

- #2:** Hey, it was worth a try.
- #1:** All I'm saying is that Aunt Ethel is our family matriarch.
- #2:** Our what?
- #1:** She's the oldest woman in our family...
- #2:** You can say that again.
- #1:** Just listen. She's the oldest woman in our family and she's earned our love and respect. When you get to be her age, won't you want your family to visit?
- #2:** I suppose.
- #1:** She loves us and wants to see us. Is that really so tough for you to do?
- #2:** No.
- #1:** Good. Then we'll go see her and you'll smile and be nice to her.
- #2:** Can I at least bring her a razor?
- #1:** Go change!  
(#2 exits. #1 watches and laughs.)

## 5. The Body

(We are in a police station. #1 is sitting at a desk, filling out some reports. #2 enters. #2 appears a bit....distracted.)

- #1:** How's it going?
- #2:** SHHHH!
- #1:** What...what's wrong?
- #2:** Nothing's wrong. What could possibly be wrong? Did somebody say something was wrong?
- #1:** No. I just took an educated guess. Are you OK?
- #2:** No, something's wrong.
- #1:** What?
- #2:** We...is anyone else here?
- #1:** Do you see anyone?
- #2:** No.
- #1:** Then by deductive reasoning, I'd say we're alone. What's the matter with you?
- #2:** I'm having a slight problem with the interrogation.
- #1:** I knew it! Is that little weasel refusing to talk?
- #2:** Well, yes and no.
- #1:** What do you mean, "yes and no"? Did he talk or not?
- #2:** Well, I got him to confess, told him that if he testified against Gianelli we'd cut him a deal, he agreed, then...
- #1:** Did he sign the confession?
- #2:** Yes and no.
- #1:** Again with yes and no? Did he sign it or not! (#2 hands #1 the paper. #1 looks it over.) He only signed his first name.
- #2:** I know that.
- #1:** He didn't sign his last name.
- #2:** I know that, too.
- #1:** Why didn't he sign his last name?
- #2:** He can't.
- #1:** He can't or he won't?

#2: He can't.  
 #1: He can't?  
 #2: He can't!  
 #1: Why not?  
 #2: He's dead.  
 #1: What do you mean, "he's dead"?  
 #2: I mean he's dead.  
 #1: What do you mean, "he's dead"?!  
 #2: I MEAN HE'S DEAD! He stopped breathing. He ceased to exist.  
 #1: Please tell me you're making this up.  
 #2: I wish I was.  
 #1: I cannot believe you killed our witness!  
 #2: I didn't kill him! He just died.  
 #1: No one "just dies."  
 #2: Well, he did.  
 #1: What happened?  
 #2: I'm not sure. We were talking, he agreed to everything... oh, then he asked me for a glass of water and I told him as soon as the confession was signed. He took the paper, started to sign it, grabbed his chest and bam! Keeled over. (Pause) Maybe I should've given him the water first.  
 #1: I really don't think that would have made a whole lot of difference. (Pause) This is not good.  
 #2: You figure that out all by yourself?  
 #1: Hey, I wouldn't be a smart-aleck if I were you, considering the fact that you're the one who killed him!  
 #2: I DIDN'T KILL HIM!  
 #1: Whatever. The point is, he's dead! OK, does anyone else know about this yet?  
 #2: No.  
 #1: Good! Let's try and keep it that way.  
 #2: Don't you think someone might get a little suspicious after a week or two. I mean with the smell and everything...

#1: Just until we can figure out what to do. (Pause) The problem is – no one, no, let me rephrase that, no news person is going to believe that this "wanted criminal" just happened to die while in our custody. Not after all the statements we've made about how much we hate these guys. The department's going to look real bad.  
 #2: Never mind the department, what about us? (The phone rings. They just stare at it.) Oh, you don't think it's the captain, do you?  
 #1: No. Our luck couldn't be that bad. (Answers the phone.) Dawson. (Pause) Hi, Captain. (Covers the mouthpiece and talks to #2.) Yes it could. (Goes back to the phone.) What can I do for you, Captain? (Pause) It's going as well as can be expected. (Pause) Problems? I wouldn't say there any real problems. (Pause) NO! I don't think it would be a good idea to send in anyone else. (Pause) Why not? It would, uh... (Signals #2 to help.)  
 #2: Uh...make him nervous.  
 #1: Yeah, it would make him nervous.  
 #2: He's used to just us.  
 #1: Yeah, he's used to just us. (Pause) Oh, that's just Crawford. (Pause) He/She is watching the prisoner. He/She just came out to get him a...pick-me-up. See, the prisoner's a little...  
 #2: Dead.  
 #1: Dead,...tired!! Dead tired. (Pause) Yes, sir. We'll have that confession any minute now. We're...just hammering out the last few details. (Pause) OK. I'll call you the minute we have it. (Hangs up and puts his head in his hands.) We are in trouble! (Pause) Let me see that confession again. (#2 hands #1 the confession.) OK, as I see it, all we have to do is get him to finish signing this.  
 #2: Is that all? What do you suggest? A seance or should we wait until he's reincarnated, and have him sign it then?

That's assuming he doesn't come back as a cow or something.

#1: Just pay attention. He already signed his first name, all we have to do is sign his last. Simple.

#2: That's forgery. It's a crime.

#1: Why? We're only signing his last name.

#2: So we'd only be committing a half a crime. Great. That's so much better.

#1: You want those other guys to walk?

#2: No.

#1: We're not making anything up. We need this and Martelli was signing it. We're really not doing anything wrong.

#2: Then you sign it.

#1: Forget it! That's forgery.

#2: We're sunk.

#1: No, wait! I just had a thought. Is he still holding the pen?

#2: I think so.

#1: Great. Sit down. (#2 sits at the desk. #1 gets a folder and goes over to #2.) Look here's Martelli's signature. He wrote his last name with an M and a squiggle. (#1 demonstrates as he/she tells this.) Just take his hand with the pen and have him make the M and squiggle. Then we wouldn't be lying when we say he wrote it with his own hand. See, all legal.

#2: You're really stretching on this one.

#1: Our only other choice is to tell the Captain we blew a two-year investigation and our star witness is dead.

#2: Not a good alternative.

#1: No, it's not. Then when you're done, we'll take the confession to the Captain, suggest he talk to Martelli himself, we'll all go in there and "discover" him.

#2: Won't the department still be in trouble?

#1: Possibly, but we won't be.

#2: Good point. (Pause) OK, Give me the folder. (#1 hands #2 the folder.)

#2: (#2 gets to the door and looks back.) I should have been an accountant.

(2 exits. #1 watches, then when #2 is gone, #1 sits at the desk, puts his/her head in his/her hands and mumbles to himself/herself.)

#1: God I hate police work.