

FOUR

EIGHT. I'd like to go over something, if you 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 FOUR.*] This gentleman has repeated that point in here several times.

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

EIGHT. 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?

FOUR. 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.

EIGHT. 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 in the bedroom. Do you think you could remember details under such circumstances?

FOUR. I do.

EIGHT. Under great emotional stress?

FOUR. Under great emotional stress.

EIGHT. He remembered the movies in court. He named them correctly and he named the stars who played in them.

FOUR. Yes, his lawyer took great pains to bring that out. He had three months 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.

EIGHT. I'd like to ask you a personal question.

FOUR. Go ahead.

EIGHT. Where were you last night?

FOUR. I was home.

EIGHT. What about the night before last?

TEN. Come on, what is this?

FOUR [*to TEN*]. It's perfectly all right. [*To EIGHT.*] I went from court to my office and stayed there till eight thirty. Then I went straight home to bed.

EIGHT. And the night before that?

FOUR. That was—Tuesday. I—was—oh, yes. That was the night of the bridge tournament. I played bridge.

EIGHT. And Monday night.

SEVEN. When you get him down to New Year's Eve, nineteen fifty lemme know.

FOUR [*trying to remember*]. Monday. [*He pauses.*] Monday night. [*He remembers.*] Monday night my wife and I went to the movies.

EIGHT. What did you see?

FOUR. *The Scarlet Circle*. It's a very clever whodunit.

EIGHT. What was the second feature?

FOUR [*straining*]. *The...* I'll tell you in a minute. *The—Remarkable Mrs. Something.* Mrs.—uh—Mainbridge. No, Bainbridge. *The Remarkable Mrs. Bainbridge.*

EIGHT. Who was in *The Remarkable Mrs. Bainbridge*?

FOUR. Barbara—Long, I think. She's a dark, very pretty girl. Barbara—Lang—Lane—something like that.

EIGHT. Who else?

FOUR takes out a handkerchief and mops his suddenly sweating forehead.

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

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

FOUR. No, I wasn't.

EIGHT. I think the point is made.