

NINE

*NINE looks closely at FOUR and obviously has thought of something tremendously exciting.*

NINE [*to FOUR*]. Don't you feel well?

FOUR. I feel perfectly well—thank you. [*To the others.*] I was saying that seven o'clock would be a reasonable time to—

NINE. 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—

FOUR. I'm trying to settle something here. Do you mind?

NINE. I think this is important.

FOUR. Very well.

THREE. Ah, come on, now, will ya please!

NINE. Right now, I happen to be talking to this gentleman here. [*To FOUR.*] Now, why were you rubbing your nose?

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

NINE. I'm sorry. Is it because of your eyeglasses?

FOUR. It is. Now could we get on to something else?

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

FOUR. They are very annoying.

NINE. I wouldn't know about that. I've never worn eyeglasses. [*He points to his eyes and smiles.*] Twenty-twenty.

SEVEN. Listen, will you come on already with the optometrist bit.

NINE [*to FOUR*]. The woman who testified that she saw the killing had those same deep marks on the sides of her nose.

EIGHT. That's right, she did.

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

NINE. 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.