

Presumed Guilty

written by
Illuminet Primaten.

(c) 2025

Comedy noir.

OVER BLACK:

PHONE LINE CONNECTS to OPERATOR.

OPERATOR V.O
911. *Which service?*

A desperate Caller's voice.

CALLER V.O
*I need an ambulance right away.
Hurry, please...!*

OPERATOR V.O
I'm just connecting you.

Heavy breathing and sniffles before connection.

OPERATOR V.O
Emergency. What's your address?

CALLER V.O
79 Park Avenue.

OPERATOR V.O
OK. Can I have your name, sir?

CALLER V.O
Hugo Thirst.

OPERATOR V.O
*No, you go first. We don't give
out our names, sir.*

CALLER V.O
*My name is Hugo Thirst. It's my
wife - Diana Thirst.*

OPERATOR V.O
*Then I suggest you give her a
glass of water, sir.*

HUGO
No- no. Her name is Diana Thirst.

OPERATOR V.O
Oh. So what has happened to her?

CALLER V.O
*She's fallen over and
accidentally slit her throat with
a wine glass.*

OPERATOR V.O

Is she lucid?

CALLER V.O

Not always.

(pauses)

But she's just lying on the floor. There's blood pouring out of her neck. It won't stop. It's going everywhere. I can't seem to stop it.

OPERATOR V.O

Do you know if she is still breathing?

CALLER V.O

No, I don't think she is.

OPERATOR V.O

OK. Place a towel over the wound for me, then see if she has a pulse. Do you know where to feel for that?

CALLER V.O

Usually.

OPERATOR V.O

OK. You need to feel her radial artery. This can be located on the wrist.

CALLER V.O

OK. I'll do that now.

OPERATOR V.O

Check for a pulse and come back to me. The medics are on their way to you now.

The phone line goes dead.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

In the center of the blood fessed room there is a glass coffee table decorated with a glass of beer. An orange pouffe stool sticks out from underneath.

DIANA THIRST (late 60s) lies supine with her eyes wide open on the blood soaked carpeted floor.

A broken flute sticks out of a deep laceration to her neck.

A MEDIC feels for a pulse.

While covered in blood HUGO (60s) trembles as he stands in reverie and chews at his fingernails.

A tall, thin DETECTIVE with a long pointed nose (40s) enters the room with a uniformed OFFICER.

The Medic looks up at him and sighs as he shakes his head.

The Detective ushers Hugo to the corner of the room.

Hugo stands dazed, facing the concerned looking Detective.

DETECTIVE

Tell me your name?

HUGO

Hugo Thirst.

DETECTIVE

Listen, I'm asking the questions.
Don't get smart.

HUGO

I'm telling you my name is Hugo
Thirst.

DETECTIVE

Just Hugo.

He stares at the Detective with a blank expression upon his pale face.

HUGO

I did. That's what I said.

DETECTIVE

I said don't get smart, punk. I'm
going to have to ask you some
questions. Think before you
answer. Now in your own time tell
me what happened between you and
your wife tonight?

HUGO

I'll try.

DETECTIVE

Are you coherent?

HUGO

Not always.

DETECTIVE

In your own time, then. Now hurry up we haven't got all day to mess around.

Hugo coughs a bit to catch his breath.

HUGO

Well, we were having an episode of a suck session, having a drink. It's what we do, you see?

DETECTIVE

I think you mean Succession. But carry on.

HUGO

Sure. Well, she got up to pour herself another glass of wine.

DETECTIVE

Why?

HUGO

Because she had finished the last one.

DETECTIVE

I see.

HUGO

She was laughing and jovial, flashing her tits like that when she's happy and slightly intoxicated.

DETECTIVE

Was she drunk?

HUGO

No, not at all. A bit tipsy maybe. She had a couple of flutes of champagne, that's all, nothing much.

DETECTIVE

Was she Diana Thirst?

HUGO

Not really. She usually has three glasses before she starts on the beers.

DETECTIVE

I said don't get smart. Your wife's name. Was she Diana Thirst?

HUGO

Oh. Sorry. Yes she was-is. Where was I?

DETECTIVE

You said you were here watching an episode of Succession. Carry on.

HUGO

Oh yes. Well, she went to walk out of the room to pour herself another glass, but she lost her footing and fell over the pouffe stool. It was sticking out from under the glass table. She didn't see it there for some reason.

DETECTIVE

Did she have the wine glass in hand when she stumbled?

HUGO

Yes, she did.

(hesitates)

It smashed on the table and then went straight through her jugular vein as she tried to protect her face from hitting the floor.

DETECTIVE

And that is what you saw happen, is it?

HUGO

Yes. It happened so quickly. One minute she was larking about and flashing her tits at me, and the next, well, she was...

DETECTIVE

Do you really expect us to believe that? Look at you, your clothes are covered in blood.

HUGO

I know. The glass went through her jugular. It was spurting out of her neck and going everywhere. There's even spatter in my beer. Take a look.

DETECTIVE

No thanks, I'm on duty. I'm working. Another time, maybe.

HUGO

Oh.

CU: A glass of beer tainted with blood.

DETECTIVE

Well, I'm afraid I am going to have to arrest you for her murder. Your version of events simply doesn't add up. I think you murdered her in a fit of rage. Isn't that what happened here tonight, Hugo Thirst?

HUGO

OK. No! I'm innocent. I couldn't stop her. It happened too quickly.

DETECTIVE

Hugo Thirst, I am arresting you for the murder of Diana Thirst. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you. If you decide to answer without an attorney present, you will still have the right to stop answering at anytime, until you talk to an attorney.

HUGO

But this is ridiculous! I never touched her!

DETECTIVE

D' you understand the rights I have just read to you?

HUGO

No! Yes! But I never touched her!

DETECTIVE

With these rights in mind, do you wish to speak?

HUGO

No!

DETECTIVE

(to officer)

Cuff him.

HUGO

But I'm innocent, I tell ya! I loved my wife to bits. It was an accident, I tell ya!. I wouldn't hurt my wife for the world, goddammit!

He is led out the door by the uniformed Officer.

Detective turns to the Medic and shakes his head disbelievingly.

DETECTIVE

A suck session. Ha!

What's he take us for, idiots?

END