

One Question Too Many

Thriller · Two-hander · 4 min · Female role · Adult · Advanced

(A bare room. A closed file between them. She doesn't open it.)

GARANCE

You haven't asked why you're here. In twenty years, everyone asks. Except the ones who know.

MERCIER

You haven't opened your file. People usually do. Except when it's empty.

GARANCE

The 12th, between 10 p.m. and midnight. Tell me.

MERCIER

The cinema. The 9:50 showing. I can tell you the whole film, if you like.

GARANCE

Anyone can tell me a film.

MERCIER

Not the projector breakdown in the forty-second minute. Twelve minutes of darkness, full house. Check it.

(A beat.)

GARANCE

Who told you about that breakdown, Mr Mercier?

MERCIER

I... I was there. I just told you.

GARANCE

It lasted four minutes. The twelve minutes, that's the figure from the next day's paper. The paper got it wrong.

(Silence. Mercier looks at the door, then at the one-way mirror.)

MERCIER

I want a lawyer.

GARANCE

I know. Funny how much people want one, all of a sudden, once they've seen a film from start to finish.

What you can do with it

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