

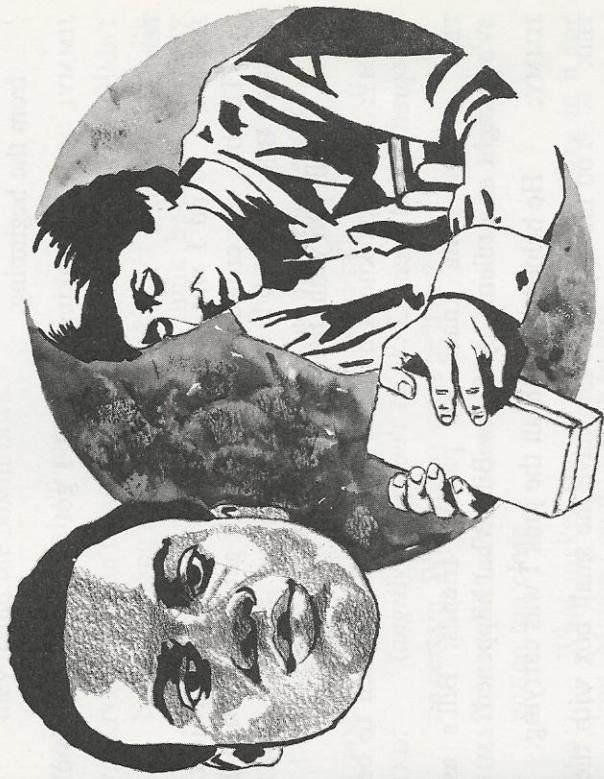
TOM: (angry) Leave me alone, do you hear?
EDDIE: (still smiling) I'm sorry. Didn't mean to bother you.
I'll be going.

(He starts to leave.)

TOM: Wait a minute! (*Eddie slowly walks back.*) O.K., I
thought about it.

EDDIE: You did, huh? And . . . ?

TOM: _____



A SECOND CHANCE

Characters: Jimmy
Ted

Scene: a pizza parlor. Jimmy enters, looks around,
and spots Ted sitting at a booth. He walks
over and sits down with Ted.

TED: You're late.

JIMMY: I couldn't get away.

TED: Have some pizza.

JIMMY: No, I can't eat anything.

TED: You gotta eat. We need clear heads and a full stom-

ach to get out of this mess. (*He pauses.*) Now tell me exactly what happened.

JIMMY: It's like I told you over the phone.

TED: I couldn't make heads or tails of what you said. Start from the beginning.

JIMMY: I was taking the stuff I got from you to school today just like we planned.

TED: Yeah.

JIMMY: And I was also carrying a big science project. The bus was crowded and I couldn't get a seat. Then I saw Bill.

TED: Bill? Oh yeah, the big shot.

JIMMY: Don't knock him. He's O.K. We've gotten to be pretty good friends.

TED: You gotta knock for picking friends. Bill's as straight as a ruler. So you saw Bill. What happened?

JIMMY: He helped me with all the junk I was carrying.

TED: You mean you let him have the small box with the stuff in it!

JIMMY: He just grabbed a few of the things, and that box was one of them.

TED: Like my Dad always said, never send a boy to do a man's job! You sure know how to mess things up.

JIMMY: Lay off, Ted.

TED: Why didn't you get that box back, man. With all that stuff in it? Wow!

JIMMY: There was too much going on. I thought he'd left it with everything else. When I saw it was gone, I figured I'd get it back from him at lunch time. Anyway, I don't want Bill in this thing!

TED: O.K. So you didn't get it back. So how did the cops get it?

JIMMY: I don't know. All I do know is that they got permission from the principal to search some lockers and they found the box in Bill's.

TED: You think he'll squeal?

JIMMY: I don't know. I guess he hasn't yet or I wouldn't be here talking to you. He's the kind of person who really wants to be a friend. I don't think he'd tell anybody anything.

TED: Yeah, but just suppose he did squeal. Just suppose the police are waiting to round us up. Who knows?

JIMMY: I just don't think Bill would talk.

TED: (angrily) *You don't think.* Look, man, we've got to be certain. Who knows what he'll do?

JIMMY: Bill won't squeal. You can bet on that. We've gotten too close.

TED: What makes you so sure? There's nothing in it for him. Maybe I ought to talk to him.

JIMMY: Leave him alone, Ted. He's all right, I tell you. He tried to help me get off drugs the last time. He's all right, ya hear?

TED: (laughing wickedly) He didn't do too good a job, did he?

JIMMY: Cut it out. He's always been fair with me. He's one of the few people who really has. I shouldn't have listened to you in the first place. You made it sound so simple, so easy. If I hadn't needed money, I—

TED: Yeah, yeah, that's what they all say.

JIMMY: What are we going to do, Ted?

TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK



TED: Do? Nothing right now. Just sit tight and wait and hope we'll have nothing to worry about.

JIMMY: But, Ted, I can't let Bill take that rap for me. He wasn't a part of this. We can work something else out. I don't want him to get into trouble because of us. It isn't fair to him.

TED: Fair to him? Look, man, come down out of that cloud. It's every man for himself in this game. If he was stupid enough to get caught, well—

JIMMY: But they'll throw him in jail.

TED: Naw, it's his first time. The most they'll do is put him on probation.

JIMMY: But he'll get a record anyway.

TED: So! It's better that way than for you to get busted again. You know what a second time would mean for you? Do you wanna face that?

JIMMY: No, but I don't want to hurt Bill.

TED: Look, idiot, it's him or you. Now what's it goin' to be?

JIMMY: —

Characters: Bill
Police Officer
Mrs. Early

Scene: the principal's office. The principal, Mrs. Early, is seated at her desk. Bill and the officer are in chairs at either side of the desk.

OFFICER: Do you expect me to believe that story?

BILL: But I'm telling you the truth, sir.

OFFICER: Look, if it weren't for Mrs. Early here, I'd haul you right off to the station.