**Writing Sample – Police Interrogation**

**SGT SHUELL**

And where was your daughter Melody at the time?

**SPADE**

She went with the McWhorters or some neighbors.

**DET COOPER**

When your wife went to the shower do you recall what time it was?

**SPADE**

I do not recall but it was quite late. I picked her up and put her on the bed. I wiped her first and put water on her face.

**DET COOPER**

Was she bleeding?

**SPADE**

She was bleeding on the forehead and on the nose.

**DET COOPER**

And was this in the shower, you say, when she slipped and fell on her face in the shower?

**SPADE**

She did not fall completely in the shower - part of her body was outside and part of it was inside.

**DET COOPER**

Was there blood in the shower?

**SPADE**

There was blood, yes.

**DET COOPER**

And that has been cleaned up?

**SPADE**

It has.

**DET COOPER**

Who cleaned it up?

**SPADE**

I’m sorry, sir, but I did.

**DET COOPER**

You did?

**SPADE**

Yes.

**DET COOPER**

What was her state?

**SPADE**

I thought she was unhurt but I had no idea; I never at any time had any idea that she was near death.

**DET COOPER**

How long prior to burning herself, if you can recall, did she go into the bathroom?

**SPADE**

I cannot recall.

**DET COOPER**

You don’t recall how long?

**SPADE**

No I don’t.

**DET COOPER**

After she burned herself - what did she say?

**SPADE**

She said “I want to show you how much I love you in so many words.”

**DET COOPER**

She didn’t say anything else as far as she was hurting?

**SPADE**

She said “now you see how much I love you.”

**DET COOPER**

And what did you say, do you recall?

**SPADE**

I said “you must love me.” (beat) Can I say, sir, that we desperately wanted to get back together; we wanted to get back together, both of us.

**DET COOPER**

Why were you going to take her back?

**SPADE**

Well, at the time, we decided it would be better. She kept saying “I’m a horrible woman; I’m not good for you; I shouldn’t be with you; I’m not good for the children.”

**DET COOPER**

I want to ask you something, and you feel free not to answer if you wish.

**SPADE**

I certainly will.

**DET COOPER**

‘Cuz I want you to feel free, I don’t want you to say anything that didn’t happen. I’d like to know. I see both of your hands are swollen, swollen and bruised, and as I told you before, an autopsy will show if it’s fist marks on your wife or not.

**SPADE**

Yes.

**DET COOPER**

We know that and you know that, sir.

**SPADE**

Certainly.

**DET COOPER**

And your hands are awfully swollen and bruised.

**SPADE**

May I say that I did not hit her with my fist. I did not hit her with my fist.

**DET COOPER**

How do you account for both your hands being bruised and swollen, the backside, sir?

**SPADE**

Both of my hands? Well, this hand I hit a car with.

**DET COOPER**

And when was that, sir?

**SPADE**

While we were on our vacation. I hit a car; I hit a car with my hand as hard as I could. I thought I had broken it and it was all swollen. I went to a place and had an x-ray, two x-rays made. I can give you the place where I had the second x-rays.

**DET COOPER**

And how do you account for the left hand being swollen, sir?

**SPADE**

Well…

**DET COOPER**

And marked up, I mean, I can plainly see it. The knuckles are all bruised.

**SPADE**

Yes, I can plainly see it too.

**DET COOPER**

And black and blue in fact; they’re turning since I first saw them.

**SPADE**

The hand has been swollen and has been black and blue for some time.

**DET COOPER**

Well, it’s been black and blue since I saw you, Mr. Cooley. I’d like to know what your explanation for it is, if you care to tell me.

**SPADE**

May I say this?

**DET COOPER**

Yes.

**SPADE**

Sometimes when I’m hurt, I’m completely hopelessly lost in some situation I hit things - not people. I never hit people. I hit one man recently but I’d like to say this. That sometimes I hit things. After I knew my wife was gone I could have hit anything.

**DET COOPER**

What would make you hit things, if you don’t remember hitting them? Is that a temper tantrum or is it just-

**SPADE**

No, it isn’t; I don’t think so. It’s just a release of emotion. I’m not a psycho.

**DET COOPER**

I didn’t say that, Mr. Cooley.