

MR. ZERO – AMERICAN

Mr. Zero, on trial for the murder of his employer, addresses the jury.

“Sure I killed him. I ain’t saying I didn’t, am I? Sure I killed him. Them lawyers! They give me a good stiff pain, that’s what they give me. Half the time I don’t know what the hell they’re talkin’ about. What I say is if one bird kills another bird, why you got a right to call him for it. That’s what I say. I know all about that. I been on the jury, too. Them lawyers! Don’t let ‘em fill you full of bunk. All that bull about it bein’ red ink on the bill file. Red ink ain’t nothin’! It was blood, see? Right through the heart with the bill file, see? I want you to get that right – all of you. Why didn’t he shut up? If only he’d shut up! Instead o’ talkin’ an’ talkin’ about how sorry he was an’ what a good guy I was an’ this an’ that. I felt like sayin’ to him: ‘For Christ’s sake, shut up!’ But I didn’t have the nerve, see? I didn’t have the nerve to say that to the boss. An’ he went on talkin’, sayin’ how sorry he was, see? He was standin’ right close to me. An’ his coat only had two buttons on it. Two an’ two makes four an’ – aw, can it! An’ there was the bill file on the desk. Right where I could touch it. It ain’t right to kill a guy. I know that. But I thought he was going to give me a raise, see? On account of bein’ there twenty five years. Do I look like a murderer? But he kept talkin’ and talkin’. An’ there was the bill file where I could reach it. Do you get me? I’m just a regular guy like anybody else.