

3RD JUROR [to the 8TH JUROR]: You bet he is. [To the others.] Now, listen to this man. He knows what he's talking about.

4TH JUROR: The boy talked with his friends for about an hour, leaving them at nine forty-five. During this time they saw the switch knife. Six. Each of them identified the death weapon in court as that same knife. Seven. The boy arrived home at about ten o'clock. Now this is where the stories offered by the boy and the State begin to diverge slightly. He claims that he stayed home until eleven thirty and then went to one of those all-night movies. He returned home at about three fifteen in the morning to find his father dead and himself arrested. Now, what happened to the switch knife? This is the charming and imaginative little fable the boy invented. He claims that the knife fell through a hole in his pocket sometime between eleven thirty and three fifteen while he was on his trip to the movies and that he never saw it again. Now this is a tale, gentlemen. I think it's quite clear that the boy never went to the movies that night. No one in the house saw him go out at eleven thirty. No one at the theater identified him. He couldn't even remember the names of the pictures he saw. What actually happened is this: the boy stayed home, had another fight with this father, stabbed him to death with the knife at ten minutes after twelve and fled from the house. He even remembered to wipe the knife clean of fingerprints.

*The GUARD unlocks the door and enters carrying a curiously designed knife with a tag banging from it.*

*The 4TH JUROR goes to the GUARD, and takes the knife from him.*

*The GUARD exits and locks the door.*

Everyone connected with the case identified the knife. Now are you trying to tell me that it really fell through a hole in the boy's pocket and that someone picked it up off the street, went to the boy's house and stabbed his father with it just to be amusing?

8TH JUROR: No. I'm saying it's possible that the boy lost the knife and that someone else stabbed his father with a similar knife. It's possible.

*The 4TH JUROR flicks open the knife and jams it into the table.*

4TH JUROR: Take a look at that knife. I've never seen one like it. Neither had the storekeeper who sold it to the boy. Aren't you asking us to accept a pretty incredible coincidence?

8TH JUROR: I'm not asking anyone to accept it. I'm just saying that it's possible.

3RD JUROR [shouting]: And I'm saying it's not possible.

*The 8TH JUROR stands for a moment in silence, then he reaches into his pocket and swiftly withdraws a knife. He holds it in front of his face and flicks open the blade, then he leans forward and sticks the knife into the table alongside the other.*

*They are exactly alike. There is a burst of sound in the room. The 8TH JUROR stands back from the table, watching.*

6TH JUROR: Look at it! It's the same knife.

7TH JUROR: What is this?

12TH JUROR: Where'd that come from?

2ND JUROR: How d'you like that?

3RD JUROR [looking at the 8TH JUROR; amazed]: What are you trying to do?

10TH JUROR: Yeah. What's going on here? Who do you think you are?

4TH JUROR: Quiet! Let's be quiet. [To the 8TH JUROR.] Where d'you get that knife?

8TH JUROR: I was walking for a couple of hours last night, just thinking. I walked through the boy's neighborhood. The knife comes from a little pawnshop three blocks from his house. It cost six dollars.

4TH JUROR: It's against the law to buy or sell switchblade knives.

8TH JUROR: That's right. I broke the law.

3RD JUROR: Listen. You pulled a real bright trick here. Now, supposing you tell me what you proved. Maybe there are ten knives like that. So what?

8TH JUROR: Maybe there are.

3RD JUROR: So what does that mean? It's the same kind of knife. So what's that? The discovery of the age or something?

11TH JUROR: It would still be an incredible coincidence for another person to have stabbed the father with the same kind of knife.