

Audition Side #2

REISER

You're not a very good liar.

BROWNING

What?

REISER

I saw you, remember?

BROWNING

What are you talking about?

REISER

I was watching. (points) From over there. You stood there for a long time, but you kept eyeing the chair, and I could tell you wanted to sit in it.

BROWNING

What are you -- ?

REISER

And you gave in.

BROWNING

I told you before. I have *never* -- !

REISER

(cutting him off) That's when I decided to come over -- when I knew you were gonna sit in the chair.

BROWNING

(getting very angry) You can't know what I was thinking!

REISER

But I do, don't I?

(Browning can't take it anymore. He steps toward Reiser threateningly.)

BROWNING

You don't know what I go through!

REISER

Pointless work days standing guard over incomprehensible laws?

BROWNING

(losing control) Stop it! It's not like that.

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REISER

But it is.

BROWNING

No!

(He rushes Reiser and grabs him. A pathetic struggle ensues. Reiser finally gets the upper hand and has Browning in a choke hold.)

REISER

I *do* know what you go through, Browning.

(Browning is gasping for air, clutching at Reiser's arm around his neck.)

REISER (cont'd)

I told you; I was like you once. But I got to thinking -- about all the stuff we do every day just because someone said it's what you're supposed to do. Yeah? Who says so? Who ever said this is what we gotta do? (pause) Nothing made any sense, Browning, not when I got to thinking about it, and no one had any answers except for the same pathetic ones you've been giving me. "It's the law. It's the principle." I couldn't take it anymore, so I quit. I walked up to my boss, and I quit.

BROWNING

(choking) But I can't quit. (gasps) The law.

REISER

But you can.

BROWNING

(with difficulty) No. It's my duty.

REISER

(raising his voice) To hell with your duty! What about *you*? What about *your* life?