

MAX

I have a cancelled check made out to you for two hundred dollars. On the check is written, "for consultation." What kind of consultation?

DR. HEISSEN

I told you before. If you want any more information on my patients you're going to have to return with a court order.

MAX

It's a major inconvenience for me to do that just now.

DR. HEISSEN

That's your problem. Anything else? I'm busy .

MAX

I know you are. I have with me your income tax records for the past five years.

DR. HEISSEN

So?

MAX

Doctor, I don't want to make trouble for you. But you are illegally concealing twenty-five percent of your income.

DR. HEISSEN

Aren't you over-stepping your bounds?

MAX

Perhaps. If you prefer, I can just forward the files to the I.R.S. and tell them where to look. They could start with your safe-deposit box in San Francisco or your numbered account in Zurich.

DR. HEISSEN

Who did you say you were?

MAX

Detective Horning, San
Francisco P.D.

DR. HEISSEN

What exactly is it that you wish
to know?

MAX

Everything you know about Walter
Gassner. You do remember him?

DR. HEISSEN

Of course I remember him. He
barged in without an appointment
and insisted I see him. He refused
to give his name.

MAX

And what did he want?

DR. HEISSEN

He used the pretext that he wanted to
discuss the problems of a friend. Of
course that alerted me instantly.

MAX

To what?

DR. HEISSEN

It's a classic syndrome. People unwilling
or afraid to face their problems.

MAX

What was the problem?

DR. HEISSEN

He said his friend was schizophrenic and
homicidal and would probably kill somebody
unless he could be stopped. He asked if
there was some kind of treatment that
could help.

MAX

What did you tell him?

DR. HEISSEN

I told him that first, of course, I
would have to examine his friend, that
some types of mental illness could be
helped with modern drugs and other
therapeutic treatments.

MAX

What happened then?

DR. HEISSEN

Nothing...that was really all.

MAX

Did you see him again?

DR. HEISSEN

Never. Although I would have liked to help him. His coming to me was obviously a cry for help.

MAX

In what way?

DR. HEISSEN

Well, it's similar to a killer who writes on the wall of his victim's apartment, "Stop me before I kill again."

MAX

Doctor, there's still one thing that puzzles me.

DR. HEISSEN

Yes?

MAX

You said he wouldn't give you his name, and yet he gave you a check and signed it.

DR. HEISSEN

He had forgotten to bring any money with him, and that made him more agitated. In the end, he had to write the check. That's how I happened to learn his name. Is there anything else?

MAX

You say you never saw him again?

DR. HEISSEN

Never.