

"Goddamn! If it isn't Ed Edwards! I told you sooner or later you'd end up in Leavenworth, Ed. And by God, that's where I'm going to put you!"

Sergeant Waldo had picked me up several times for loitering, on suspicion of burglary, when I was a kid. He was well aware of my tarnished reputation. It was like old times.

"Hey, Sarge, what's this all about? I haven't done anything."

"Yeah, you haven't done anything! I've heard that goddamn story for 10 years. You *never* do anything. You're into more goddam shit for somebody never doing anything than anyone I've ever known!"

"I don't know what it's all about. Tell me."

"I'm going to tell you! We have a warrant here for your arrest for kidnapping."

"For kidnapping? Oh, come on, now, who in the hell am I supposed to have kidnapped?"

"You've kidnapped that girl you were living with, Betty somebody." He fumbled through the pile of papers on his desk.

"Kidnapped her?" My jaw dropped in amazement.

"You brought her here at gunpoint. She filed the complaint, and has sworn out a warrant for your arrest."

"I haven't kidnapped anybody! She came here of her own free will. Do you think, for a minute, that if I had kidnapped her, I'd leave her so that she can walk around the streets whenever she wants to? By God, think about it for a minute. I wouldn't leave her at the house and let her wander around!"

Man, I couldn't talk fast enough. This was an incredible situation.

"We'll see. Take him in the back room."

Jim and I were locked in the adjoining interrogation rooms and left alone for about a half-hour. Each room was four-by-six feet, and contained a table, two chairs and a small window. Our yelling back and forth to one another was accompanied by the sound of a crackling radiator.

When Sergeant Waldo finally returned, he said, "I've

1
Kidnapping
1964
S4

talked to her and she admits that she came freely. She wanted to go back to Florida, and you wouldn't take her."

"That's true. I told her I wouldn't take her, but that I'd give her the money to go back."

"Why in the hell did you bring her here in the first place? She's a married woman and she has a daughter."

"I realize that, but she wanted to leave Florida."

"You slick-talking son-of-a-bitch! You got her to leave!"

"Well, I guess I am a little younger than her husband."

"I understand she's married to a sixty-two-year-old man."

"Nope, seventy-two."

"Either way, it's beside the point. She's still married to him. That stuff in your car, where did you get it?"