

# Performance

# Performance

What to look for when analysing performance:

- Use of movement & gesture
- Facial expression – subtle/expansive?
- Proxemics: relationship to other actors or the camera
- Use of the space
- Use of props
- Voice: tone, pitch, volume, enunciation, accent
- Rapidity of speech – rhythmical, rushed, slow, etc?
- Use of pauses, interruptions or overlap
- Do any combinations of the above contradict each other?
- Do any of the above compliment or contradict what is actually being spoken?
- Compare or contrast performances between actors in the same sequence
- Compare or contrast performances by the same actor across different scenes

# Performance

The Ferris Wheel sequence  
From The Third Man  
(Carol Reed, 1949)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A\\_e9umL9lpo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_e9umL9lpo)

Orson Welles – Harry Lime

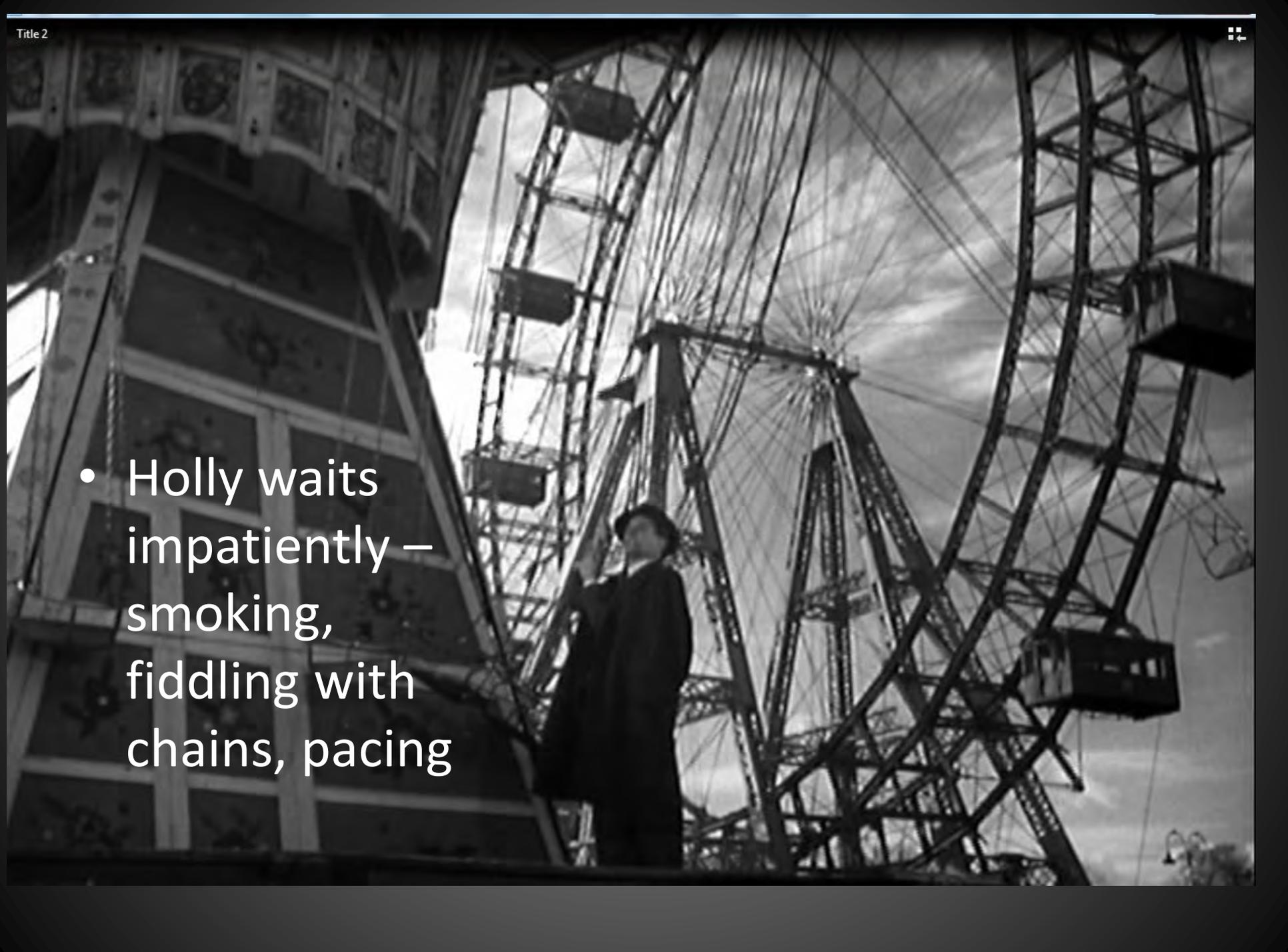
Joseph Cotton – Holly Martins

# How does performance suggest meaning in the sequence?

Consider:

- Who dominates the scene? How?
- Does the power balance remain constant or shift?
- Do the characters mean what they say? How can you tell?
- Who feels threatened?
- How do we feel about Harry at the end of the sequence?

- Holly waits impatiently – smoking, fiddling with chains, pacing



Harry  
marches  
confidently  
to the  
meeting -  
a big smile  
on his face



Still smiling,  
Harry offers  
his hand.  
Holly does  
not  
respond.

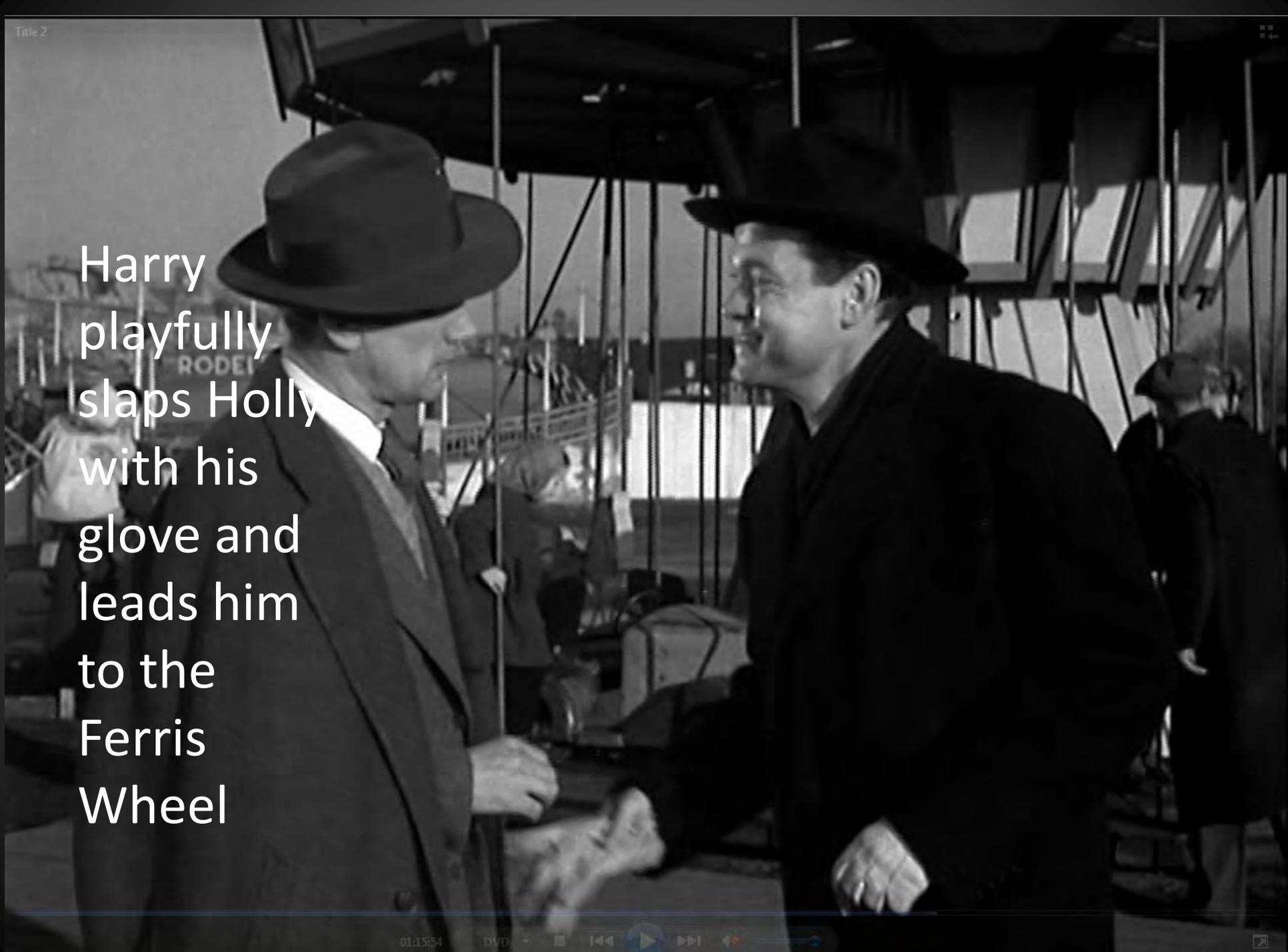
Harry does  
not visibly  
react to this



Harry  
circles  
Holly,  
who  
has to  
turn to  
keep  
his  
gaze



Harry  
playfully  
slaps Holly  
with his  
glove and  
leads him  
to the  
Ferris  
Wheel



FRITZE AUSSPUCKEN VERBOTEN!

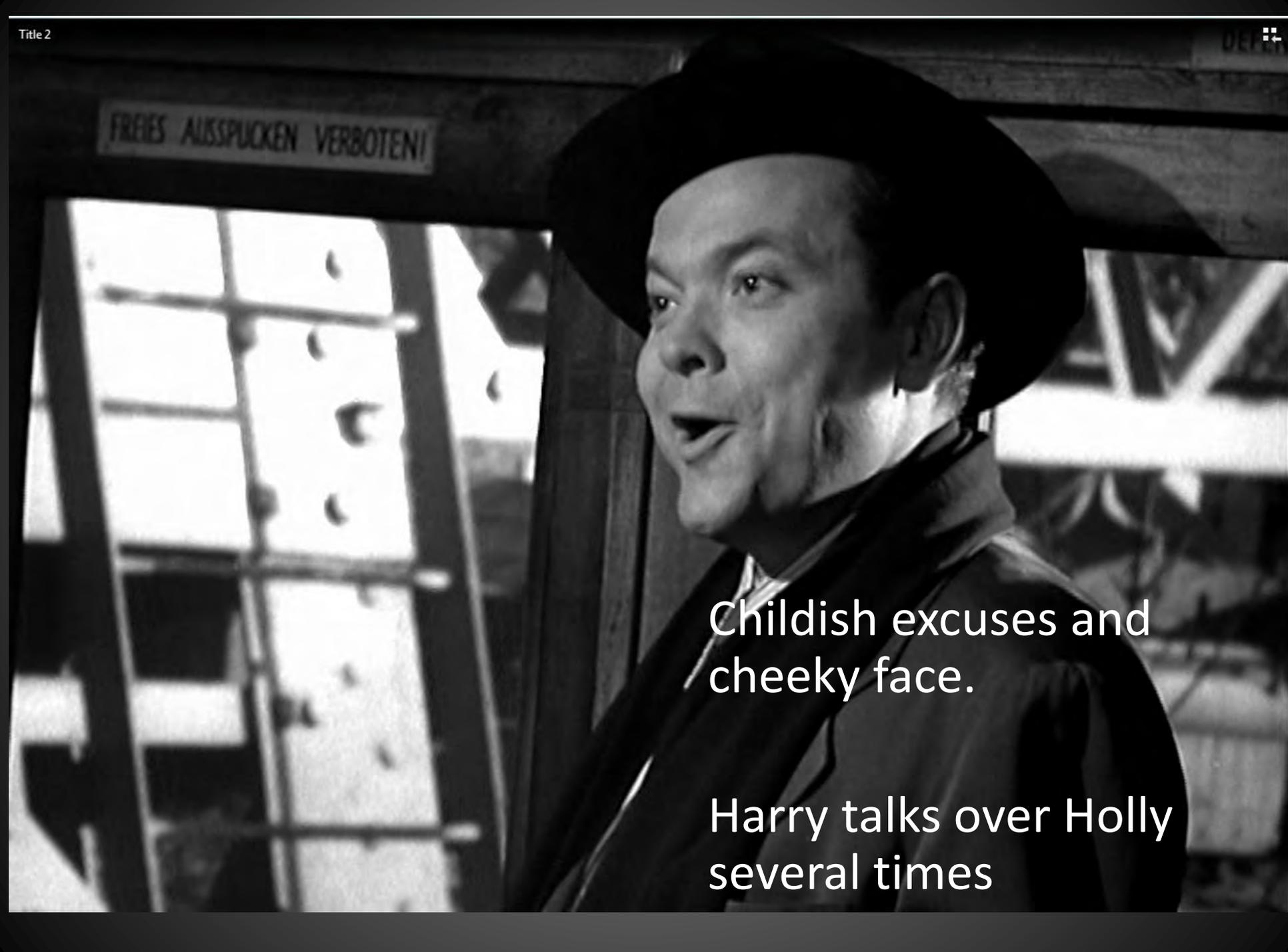
Harry's  
childish  
complaints  
about  
indigestion

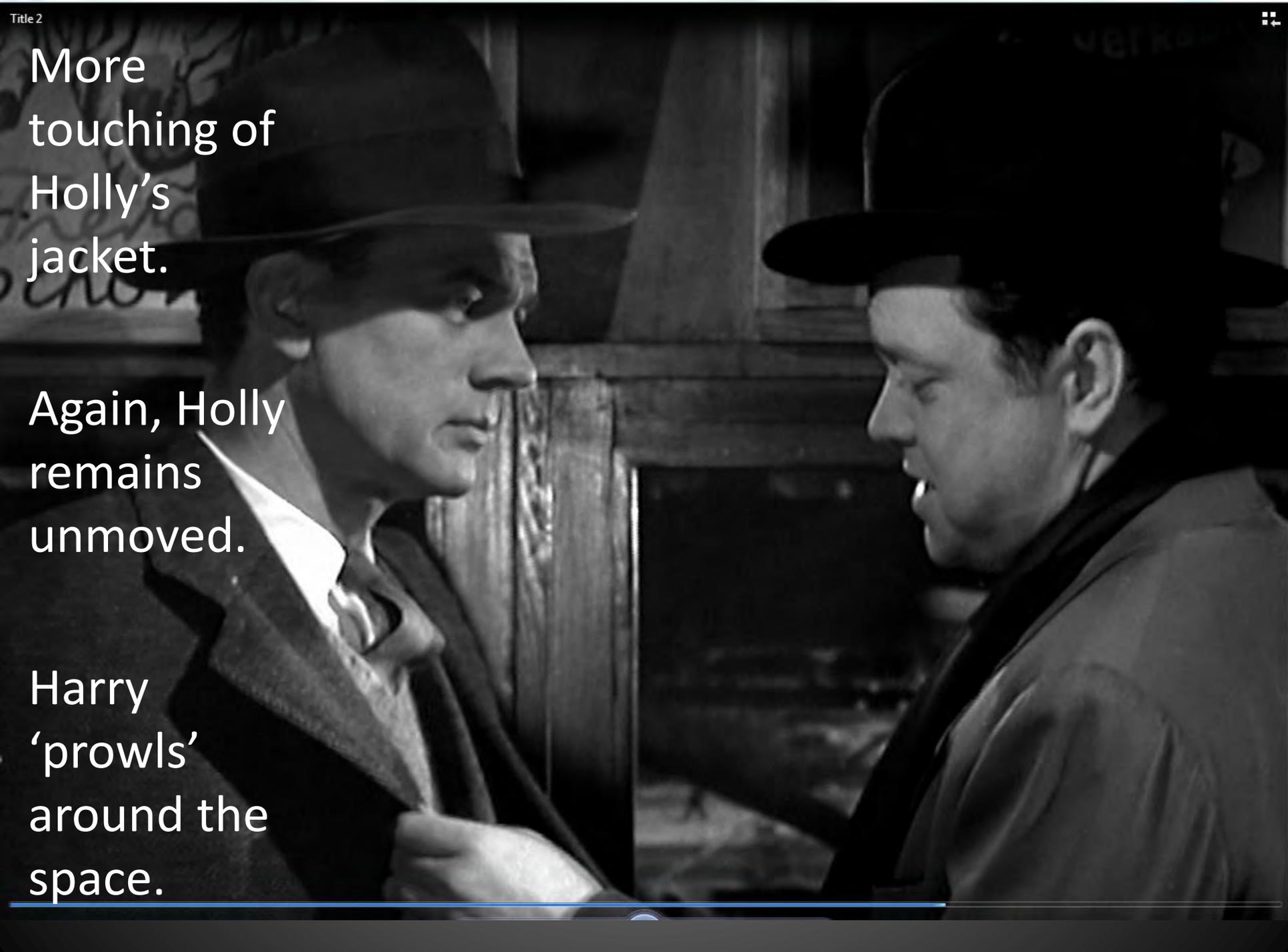


FREIES AUSSPUCKEN VERBOTEN!

Childish excuses and  
cheeky face.

Harry talks over Holly  
several times





More touching of Holly's jacket.

Again, Holly remains unmoved.

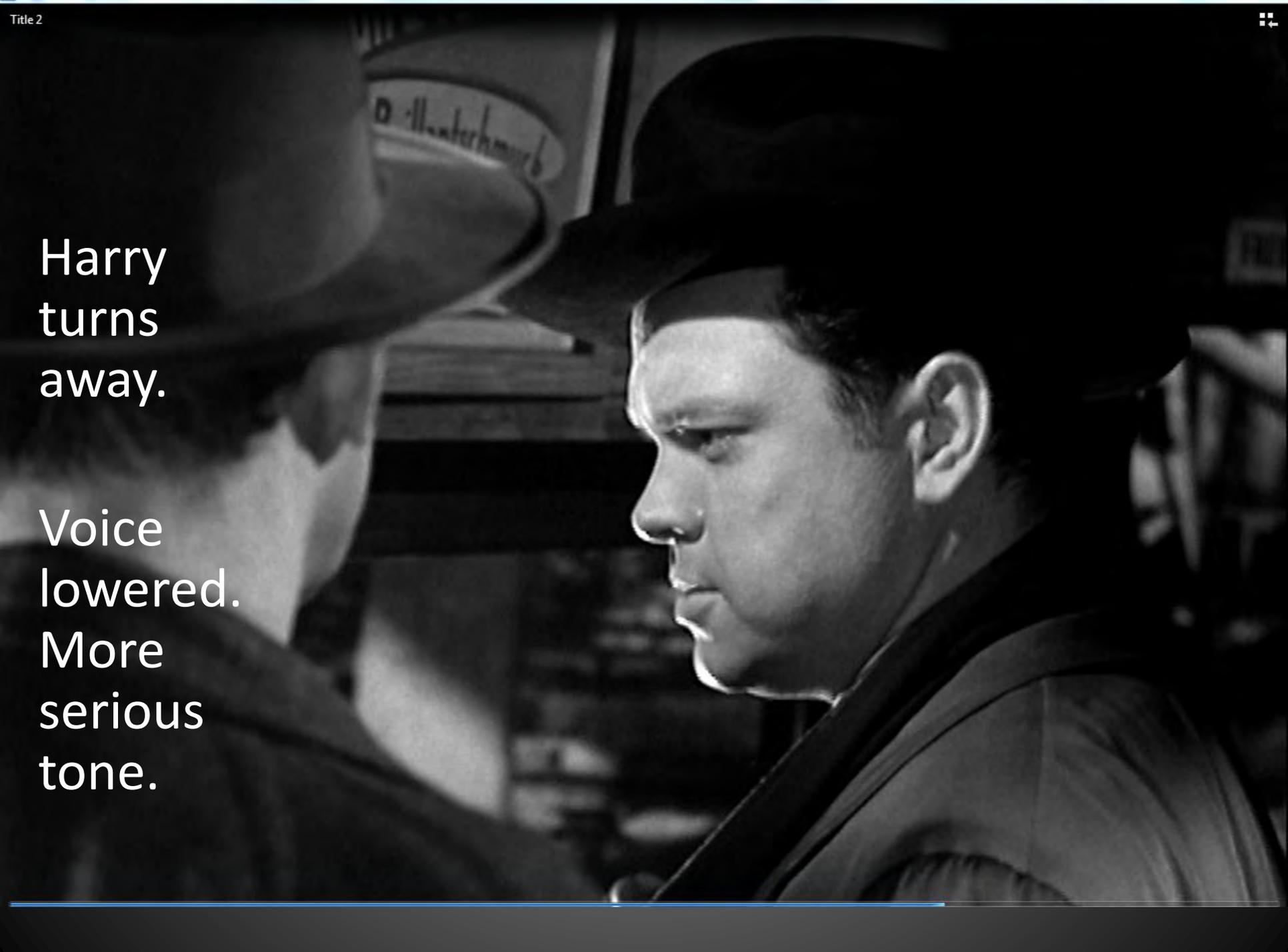
Harry 'prowls' around the space.

---

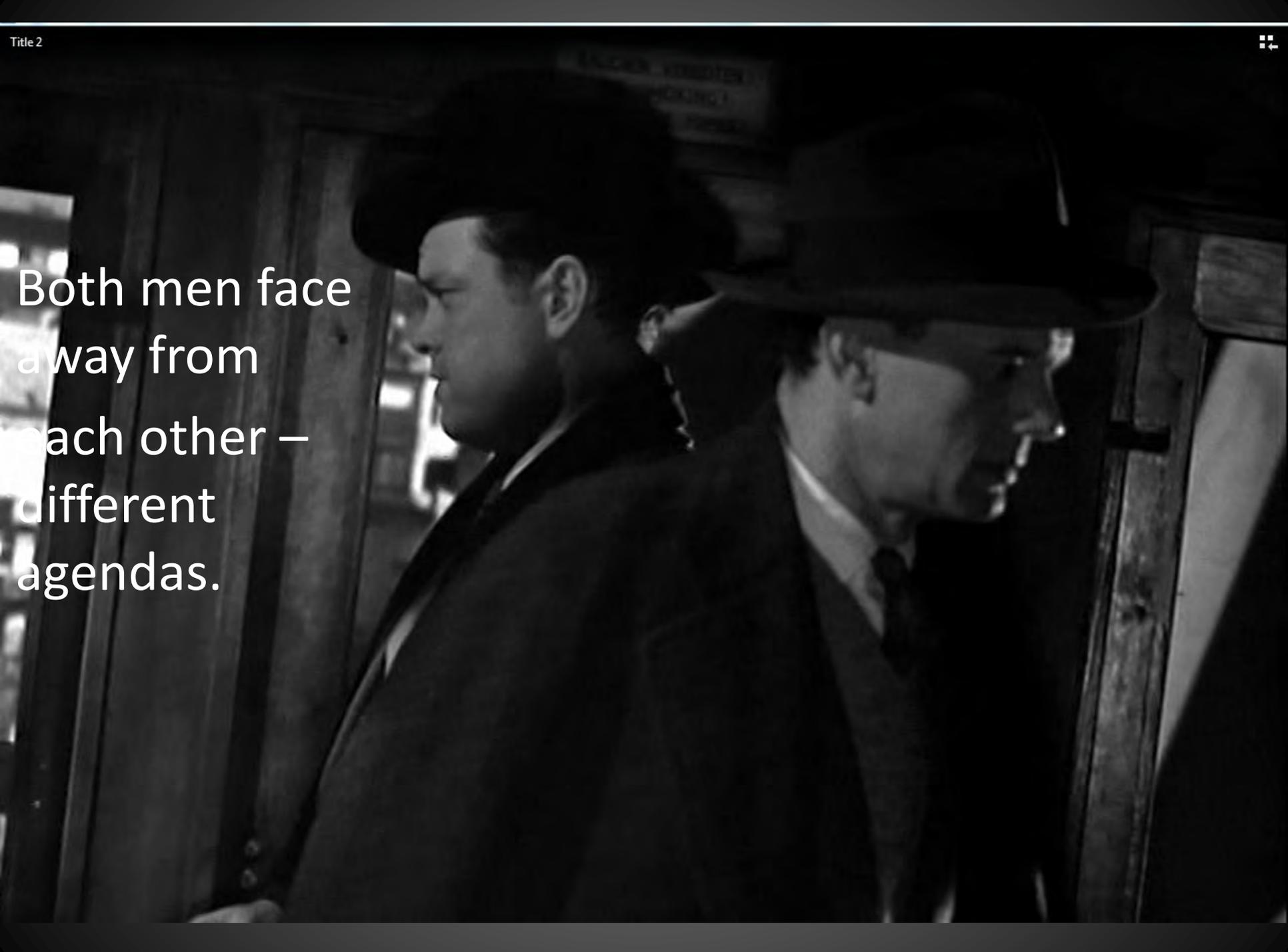


Harry  
turns  
away.

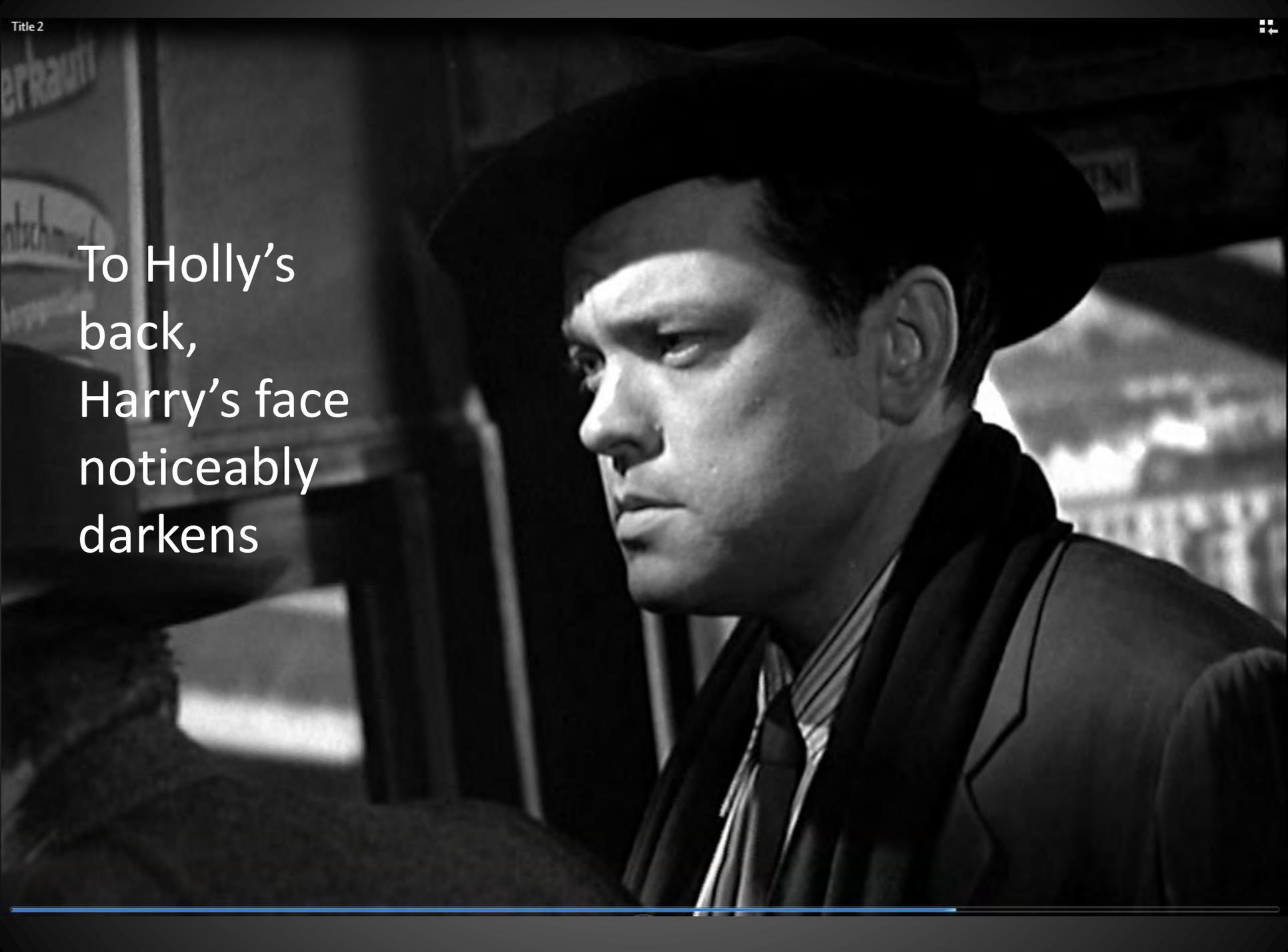
Voice  
lowered.  
More  
serious  
tone.



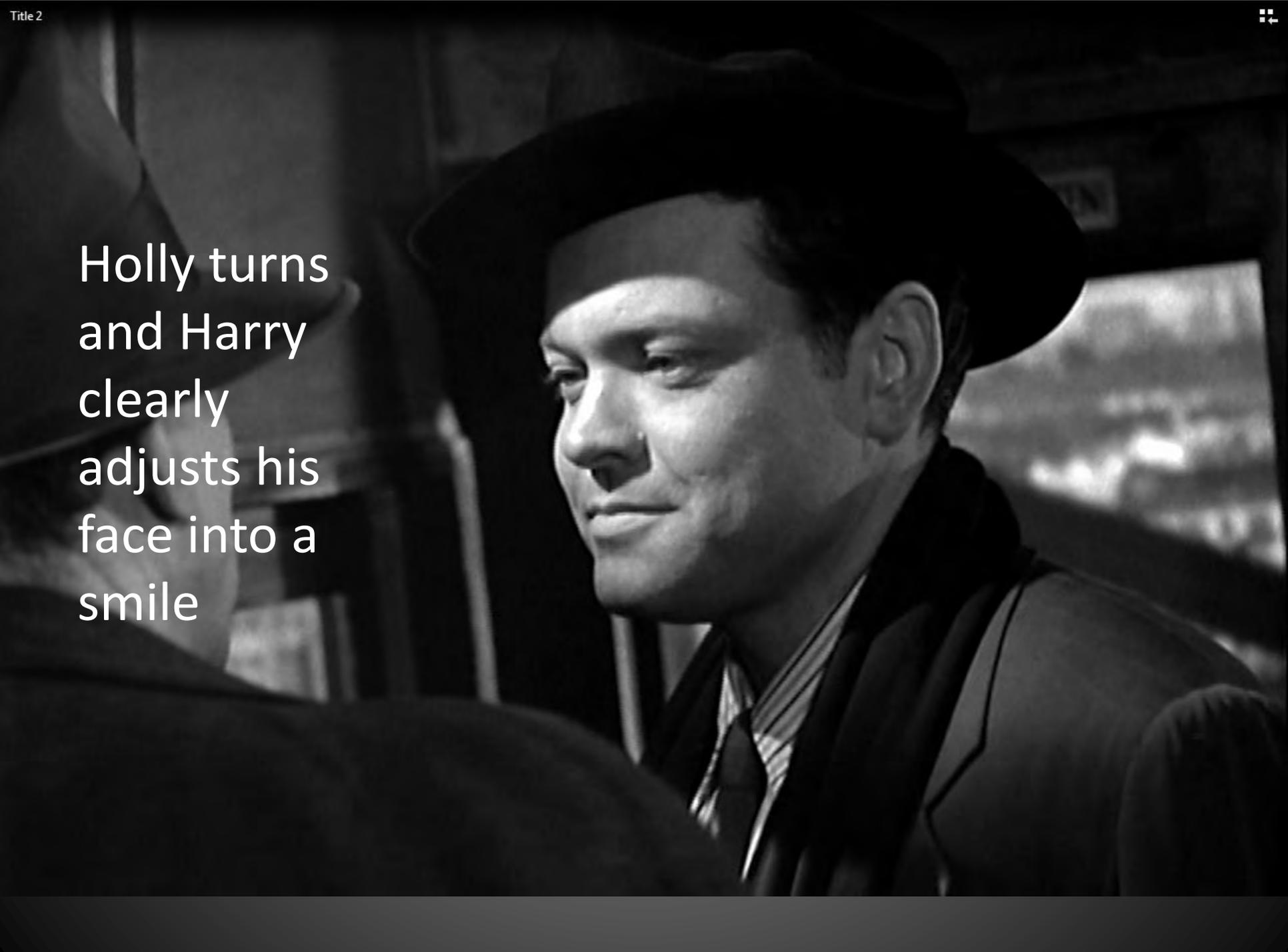
Both men face  
away from  
each other —  
different  
agendas.



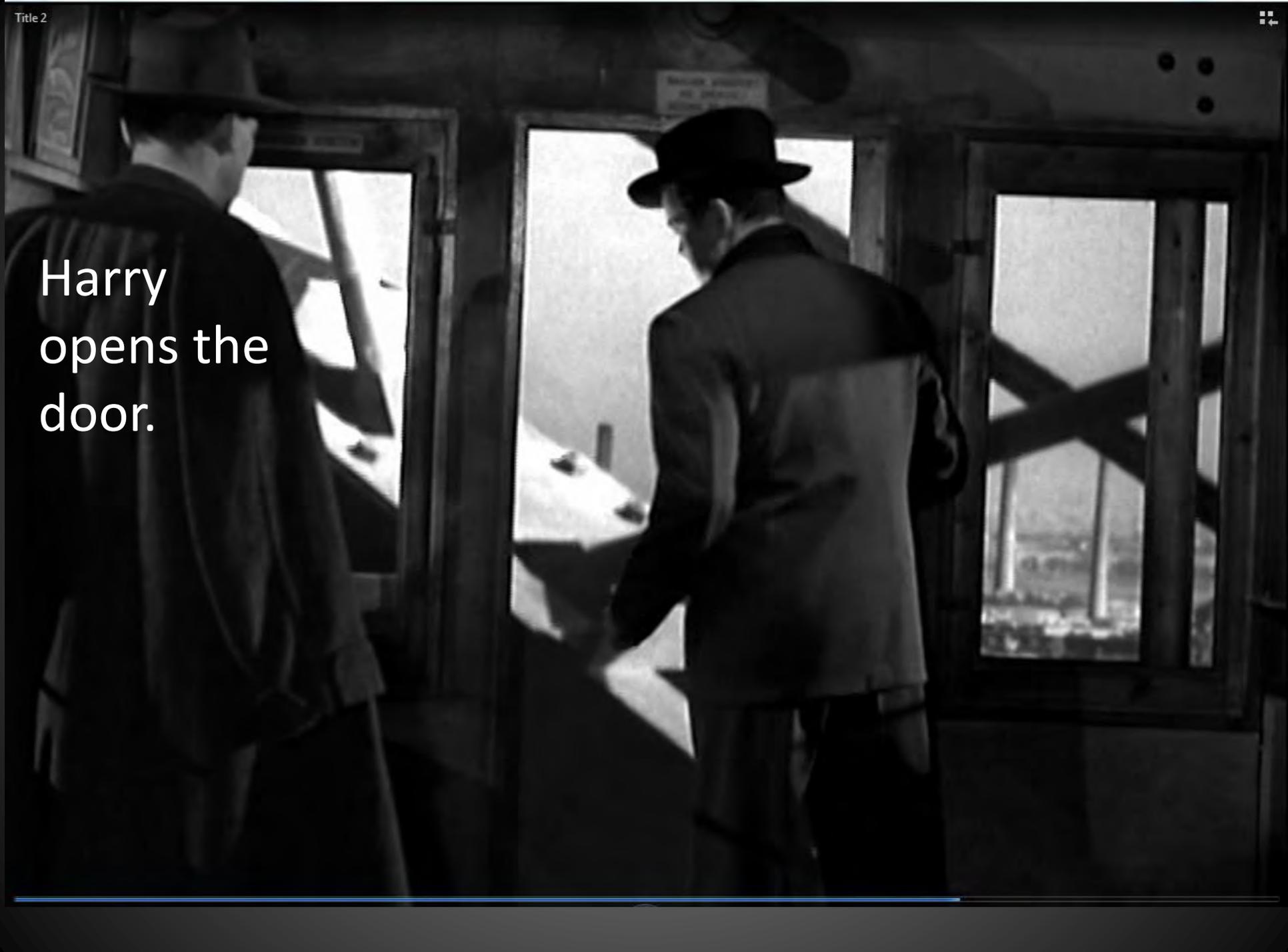
To Holly's  
back,  
Harry's face  
noticeably  
darkens



Holly turns  
and Harry  
clearly  
adjusts his  
face into a  
smile



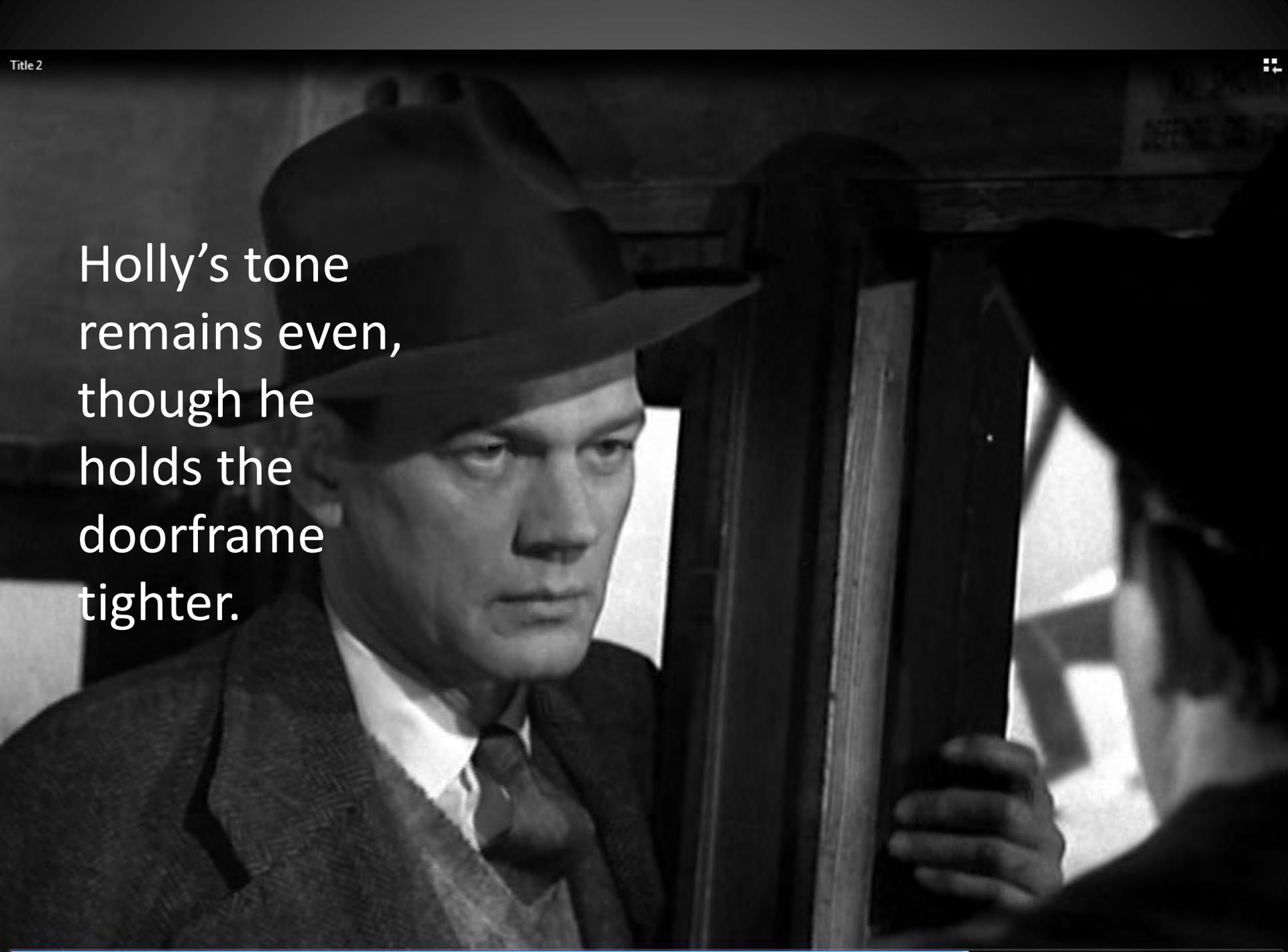
Harry  
opens the  
door.



Harry's tone is still reasonable, though his words are clearly threatening.



Holly's tone  
remains even,  
though he  
holds the  
doorframe  
tighter.



Short  
silence as  
Harry is  
presented  
with  
evidence  
that can  
damage  
him



Harry's gaze  
turns inwards,  
suggesting a  
moment of  
contemplation



Harry recovers  
quickly and  
shifts back to  
the smile



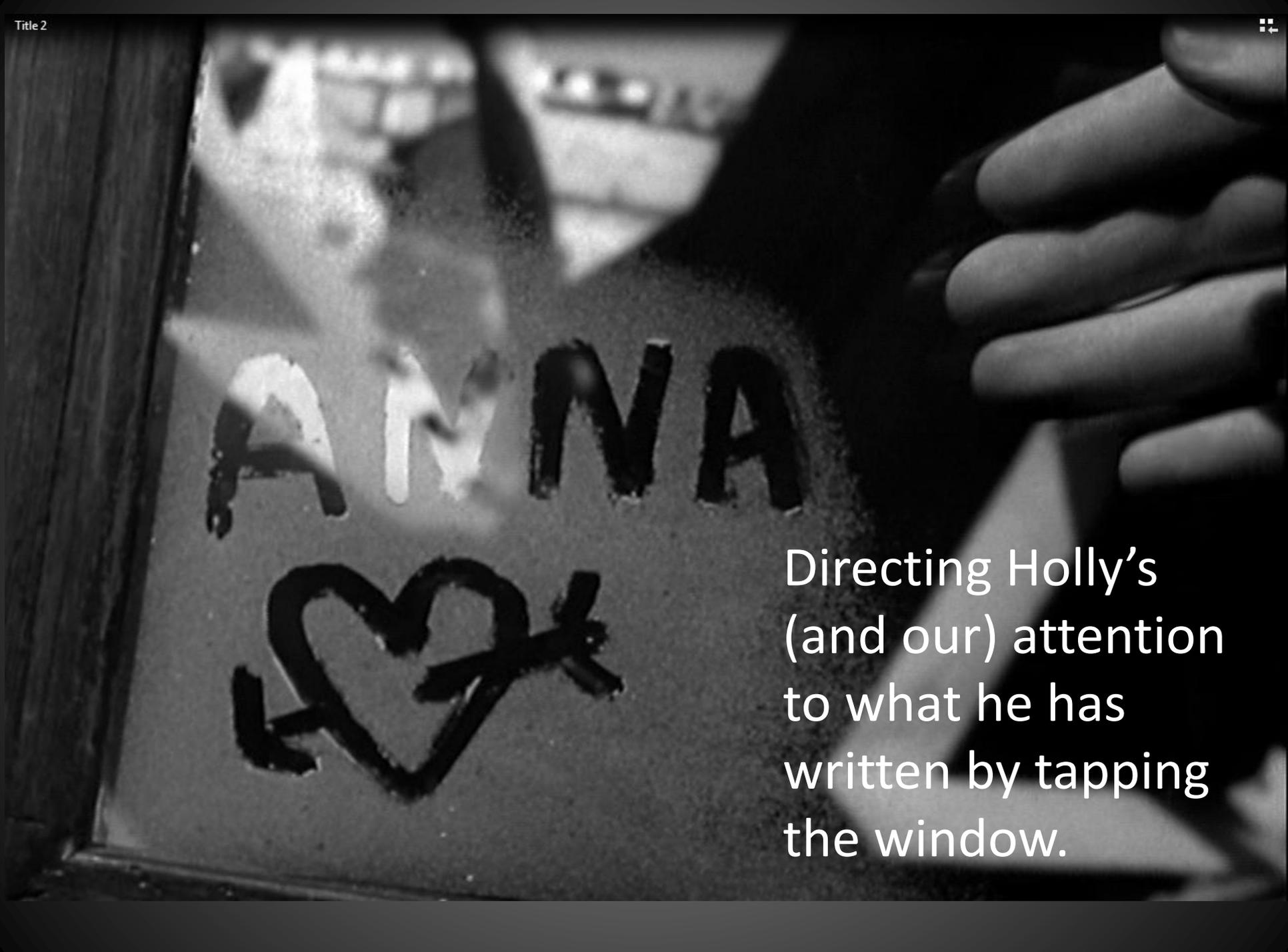


Still smiling.

Expansive  
gestures.



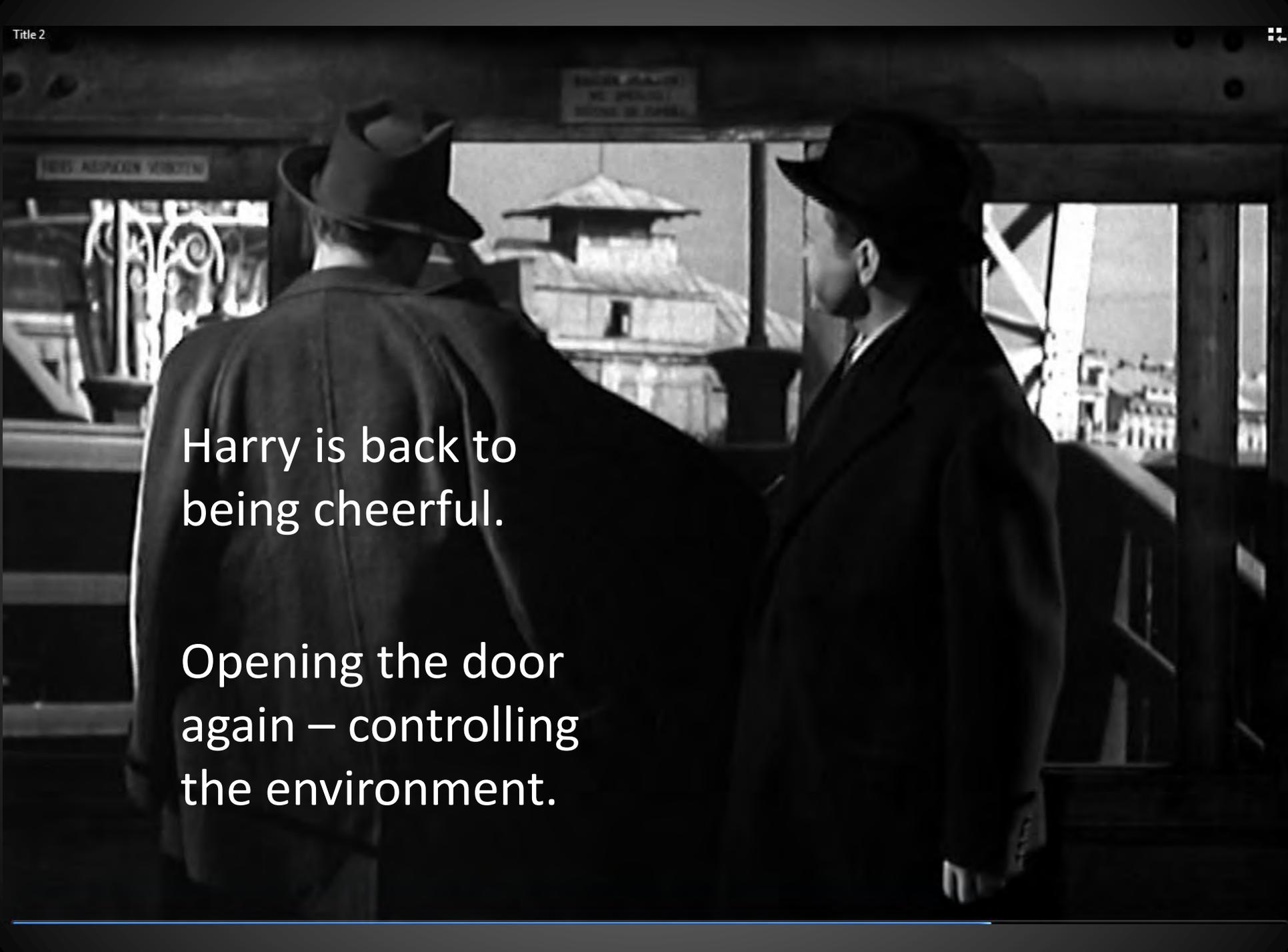
Mock look of  
hurt at Holly's  
accusation



ANNA



Directing Holly's  
(and our) attention  
to what he has  
written by tapping  
the window.



Harry is back to  
being cheerful.

Opening the door  
again – controlling  
the environment.



Physically  
blocking Holly's  
path

ser



Harry marches off with a brief backward glance.

A noticeable spring in his step.

# Homework

How does performance and/or mise-en-scene suggest meaning in a sequence from a film of your choice?

(Sequence up to 7 minutes)