Instructions: Read this short story; it’s helpful if you take notes as you read (characters-including descriptions, setting-time and place, problem/conflict, outcome/resolution). After our reading, I’ll ask you to answer the following question: What happened in this story?

Ned Guymon’s “Conversation Piece”
(Originally appeared in a 1950 issue of Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine)

“No!”
“Yes.”
“You didn’t!”
“I did.”
“When?”
“Just now.”
“Where?”
“Bedroom.”
“Dead?”
“Yes.”
“Why?”
“You know.”
“I don’t!”
“You do.”
“Unfaithful?”
“Yes.”
“With whom?”
“With you.”
“No!”
“Yes.”
“She didn’t….”
“She did.”
“We didn’t….”
“You did.”
“You knew?”
“I knew.”

“How long?”
“Long enough.”
“What now?”
“Guess.”
“Police?”
“Later.”
“Why later?”
“Guess again.”
“Tell me!”
“Look.”
“Oh, no!”
“Oh, yes.”
“You can’t!”
“I can.”
“Please!”
“Don’t beg.”
“Forgive me!”
“Too late.”
“Good God!”
“Goodbye.”

“Operator?”
“Yes, sir.”
“The police.”