

Reading for FIVE with 3, 8

EIGHT. Look at this. *[Closes knife, flicks it open and changes position of knife so that he can stab overhand.]* Doesn't it seem like an awkward way to handle a knife?

THREE. What are you asking me for? *[EIGHT closes blade and flicks it open.]*

FIVE. Wait a minute! What's the matter with me? Give me that knife. *[Reaches out for knife.]*

EIGHT. Have you ever seen a knife fight?

FIVE. Yes, I have.

EIGHT. In the movies? *[Passes knife to FIVE.]*

FIVE. In my backyard. On my stoop. In the vacant lot across the street. Too many of them. Switch knives came with the neighborhood where I lived. Funny that I didn't think of it before. I guess you try to forget those things. Anyone who's ever used a switch knife would never have stabbed downward. You have to hold it like this to release the blade. *[Flicks knife open.]* In order to stab downward, you would have to change your grip. You don't handle a switch knife that way.

EIGHT. How do you use it?

FIVE. You use it underhanded. *[Illustrates.]* Like that. Anyone who's ever used a switch knife would never handle it any other way.

EIGHT. Are you sure?

FIVE. I'm sure.

EIGHT. Then he couldn't have made the kind of wound that killed his father.

FIVE. I suppose it's conceivable that he could have made the wound, but it's not likely, not if he'd ever had experience with switch knives, and we know that the kid had a lot of experience with switch knives. He would go for him underhanded...

THREE. How do you know? What - were you in the room when the father was killed?

FIVE. No, and neither was anyone else. *[Sticks the knife in the table and walks away.]*