

~~SHE MEANT DOE FIRST~~ (EVELYN
TENDS TO GITTES' WOUNDS - TURNS
ROMANTIC)

Climax M-F
Gittes Evelyn
her home
night

EXT. VERANDA - MULWRAY HOME - NIGHT

Gittes stands on the veranda, smoking a cigarette, staring off into the night.

Evelyn comes out to the veranda, carrying a tray with whiskey and an ice bucket on it. She sets it down. Gittes turns.

GITTES

(watching her pour)
Maid's night off?

EVELYN

Why?

GITTES

(a little surprised,
he laughs)
What do you mean, 'why?' Nobody's
here, that's all.

EVELYN

(handing Gittes his
drink)
I gave everybody the night off.

GITTES

Easy, it's an innocent question.

EVELYN

No question from you is innocent,
Mr. Gittes.

GITTES

(laughing)
I guess not to you, Mrs. Mulwray.
Frankly you really saved my a... my
neck tonight.

They drink.

EVELYN

Tell me something. Does this usually
happen to you, Mr. Gittes?

GITTES

What's that, Mrs. Mulwray?

EVELYN

Well, I'm only judging on the basis
of one afternoon and an evening, but
if that's how you go about your work,
I'd say you're lucky to get through
a whole day.

GITTES

(pouring himself

another drink)
Actually this hasn't happened to me
in some time.

EVELYN
When was the last time?

GITTES
Why?

EVELYN
Just. I don't know why. I'm asking.
Gittes touches his nose, winces a little.

GITTES
It was in Chinatown.

EVELYN
What were you doing there?

GITTES
(taking a long drink)
Working for the District Attorney.

EVELYN
Doing what?
Gittes looks sharply at her. Then:

GITTES
As little as possible.

EVELYN
The District Attorney gives his men
advice like that?

GITTES
They do in Chinatown.

She looks at him. Gittes stares off into the night.

Evelyn has poured herself another drink.

EVELYN
Bothers you to talk about it, doesn't
it?

Gittes gets up.

GITTES
No. I wonder... could I. Do you have
any peroxide or something?

He touches his nose lightly.

EVELYN

Oh sure. C'mon.

She takes his hand and leads him back into the house.

INT. BATHROOM - MIRROR

Gittes pulls the plaster off his nose, stares at it in the mirror.

Evelyn takes some hydrogen peroxide and some cotton out of a medicine cabinet. Evelyn turns Gittes' head toward her. She has him sit on the pullman tile adjacent to the sink.

EVELYN

Doctor did a nice job...

She begins to work on his nose with the peroxide. Then she sees his cheek, checks back in his hair.

EVELYN

(continuing)

Boy oh boy, you're a mess.

GITTES

Yeah.

EVELYN

(working on him)

So why does it bother you to talk about it... Chinatown...

GITTES

Bothers everybody who works there, but to me... It was...

Gittes shrugs.

EVELYN

Hold still. Why?

GITTES

You can't always tell what's going on there.

EVELYN

...No. Why was it.

GITTES

I thought I was keeping someone from being hurt and actually I ended up making sure they were hurt.

EVELYN

Could you do anything about it?

They're very close now as she's going over a mouse very near his eye.