

Mr Robibnson (with Benjamin)

Mr Robinson Do you want ... Do you want to try and tell me why you did it?

Benjamin I don't ... I don't ...

Mr Robinson *comes in and sits down.*

Mr Robinson Do you have any special grudge against me you'd like to tell me about? Do you feel a particularly strong resentment for me for some reason?

Benjamin No. It's not...

Mr Robinson Is there something I've said that's caused this contempt? Or is it just the things I stand for that you despise?

Benjamin It was nothing to do with you, sir.

Mr Robinson Well Ben, it was quite a bit to do with me. And I'd like to hear your feelings about me if you have any. I'd like to know why you've done this to me.

Benjamin There was no personal ... It was nothing personal.

Mr Robinson Ben, you're a little old to abdicate responsibility . . .

Benjamin I'm entirely responsible. It was altogether my own fault, Mr Robinson, but I would like you to know that ...

Mr Robinson I think we're two civilised human beings; do you think it's necessary to threaten each other?

Benjamin No I don't.

Mr Robinson Then do you want to unclench your fists please? Thank you.

Benjamin I'm trying to tell you that I have no personal feelings about you.

Mr Robinson Well, I don't think we have a whole lot to say to each other, Ben. I do think you should know the consequences of what you've done. I do think you should know my wife and I are getting a divorce.

Benjamin A divorce? Why?

Mr Robinson Why?

Benjamin Well, it shouldn't make *that* much difference, surely? I mean we ... we ... It was nothing at all. We could have been shaking hands.

Mr Robinson I always thought when you took your clothes off and got into bed with a woman and had sexual intercourse with her that was just a little more than shaking hands.

Benjamin Not in this case.

Mr Robinson Well, that's not saying much for my wife, is it?

Benjamin You miss the point.

Mr Robinson Not at all Ben. I'm sure my wife's bedroom technique could do with a little brushing up.

Benjamin The point is I don't love your wife; I love your daughter.

Mr Robinson Well, I'm sure you think you do Ben, but after a few times shaking hands with Elaine I'm sure you'll find her just as disappointing.

Benjamin I'm sorry?

Mr Robinson A boy called us up and he asked for her hand. Carl is to be a doctor, and he asked for her hand in marriage. There are some fine young men in this world.

Benjamin Mr Robinson ...

Mr Robinson I don't know if I can prosecute or not, but I think maybe I can. In light of what's happened I think maybe I can get you behind bars if you even so much as look at my daughter again. I don't want to mince words with you. I think you're totally despicable. I think you're scum. I think you're filth.