

Harold is lying on a couch, perfectly relaxed. The
PSYCHIATRIST, less so, is seated by him.

PSYCHIATRIST

Tell me, Harold, how many of
these, eh, suicides have you
performed?

HAROLD

(pause)

An accurate number would be
difficult to gauge.

PSYCHIATRIST

And why is that?

HAROLD

Well, some worked out better than
others - some had to be abandoned
in the planning stages - do you
include the first time? - then
there's the question of maiming...

PSYCHIATRIST

Just give me a rough estimate.

HAROLD

Well, a rough estimate... I'd say
fifteen.

PSYCHIATRIST

Fifteen.

HAROLD

A rough estimate.

PSYCHIATRIST

And were they all done for your
mother's benefit?

HAROLD
(thoughtful pause)
I wouldn't say "benefit."

PSYCHIATRIST
No, I suppose not. How do you
feel about your mother?

Harold is lying on the couch.

HAROLD
(a reasoned
assessment)
I don't think I'm getting through
to Mother like I used to.

PSYCHIATRIST
Does that worry you?

HAROLD
(pause)
Yes. It does.

PSYCHIATRIST
Why?

HAROLD
I put a lot of effort into these
things.

PSYCHIATRIST
Ah, yes.

HAROLD
And a lot of time.

PSYCHIATRIST
I'm sure. But what else do you
do with your time? Do you go to
school?

HAROLD

No.

PSYCHIATRIST

What about the draft?

HAROLD

My mother spoke to my Uncle Victor.
He's in the Army and he fixed it up.

PSYCHIATRIST

Oh. Well, how do you spend your
day?

HAROLD

You mean when I'm not working on a...

PSYCHIATRIST

Yes. What kind of things do you do?

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PSYCHIATRIST

I see. Junkyards. What is the
fascination there?

HAROLD

I don't know.

PSYCHIATRIST

Is it the machines? The noise?
The people?

HAROLD

No. It's the junk. I like to
look at junk.

PSYCHIATRIST

What else do you like?

Harold pauses.

HAROLD

I go to funerals.

PSYCHIATRIST

I see. Tell me, Harold, do you remember your father at all?

HAROLD

No.

(pause)

I'd have liked to.

PSYCHIATRIST

Why?

HAROLD

I'd have liked to talk to him.

PSYCHIATRIST

What would you say?

HAROLD

(pause)

I'd show him my hearse. And my room, and stuff.

PSYCHIATRIST

What kind of stuff?

HAROLD (v.o.)

Oh, all my things - incidental but not integral, if you know what I mean.

PSYCHIATRIST

Harold?

HAROLD
(comes to)
Huh?

PSYCHIATRIST
Do you have any friends?

HAROLD
No.

PSYCHIATRIST
None at all?

HAROLD
Well, maybe one.

PSYCHIATRIST
Would you care to talk about
this friend?

HAROLD
No.

PSYCHIATRIST
Is this a friend you had when
you were away at school?

HAROLD
No.

PSYCHIATRIST
(things are
getting difficult)
I see.
(he tries a new
attack)
Were you happy at school, Harold?

HAROLD
Yes.

PSYCHIATRIST

You liked your teachers?

HAROLD

Yes.

PSYCHIATRIST

Your classmates?

HAROLD

Yes.

PSYCHIATRIST

Your studies?

HAROLD

Yes.

PSYCHIATRIST

Then why did you leave?

HAROLD

I burnt down the Chemistry building.

The psychiatrist gets up and rather anxiously paces about.