later. Right?

2ND JUROR
That's right.

8TH JUROR
Second, the woman in the apartment across the street. She claimed that she looked out of her window and saw the killing through the last two cars of a passing elevated train. Right? The last two cars.

3RD JUROR
All right. What point are you making here?

8TH JUROR
Now, we agreed that an el train takes about ten seconds to pass a given point. Since the woman saw the stabbing through the last two cars we can assume that the boy fell to the floor just as the train passed by. Therefore, the el train had been roaring by the old man's window for a full ten seconds before the body fell. The old man, according to his own testimony, hearing "I'm going to kill you" and the body falling a split second later, would have had to hear the boy make this statement while the el was roaring past his nose. It's not possible that he could have heard it.

3RD JUROR
That's idiotic! Sure he could have heard it.

8TH JUROR
(to 3rd Juror)
Do you think so?

3RD JUROR
The old man said the boy yelled it out. That's enough for me.

8TH JUROR
If he heard anything at all, he still couldn't have identified the voice with the el roaring by.

3RD JUROR

You're talking about a matter of seconds here. Nobody can be that accurate.

8TH JUROR

Well, I think that testimony which could put a human being into the electric chair should be that accurate.

5TH JUROR

I don't think he could have heard it.

6TH JUROR

Yeah. Maybe he didn't hear it. I mean, with the el noise...

3RD JUROR

What are you people talking about?

5TH JUROR

Well, it stands to reason...

3RD JUROR

You're crazy! Why should he lie? What's he got to gain?

9TH JUROR

Attention, maybe.

3RD JUROR

You keep coming up with these bright sayings. Why don't you send one in to a newspaper? They pay three dollars.

6TH JUROR

(to 3rd Juror)

Hey! What're ya talking to him like that for?

The 3rd Juror looks at the 6th Juror then turns disgustedly away. The 6th Juror reaches out and turns the 3rd Juror firmly around by the arm.

6TH JUROR (CONT)

A guy who talks like that old man oughta really get stepped on y'know.

3RD JUROR

Get your hands off me!

6TH JUROR

You oughta have some respect, mister.
If you say stuff like that to him
again -- I'm gonna lay you out.

(he releases the 3rd Juror and
speaks to the 9th Juror)

Go ahead. You can say anything you
want. Why do you think the old man
might lie?

9TH JUROR

It's just that I looked at him for a
very long time. The seam of his
jacket was split under his arm. Did
you notice it? I mean, to come into
court like that. He was a very old
man with a torn jacket and he walked
very slowly to the stand. He was
dragging his left leg and trying to
hide it because he was ashamed. I
think I know him better than anyone
here. This is a quiet, frightened,
insignificant old man who has been
nothing all his life, who has never
had recognition, his name in the
newspapers. Nobody knows him, nobody
quotes him, nobody seeks his advice
after seventy-five years. That's a
very sad thing, to be nothing. A man
like this needs to be recognized, to
be listened to, to be quoted just
once. This is very important. It
would be so hard for him to recede
into the background when there's a
chance to be...

7TH JUROR

Now, wait a minute. Are you trying
to tell us he'd lie just so that he
could be important once?

9TH JUROR

No. He wouldn't really lie. But
perhaps he'd make himself believe
that he'd heard those words and
recognized the boy's face.

10TH JUROR

Well, that's the most fantastic story
I've ever heard. How can you make up
a think like that? what do you know
about it?

The 9th Juror lowers his head, embarrassed.

4TH JUROR

Gentlemen, let me remind you, this case is based on a reasonable and logical progression of facts. Let's keep it there.

11TH JUROR

Facts may be colored by the personalities of the people who present them.

2ND JUROR

Anybody want a cough drop?

8TH JUROR

I'll take one.

(2nd Juror offers the cough drops to the 8th Juror. 8th Juror takes one)

Thanks.

12TH JUROR

Say what you like, I still don't see how anybody can think the boy's not guilty.

8TH JUROR

There's another think I wanted to talk about for a minute. I think we've proved that the old man couldn't have heard the boy say, "I'm going to kill you," but supposing...

10TH JUROR

You didn't prove it at all. What are you talking about?

8TH JUROR

But supposing he really did hear it. This phrase, how many times has each of us used it? Probably hundreds. "I could kill you for that, darling." "If you do that once more, Junior, I'm going to kill you." "'Come on, Rocky, kill him.' We say it every day. It doesn't mean we're going to kill someone.

3RD JUROR

Wait a minute! What are you trying to give us here? The phrase was, "I'm going to kill you," and the kid screamed it out at the top of his lungs. Don't tell me he didn't mean it. Anybody says a thing like that the way he said it, they mean it.

2ND JUROR

Well, gee, I don't know. I remember I was arguing with the guy I work next to at the bank a couple of weeks ago; so he called me an idiot; so I yelled at him...

3RD JUROR

Now listen, this guy is making you believe things that aren't so. The kid said he was going to kill him and he did kill him.

8TH JUROR

Well, let me ask you this: do you really think the boy would shout out a thing like that so the whole neighborhood would hear it? I don't think so. He's much too bright for that.

10TH JUROR

Bright? He's a common ignorant slob. He don't even speak good English.

11TH JUROR

He doesn't even speak good English

5TH JUROR

I'd like to change my vote to "not guilty".

7TH JUROR

Now you've got to be kidding.

5TH JUROR

You heard.

FOREMAN

Are you sure?

5TH JUROR

Yes, I'm sure.

FOREMAN

The vote is nine to three in favor of "guilty".

7TH JUROR

Well, if that isn't the livin' end! What are you basing it on? Stories this guy made up. He oughta write for Amazing Detective Monthly. He'd make a fortune.

(to 5th Juror)

Listen, there are facts staring you right in your face. Every one of them says this kid killed his old man. For cryin' out loud his own lawyer knew he didn't stand a chance right from the beginning. His own lawyer. You could see it. He deserves the chair.

8TH JUROR

Does he? It's happened before that someone's been convicted of a murder, and executed, and years later someone else has confessed to the crime. Sometimes... sometimes the facts that are staring everyone in the face are wrong.

7TH JUROR

(to 8th Juror)

I'm talkin' to him --

(he indicates to the 5th Juror)
not to you.

(to the others)

Boy, this guy is really something.

(to the 8th Juror)

Listen, the kid had a lawyer, didn't he? The lawyer presented his case, not you. How come you've got so much to say?

8TH JUROR

The lawyer was court-appointed.

7TH JUROR

So what does that mean?

8TH JUROR

Well, it could mean a lot of things. It could mean he didn't want the case. It could mean he resented being appointed. It's the kind of case that brings him nothing. No

8TH JUROR (CONT)

money. No glory. Not even much chance of winning. It's not a very promising situation for a young lawyer. He'd really have to believe in his client to put up a good fight. As you pointed out a minute ago, he obviously didn't.

7TH JUROR

Sure he didn't. Who in hell could, except God come to earth or somebody?

(he looks at his watch then up at the clock)

Come on already! Look at the time!

11TH JUROR

Pardon me, but I have made some notes here.

10TH JUROR

Notes yet!

11TH JUROR

I would like please to say something. I have been listening very closely, and it seems to me that this man -- (he indicates the 8th Juror) has some very good points to make. From what was presented at the trial the boy looks guilty, but maybe if we go deeper...

10TH JUROR

Come on, will ya.

11TH JUROR

There is a question I would like to ask. We assume that the boy committed murder. He stabbed his father in the chest and ran away. This was at ten minutes after twelve. Now, how was he caught by the police? He came home at three o'clock or so and was captured by two detective in the hallway of his house. My question is, if he really had killed his father, why would he come back three hours later? Wouldn't he be afraid of being caught?

3RD JUROR

Look -- he came home to get his knife. It's not nice to leave knives sticking around in people's chests.

7TH JUROR

Yeah, especially relatives.

4TH JUROR

I don't see anything funny about it.
(to the 11th Juror)

The boy knew that there were people who could identify the knife as the one he had just bought. He had to get it before the police did.

11TH JUROR

But if he knew the knife could be identified, why did he leave it there in the first place?

4TH JUROR

Well, I think we can assume he ran out in a state of panic after he killed his father, and then when he finally calmed down, he realized that he had left the knife there.

11TH JUROR

This then depends on your definition of panic. He was calm enough to see to it that there were no fingerprints on the knife. Now where did his panic start and where did it end?

3RD JUROR

Look, you can forget all that other stuff. He still came home to dig out his knife and get rid of it.

11TH JUROR

Three hours later?

3RD JUROR

Sure, three hours later.

11TH JUROR

If I were the boy and I had killed my father, I would not have come home three hours later. I would be afraid that the police would be there. I would stay away, knife or no knife.

3RD JUROR

Listen, you voted "guilty", didn't you? What side are you on?

11TH JUROR

I don't believe I have to be loyal to one side or the other. I am simply asking questions.

12TH JUROR

Well, this is just off the top of my head, but if I were the boy, and I'd, you know, done the stabbing and everything, I'd take a chance and go back for the knife. I'll bet he figured no one had seen him and that the body probably wasn't even discovered yet. After all, it was the middle of the night. He probably thought no one would find the boy till the next day.

11TH JUROR

Pardon. Here is my whole point. The woman across the street testified that a moment after she saw the killing, that is, a moment after the el train went by, she screamed and then went to telephone the police. Now, the boy must certainly have heard that scream and known that somebody saw something. I don't think he would have gone back if he had been the murderer.

4TH JUROR

Two points. One: in his state of panic he may not have heard the scream. Perhaps it wasn't very loud. Two: if he did hear it, he may not have connected it with his own act. Remember he lived in a neighborhood where screams were fairly commonplace.

3RD JUROR

Right! There's your answer.

8TH JUROR

Maybe. Maybe he did stab his father, didn't hear the woman's scream, did run out in a panic, did calm down three hours later and come back to try to get the knife, risking being

8TH JUROR (CONT)

caught by the police. Maybe all those things are so. But maybe they're not. I think there's enough doubt to make us wonder whether he was there at all during the time the murder took place.

10TH JUROR

What d'ya mean doubt? What are you talking about? didn't the old man see him running out of the house? He's twisting the facts. I'm telling you!

(to the 11th Juror)

Did or didn't the old man see the kid running out of the house at twelve-ten? Well, did he or didn't he?

11TH JUROR

He says he did.

10TH JUROR

Says he did!

(to the others)

Boy-oh-boy! How do you like that?

(to the 11th Juror)

Well, did or didn't the woman across the street see the kid kill his father? She says she did. You're makin' out like it don't matter what people say. What you want to believe, you believe, and what you don't want to believe, so you don't. What kind of way is that? What d'ya think these people get up on the witness stand for -- their health? I'm telling you men the facts are being changed around here. Witnesses are being doubted and there's no reason for it.

5TH JUROR

Witnesses can make mistakes.

10TH JUROR

Sure, when you want 'em to, they do!
Know what I mean?

FOREMAN

Okay. Let's hold the yelling down.

10TH JUROR

You keep saying that. Maybe what we need is a little yelling in here. These guys are going off every which way. Did hear the scream, didn't hear the scream. What's the difference? they're just little details. You're forgetting the important stuff. I mean, all of a sudden here everybody...

8TH JUROR

I'd like to call for another vote.

10TH JUROR

Listen, I'm talking here.

FOREMAN

There's another vote called for. Now about taking seats.

Jurors who are standing move toward their seats.

3RD JUROR

What are we gonna gain by voting again?

FOREMAN

I don't know. The gentleman asked...

3RD JUROR

I never saw so much time spent on nothing.

2ND JUROR

(mildly)

It only takes a second.

FOREMAN

Okay. I guess the fastest way is to find out who's voting not guilty. All those in favor of not guilty raise their hands.

5th, 8th and 9th Jurors raise their hands.

FOREMAN (CONT)

Still the same. One, two, three not guilty's. Nine guilty's.

7TH JUROR

So now where are we? I'm telling you, we can yakety-yak until next Tuesday here. Where's it getting us?

11TH JUROR

Pardon.

(he slowly raises his hand)
I vote not guilty.

7TH JUROR

Oh, brother!

3RD JUROR

Oh, now listen! What are you talking about? I mean, we're all going crazy in here or something! This kid is guilty. Why don'tcha pay attention to the facts.

(to 4th Juror)
Listen, tell him, will ya? This is getting to be a goddamn joke!

FOREMAN

The vote is eight to four, favor of guilty.

3RD JUROR

I mean, everybody's heart is starting to bleed for this punk little kid like the President just declared it "Love Your Underprivileged Brother Week", or something.

(to 11th Juror)
Listen, I'd like you to tell me why you changed your vote. Come one, give me reasons.

11TH JUROR

I don't have to defend my decision to you. I have a reasonable doubt in my mind.

3RD JUROR

What reasonable doubt? That's nothing but words.

(he pulls out the switch-knife from the table and holds it up)
Here, look at this. The kid you just decided isn't guilty was seen ramming this thing into his father. Well, look at it, Mr. Reasonable Doubt.

9TH JUROR

That's not the knife. Don't you remember?

3RD JUROR

Brilliant!

He sticks the knife into the table.

7TH JUROR

I'm tellin' ya, this is the craziest.

(to the 8th Juror)

I mean, you're sittin' in here
pulling stories outta thin air.
What're we supposed to believe?

(to the others)

I'm telling you, if this guy was
sitting ringside at the Dempsey-Firpo
fight, he'd be tryin' to tell us
Firpo won.

(to the 8th Juror)

Look, what about the old man? Are we
supposed to believe that he didn't
get up and run to his door and see
the kid tearing down the stairs
fifteen seconds after the killing?
He's only saying he did to be
important. I mean, what's the point
of the whole...?

5TH JUROR

Hold it a second.

7TH JUROR

And the Milwaukee rooter is heard
from. And pop-ups are falling for
base hits wherever we look. I tell
you...

5TH JUROR

Did the old man say he ran to the
door?

7TH JUROR

Ran. Walked. What's the difference?
He got there.

6TH JUROR

He said he ran to the door. At
least, I think he did.

5TH JUROR

I don't remember what he said. But I
don't see how he could run.

4TH JUROR

He said he went from his bedroom to
the front door. That's enough, isn't
it?

8TH JUROR

Wait a minute. Where was his bedroom, again?

10TH JUROR

Down the hall somewhere. I thought you remembered everything. Don't you remember that?

8TH JUROR

No. Mr. Foreman, I'd like to take a look at the diagram of the apartment.

7TH JUROR

Why don't we have them run the trial over just so you can get everything straight?

8TH JUROR

Mr. Foreman...

FOREMAN

I heard you.

He goes to the door and knocks. The Guard enters. The Foreman confers briefly with him. The Guard exits and locks the door after him.

3RD JUROR

All right, what's this for? How come you're the only one in the room who wants to see exhibits all the time?

5TH JUROR

I want to see his one, too.

3RD JUROR

And I want to stop wasting time.

4TH JUROR

If we're going to start wading through all that business about where the body was found...

8TH JUROR

We're not. Not unless someone else wants to. I'd like to see if a very old man who drags one leg when he walks because he had a stroke last year can get from his bed to his front door in fifteen seconds.

3RD JUROR
He said twenty seconds.

8TH JUROR
He said fifteen.

3RD JUROR
Now I'm telling you he said twenty.
What're you trying to distort...

12TH JUROR
He said fifteen.

3RD JUROR
How does he know how long fifteen
seconds is? You can't judge that
kind of thing.

9TH JUROR
He said fifteen seconds. He was very
positive about it.

3RD JUROR
He's an old man. You saw him. Half
the time he was confused. How could
he be positive about anything.

The Guard enters carrying a large diagram of the apartment. The diagram is a layout of a railroad flat. A bedroom faces the el tracks. Behind it is a series of rooms off a long hall. In the front room is an "X" marking the spot where the body was found. At the back of the apartment we see the entrance into the apartment hall from the building hall. We see a flight of stairs in the building hall. Each room is labeled and the dimensions of each room are shown. Foreman takes diagram. Guard exits.

4TH JUROR
I don't see what we're going to prove
here. The man said he saw the boy
running out.

8TH JUROR
Well, let's see if the details bear
him out. As soon as the body fell to
the floor, he said, he heard
footsteps upstairs running towards
the front door. He heard the
upstairs door open and the footsteps
start down the stairs. He got to his
front door as soon as he could. He
swore that it couldn't have been more
than fifteen seconds. Now, if the
killer began running immediately...

12TH JUROR

Well, maybe he didn't.

8TH JUROR

The old man said he did.

7TH JUROR

You know, you ought to be down in Atlantic City at the hair-splitters' convention.

6TH JUROR

Listen, baseball, why don't you stop making smart remarks all the time?

7TH JUROR

My friend, for your three dollars a day you've gotta listen to everything.

10TH JUROR

(to 8th Juror)

Well, now that you've got that thing in here, what about it?

8TH JUROR

(to Foreman)

May I?

(he takes the plan and puts it on a chair)

This is the apartment in which the killing took place. The old man's apartment is directly beneath it and exactly the same. Here are the el tracks. The bedroom. Another bedroom. Bathroom. Living room. Kitchen. And this is the hall. Here's the front door to the apartment. And here are the stairs. Now, the old man was in bed in this room.

(he indicates the front bedroom)
He says he got up, went out into the hall, down the hall to the front door, opened it and looked out just in time to see the boy racing down the stairs. Am I right so far?

3RD JUROR

That's the story, for the nineteenth time.

8TH JUROR

Fifteen seconds after he heard the body fall.

11TH JUROR

Correct.

8TH JUROR

His bed was at the window. It's...
(he looks closely at the plan)
...twelve feet from his bed to the bedroom door. The length of the hall is forty-three feet, six inches. Now, he had to get up out of bed, walk twelve feet, open the bedroom door, walk forty-three feet and open the front door -- all in fifteen seconds. Do you think he could have done it?

10TH JUROR

Sure he coulda done it.

11TH JUROR

He can only walk very slowly. They had to help him into the witness chair.

3RD JUROR

You make it sound like a long walk.
It's not.

9TH JUROR

For an old man who had a stroke it's a long walk.

The 8th Juror moves his chair and sets the chair to indicate a bed.

10TH JUROR

What are you doing?

8TH JUROR

I want to try this thing. Let's see how long it took him.

3RD JUROR

What d'you mean you want to try it?
Why didn't the kid's lawyer bring it up if it's so important?

5TH JUROR

Well, maybe he just didn't think of it.

10TH JUROR

What d'ya mean he didn't think of it?
You think the man's an idiot or
something. It's an obvious thing.

5TH JUROR

Did you think of it?

10TH JUROR

Listen, smart guy. It don't matter
whether I thought of it.

FOREMAN

Okay, now... let's hold it down.

10TH JUROR

He didn't bring it up because he knew
the answer'd hurt his case. Now what
d'ya think of that?

FOREMAN

Okay...

8TH JUROR

It's possible that he didn't bring it
up because it would have meant
badgering and bullying a helpless old
man, something that I don't think
sits very well with a jury. Most
lawyers avoid that kind of thing if
they can.

7TH JUROR

So what kind of a bum is he, then?

8TH JUROR

That's what I've been asking. All
right. Let's say these chairs are
the old man's bed. I'm going to pace
off twelve feet, the length of the
bedroom.

He paces twelve feet.

3RD JUROR

You're crazy. You can't re-create a
thing like that.

11TH JUROR

I'd like to see it.

8TH JUROR

Someone hand me a chair.

The 12th Juror picks up his chair and takes it to 8th Juror. 8th Juror puts the chair where he is standing.

8TH JUROR (CONT)

All right, this is the bedroom door. The hall is a little over forty-three feet long. I'll pace over to that wall and back again.

He paces counting his steps silently.

10TH JUROR

Look, this is absolutely insane. What's the idea of wasting everybody's time here?

8TH JUROR

...twelve...

(he stops and turns to the 10th Juror)

According to you it'll only take fifteen seconds. We can spare that...

He resumes his pacing, counting to himself, and reaches the wall. The others watch silently. He turns and paces, counting off the rest of the distance.

8TH JUROR (CONT)

...thirty nine, forty, forty-one, forty-two, forty-three. Okay, pass me another chair, please.

6th Juror picks up a chair and takes it to 8th Juror. 8th Juror places it where he is standing.

8TH JUROR (CONT)

This is the door to the outside hall and stairway. It was chain-locked according to the testimony. Who's got a watch with a second hand?

2ND JUROR

I have.

8TH JUROR

When you want me to start, stamp your foot. That'll be the body falling. Time me from there.

He lies down on the two chairs.

7TH JUROR

Anyone for charades?

3RD JUROR

I've never seen anything like this in
my whole life!

8TH JUROR

Okay. I'm ready.

The 2nd Juror stares at his watch, waiting.

10TH JUROR

Come on, let's go here.

2ND JUROR

I want to wait until the second hand
reaches sixty.

They wait. The 2nd Juror suddenly stamps his foot. The 8th Juror rises to a sitting position, swings his legs to the floor and stands up. The 2nd Juror keeps his eyes on his watch. The 8th Juror hobbles, dragging one leg, towards the chair which serves as the bedroom door. He reaches it and pretends to open the door. He then hobbles along the simulated forty-three-foot hallway.

10TH JUROR

Come on. Snap it up. He walked
twice as fast as that.

11TH JUROR

This is, I think, even more quickly
than the old man walked in the
courtroom.

8TH JUROR

(still hobbling)

If you think I should go faster, I
will.

He speeds up his pace slightly, reaches the wall, turns and heads for the second chair, the one simulating the door to the outer hallway.

3RD JUROR

Come on, will ya! Let's get this kid
stuff over with.

They watch as the 8th Juror reaches the last chair. He pretends to open an imaginary chain lock and then opens the imaginary door.

8TH JUROR

Stop!

2ND JUROR

Right.

8TH JUROR

"What's the time?

2ND JUROR

Fifteen -- twenty -- thirty --
thirty-five -- forty -- forty-two
seconds exactly.

6TH JUROR

Forty-two seconds!

8TH JUROR

I think this is what happened. The old man heard the fight between the boy and his father a few hours earlier. Then, while lying in bed, he heard a body hit the floor in the boy's apartment, and he heard the woman scream from across the street. He got up, tried to get to the door, heard someone racing down the stairs, and assumed it was the boy.

6TH JUROR

I think that's possible.

3RD JUROR

Assumed? Now listen to me, you people. I've seen all kinds of dishonesty in my day -- but this little display takes the cake. You come in here with your sanctimonious talk about slum kids and injustice, and you make up some wild stories, and all of a sudden you start getting through to some of these old ladies in here. Well, you're not getting through to me. I've had enough. What's the matter with you people? Every one of you knows this kid is guilty. He's got to burn. We're letting him slip through our fingers here.

8TH JUROR

Slip through our fingers? Are you his executioner?

8TH JUROR

Maybe you'd like to pull the switch.

3RD JUROR
For this kid? You bit I'd like to
pull the switch.

8TH JUROR
I'm sorry for you.

3RD JUROR
Don't start with me now.

8TH JUROR
Ever since we walked into this room
you've been behaving like a self-
appointed public avenger.

3RD JUROR
I'm telling you now! Shut up!

8TH JUROR
You want to see this boy die because
you personally want it, not because
of the facts.

3RD JUROR
Shut up!

8TH JUROR
You're a sadist!

3RD JUROR
Shut up, you son of a bitch!

He lunges wildly at 8th Juror.

The 8th Juror holds his ground. The 5th and 6th Jurors grab the
3rd Juror from behind. He strains against the hands, his face dark
with rage.

3RD JUROR (CONT)
Let go of me, God damn it! I'll kill
him! I'll kill him!

8TH JUROR
(calmly)
You don't really mean you'll kill me,
do you?

The 3rd juror breaks from the 5th and 6th jurors, stops struggling
and stares bitterly at the 8th Juror.

There is silence. The 3rd Juror crosses to the window. The other
Jurors move about the room. There is an awkward silence. The
Guard enters.

GUARD

Is there anything wrong, gentlemen?
I heard some noise.

FOREMAN

No. There's nothing wrong.
(he collects the apartment plan,
from the table)
Just a little argument. Everything's
okay.

(He hands the plan to the Guard)
We're finished with this.

The Guard takes the plan, looks carefully around the room then exits. There is a pause. The others look at the 3rd juror.

3RD JUROR

Well, what are you staring at?

The others, embarrassed, turn away. Some of them take their seats.

12TH JUROR

Well, -- I suppose someone has to --
start it off again.

2ND JUROR

It's getting late
(to the Foreman)
What do they do, take us out to a
restaurant for supper?

FOREMAN

How do I know?

2ND JUROR

I wonder if they let us go home in
case we can't finish tonight. I've
got a boy with mumps. He's out of
here. The wife says he looks like
Khrushchev.

The room begins to darken perceptibly now.

11TH JUROR

Pardon. This fighting. This is not
why we are here, to fight. We have a
responsibility. This, I have always
thought, is a remarkable thing about
democracy. That we are, uh, what is
the word? Notified. That we are
notified by mail to come down to this
place and decide on the guilt or
innocence of a man we have never

11TH JUROR

heard before. We have nothing to gain or loss by our verdict. This is one of the reasons we are strong. We should not make it a personal thing.

12TH JUROR

Um, if no-one else has an idea, I may have a cutie here. I mean, I haven't put much thought into it. Anyway, lemme throw it out on the stoop and see if the cat licks it up.

FOREMAN

See if the cat licks it up?
(laughs)

12TH JUROR

Well, it wasn't much of an idea, anyway.

5TH JUROR

Look how dark it's getting. We're gonna have a storm. Boy, it's hot.

The 4th Juror, in tie and jacket, is seemingly not bothered by the heat at all.

5TH JUROR

(turns to 4th Juror)
Pardon me, don't you sweat?

4TH JUROR

No. I don't.

6TH JUROR

Uh, listen, I was wondering if maybe we shouldn't take another vote.

7TH JUROR

Great idea. Maybe we can follow this one up with dancing and refreshments.

6TH JUROR

Mr. Foreman?

FOREMAN

It's all right with me. Anyone doesn't want to vote?

No-one answers for a moment.

3RD JUROR

I think we ought to have an open
ballot. Call out your votes, y'know.
Let's see who stands where.

FOREMAN

That sounds fair. Anyone object?
The last vote was eight to four in
favor of guilty. All right. I'll
call off your jury numbers. I vote
guilty. Number Two?

2ND JUROR

Not Guilty

FOREMAN

Number Three?

3RD JUROR

Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Four?

4TH JUROR

Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Five?

5TH JUROR

Not Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Six?

6TH JUROR

Not Guilty

FOREMAN

Number Seven?

7TH JUROR

Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Eight?

8TH JUROR

Not Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Nine?

9TH JUROR

Not Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Ten?

10TH JUROR

Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Eleven?

11TH JUROR

Not Guilty.

FOREMAN

Number Twelve?

12TH JUROR

Guilty.

FOREMAN

Six to six.

7TH JUROR

And we go into extra innings here.

10TH JUROR

Six to six! I'm telling you, some of
you people in here are out of your
minds. A kid like that.

9TH JUROR

I don't think the kind of boy he is
has anything to do with it. The
facts are supposed to determine the
case.

10TH JUROR

Ah, don't give me any of that. I'm
sick and tired of facts. You can
twist 'em any way you like. Know
what I mean?

9TH JUROR

That's exactly the point this
gentleman..

(he indicates the 8th Juror)
has been making. I mean, you keep
shouting at the top of your lungs...

The 8th Juror puts his hand on the 9th Juror's shoulder. The 9th Juror looks at him and sits.

9TH JUROR (CONT)
I'd like to be a little younger.
That man...
(he stops, unable to go on)
It's very hot in here.

11TH JUROR
Do you want some water?

9TH JUROR
No, thanks.

It has grown considerably darker in the room and its oppressively still. There is a murmur of voices at the cooler where the 7th, 10th, and 2nd Jurors are in various stages of getting a drink.

2ND JUROR
It's going to rain.

7TH JUROR
No! How did you figure that out, blue eyes? Tell me, how come you switched?

2ND JUROR
Well, it just seemed to me...

7TH JUROR
I mean, you haven't got a leg to stand on. You know that, don'tcha?

2ND JUROR
Well, I don't feel that way. There're a lot of details that never came out.

10TH JUROR
Details! You're just letting yourself get bull-dozed by a bunch'a what d'ya call 'em -- intellectuals.

2ND JUROR
Now that's not so.

10TH JUROR
Ah, come on. You're like everybody else. You think too much, you get mixed up. Know what I mean?

2ND JUROR

Now, listen, I don't think you have
any right to....

(the 10th Juror walks away.)
(softly)

Loudmouth!

It is now darker than before. There is no movement in the room. Everyone waits for the storm. And suddenly it comes. We hear only the sound of the rain pouring down into the silence. Heads turn toward the window. The rain pours down.

The 4th Juror goes into the washroom and exits to the lavatory. The 8th Juror steps back from the window as the rain splashes in, closes it. The Foreman rises, goes to the light switch at the door and switches on the lights. There is a flickering of harsh white light as the fluorescent lights come on. The rain, continues throughout the remainder of the film. The Foreman moves to the 8th Juror.

FOREMAN

Wow! Look at that come down, will ya. Think it'll cool things off?

8TH JUROR

Yeah, I guess so.

FOREMAN

Boy! Look at it go! Reminds me of the storm we had last -- November something. What a storm! Right in the middle of the game.

INT. WASHROOM - SAME

The 3rd Juror crosses to the washroom, goes in, switches on the light and washes his hands.

FOREMAN (CONT)

We're behind seven -- six, but we're just startin' to move the ball, off tackle, y'know. Boom! Boom! Boy, I'll never forget that. We had this kid Slattery. A real ox. Wish I had another one like him. Oh. I probably forgot to tell you -- I'm assistant head football coach at the Andrew J. McCorkle High School. That's in Queens.

(the 8th Juror smiles briefly)
So anyway, We're movin' real nice.
Their line is comin' apart. I'm tellin' ya, this Slattery. Boy! And all of a sudden it starts to come

FOREMAN (CONT)

down cats and dogs. In two minutes it was mud practically up to your ass. I swear I almost bawled. We couldn't go nowhere.

7TH JUROR

Hey, let's try to get this fan goin' in here. What d'ya say?

The 4th Juror enters the washroom from the lavatory. The Foreman goes to the bench, stands on it and starts the fan.

7TH JUROR (CONT)

It musta been connected to the light switch.

3rd Juror and 4th Juror are in the washroom together.

3RD JUROR

(to 4th Juror)

Some rain, huh?

(the 4th Juror nods)

Well, what d'ya think of this thing?

It's even-steven.

(4th Juror nods) Kind of surprising, isn't it?

4TH JUROR

Yes.

3RD JUROR

Listen, that business before, you know, where that guy was baiting me. I mean, that doesn't prove anything. Listen, I'm a very excitable person, y'know. So where does he get off to call me a public avenger and a sadist and everything? Anybody in his right mind'd blow his stack, wouldn't he? He was just trying to bait me.

4TH JUROR

He did an excellent job.

(he moves to the towel)

Excuse me.

(he dries his hands)

3RD JUROR

Okay, maybe he did. I told you, I can't help that kind of thing. I'm a certain type of person, I get moved by this. But let me tell you, I'm sincere.

4TH JUROR
Fine. We all are.

The 10th Juror bursts into the washroom, strides to the basin and washes his hands.

10TH JUROR
Well -- isn't this the god-damnedest thing you ever saw? Six to six.
It's a joke.

3RD JUROR
What are we gonna do about it? Can't we break it somehow?

10TH JUROR
Those six bastards in there aren't going to change their minds.

4TH JUROR
Five of them already have changed their minds. There's no reason why they can't be persuaded to do it again.

10TH JUROR
How?

4TH JUROR
Just by using logic.

10TH JUROR
Logic! Holy cow!

3RD JUROR
Now just you listen to this man. He's the only one in the room who knows...

10TH JUROR
You want my opinion?

4TH JUROR
Go ahead.

10TH JUROR
I think we should just quit.

3RD JUROR
What the hell are you talking about?

10TH JUROR

Those people in there are suddenly like it's some kind of mission or something. Look, they're not gonna switch, so let's go and tell the Judge -- we'll be here all night. For chrissakes let's tell him we're hung. The hell with this. I mean, what am I gonna do, break my brains over scum like that?

3RD JUROR

Well, that's the most ridiculous think I ever... You took an oath in the courtroom. You can't just quit.

10TH JUROR

Why not?

3RD JUROR

It's dishonest. Why don't you vote not guilty?

10TH JUROR

I voted guilty because I think he's guilty.

3RD JUROR

But you don't care what happens to him?

10TH JUROR

No. Why should I?

4TH JUROR

All right, let's stop this. We're not going to get anywhere like this.

10TH JUROR

Well, what does he want? I gave my honest opinion.

4TH JUROR

I know.

10TH JUROR

I suppose you don't think much of it?

4TH JUROR

No, I don't.

The Foreman opens the washroom door.

FOREMAN

Uh -- we'd like to get going in here again, if you don't mind.

The 4th Juror exits the washroom.

10TH JUROR

(to the 3rd Juror)

How about him? Is that something?

3RD JUROR

A hung jury doesn't mean anything. They just have to start the trial with another jury. That's not what we're here for.

10TH JUROR

What the hell's the difference? A hung jury is what you're gonna get.

FOREMAN

Look, would you please...

The 10th Juror strides out of the washroom, the 3rd Juror switches out the light and comes slowly into the room.

INT. JURY ROOM - SAME

10TH JUROR

Listen, I'll tell you what I think. We're goin' nowhere here. I'm ready to walk into court right now and declare a hung jury.

7TH JUROR

I go for that, too. Let's take it into the Judge and let the kid take his chances with twelve other guys.

8TH JUROR

I don't think the court will accept a hung jury. We haven't been in here very long.

7TH JUROR

Well, let's find out.

11TH JUROR

I am not in favor of this.

7TH JUROR

(to 11th Juror)

Listen, this kid wouldn't stand a chance with another Jury and you know it.

(to the others)

Come on, we're hung. Nobody's gonna change his opinion. Let's take it inside.

5TH JUROR

You still don't think there's any room for reasonable doubt?

7TH JUROR

No, I don't.

11TH JUROR

Pardon. Maybe you don't fully understand the term "reasonable doubt".

7TH JUROR

What d'ya mean, I don't understand it? Who the hell are you to talk to me like that?

(to the others)

How d'ya like this guy? I'm tellin' ya they're all alike. He comes over to this country running for his life and before he can even take a big breath he's telling us how to run the show. The arrogance of the guy!

5TH JUROR

(to the 7th Juror)

You mean you're calling him arrogant because he wasn't born here? Fine, I'm calling you arrogant because you were. How's that?

11TH JUROR

Please, please. It doesn't matter.

7TH JUROR

Look, sonny, nobody around here's gonna tell me what words I understand and what words I don't.

(he points to the 11th Juror)
Especially him. Because I'll knock his goddamn Middle European head off.

FOREMAN

All right. Let's stop arguing for two minutes in here. Can't we stick to the subject?

8TH JUROR

I'd like to go over something, if you gentlemen don't mind. An important point for the prosecution was the fact that the boy, after he claimed he was at the movies during the hours the killing took place, couldn't name the pictures he saw or the stars who appeared in them.

(he points to the 4th Juror)
This gentleman has repeated that point in here several times.

4TH JUROR

That's correct. It was the only alibi the boy offered and he himself couldn't back it up with any details at all.

8TH JUROR

Putting yourself in the boy's place, if you can, do you think you'd be able to remember details after an upsetting experience such as being struck in the face by your father?

4TH JUROR

I think so, if there were any special details to remember. He couldn't remember the movies at the theater he named because he wasn't there that night.

8TH JUROR

According to the police testimony in court he was questioned by the police in the kitchen of his apartment while the body of his father was lying on the floor in the bedroom. Do you think you could remember details under such circumstances?

4TH JUROR

I do.

8TH JUROR

Under great emotional stress?

4TH JUROR
Under great emotional stress.

8TH JUROR
He remembered the movies in court.
He named them correctly and he named
the stars who played in them.

4TH JUROR
Yes, his lawyer took great pains to
bring that out. He had three months
from the night of the murder to the
day of the trial in which to memorize
them. I'll take the testimony of the
policeman who interrogated him right
after the murder, when he couldn't
remember a thing about the movies,
great emotional stress or not.

8TH JUROR
I'd like to ask you a personal
question.

4TH JUROR
Go ahead.

8TH JUROR
Where were you last night?

4TH JUROR
I was home.

8TH JUROR
What about the night before last?

10TH JUROR
Come on, what is this?

4TH JUROR
(to 10th Juror)
It's perfectly all right.
(to 8th Juror)
I went from court to my office and
stayed there till eight-thirty. Then
I went straight home to bed.

8TH JUROR
And the night before that?

4TH JUROR
That was -- Tuesday. I -- was -- oh,
yes. That was the night of the
bridge tournament. I played bridge.

8TH JUROR
And Monday night?

7TH JUROR
When you get him down to New Year's
Eve, nineteen-fifty, lemme know.

4TH JUROR
(trying to remember)
Monday.

(he pauses)
Monday night.
(he remembers)
Monday night my wife and I went to
the movies.

8TH JUROR
What did you see?

4TH JUROR
The Scarlet Circle. It's a very
clever who-done-it.

8TH JUROR
What was the second feature?

4TH JUROR
(straining)
The... I'll tell you in a minute.
The -- Remarkable Mrs. Something.
Mrs. -- uh -- Mainbridge. No,
Bainbridge. The Remarkable Mrs.
Bainbridge.

2ND JUROR
Excuse me. I saw that. It's called
The Amazing Mrs. Bainbridge.

4TH JUROR
The -- Amazing Mrs. Bainbridge. Yes.
I think that's right.

8TH JUROR
Who was in The Amazing Mrs.
Bainbridge?

4TH JUROR
Barbara -- Long, I think. She's a
dark, very pretty girl. Barbara --
Lang -- Land -- something like that.

8TH JUROR
Who else?

The 4th Juror takes a handkerchief and mops his suddenly sweating forehead.

4TH JUROR

Well, I'd never heard of them before.
It was a very inexpensive second
feature, with unknown...

8TH JUROR

And you weren't under an emotional
strain, were you?

4TH JUROR

No, I wasn't.

9TH JUROR

I think the point is made.

10TH JUROR

Big point!

9TH JUROR

I think it is a big point?

10TH JUROR

What? Just because he can't remember
the name of some two-bit movie star?
I suppose that proves the kid was at
the movies.

9TH JUROR

No. But it indicates that no one can
prove he wasn't. He might have been
at the movies and forgotten what he
saw. It's possible. If it's
perfectly normal for this gentleman--
(he indicates the 4th Juror)
to forget a few details, then it's
also perfectly normal for the boy.
Being accused of murder isn't
necessarily supposed to give him an
infallible memory.

10TH JUROR
(to the 9th Juror)

You can talk till your tongue is draggin' on the floor. The boy is guilty. Period. Know what I mean, my fiend? Who's got those cough drops?

2ND JUROR
They're all gone, my friend.

FOREMAN

Y'know, there's something we're forgetting here that I was just thinking about. Well, that's the whole business that dragged out forever, y'know with the psychiatrist, where he got all involved...

10TH JUROR
Now don't start with all that phony psycho-what-ever-you-call-it stuff. What a racket that is! Filling people's heads with all that junk. Listen, I've got three psychiatrists keeping their cars in one of my garages. The whole three of 'em are crazy.

FOREMAN
Listen, there's a point I'm tryin' to make here. Do you mind?

10TH JUROR
I wouldn't give you a nickel for a psychiatrist's testimony.

8TH JUROR
Why don't you let the man talk? You can take five minutes on the uselessness of psychiatry when he's finished.

FOREMAN

What I was gonna say was, the psychiatrist definitely stated that the boy had strong homicidal tendencies. I mean, that he was, what d'ya call it -- capable of committing murder. He described all those tests, inkblots and all that stuff, and he said the kid is definitely a killer-type. Am I right?

12TH JUROR

Check. I think he said something about paranoid tendencies if I'm not mistaken.

FOREMAN

Right. Whatever that is, he said it. Let's not forget, we're talking about a boy who's always had murder on his mind.

12TH JUROR

His unconscious mind.

FOREMAN

Nobody else's.

11TH JUROR

I beg pardon, in discussing...

10TH JUROR

I beg pardon. What are you so goddamn polite about?

11TH JUROR

For the same reason you're not. It's the way I was brought up.

(he turns to the others)

In discussing such a thing as the murder potential we should remember that many of us are capable of committing murder. But few of us do. We impose controls upon ourselves to prevent it. The most these psychiatric tests can accomplish

11TH JUROR (CONT)
along these lines is this: They can tell us that some day a particular person may commit a murder. That's all. They prove nothing.

4TH JUROR
Then how come they're admitted in evidence?

11TH JUROR
They have many uses, of course. In this case they added to the general impression the prosecution was trying to create. Perhaps we would find that if we twelve men took the same tests, one or two of us might be discovered to have unconscious desires to kill, and the potentiality of carrying them out. Yet none of us has. To say that a man is capable of murder does not mean that he has committed murder.

10TH JUROR
But it can mean it. Listen, if they said the kid is capable of killing, he could've killed, couldn't he?

8TH JUROR
You're the one who said, and I quote, "I wouldn't give you a nickel for a psychiatrist's testimony."

10TH JUROR
Boy, I'm telling you --
(he crosses to the 8th juror)
I'd like to...

He stops. The 8th Juror does not look up at him. The 10th Juror crosses angrily away.

6TH JUROR
What time is it?

7TH JUROR
It's five of six. Man, look at that rain.

12TH JUROR
There goes your ball game.

2ND JUROR
(to the 8th Juror)
Say, could I see that knife for a second?

The 8th Juror slides the knife across the table to the 2nd Juror who opens and examines it.

FOREMAN
Well, we're still tied up six to six.
Who's got a suggestion?

12TH JUROR
I have. Let's get some dinner.

5TH JUROR
Why don't we wait till seven? Give it another hour.

12TH JUROR
Okay with me.

2ND JUROR
Um -- there's something I'd like to say. I mean, it's been bothering me a little and as long as we're stuck... Well, there was this whole business about the stab wound and how it was made, the downward angle of it, you know?

3RD JUROR
Don't tell me we're gonna start with that. They went over it and over it.

2ND JUROR
I know they did, but I don't go along with it. The boy is five feet, seven inches tall. His father was six-two. That's a difference of seven inches. It's a very awkward thing to stab down into the chest of someone who's more than a half a foot taller than you are.

3RD JUROR
(crossing to 2nd Juror and
indicating the knife)
Give me that.

The 2nd Juror hands the knife to the 3rd Juror.

3RD JUROR (CONT)
Look you're not gonna be satisfied
till you see it again. I'm gonna give
you a demonstration. Somebody get
up.

There is a pause. No one moves for a moment, and then the 8th Juror rises and crosses to the 3rd Juror. They stand looking at each other.

3RD JUROR (CONT)
Okay.
(to the 2nd Juror)
Now, watch this. I don't want to
have to do it again.
(he turns to the 8th Juror,
looks squarely at him, and
squats to make himself shorter)
I'm six or seven inches shorter than
you. Right?

2ND JUROR
That's right. Maybe a little more.

3RD JUROR
Okay. Let it be more.

He flicks open the knife, changes its position in his hand and holds it aloft, ready to stab downwards.

The 8th Juror and the 3rd Juror look steadily at each other, then the 3rd Juror suddenly stabs downward, hard.

2ND JUROR
Look out!

The blade stops about an inch from the 8th Juror's chest. The 8th Juror does not move. The 3rd Juror smiles.

6TH JUROR
That's not funny.

5TH JUROR
What's the matter with you?

3RD JUROR
Now just calm down. Nobody's hurt.
Right?

8TH JUROR
No. Nobody's hurt.

3RD JUROR
All right. There's your angle. Take
a look at it. Down and in. That's
how I'd stab a taller man in the
chest and that's how it was done.
Now go ahead and tell me I'm wrong.

The 3rd Juror hands the knife to the 8th Juror and crosses away.
The 12th Juror crosses to the 8th Juror and using his closed hand,
simulates stabbing the 8th Juror in the chest.

12TH JUROR
Down and in. I guess there's no
argument.

5TH JUROR
(moving to the 8th Juror)
Wait a minute. Give me that.

The 8th Juror hands the knife to the 5th Juror. He closes the
knife and holds it gingerly.

5TH JUROR (CONT)
I hate these things. I grew up with
them.

8TH JUROR
Have you seen them used in fights?

5TH JUROR
Too many of them. On my stoop. In my
backyard. In the lot across the
street. Switch knives came with the
neighborhood where I lived. Funny, I
wasn't thinking of it. I guess you
try to forget those things. You
can't use this kind of knife that
way. You have to hold it like this

5TH JUROR (CONT)
to release the blade. In order to
stab downwards, you would have to
change your grip.

8TH JUROR
How do you use it?

5TH JUROR
Underhanded.

He flicks the knife open and holding it underhanded, swings round
and slashes swiftly forward and upward.

5TH JUROR (CONT)
Like that. Anyone who's ever used a
switch knife'd never handle it any
other way.

8TH JUROR
Are you sure?

5TH JUROR
I'm sure.

(He closes the blade and flicks
it open again)
That's why they're made like this.

8TH JUROR
Everyone agreed that the boy is
pretty handy with a knife, didn't
they?

5TH JUROR
That's right.

8TH JUROR
(to the 5th Juror)
Do you think he would have made the
kind of wound that killed his father?

5TH JUROR
Not with the experience he'd had with
these things. No, I don't think he
would. He'd go for him
underhanded...

3RD JUROR

How do you know? What -- were you in
the room when the father was killed?

5TH JUROR

No, and neither was anyone else.

He sticks the knife in the table and crosses away.

3RD JUROR

(to the 8th Juror)

You're giving us a lot of mumbo-jumbo
here. I don't believe it.

4TH JUROR

I don't think you can determine what
type of wound this boy might or might
not have made simply because he knows
how to handle a knife.

3RD JUROR

That's right. That's absolutely
right.

8TH JUROR

(looking at the 12th juror)

What do you think?

The 12th Juror hesitates for a moment. He is confused, but trying
to be honest.

12TH JUROR

Well -- I don't know...

3RD JUROR

What d'ya mean -- you don't know?

12TH JUROR

I don't know.

8TH JUROR

(to the 7th Juror)

What about you?

The 7th Juror looks around the table momentarily.

4TH JUROR

Just a minute. According to the
woman across the street...

7TH JUROR

Listen, I'll tell you something. I'm a little sick of this whole thing already. All this yakkin's gettin' us nowhere so I'm going to break it up here. I'm changing my vote to not guilty.

3RD JUROR

You're what?

7TH JUROR

You heard me. I've had enough.

3RD JUROR

What d'you mean -- you've had enough?
That's no answer.

7TH JUROR

Hey, listen, you! Just worry about yourself!

11TH JUROR

(crossing to the 7th Juror)

He's right. That is not an answer. What kind of a man are you? You have sat here and voted guilty with everyone else because there are some baseball tickets burning a hole in your pocket. Now you have changed your vote because you say you're sick of all the talking here.

7TH JUROR

Listen, buddy...

11TH JUROR

You have no right to play like this with a man's life. This is a terrible and ugly thing to do. Don't you care...?

7TH JUROR

Now wait a minute. You can't talk like that to me!

11TH JUROR

I can talk like that to you. If you want to vote not guilty, then do it because you're convinced the man is not guilty -- not because you've had enough. And if you think he's guilty then vote that way. Or don't you have the guts to do what you think is right?

7TH JUROR

Now, listen...

11TH JUROR

Guilty or not guilty?

7TH JUROR

I told you -- not guilty.

11TH JUROR

Why?

7TH JUROR

God damn you. I don't have to...

11TH JUROR

You do have to. Say it. Why?

7TH JUROR

(in a low voice)

I -- don't think he's guilty.

The 11th Juror looks disgustedly at the 7th Juror then moves to his chair. The 7th Juror stands defeated.

8TH JUROR

Mr. Foreman, I want another vote.

FOREMAN

Okay, there's another vote called for.

(the Jurors cross to their chairs and sit)

I guess the quickest way is a show of hands. Anybody object?

(there is no answer)

All those voting not guilty raise your hands.

The 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th 9th and 11th Jurors raise their hands immediately.

FOREMAN (CONT)
One. Two. Three. Four. Five.
Six. Seven.

The 12th Juror's face is a mask of indecision, then he suddenly raises his hand.

FOREMAN (CONT)
eight.

He stops counting and looks around the table. Slowly, almost embarrassed he raises his own hand

FOREMAN (CONT)
Nine.
(he lowers his hand)
All those voting guilty.

The 3rd, 4th, and 10th Jurors raise their hands.

FOREMAN (CONT)
Nine to three in favor of not guilty.

10TH JUROR
I don't understand you people. I mean, all these picky little points you keep bringing up. They don't mean nothing. How can you believe his story?

(to the 11th Juror)
You're an intelligent man. Well, you're not gonna tell me you're not. You know the facts of life. Well, for chrissakes look at what we're dealing with here. You know him! I mean, that guy --

(he points to the 8th Juror)
over there, well, I don't know what the hell is going on with him. All that talk about psychiatrists. Maybe he ought to go to one. Look, let's talk facts. These people are born to lie. Now it's the way they are and no intelligent man is gonna tell me otherwise. They don't know what the

10TH JUROR (CONT)
truth is. Well, take a look at them.
They are different. They think
different. They act different.
Well, for instance, they don't need
any big excuse to kill someone.

The 5th Juror crosses to the washroom door.

10TH JUROR (CONT)
Well, that's true. Everybody knows
it. They get drunk on wine or
something cheap like that. Oh,
they're very big drinkers.

The 5th Juror goes into the washroom, slams the door behind him.

10TH JUROR (CONT)
Smart guy! Look at him for
chrissakes! What does that mean,
slamming the door? And then they're
drunk, and all of a sudden -- bang --
somebody's lying dead in the gutter.
Okay, nobody's blaming them for it.
That's how they are, by nature,
y'know what I mean? Violent! Human
life don't mean as much to them as it
does to us.

The 11th Juror rises and crosses to the washroom door. He follows
the 11th Juror.

10TH JUROR (CONT)
Where are you going.

The 11th juror does not reply and goes into the washroom.

10TH JUROR (CONT)
While you're in there, clean out your
ears, maybe you'll hear something.

The 4th Juror rises and moves to the window.

10TH JUROR (CONT)

Look, you listen to me now. These people are boozing it up, and fighting all the time, and if somebody gets killed, so somebody gets killed. They don't care. Family don't mean anything to them. They breed like animals. Fathers, mothers, that don't mean anything. Oh, sure, there are some good things about'em. Look, I'm the first one to say that. I've known some who were okay, but that's the exception.

9TH JUROR

Do you know that you're a sick man?

10TH JUROR

Sick?

9TH JUROR

Why don't you sit down?

10TH JUROR

You old son of a bitch! Who the hell are you?

He moves towards the 9th Juror. The 12th Juror steps between the 9th and the 10th Jurors.

10TH JUROR (CONT)

(to the 12th juror)

No. Who the hell is he to tell me that? Sick. Look at him - he can hardly stand up. Listen, I'm speaking my piece here and you're gonna listen.

The 9th Juror moves to the window.

12TH JUROR

Maybe if you just quieted down.

10TH JUROR

I will like hell quite down. There is not one of them, not one who's any good. Now d'you hear that? Not one. Now let me lay this out for you -- ignorant -- bastards.

(to the 9th Juror)

You at the window, you're so god-damned smart. We're facing a danger here. Don't you know it? These people are multiplying. That kid on trial, his type, they're multiplying five times as fast as we are. That's the statistic. Five times. And they are -- wild animals. They're against us, they hate us, they want to destroy us. That's right.

(to 6th Juror)

Don't look at me like that! There's a danger. For God's sake we're living in a dangerous time, and if we don't watch it, if we don't smack them down whenever we can, then they are gonna own us. They're gonna breed us out of existence.

6TH JUROR

Ah, shut up!

10TH JUROR

Now you god-damned geniuses had better listen to me. They're violent, they're vicious, they're ignorant, and they will cut us up. That's their intent. To cut us up.

(to 7th Juror)

I'm warning you. This boy, this boy on trial here. We've got him. That's one at least. I say get him before his kind gets us. I don't give a god-damn about the law. Why should I? They don't. Now I'm telling you.

2ND JUROR

I've heard enough. Now you just stop all this.

10TH JUROR

(looking angrily at the 2nd Juror)

How would you like me to cave your head in for you, you smart little bastard? Where the hell do you get the gall...?

The 4th Juror steps in front of the 10th Juror and stops him firmly.

4TH JUROR

We've heard enough. Sit down. And don't open your filthy mouth again.

The 4th and 10th Jurors stare at each other. Finally, the 10th Juror turns away, crosses to a chair and sits his back to the others. The other Jurors slowly cross to their seats.

8TH JUROR

It's very hard to keep personal prejudice out of a thing like this. And no matter where you run into it, prejudice obscures the truth. Well, I don't think any real damage has been done here. Because I don't really know what the truth is. No one ever will, I suppose. Nine of us now seem to feel that the defendant is innocent, but we're just gambling on probabilities. We may be wrong. We may be trying to return a guilty man to the community. No one can really know. But we have a reasonable doubt, and this is a safeguard which has enormous value in our system. No jury can declare a man guilty unless it's sure. We nine can't understand how you three are still so sure. Maybe you can tell us.

4TH JUROR

I'll try.. You've made some excellent points. The last one, in which you "proved" that the boy couldn't have made the kind of overhand stab would that killed his father, was very persuasive. But I still believe the boy is guilty of murder. I have two reasons. One: the evidence given by the woman across the street who actually saw the murder committed.

3RD JUROR

And how, brother! As far as I'm concerned that's the most important testimony in the whole case.

4TH JUROR

And two: the fact that this woman described the stabbing by saying she saw the boy raise his arm over his head and plunge the knife down into his father's chest. She saw him do it -- the wrong way.

3RD JUROR

That's right! That's absolutely right!

4TH JUROR

Now, let's talk about this woman for a minute. She said that she went to bed at about eleven o'clock that night. Her bed was next to the window -- and she could look out while lying down and see directly into the boy's window across the street. She tossed and turned for over an hour, unable to fall asleep. Finally, she turned towards the window at about ten minutes after twelve, and, as she looked out, she saw the killing through the windows

4TH JUROR (CONT)
of the passing el train. She says that the lights went out immediately after the killing but that she got a good look at the boy in the act of stabbing his father. As far as I can see, this is unshakable testimony.

3RD JUROR
That's what I mean. That's the whole case.

4TH JUROR
(to 8th Juror)
What do you think?

The 8th Juror remains silent. The 4th Juror looks at the 12th Juror.

4TH JUROR (CONT)
How about you?

12 JUROR
Well -- I don't know. There's so much evidence to sift. This is a pretty complicated business.

4TH JUROR
Frankly I don't see how we can vote for acquittal.

12 JUROR
Well, it's not easy to arrange the evidence in order.

3RD JUROR
You can throw out all the other evidence. The woman saw him do it. What else do you want?

12TH JUROR
Well, maybe...

3RD JUROR
Let's vote on it.

FOREMAN
Okay. There's another vote called for. Anybody object?

12TH JUROR

I'm changing my vote. I think he's
"guilty".

3RD JUROR

Anybody else? The vote is eight to
four.

11TH JUROR

(to the 3rd juror)

What makes you consider this one vote
a personal triumph?

3RD JUROR

I'm the competitive type.

(to the others)

Okay. Now here's what I think. I
think we're a hung jury. Let's take
it inside to the judge.

4TH JUROR

You didn't want a hung jury before.

3RD JUROR

Well, I want it now.

4TH JUROR

I don't understand that. You thought
it was immoral to...

3RD JUROR

I don't any more. There are people
in here who are so god-damned
stubborn that you can't even... We'll
never get this thing done. We'll be
here for a week. Well, I want to hear
an argument. I say we're a hung
jury.

(he turns to the 8th Juror)

Come on. You're the leader of the
cause. What about it?

8TH JUROR

Let's go over it again.

3RD JUROR
We went over it again.

(he waves towards the 12th Juror)
J. Walter Thompson up there is
bouncing backwards and forwards like
a tennis ball...

12TH JUROR
Wait a second. You have no right
to...

The 4th Juror removes his spectacles and polishes them.

3RD JUROR
I apologize on my knees.
(to the 8th Juror)
Come on. Let's get out from under
this thing.

4TH JUROR
All right. Maybe we can talk about
setting some kind of a time limit.

Still polishing his spectacles, he turns and peers up at the clock.

4TH JUROR (CONT)
The time is...

He squints and puts on his spectacles.

3RD JUROR
Quarter after six.

4TH JUROR
(looking at clock)
Quarter after six.

He removes his spectacles and lays them on the table. He looks tired. He closes his eyes and clasps his fingers over the marks left by his spectacles at the sides of his nose. He rubs these areas as he speaks.

4TH JUROR (CONT)
Someone before mentioned seven
o'clock. I think that's a point at
which we might begin to discuss the
question of whether we're a hung jury
or not.

The 9th Juror looks closely at the 4th Juror and obviously has thought of something tremendously exciting.

9TH JUROR
(to the 4th juror)
Don't you feel well?

4TH JUROR
I feel perfectly well -- thank you.
(to the others)
I was saying that seven o'clock would be a reasonable time to...

9TH JUROR
The reason I asked about that was because you were rubbing your nose like... I'm sorry for interrupting. But you made a gesture that reminded me...

4TH JUROR
I'm trying to settle something here.
Do you mind?

9TH JUROR
I think this is important.

4TH JUROR
Very well.

9TH JUROR
Thank you. I'm sure you'll pardon me for this, but I was wondering why you were rubbing your nose like that?

3RD JUROR
Ah, come on, now, will ya please!

9TH JUROR
Right now I happen to be talking to this gentleman here.
(to the 4th Juror)
Now, why were you rubbing your nose?

4TH JUROR
Well, if it's any of your business, I was rubbing it because it bothers me a little.

9TH JUROR
I'm sorry. Is it because of your eyeglasses?

4TH JUROR
It is. Now could we get on to something else?

9TH JUROR
Your eyeglasses make those deep impressions on the sides of your nose. I hadn't noticed that before. They must be annoying.

4TH JUROR
They are very annoying.

9TH JUROR
I wouldn't know about that. I've never worn eyeglasses.

(he points to his eyes and smiles)
Twenty-twenty.

7TH JUROR
Listen, will you come on already with the optometrist bit.

9TH JUROR
(to the 4th juror)
The woman who testified that she saw the killing had these same deep marks on the sides of her nose.

There is a silence in the room and then a babble of ad lib conversation.

9TH JUROR (CONT)
Please. Just a minute and then I'll be finished. I don't know if anyone else noticed that about her. I didn't think about it then, but I've been going over her face in my mind. She had those marks. She kept rubbing them in court.

5TH JUROR
He's right. She did do that a lot.

9TH JUROR

This woman was about forty-five years old. She was making tremendous effort to look thirty-five for her first public appearance. Heavy make-up. Dyed hair. Brand-new clothes that should have been worn by a younger woman. No eyeglasses. See if you can get a mental picture of her.

3RD JUROR

What d'ya mean, no glasses? You don't know if she wore glasses. Just because she was rubbing her nose...

5TH JUROR

She had those marks. I saw 'em.

3RD JUROR

So what? What d'ya think that means?

FOREMAN

Listen, I saw 'em too. He's right. I was the closest one to her. She had these deep things, what d'ya call 'em, uh -- you know.

He messages the spot on his nose where they should be.

3RD JUROR

Well, what point are you making here?

FOREMAN

She had those marks.

3RD JUROR

She had dyed hair and marks on her nose. I'm asking ya what does that mean?

9TH JUROR

Could those marks be made by anything other than eyeglasses?

4TH JUROR

No. They couldn't..

3RD JUROR

(to the 4th Juror)

Listen, what are you saying here? I
didn't see any marks.

4TH JUROR

I did. Strange, but I didn't think
about it before.

3RD JUROR

Well, what about the lawyer? Why
didn't he say anything?

8TH JUROR

There are twelve people in here
concentrating on this case. Eleven
of us didn't think of it either.

3RD JUROR

Okay, Clarence Darrow. Then what
about the District Attorney? You
think he'd try to pull a trick like
that, have her testify without
glasses?

8TH JUROR

Did you ever see a woman who had to
wear glasses and didn't want to
because she thinks they spoil her
looks.

6TH JUROR

My wife. Listen, I'm telling ya, as
soon as we walk outta the house...

8TH JUROR

Maybe the District Attorney didn't
know, either.

6TH JUROR

Yeah, that's what I was just gonna
say.

3RD JUROR

Okay. She had marks on her nose. I'm
givin' ya this. From glasses.
Right? She never wore 'em out of the

3RD JUROR (CONT)
house so people'd think she was
gorgeous. But when she saw this kid
kill his father she was in the e
house. Alone. That's all.

8TH JUROR
(to 4th Juror)
Do you wear your eyeglasses when you
go to bed?

4TH JUROR
No, I don't. No one wears eyeglasses
to bed.

8TH JUROR
It's logical to say that she wasn't
wearing them while she was in bed,
tossing and turning, trying to fall
asleep.

3RD JUROR
How do you know?

8TH JUROR
I don't know. I'm guessing. I'm
also guessing that she probably
didn't put on her glasses when she
turned and looked casually out of the
window. And she herself said that
the murder took place just ass he
looked out, and the lights went off a
split second later. She couldn't
have had time to put glasses on then.

3RD JUROR
Wait a second...

8TH JUROR
And here's another guess. Maybe she
honestly thought she saw the boy kill
his father. I say that she saw only
a blur.

3RD JUROR

How do you know what she saw? How does he know all these things?

(to 8th Juror)

You don't know what kind of glasses she wore. Maybe she was farsighted. Maybe they were sunglasses. What do you know about it?

8TH JUROR

I only know that the woman's eyesight is in question now.

11TH JUROR

She had to identify a person sixty feet away in the dark, without glasses.

2ND JUROR

You can't send someone off to die on evidence like that.

3RD JUROR

Don't give me that!

8TH JUROR

Don't you think that the woman might have made a mistake?

3RD JUROR

No!

8TH JUROR

It's not possible?

3RD JUROR

No! It's not possible.

8TH JUROR

(to the 12th Juror)

Is it possible?

12TH JUROR

Yes. I say not guilty.

8TH JUROR

(to the 10th Juror)

Do you think he's guilty?

10TH JUROR

Yes, I think he's guilty. But I
couldn't care less. You smart
bastards do whatever you want to do.

8TH JUROR

How do you vote?

10TH JUROR

Not guilty. Do whatever you want.

3RD JUROR

You're the worst son a... I think
he's guilty.

8TH JUROR

Does anyone else think he's guilty?

4TH JUROR

No, I'm convinced.

3RD JUROR

What's the matter with you?

4TH JUROR

I now have a reasonable doubt.

9TH JUROR

It's eleven to one.

3RD JUROR

Well, what about all the other
evidence? What about all that stuff
-- the knife -- the whole business?

2ND JUROR

You said we could throw out all the
other evidence.

8TH JUROR

(to the 3rd Juror)

You're alone.

3RD JUROR

I don't care whether I'm alone or
not. It's my right.

8TH JUROR

It's your right.

3RD JUROR

Well, what d'ya want? I say he's guilty.

8TH JUROR

We want your arguments.

3RD JUROR

I gave you my arguments.

8TH JUROR

We're not convinced. We want to hear them again. We have as much time as it takes.

3RD JUROR

Everything -- every single thing that came out in that courtroom, but I mean everything, says he's guilty. Do you think I'm an idiot or something? You lousy bunch of bleeding hearts. You're not goin' to intimidate me. I'm entitled to my opinion. I can sit in this goddamn room for a year. Somebody say something.

(the others watch silently)

Why doncha take that stuff about the old man -- the old man who lived there -- and heard everything. Or take the knife, what -- just because he -- found one like it? The old man saw him. Right there on the stairs. What's the difference how many seconds it took? What's the difference? Every single thing. The knife falling through a hole in his pocket -- you can't prove that he didn't get to the door. Sure you can hobble around the room all you want, but you can't prove it. I'm telling you every single thing that went on has been twisted and turned in here. That business with the glasses, how do you know she didn't have them on?

3RD JUROR (CONT)

The woman testified in court. Well,
what d'ya want? That's it.

(the others are silent)

That's the whole case.

(the others are silent)

That whole thing about hearing the
boy yell? The Phrase was "I'm gonna
kill you." That's what he said. To
his own father. I don't care what
kind of a man that was. It was his
father. That goddamn rotten kid. I
know him. What they're like. What
they do to you. How they kill you
every day. My God, don't you see?
How come I'm the only one who sees?
Jeez, I can feel that knife goin' in.

8TH JUROR

It's not your boy. He's somebody
else.

4TH JUROR

let him live.

There's a long pause.

3RD JUROR

All right. "Not guilty."

The foreman moves to the door and knocks on it. The guard enters.

FOREMAN

We're ready.

GUARD

All right, gentlemen. Bring your
coats and come along.

The Guard exits. The foreman and the other Jurors collect their jackets etc., and follow him off. The 3rd Juror remains seated. Finally only he and the 8th Juror remain in the room. The 8th Juror puts on his own jacket and brings the 3rd Juror's jacket to him. 3rd Juror rises. 8th Juror helps him on with his jacket. 3rd Juror exits. 8th Juror follows, but pauses at the door and looks back at the empty Jury room. The knife still sticks into the table. The 8th Juror exits. The rain has stopped.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

The door to the courthouse building, shooting from outside. Rain beats against it. It begins to turn now, and the jurors start to emerge. One by one they walk into the rain, each reacting with his own maneuvers. One turns up his collar. One pulls down his hat. One holds a newspaper over his head. They begin to move down the steps in groups and singly now. #8 is alone. He walks into close-up, rain beading his face. He raises his collar, looks around and then walks off. The others begin to spread out now. Some turning left, some right, some going straight ahead. Camera moves back and up, ending with a long shot, through the pelting rain, of the steps and the jurors spreading out silently in all directions, never to see each other again. And finally they are gone, and the rain beats down on the empty steps.

FADE OUT

The End