



BILLIE. Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god.

(She closes the door behind her. BILLIE – excitable, and entirely unthreatening – seemingly lacks every skill necessary for police work, but is as eager to succeed as she seems destined to fail.)

ERIC. Billie?

BILLIE. Eric. Eric! He's here! He's here!! The suspect is in the building.

ERIC. The suspect?

BILLIE. The Mayor, Eric. The Mayor is the suspect –

ERIC. I know that, Billie –

BILLIE. The man we have to videotape –

ERIC. Right.

BILLIE. Bribing his accountant –

ERIC. I know –

BILLIE. To cover-up his embezzlement –

ERIC. Billie –

BILLIE. Of sixteen million dollars.

ERIC. Right.

BILLIE. Don't go stupid on me now, partner.

ERIC. I haven't –

BILLIE. I can't do this without you. Not this. This is too big – taking down the Mayor. It's a huge responsibility – entrusted to us, personally, by the Chief of Police. To us, Eric. God only knows why. Donut?

ERIC. No, thank you.

BILLIE. *(Of the ridiculous number of donuts:)* I think I got enough to last us the morning.

ERIC. Billie, listen – where did you see the Mayor?

BILLIE. Downstairs – in the motel lobby. *(Sensing the moment:)* This is it, isn't it. This is the real thing.

ERIC. Why is he so early?

BILLIE. The motel room. The video camera. The donuts. This is the day I become a cop.

ERIC. He's not meeting with Ms. Brown till nine o'clock.

BILLIE. Not a traffic cop, Eric. Not a meter maid. A real cop. On a stakeout. In a sting.

ERIC. *(Getting a sport coat and tie from the Cop Closet, and closing the door:)* Yeah, well, we'd better get –

BILLIE. A cop who's not frightened of danger. Or the unknown. Or automatic weapons –

ERIC. (*At that moment noticing:*) Billie –

BILLIE. (*Increasingly frightened:*) Or the dark. Or small, enclosed spaces.

ERIC. Billie, this is an undercover operation.

BILLIE. Yes it is, Eric. A top-secret, highly classified undercover operation.

ERIC. But you're wearing your uniform.

BILLIE. You have a point. But what else could I wear – on this day – the day I become a cop?

ERIC. But did the Mayor see you? In your uniform?

BILLIE. I think so. He said hi. Gave me a little hug.

ERIC. Billie, if the Mayor knows there are police in the motel –

BILLIE. No, I covered real well. I told him I was checking the continental breakfast for maggots.

ERIC. You think he believed you?

BILLIE. He put down his muffin pretty quick. Look, partner. Billie Dwyer's not gonna do anything to hinder this operation. Don't forget, I was first in my class at the Academy –

ERIC. (*Not unkindly:*) No you weren't.

BILLIE. Well, I would've been, if it hadn't been for guns. And handcuffs.

ERIC. And self-defense.

BILLIE. (*Conceding:*) And self-defense.

ERIC. And driving –

BILLIE. The point is, I've got what it takes. In here. And you, Eric, with your intelligence –

ERIC. Billie –

BILLIE. You don't belong behind some desk, shuffling papers.

ERIC. (*A little defensively:*) I don't shuffle pape-

 **BILLIE.** Listen to me. You're cop material. We both are. And today we'll prove it. When we successfully execute the biggest police investigation in the history of this town. Today, Eric, you and I are bringing down the Mayor. Now. What do we do?