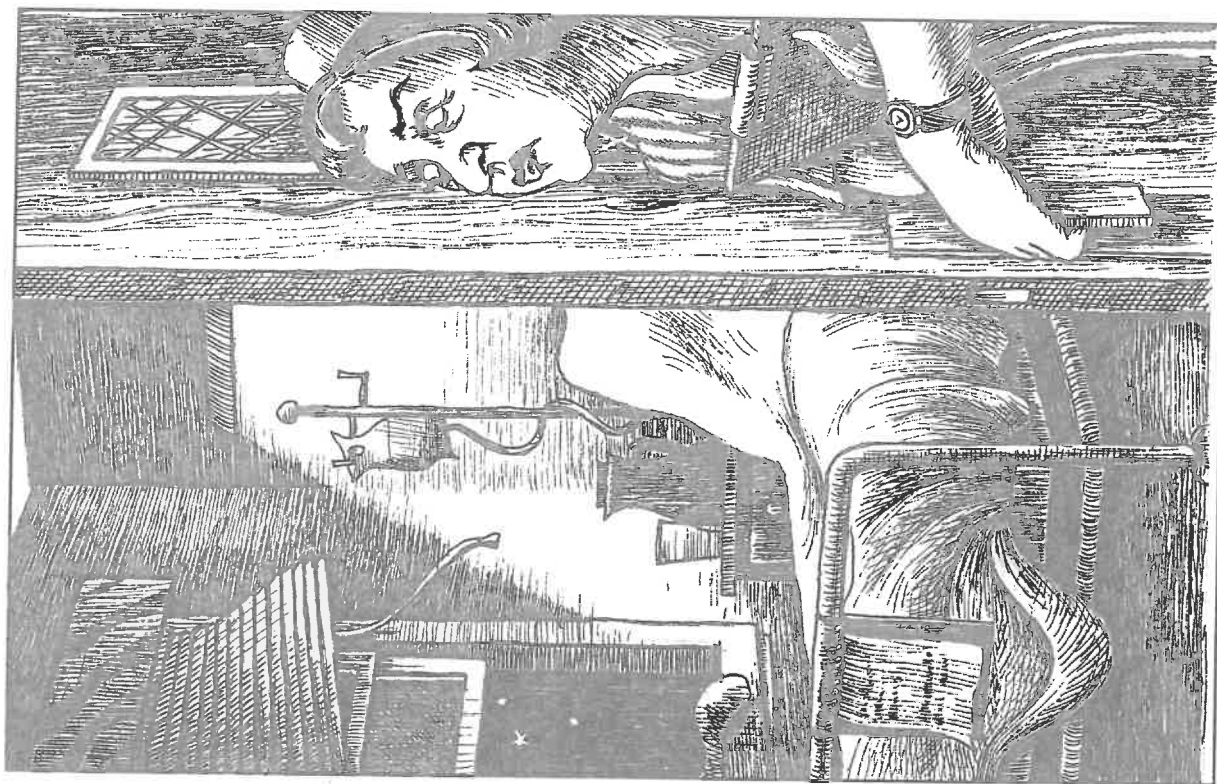


A Family Feud



DR. PHILIP BROMLEY was overseeing the admission of his patient to Mt. Cedar Hospital. "It's a broken tibia," he told the administrator as he showed her the X rays. "I put Kurt McCoy in an inflatable leg cast. He can't walk on it. He'll need at least a day's rest and observation. To be honest, the fracture was a result of a fight between Mr. McCoy and his cousin. Until things cool down between the McCoy's, I just think it better for Kurt to stay here."

Kurt and Emil McCoy had jointly inherited the family garment business, but their relationship soon deteriorated. The latest incident was a slugfest during which Emil swore that he would kill Kurt and then proceeded to smash his lower left leg with a baseball bat. Kurt needed some place safe to stay while he recovered from the trauma and worked out a lawsuit against his cousin. Hence, Mt. Cedar.

Dr. Bromley wheeled Kurt into his private room and made sure the window was latched. It was 8 P.M. The hospital ordered a security guard to monitor the hall and made a note on Kurt's chart not to disturb him until morning.

At around 2 A.M. a nurse ignored that note and poked her head into room 507. She saw no trace of her patient but did notice an open window. A deflated leg cast on the sill prompted her to peer out the window. Nothing was on the fire escape. But below it, in the deserted alley, lay the body of Kurt McCoy face down on a pile of garbage bags.

The police initially assumed that Kurt had removed his cast and was trying to maneuver his way down the fire escape when he lost his balance. But that was before they saw the bullet hole. A .38 slug had penetrated the victim's chest and proved to be the cause of death.

Emil was interviewed the next day at McCoy Fashion's office and warehouse in an industrial section of town. Emil showed no grief at the news. "Well, at least he won't be suing me." When asked for his whereabouts between 9 P.M. and midnight, Emil had his answer ready. "I was here in the office.

We were having trouble with our Hong Kong suppliers. I was calling them or they were calling me all night long. I picked up my car at about 1 A.M. Feel free to check with the phone company and the garage man."

When the grand jury convenes two weeks later, it's not Emil who stands accused of killing Kurt McCoy. It's the doctor.

PROSECUTION: The Prosecution will point out the discrepancies in Dr. Bromley's story. Kurt McCoy died between 9 and midnight. According to the guard in the hall, Dr. Bromley visited Mr. McCoy at 12:30, at least half an hour after he'd been dead, and made this notation on his chart: "12:30. Resting peacefully." And yet at that time, McCoy was already dead. The doctor has no explanation for this except to say that the coroner must be wrong. (*The district attorney counts off on his fingers.*) The door was guarded, the window locked. The victim feared for his life and trusted only Dr. George Bromley. Only Dr. Bromley had access. And he lied about Mr. McCoy being alive at 12:30.

DEFENSE: The Prosecution has no evidence. My client had no motive. He owns no gun, nor was any gun found among his possessions. The guard, who'd been outside the room all during Dr. Bromley's 12:30 visit, heard no sound. No gunshots, no struggle. Nothing. This grand jury should never have been called.

Your job as a grand jury is not to judge the guilt or innocence of Dr. Bromley but to determine whether or not there is enough evidence to hold him for trial. Despite this simple directive, you cannot help looking at the larger picture. How exactly did Kurt McCoy die and who killed him?