

### **Audition: Juror 3.**

**JUROR NO. 3:** A very strong, very forceful, extremely opinionated, within whom can be detected a streak of sadism. A humourless person intolerant of opinions other than their own and accustomed to forcing their wishes and views upon others.

Pages 27-28 (Edited).

THREE. All right! Who did it? What idiot changed his vote?

EIGHT. Is that the way to talk about a man's life? [*Sits at his place again.*]

THREE. Whose life are you talking about? The life of the dead man or the life of a murderer?

THREE. I want to know. Who?

ELEVEN. Excuse me. This was a secret ballot.

THREE. No one looked while we did it, but now I want to know.

ELEVEN. A secret ballot; we agreed on that point, no? If the gentleman wants it to remain a secret--

THREE [*standing up angrily*]. What do you mean? There are no secrets in here! I know who it was. (*Turns to FIVE.*) What's the matter with you? You come in here and you vote guilty and then this - (*Nods at EIGHT.*) - slick preacher starts to tear your heart out with stories about a poor little kid who just couldn't help becoming a murderer. So you change your vote. If that isn't the most sickening-- (*FIVE edges away in his chair.*)

FOREMAN. Now hold it, lets be fair...

THREE. Hold it? Be fair? That's just what I'm saying. We're trying to put a guilty man into the chair where he belongs - and all of a sudden we're paying attention to fairy tales.

FIVE. Now, just a minute- -

THREE (*bending toward FIVE, wagging finger at him*). Now, you listen to me---

FOREMAN (*rapping on table*). Let's try to keep this civilised.

ELEVEN. Please. I would like to say something here. This is the reason I came to this country. I wanted to have the right to disagree.

THREE. Do you disagree with us?

ELEVEN. Usually, I would. In this one case I agree with you, but the point I wish to make is that in my own country, I am ashamed to say--

THREE. (*To FIVE.*) I want to ask you, what made you change your vote? You haven't told us yet.

FIVE. Why do you think I did change my vote?

NINE (*quietly*). There's nothing for him to tell you. He didn't change his vote. I did.  
(ALL *look at* NINE.)

FIVE (*to* THREE). I was going to tell you, but you were so sure of yourself.

THREE. Sorry. (*To* NINE.) Okay, now. . . .

NINE. Maybe you'd like to know why.

THREE (*not giving him a chance*). Let me tell you why that kid's a - -

FOREMAN. The man wants to talk. (THREE *subsides*)

### **Pages 42-43 (Edited).**

EIGHT. It's my guess that the old man was trying to get to the door, heard someone racing down the stairs and *assumed* that it was the boy.

THREE [*infuriated*]. Assumed? Now, listen to me, you people. I've seen all kinds of dishonesty in my day-but this little display takes the cake.

EIGHT. What dishonesty?

THREE (*strides to* EIGHT.) You come in here with your heart bleeding all over the floor about slum kids and injustice and you make up these wild stories, and you've got some soft-hearted old ladies listening to you. Well, I'm not. I'm getting real sick of you. [*To* ALL.] What's the matter with you people? This kid is guilty! He's got to burn! We're letting him slip through our fingers.

EIGHT [*calmly*]. Our fingers. Are you his executioner?

THREE [*raging*]. I'm one of 'em!

EIGHT. Perhaps you'd like to pull the switch.

THREE [*shouting*]. For this kid? You bet I'd like to pull the switch!

EIGHT [*shaking his head sadly*]. I'm sorry for you.

THREE [*Shouting*]. Don't start with me!

EIGHT. What it must feel like to want to pull the switch!

THREE. Shut up!

EIGHT. You're a sadist. . . .

THREE *[louder]*. Shut up!

EIGHT *[his voice strong]*. You want to see this boy die because you personally want it - not because of the facts. *[Spits out the words.]* You are a beast. You disgust me.

THREE *[Shouting]*. Shut up! *[Lunges at EIGHT, but is caught by two JURORS. He struggles, then screams.]* Let me go! I'll kill him! I'll kill him!

EIGHT *[softly]*. You don't really mean you'll kill me, do you? *(THREE Stops struggling now and stares at EIGHT.)*