JEFF.
I'm not telling you about anything! I'm outlining a hypothetical situation for this thing I was gonna write. Try to write.

DAWN.
Why are you tellin' me about it?

DAWN. It bears a really suspicious resemblance to your friend and his brother, don't you think?

JEFF. Just in general. The details are all different — like I added the thing about me knowing something about it … The guy isn't a security guard, they weren't at the movies. It's very different in the details. All I did was outline a hypothetical situation.

(Long pause.)

DAWN. What do you mean they weren't at the movies?

JEFF. No — I mean — In my hypothetical … thing, nobody was at the movies.

DAWN. Oh, you mean because William and his brother were supposedly at the movies?

JEFF. Yeah.

DAWN. I thought you said he didn't tell you about it.

JEFF. Thought I said — I'm sorry. I'm confused. Thought who said they didn't tell me about what?

DAWN. I thought you said William didn't tell you about it.

JEFF. He didn't.

DAWN. Then how did you know they were at the movies?

JEFF. Well — He told me *that.*

DAWN. What.

JEFF. Told me — this is so stupid. I was just outlining a hypothetical situation based on what William … This is really stupid.

DAWN. That's OK. Told you what?

JEFF. Told me — He told me that he heard his brother was arrested … And that it was something — I don't remember — Like for something that happened some night they were at the movies … And that it was really fucked up, and he knows his brother's done a lot of bad stuff, but he knows he didn't do this because he was at the movies with him.

DAWN. But then why'd you tell me that he didn't talk about it?

JEFF. Well, that was it. *(Pause.)* What I said just then. *(Pause.)* I

wouldn't call that "talking" about it, but maybe that's just a difference of words … He didn't *really* talk about it. He didn't talk about it at great length, the way I probably would, or like your partner would, because we're more long-winded. But he told me what I told you.

DAWN. Which is what.

JEFF. That — you know — his brother was in trouble.

DAWN. OK, Jeff? If you know anything about this, you gotta tell me, and I mean right *now.*

JEFF. But I don't know anything, Dawn. I know I sound like I'm lying, but that's just because — It's that thing where if somebody thinks you're lying, even though you're not, you start to feel guilty like you're lying even though you're not? *(Pause.)* It's like that.

DAWN. OK … I don't believe you, Jeff. So, um, I'm gonna go tell the detectives I think you know something and you can talk to *them.*

JEFF. No, don't do that, I don't know anything, you're just making me nervous —

DAWN. Hey! They're gonna release that kid tomorrow *morning.* And if he had anything to do with murdering that nurse that's gonna be on *your* conscience. And if *I* can tell you're lying, those detectives are gonna rip you to fuckin' pieces, OK?

JEFF. But I'm not, Dawn, I'm not.

DAWN. Do you wanna see what they did to that woman? You wanna come down to the station and look at the pictures?

JEFF. No, not really.

DAWN. Read your paper! It's on page twelve!

JEFF. I don't need to read it. I already read it.

(Pause.)

DAWN. *(Softer.)* Come on, Jeff. Nobody's gonna blame him for trying to protect his brother. But — I mean — you don't want to be helping somebody get away with *murder,* Jeff. Like a real *murder* …

JEFF. I'm not.

DAWN. Do you?

JEFF. No. But I'm not.

DAWN. … Just tell the truth. That's all. That's all you gotta do. Just — truthfully — just tell me what he said.

JEFF. But I can't — I don't know anything. Honestly.

DAWN. Hey … I understand if you don't want to be goin' against

start

your friend … And I know he's your boss. But that woman had friends too. She had three little kids. Now why is your friend and his brother more important than them? *(Jeff does not respond.)* And I also — I just wanna tell you, we can totally try to keep you out of it. Whatever you tell me, I can take it right to the detectives. They could just use it as background information. You understand? They're still gonna have to substantiate it …

JEFF. You just said they were ready to hang him.

DAWN. OK, I know I said that. But they still gotta place him at the hospital. And Jeff, if he wasn't at the movies then he probably *did* fuckin' do it. All I'm sayin' is you gotta say whatever you know, regardless. That's just *basic.* And if they can place him at the hospital anyway, there's a really good chance we could keep you totally in the background. I mean, I probably couldn't promise that, but you got my word, we could definitely try. *(Jeff shakes his head.)* Hey, Jeff. I really believed you when you said all that stuff about wantin' to do something. Don't you think that lady's kids deserve for you to tell the truth? You want to make a contribution, Jeff, here's your big chance.

(Pause.)

JEFF. Well — He, uh … Well … I don't think they were at the movies …

DAWN. OK. Why not?

JEFF. Because he said — 'Cause he said he wasn't.

DAWN. OK, just tell me exactly what he said.

JEFF. He said he heard his brother was arrested —

DAWN. From who.

JEFF. From his brother's girlfriend …

DAWN. Did she say he *did* it?

JEFF. No. No. Definitely not.

DAWN. Are you sure?

JEFF. Yes, definitely.

DAWN. But he definitely wasn't at the movies.

JEFF. No. Not with William.

DAWN. And when did this all take place?

JEFF. Last night.

DAWN. OK.

JEFF. The *conversation* took place last night.

DAWN. I understand … *(Smiling.)* OK …

JEFF. What are you *smiling* about?

DAWN. Nothing. It's — I'm not.

JEFF. And then just now he came in and he told me that his brother's lawyer was such a bum he didn't know what to do, so that's why he told the detectives or the cops or whatever that they were at the movies.

(William enters onto the street.)

DAWN. OK. Great. *(Seeing William.)* All right. I'm, uh, I'm gonna — As soon as the detectives get to work, I'm gonna tell 'em what you said. I'm gonna —

(William enters the lobby.)

JEFF. Hey.

WILLIAM. Hey, Jeff.

(Pause.)

DAWN. How you doin'?

WILLIAM. I'm all right … What are you guys talking about?

(The elevator pings, off. Bill enters. Everyone turns and looks at him. He stops short.)

BILL. What's goin' on?

DAWN. Uh, nothin' too serious, Bill. I'm just doin' some police work right now. You can go back upstairs.

BILL. What police work?

DAWN. Oh, well, it turns out while you're up there with "Jim," your buddy William here has been lyin' his ass off to the whole Police Department — !

BILL. What?

JEFF. Hold on a second!

DAWN. — and gettin' away with it, because of you!

WILLIAM. Excuse me?

BILL. *(To William.)* All right whoa, whoa, wait a minute. *(To Dawn.)* First of all, calm down —

DAWN. You calm down.

WILLIAM. What did you just say?

BILL. Second of all — just a second William —

DAWN. I don't have to calm down.

BILL. Second of all, what makes you say that?

DAWN. Because that's what he told *Jeff.*