NICK enters from STAGE RIGHT. ANDERSON is lying on the bed, looking at the wall. CAMERA follows NICK into the room. CAMERA reveals NICK walking into the room, ANDERSON lying on the bed, looking away.

Hemingway’s “THE KILLERS” Scene Blocking

Ping Li
Julia Tsao
NARRATIVE STRUCTURES

Nick opened the door and went into the room. Ole Anderson was lying on the bed with all his clothes on. He had been a heavyweight prizefighter and he was too long for the bed. He lay with his head on two pillows. He did not look at Nick. “What was it?” he asked.

“I was up at Henry’s,” Nick said, “and two fellows came in and tied up me and the cook, and they said they were going to kill you.” It sounded silly when he said it. Ole Anderson said nothing.

“They put us out in the kitchen,” Nick went on. “They were going to shoot you when you came in to supper.” Ole Anderson looked at the wall and did not say anything. “George thought I better come and tell you about it.”

“There isn’t anything I can do about it,” Ole Anderson said. “I’ll tell you what they were like.”

“I don’t want to know what they were like,” Ole Anderson said. He looked at the wall. “Thanks for coming to tell me about it.”

“That’s all right.”

Nick looked at the big man lying on the bed. “Don’t you want me to go and see the police?”

“No,” Ole Anderson said. “That wouldn’t do any good.” “Isn’t there something I could do?”

“No. There ain’t anything to do.”

“Maybe it was just a bluff.”

“I couldn’t get out of town?”

“No,” Ole Anderson said. “I’m through with all that running around.” He looked at the wall. “There ain’t anything to do now.”

“Couldn’t you fix it up some way?”

“No. I got in wrong.” He talked in the same flat voice. “There ain’t anything to do. After a while I’ll make up my mind to go out.”

Nick went out. As he shut the door he saw Ole Anderson with all his clothes on, lying on the bed looking at the wall.

“I better go back and see George,” Nick said.

“So long,” said Ole Anderson. He did not look toward Nick. “Thanks for coming around.”

“No. It ain’t just a bluff.” Ole Anderson rolled over toward the wall. “The only thing is,” he said, talking toward the wall, “I just can’t make up my mind to go out. I been here all day.”

CAMERA close up on NICK. CAMERA behind NICK, showing view of ANDERSON lying on the bed. CAMERAS close up on ANDERSON, showing view of ANDERSON lying on the bed and ANDERSON’s face.