

Scene 3: 10 pm, September 9, 1925. Police HQs Interrogation room. Downlight. Two chairs.

*Gladys in a chair, prison matron standing behind her. Lt. Johnson pacing.*

Johnson: Mrs. Sweet, who are all these men we arrested at your house?

Gladys: My husband, my two brothers-in-law, a young cousin of mine, and two boys that were helping us move in. And Captain Davis.

Johnson: That's seven. There were three more.

Gladys: Oh yes. Those are business acquaintances of my husband, who just happened to drop by.

Johnson: What are their names, please?

Gladys: Charles Washington, Leonard Morse, and -- I can't recall the other one's name. Watson or Watkins, I believe.

Johnson: You say business acquaintances?

Gladys: They work for Liberty Mutual Life Insurance, and my husband is a medical examiner for the Company.

Johnson: And the two boys? Who were helping move in?

Gladys: Joe Mack, my husband's driver, and his friend, Norris Murray.

Johnson: Joe Mack says he lives there.

Gladys: He is staying with us, at present. His family is . . . overcrowded.

Johnson: Latting and Henry Sweet also gave that address on Garland.

Gladys: John Latting is my cousin. He will be going back to school with Henry, in just a few days. They go to Wilberforce College.

Johnson: And who is this William Davis?

Gladys: An old friend of my husband's. He was thinking of renting a room with us. He probably won't want to, now.

Johnson: Mrs. Sweet, are you aware that he was carrying a Colt revolver in a shoulder holster?

Gladys: No. But he is a Federal officer.

Johnson: How many of them stayed there last night?

Gladys: Well . . . all of us except Norris Murray and the insurance men.

Johnson: We only found one bed. Did you all sleep in the same bed?

Gladys: Certainly not. I and two of my girl friends slept in the bed.

Johnson: There were two girls there last night, too?

Gladys: Yes. Edna Butler and Serena Rochelle. They had come over to help me with the decorating.

Johnson: Why did they stay?

Gladys: Because they were afraid to leave!

Johnson: Why? We heard there was no trouble there yesterday.

Gladys: Not real trouble. Just some stones and yelling, late at night. We had police protection yesterday. We haven't had any today.

Johnson: Were't there police out in front all the time?

Gladys: *tightlipped* Yes.

Johnson: What trouble was there, that you know of?

Gladys: They were throwing rocks, and they broke the windows--

Johnson: All right, now--

Gladys: And all the time the police were just standing on the corner!

Johnson: What time did your husband come home?

Gladys: 4:30 We had been shopping for furniture. Joe Mack drove us.

Johnson: Who was there when you arrived?

Gladys: My cousin, and my brother-in-law Henry, and Norris Murray.

Johnson: When did these other men come?

Gladys: The insurance men came around six. Captain Davis and my brother-in-law Otis didn't arrive until after eight, and they had to run through that hail of stones!

Johnson: All right, now what time did you have dinner?

Gladys: We haven't had dinner! A whole ham is sitting on my stove!

Johnson: You knew about all those guns being there?

Gladys: Yes.

Johnson: Was there talk tonight as to what every man was going to do in case of trouble?

Gladys: I suppose there was. I didn't hear it.

Johnson: Don't you remember hearing any talk?

Gladys: I was in the kitchen cooking supper. I wouldn't know.

Johnson: Is that the attitude you want to take with us?

Gladys: I'll tell you anything I know.

Johnson: Why were there blankets by the upstairs windows?

Gladys: The night before they slept wherever they could, with blankets.

Johnson: How do you know?

Gladys: Because I got up and walked through the house, and saw.

Johnson: When did you do that?

Gladys: I walked all night. And every time I looked out the window, the store on the corner was open, people going in and out, big cars going by slow, and people just standing around watching. I slept at my Mother's house the night before, but I haven't slept since. And I haven't seen my baby in two days!

Johnson: You knew if you went out there, there was going to be trouble?

Gladys: They told us they were going to make trouble.

Johnson: Why did you go out there, then ?

Gladys: I think it is my perfect right to move where I please!BLACKOUT