

CHINATOWN

INT. DUFFY AND WALSH'S OFFICE

Walsh rises when Gittes enters.

WALSH
Mrs. Mulwray, may I present Mr.
Gittes?

Gittes walks over to her and again flashes a warm, sympathetic smile.

GITTES
How do you do, Mrs. Mulwray?

MRS. MULWRAY
Mr. Gittes...

GITTES
Now, Mrs. Mulwray, what seems to be
the problem?

She holds her breath. The revelation isn't easy for her.

MRS. MULWRAY
My husband, I believe, is seeing
another woman.

Gittes looks mildly shocked. He turns for confirmation to his two partners.

GITTES
(gravely)
No, really?

MRS. MULWRAY
I'm afraid so.

GITTES
I am sorry.

Gittes pulls up a chair sitting next to Mrs. Mulwray between Duffy and Walsh. Duffy cracks his gum.

Gittes gives him an irritated glance. Duffy stops chewing.

MRS. MULWRAY
Can't we talk about this alone, Mr.
Gittes?

GITTES
I'm afraid not, Mrs. Mulwray. These
men are my operatives and at some
point they're going to assist me. I
can't do everything myself.

MRS. MULWRAY
Of course not.

GITTES

Now, what makes you certain he is involved with someone?

Mrs. Mulwray hesitates. She seems uncommonly nervous at the question.

MRS. MULWRAY

A wife can tell.

Gittes sighs.

GITTES

Mrs. Mulwray, do you love your husband?

MRS. MULWRAY

(shocked)

...Yes of course.

GITTES

(deliberately)

Then go home and forget about it.

MRS. MULWRAY

But...

GITTES

(staring intently at her)

I'm sure he loves you, too. You know the expression, let sleeping dogs lie? You're better off not knowing.

MRS. MULWRAY

(with some real anxiety)

But I have to know.

Her intensity is genuine. Gittes looks to his two partners.

GITTES

All right, what's your husband's first name?

MRS. MULWRAY

Hollis. Hollis Mulwray.

GITTES

(visibly surprised)

Water and Power?

Mrs. Mulwray nods, almost shyly. Gittes is now casually but carefully checking out the detailing of Mrs. Mulwray's dress - her handbag, shoes, etc.

MRS. MULWRAY

He's the Chief Engineer.

DUFFY
(a little eagerly)
Chief Engineer?

Gittes' glance tells Duffy Gittes wants to do the questioning.
Mrs. Mulwray nods.

GITTES
(confidentially)
This type of investigation can be
hard on your pocketbook, Mrs. Mulwray.
It takes time.

MRS. MULWRAY
Money doesn't matter to me, Mr.
Gittes.

Gittes sighs.

GITTES
Very well. We'll see what we can do.

CHINATOWN (2)

EXT. POND - GITTES AND JAPANESE GARDENER - DAY

GARDENER
 (to Gittes)
 Bad for glass.

GITTES
 (not understanding)
 Yeah sure. Bad for glass.

The Gardener nods, and is off, leaving Gittes staring at the object in the bottom of the pond that is gleaming.

He looks at the tool the Gardener was using, hesitates, picks it up and starts to probe into the pond himself, toward the gleaming object.

He then spots Evelyn rounding a turn, coming down the trellised pathway. He casually belts the probe, holds onto it for poise.

Evelyn is wearing jeans that are lathered white on the inside of the thighs and laced with brown horsehair.

She's wearing riding boots, is perspiring a little, but looks younger than she did in the office.

EVELYN
 Yes, Mr. Gittes?

Gittes is a little taken aback at seeing Evelyn. He is annoyed as well. Nevertheless, he is elaborately polite.

GITTES
 Actually, I'm here to see your husband, Mrs. Mulwray.

He laughs. a little nervously. He waits for a reply. There is none.

The Chinese Butler appears on the veranda.

EVELYN
 Would you like something to drink?

GITTES
 What are you having?

EVELYN
 Iced tea.

GITTES
 Yeah. Fine, thank you.

Chinese Butler nods, disappears

EXT. POND AND GARDEN - MULWRAY HOUSE - DAY

Evelyn sits at a glass-topped table. Gittes Joins her.

EVELYN

My husband's at the office.

GITTES

Actually he's not. And he's moved
from his apartment at the El Macando.

EVELYN

(sharply)

That's not his apartment.

GITTES

Anyway... I... the point is, Mrs.
Mulwray. I'm not in business to be
loved, but I am in business, and
believe me, whoever set up your
husband, set me up. L.A.'s a small
town, people talk.

He waits for a response. Then:

GITTES

(continuing; uneasily)

I'm just trying to make a living,
and I don't want to become a local
Joke.

EVELYN

Mr. Gittes, you've talked me into
it. I'll drop the lawsuit.

GITTES

What?

EVELYN

I said I'll drop it.

The iced tea comes on a tray which Ramon sets down between
them.

EVELYN

(continuing; pleasantly)

So let's just drop the whole thing.
Sugar? Lemon?

GITTES

Mrs. Mulwray?

EVELYN

(as she's mixing one
of the drinks)

Yes, Mr. Gittes?

GITTES

I don't want to drop it.

Evelyn looks up. Gittes smiles a little sheepishly.

GITTES

I should talk this over with your husband.

EVELYN

(a little concerned)

Why?... What on earth for? Look, Hollis seems to think you're an innocent man.

GITTES

Well, I've been accused of many things, Mrs. Mulwray, but never that.

Again he laughs a little nervously. Again no reaction.

GITTES

(continuing)

You see, somebody went to a lot of trouble here, and I want to find out, lawsuit or no lawsuit. I'm not the one who's supposed to be caught with my pants down... so I'd like to see your husband. Unless that's a problem.

EVELYN

(with a slight edge)

What do you mean?

GITTES

May I speak frankly, Mrs. Mulwray?

EVELYN

You may if you can, Mr. Gittes.

GITTES

(determined to be polite)

Well, that little girlfriend, she was attractive in a cheap sort of way of course. She's disappeared. Maybe they disappeared together somewhere.

EVELYN

(with rising anger)

Suppose they did. How does it concern you?

GITTES

Nothing personal, Mrs. Mulwray, I just --

EVELYN

It's very personal. It couldn't be more personal. Is this a business or

an obsession with you?

GITTES

Look at it this way. Now this phony broad, excuse the language, says she's you, she's hired me. Whoever put her up to it, didn't have anything against me. They were out to get your husband. Now if I see him, I can help him. Did you talk this morning?

Evelyn brushes lightly at the horsehair on her Jeans.

EVELYN

No. I went riding rather early.

GITTES

Looks like you went quite a distance.

EVELYN

No, Just riding bareback, that's all. Anyway, you might try the Oak Pass or Stone Canyon Reservoirs. Sometimes at lunch Hollis takes walks around them. Otherwise he'll be home by 6:30.

GITTES

I'll stop by.

EVELYN

Please call first.

Gittes nods.

CHINATOWN (3)

INT. BROWN DERBY - CLOSE ON NEWSPAPER

Gittes is seated, flips through the paper until he finds the OBITUARY COLUMN, scans it, looks up, abruptly tears the column from the paper and puts it in his pocket.

When he closes the paper we can SEE headlines in the left hand column: "WATER BOND ISSUE PASSES COUNCIL". Ten million dollar referendum to go before the public.

Evelyn Mulwray is standing at the table as he does so. He rises, allows her to sit.

CLOSE ON EVELYN

Gittes watches her as she removes her gloves slowly... She's wearing dove gray gabardine, subdued, tailored.

GITTES

Thanks for coming... drink?

The waiter's appeared. Evelyn is looking at Gittes' nose.

EVELYN

Tom Collins with lime, not lemon,
please.

Evelyn looks down and smoothes her gloves. When she looks back up she stares expectantly at Gittes.

Gittes pulls out a torn envelope. The initials ECM can be SEEN in a delicate scroll on the corner of it.

GITTES

I got your check in the mall.

EVELYN

Yes. As I said, I was very grateful.

Gittes' fingers the envelope. He coughs.

GITTES

Mrs. Mulwray, I'm afraid that's not
good enough.

EVELYN

(a little embarrassed)
Well, how much would you like?

CLOSE ON EVELYN

GITTES

Stop it. The money's fine. It's
generous but you've shortchanged me
on the story.

EVELYN

(coolly)
I have?

GITTES
I think so. Something besides your husband's death was bothering you. You were upset but not that upset.

EVELYN
Mr. Gittes...
(icily)
Don't tell me how I feel.

The drinks come. The waiter sets them down.

GITTES
Sorry. Look, you sue me, your husband dies, you drop the lawsuit like a hot potato, and all of it quicker than wind from a duck's ass. Excuse me. Then you ask me to lie to the police.

EVELYN
It wasn't much of a lie.

GITTES
If your husband was killed it was.
(meaning check)
This can look like you paid me off to withhold evidence.

EVELYN
But he wasn't killed.

Gittes smiles.

GITTES
I think you're hiding something, Mrs. Mulwray.

Evelyn remains unperturbed.

EVELYN
Well, I suppose I am... actually I knew about the affair.

GITTES
How did you find out?

EVELYN
My husband.

GITTES
He told you?

Evelyn nods.

GITTES

(continuing)
And you weren't the slightest bit
upset about it?

EVELYN
I was grateful.

Evelyn for the first time appears a little embarrassed.

GITTES
You'll have to explain that, Mrs.
Mulwray.

EVELYN
Why?

GITTES
(a flash of annoyance)
Look, I do matrimonial work, It's my
metiay. When a wife tells me she's
happy her husband is cheating on her
it runs contrary to my experience.

Gittes looks significantly to Evelyn.

EVELYN
Unless what?

GITTES
(looking directly at
her)
She's cheating on him.

Evelyn doesn't reply.

GITTES
(continuing)
Were you?

Evelyn is clearly angry but she is controlling it.

EVELYN
I don't like the word 'cheat.'

GITTES
Did you have affairs?

EVELYN
(flashing)
Mr. Gittes.

GITTES
Did he know?

EVELYN
(almost an outburst)
Well I wouldn't run home and tell
him whenever I went to bed with
someone, if that's what you mean.

This subdues Gittes a little. Evelyn is still a little heated.

EVELYN
(continuing; more
calmly)
Is there anything else you want to
know?

GITTES
Where you were when your husband
died.

EVELYN
I can't tell you.

GITTES
You mean you don't know where you
were?

EVELYN
I mean I can't tell you.

GITTES
You were seeing someone, too.

Evelyn looks squarely at him. She doesn't deny it.

GITTES
For very long?

EVELYN
I don't see anyone for very long,
Mr. Gittes. It's difficult for me.
Now I think you know all you need to
about me. I didn't want publicity. I
didn't want to go into any of this,
then or now. Is this all?

Gittes nods.

GITTES
Oh, by the way. What's the 'C' stand
for?

He's been fingering the envelope...

EVELYN
(she stammers slightly)
K... Cross.

GITTES
That your maiden name?

EVELYN
Yes... why?

GITTES
No reason.

Evelyn turns into Gittes.

EVELYN
You must've had a reason to ask me
that.

GITTES
(shrugs)
No. I'm just a snoop.

EVELYN
You seem to have had a reason for
every other question.

GITTES
No, not for that one.

EVELYN
I don't believe you.

Gittes suddenly turns sharply in to Evelyn.

GITTES
(moving in)
Do me a favor. Sit still and act
like I'm charming.

Evelyn involuntarily draws back.

GITTES
(continuing)
There's somebody here. Say something.
Anything. Something like we're being
intimate.

Evelyn reluctantly allows Gittes to move closer and dangle
his hand in front of their faces. She stares at him.

EVELYN
(meaning his nose)
How did it happen?

GITTES
(quietly)
Been meaning to talk to you about
that.

EVELYN
(quietly)
Maybe putting your nose in other
people's business?

GITTES
(quietly)
More like other people putting their
business in my nose.

Evelyn actually smiles a little.

WOMAN'S VOICE

You son of a bitch.

Gittes looks up and flashes his smile.

GITTES

Mrs. Match. How're you?

MRS. MATCH is swaying over the table, a plump woman with a glass of whiskey in one hand, a large purse in the other, and a menacing look in her eye.

MRS. MATCH

Don't give me that, you son of a bitch.

GITTES

Okay.

Gittes turns back to Evelyn.

EVELYN

(softly)

Another satisfied client?

GITTES

Another satisfied client's wife.

MRS. MATCH

Look at me, you son of a bitch. You... you bastard. Are you happy, are you happy now?

She tries to take a swipe at Gittes with her purse. Gittes covers himself. Waiters rush over.

MRS. MATCH

You smug son of a bitch. My husband's so upset he sweats all night! How do you think that makes me feel?

GITTES

Sweaty?

Mrs. Match swings at Gittes again and again. She catches him on the nose. It hurts. He covers it, then swings his leg out from under the table and deftly kicks her in the shin.

Mrs. Match drops her purse and spills her drink. She grabs her shin, hopping around a little. The waiters who had tried to restrain her now try to keep her from falling over.

GITTES

Let's get out of here before she picks up her purse.

They rise and move toward the door.

EVELYN

(quietly)

Tough guy, huh?

Gittes looks, sees she's kidding, and nods.

CHINATOWN (4)

INT. GITTES OFFICE

Gittes enters, drops his hat on Sophie's desk. Sophie tries to tell him something but Gittes goes on into his office.

EVELYN MULWRAY

Is sitting, smoking. She looks up when he enters.

EVELYN

What's your usual salary?

Gittes moves to his desk, barely breaking stride at the sight of her.

GITTES

Thirty-five bucks daily for me, twenty for each of my operators, plus expenses, plus my fee if I show results.

He's sitting now. Evelyn is very pale now, obviously very shaken.

EVELYN

Whoever's behind my husband's death, why have they gone to all this trouble?

GITTES

Money. How they plan to make it by emptying the reservoirs, that I don't know.

EVELYN

I'll pay your salary plus five thousand dollars if you find out what happened to Hollis and who is involved.

Gittes buzzes Sophie.

GITTES

Sophie, draw up one of our standard forms for Mrs. Mulwray.

(he leans back; to Evelyn)

Tell me, did you get married before or after Mulwray and your father sold the water department?

Evelyn nearly jumps at the question.

GITTES

(continuing)

Your father is Julian Cross, isn't he?

EVELYN

Yes, of course. It was quite a while after. I was just out of grade school when they did that.

GITTES

So you married your father's business partner?

Evelyn nods. She lights another cigarette.

GITTES

(continuing; staring at her, points to the ashtray)

You've got one going, Mrs. Mulwray.

EVELYN

Oh.

She quickly stubs one out.

GITTES

Is there something upsetting about my asking about your father?

EVELYN

No!... Yes, a little. You see Hollis and my fa... my father had a falling out...

GITTES

Over the water department, or over you?

EVELYN

(quickly)

Not over me. Why would they have a falling out over me?

GITTES

(noting her nervousness)

Then it was over the water department.

EVELYN

Not exactly. Well, I mean, yes. Yes and no. Hollis felt the public should own the water but I don't think my father felt that way. Actually, it was over the Van der Lip. The dam that broke.

GITTES

Oh, yeah?

EVELYN

Yes. He never forgave him for it.

GITTES

Never forgave him for what?

EVELYN

For talking him into building it, he never forgave my father... They haven't spoken to this day.

GITTES

(starts a little)

You sure shout that?

EVELYN

Of course I'm sure.

GITTES

What about you? Do you and your father get along?

Sophie comes in with the form, cutting off Evelyn's reply. Gittes places two copies on a coffee table in front of Evelyn.

GITTES

Sign here... The other copy's for you.

She signs it. When she looks back up, Gittes is staring intently at her.

EVELYN

What are you thinking?

GITTES

(picking up one of copies, folding it, putting it in his pocket)

Before this I turned on the faucet, it came out hot and cold, I didn't think there was a thing to it.

CHINATOWN (5)

EXT. VERANDA - MULWRAY HOME - NIGHT

Gittes stands on the veranda, smoking a cigarette, staring off into the night.

Evelyn comes out to the veranda, carrying a tray with whiskey and an ice bucket on it. She sets it down. Gittes turns.

GITTES
(watching her pour)
Maid's night off?

EVELYN
Why?

GITTES
(a little surprised,
he laughs)
What do you mean, 'why?' Nobody's
here, that's all.

EVELYN
(handing Gittes his
drink)
I gave everybody the night off.

GITTES
Easy, it's an innocent question.

EVELYN
No question from you is innocent,
Mr. Gittes.

GITTES
(laughing)
I guess not to you, Mrs. Mulwray.
Frankly you really saved my a... my
neck tonight.

They drink.

EVELYN
Tell me something. Does this usually
happen to you, Mr. Gittes?

GITTES
What's that, Mrs. Mulwray?

EVELYN
Well, I'm only judging on the basis
of one afternoon and an evening, but
if that's how you go about your work,
I'd say you're lucky to get through
a whole day.

GITTES
(pouring himself

another drink)
Actually this hasn't happened to me
in some time.

EVELYN
When was the last time?

GITTES
Why?

EVELYN
Just. I don't know why. I'm asking.

Gittes touches his nose, winces a little.

GITTES
It was in Chinatown.

EVELYN
What were you doing there?

GITTES
(taking a long drink)
Working for the District Attorney.

EVELYN
Doing what?

Gittes looks sharply at her. Then:

GITTES
As little as possible.

EVELYN
The District Attorney gives his men
advice like that?

GITTES
They do in Chinatown.

She looks at him. Gittes stares off into the night.

Evelyn has poured herself another drink.

EVELYN
Bothers you to talk about it, doesn't
it?

Gittes gets up.

GITTES
No. I wonder... could I. Do you have
any peroxide or something?

He touches his nose lightly.

EVELYN
Oh sure. C'mon.

She takes his hand and leads him back into the house.

INT. BATHROOM - MIRROR

Gittes pulls the plaster off his nose, stares at it in the mirror.

Evelyn takes some hydrogen peroxide and some cotton out of a medicine cabinet. Evelyn turns Gittes' head toward her. She has him sit on the pullman tile adjacent to the sink.

EVELYN

Doctor did a nice job...

She begins to work on his nose with the peroxide. Then she sees his cheek, checks back in his hair.

EVELYN

(continuing)

Boy oh boy, you're a mess.

GITTES

Yeah.

EVELYN

(working on him)

So why does it bother you to talk about it... Chinatown...

GITTES

Bothers everybody who works there, but to me... It was...

Gittes shrugs.

EVELYN

Hold still. Why?

GITTES

You can't always tell what's going on there.

EVELYN

...No. Why was it.

GITTES

I thought I was keeping someone from being hurt and actually I ended up making sure they were hurt.

EVELYN

Could you do anything about it?

They're very close now as she's going over a mouse very near his eye.

GITTES

Yeah. Make sure I don't find myself in Chinatown anymore. Wait a second.

He takes hold of her and pulls her even closer,

EVELYN
(momentarily freezing)
What's wrong?

GITTES
Your eye.

EVELYN
What about it?

GITTES
(staring intently)
There's something black in the green
part of your eye.

EVELYN
(not moving)
Oh that... It's a flaw in the iris...

GITTES
...A flaw...

EVELYN
(she almost shivers)
...Yes, sort of a birthmark...

Gittes kisses her lightly, gradually rises until he's standing holding her. She hesitates, then wraps her arms around him.

CHINATOWN (6)

VIEW SHIFTS TO INCLUDE Gittes in bed, holding his head, which

he's just hit. Evelyn pauses in her reach to the phone. She turns to him, whispers, "I'm sorry," kisses him on the head and lips. PHONE CONTINUES TO RING. She picks it up.

EVELYN

Hello...

(in Spanish now)

No, no, I'll come and help, just keep watching her and don't do anything until I get there... 'bye.

VIEW SHIFTS AGAIN TO INCLUDE Gittes in bed, watching Evelyn next to him as she's talking on the phone. She hangs up. She touches Gittes' cheek lightly.

EVELYN

I have to go.

Gittes stares at her silently.

GITTES

Where?

EVELYN

Just... I have to.

GITTES

And I want to know where.

EVELYN

(she starts out of bed)

Please don't be angry... believe me, it's got nothing to do with you.

GITTES

(stopping her)

Where are you going?

EVELYN

(near tears)

Please!... Trust me this much...

(she kisses him lightly)

I'll be back. Look, there is something I should tell you. The fishing club that old lady mentioned, the pieces off the flag.

GITTES

The Albacore Club.

EVELYN

It has to do with my father.

GITTES

I know.

EVELYN

He owns it. You know?

GITTES

I saw him.

EVELYN

(sitting up straight)

You saw my fa... father? When?

GITTES

This morning.

EVELYN

(panicked)

You didn't tell me.

GITTES

There hasn't been a lot of time.

She leaps out of bed, throwing on a robe.

EVELYN

What did he say?

(insistent)

What did he say?

GITTES

That you were jealous, and he was worried about what you might do.

EVELYN

Do? To who?

GITTES

Mulwray's girlfriend, for one thing. He wanted to know where she was.

Evelyn starts quickly for the bathroom, then comes back and kneels by the side of the bed, takes Gittes' hand.

EVELYN

I want you to listen to me. My father is a very dangerous man. You don't know how dangerous. You don't know how crazy.

GITTES

Give me an example.

EVELYN

You may think you know what's going on, but you don't.

GITTES

That's what your father said. You're telling me he's in back of this whole thing?

EVELYN

It's possible.

GITTES

Including the death of your husband?

EVELYN

It's possible. Please don't ask me any more questions now. Just wait, wait for me. I'll be back. I need you here.

She kisses him, rushes to the bathroom, shuts the door. Gittes stares at it a moment. Then leaps out of bed, rummages around, tosses on his trousers. He grabs his shoes, throws them on. Then hurries out of the bedroom.

CHINATOWN (7)

Gittes pushes past him. Evelyn, looking a little worn but glad to see him hurries to the door. She takes Gittes' arm.

EVELYN

How are you? I was calling you.

She looks at him, searching his face.

GITTES

Yeah?

They move into the living room. Gittes is looking around it.

EVELYN

Did you get some sleep?

GITTES

Sure.

EVELYN

Did you have lunch? Kyo will fix you something.

GITTES

(abruptly)

Where's the girl?

EVELYN

Upstairs. Why?

GITTES

I want to see her.

EVELYN

...she's having a bath now... why do you want to see her?

Gittes continues to look around. He sees clothes laid out for packing in a bedroom off the living room.

GITTES

Going somewhere?

EVELYN

Yes, we've got a 4:30 train to catch. Why?

Gittes doesn't answer. He goes to the phone and dials.

GITTES

J. J. Gittes for Lieutenant Escobar

EVELYN

What are you doing? What's wrong? I told you we've got a 4:30.

GITTES

(cutting her off)
You're going to miss your train!
(then, into phone)
Lou, meet me at 1412 Adelaide. It's
above Santa Monica Canyon... yeah,
soon as you can.

EVELYN
What did you do that for?

GITTES
(a moment, then)
You know any good criminal lawyers?

EVELYN
(puzzled)
No...

GITTES
Don't worry. I can recommend a couple.
They're expensive but you can afford
it.

EVELYN
(evenly but with great
anger)
What the hell is this all about?

Gittes looks at her, then takes the handkerchief out of his
breast pocket. Unfolds it on a coffee table, revealing the
bifocal glasses, one lens still intact. Evelyn stares dumbly
at them.

GITTES
I found these in your backyard... in
your fish pond. They belonged to
your husband, didn't they?... didn't
they?

EVELYN
I don't know. I mean yes, probably.

GITTES
Yes positively. That's where he was
drowned...

EVELYN
What are you saying?

GITTES
There's no time for you to be shocked
by the truth, Mrs. Mulwray. The
coroner's report proves he was killed
in salt water. Just take my word for
it. Now I want to know how it happened
and why. I want to know before Escobar
gets here because I want to hang
onto my license.

EVELYN

I don't know what you're talking about. This is the most insane... the craziest thing I ever...

Gittes has been in a state of near frenzy himself. gets up, shakes her.

GITTES

Stop it! I'll make it easy. You were jealous, you fought, he fell, hit his head. It was an accident, but his girl is a witness. You've had to pay her off. You don't have the stomach to harm her, but you've got the money to shut her up. Yes or no?

EVELYN

...no...

GITTES

Who is she? And don't give me that crap about it being your sister. You don't have a sister.

Evelyn is trembling.

EVELYN

I'll tell you the truth...

Gittes smiles.

GITTES

That's good. Now what's her name?

EVELYN

Katherine.

GITTES

Katherine?... Katherine who?

EVELYN

She's my daughter.

Gittes stares at her. He's been charged with anger and when Evelyn says this it explodes. He hits her full in the face. Evelyn stares back at him. The blow has forced tears from her eyes, but she makes no move, not even to defend herself.

GITTES

I said the truth!

EVELYN

She's my sister.

Gittes slaps her again.

EVELYN

She's my daughter.

Gittes slaps her again.

EVELYN

My sister.

He hits her again.

EVELYN

My daughter, my sister.

He belts her finally, knocking her into a cheap Chinese vase which shatters and she collapses on the sofa, sobbing.

GITTES

I said I want the truth.

EVELYN

(almost screaming it)

She's my sister and my daughter!

Kyo comes running down the stairs.

EVELYN

(continuing; in Chinese)

For God's sake, Kyo, keep her upstairs, go back!

Kyo turns after staring at Gittes for a moment then goes back upstairs.

EVELYN

My father and I, understand, or is it too tough for you?

Gittes doesn't answer.

EVELYN

...he had a breakdown... the dam broke... my mother died... he became a little boy... I was fifteen... he'd ask me what to eat for breakfast, what clothes to wear!... It happened... then I ran away...

GITTES

To Mexico...

She nods.

EVELYN

Hollis came and took... care of me... after she was born... he said... he took care of her... I couldn't see her... I wanted to but I couldn't... I just want to see her once in a while... take care of her... that's all... but I don't want her to

know... I don't want her to know...

GITTES

...so that's why you hate him...

Evelyn looks slowly up at Gittes.

EVELYN

No... for turning his back on me
after it happened! He couldn't face
it...

(weeping)

I hate him.

Gittes suddenly feels the need to loosen his tie.

GITTES

Yeah... where are you taking her
now?

EVELYN

Back to Mexico.

GITTES

You can't go by train. Escobar'll be
looking for you everywhere.

EVELYN

How about a plane?

GITTES

That's worse... Just get out of here.
Walk out, leave everything.

EVELYN

I have to go home and get my things.

GITTES

I'll take care of it.

EVELYN

Where can we go?

GITTES

...where does Kyo live?

EVELYN

With us.

GITTES

On his day off. Get the exact address.

EVELYN

Okay...

She stops suddenly.

EVELYN

Those didn't belong to Hollis.

For a moment Gittes doesn't know what she's talking about. Then he follows her gaze to the glasses lying on his handkerchief.

GITTES

How do you know?

EVELYN

He didn't wear bifocals.

Gittes picks up the glasses, stares at the lens, is momentarily lost in them.