

INT. CAFE

FREDDY REIDENSCHNEIDER orders from a WAITRESS.

FREDDY  
Not fried, poached. Three of 'em  
for two minutes. A strip steak  
medium rare, flapjacks, potatoes,  
tomato juice and plenty of hot  
coffee. You have any prairie  
oysters?

WAITRESS  
No, sir.

FREDDY  
And bring me a fruit cocktail while  
I wait.

ED CRANE walks up, Freddy hears him and turns.

FREDDY (CONT'D)  
You're Crane?

ED  
Yeah.

FREDDY  
Barber, right?

ED  
Yeah.

FREDDY  
I'm Freddy Reidenschneider. Hungry?

Freddy motions with his head for Ed to join him.

ED  
Uh, not really.

FREDDY  
They tell me the chow's OK here, I  
made some inquiries.

Ed sits. The waitress places the fruit cocktail in front of  
Freddy.

FREDDY (CONT'D)  
Look, I don't wanna waste your time  
so I'll eat while we talk. You  
mind? You don't mind. While I'm in  
town I'm staying at the Hotel  
Metropol, Turandot Suite.  
(MORE)

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Yeah, it's goofy, they name their suites after operas.

He takes a bite of the fruit cocktail.

FREDDY (CONT'D)

Room's OK though, I poked around. I'm having 'em hold it for me on count of I'll be back and forth. So in addition to my retainer, you're paying hotel, living expenses, secretarial, private eye if we need to make inquiries, head shrinker should we go that way. We'll talk about appeals if, as, and when. For right now, has she confessed?

Bite.

ED

No, of course not, she didn't do it.

FREDDY

Good. That helps. Not that she didn't do it, that she didn't confess. 'Course there's ways to deal with a confession, but that's good. It's one less thing to think about. Now, interview. I'm seeing her tomorrow, you should be there, three o'clock. One more thing, you keep your mouth shut. I get the lay of the land. I tell you what to say. No talking out of school. What's out of school? Everything's out of school. I do the talking. You keep your trap shut. I'm an attorney, you're a barber. You don't know anything.

Ed waits to see if he's going to say anything else. Nope. Freddy is waiting on him to respond.

ED

Okay.

FREDDY

Good. Any questions? Gimme a ring; Turandot Suite. If I'm out leave a message.

Bite.

FREDDY (CONT'D)  
Sure you don't want anything?

ED  
No.

FREDDY  
Okay. You're okay, pal. You're  
okay, she's okay. Everything's  
gonna be hunky dory.

END SCENE