



"YOUR DAY IN COURT" - ACT 2

THE DEFENDANT AND THE CHARGES

Setting: Judge at the bench. Prosecutor at one table; Public Defender and Defendant and another table. Signs "gasp" and "murmuring" to be held up for audience participation at appropriate times

Characters:

Narrator/Bailiff

Judge Righteous (in black judge's robe, with gavel)

Public Defender (socially awkward, blunt, not tactful, doesn't spare feelings)

Defendant Gilda Guilty - wearing orange (as in jail garb)

Extra - to hold up signs to audience

Narrator: Last week, Gilda Guilty met with her public defender and got the news that the state had a strong case against her. She was being charged with 1st degree sin. She learned that the judge who was hearing her case was the best around, just and compassionate. But the prosecutor is notoriously tough and seems to have a personal vendetta against her. The contest in the courtroom will not be pretty, as the prosecutor will be doing everything in his power to destroy Gilda.

Bailiff: All Rise!

(Judge enters)

Bailiff: The Honorable Judge Righteous is presiding. You may be seated. This morning, we are hearing the case of Ms. Gilda Guilty versus the State of Texas.

Judge: Ms Guilty, I've read over this case file, and you've already been sworn in. You have been charged with sinning in the first degree. How do you plead?

Public Defender: We would like to enter a plea of "not guilty" your Honor. *(Prosecutor snorts in derision)*

Judge: Ms. Deville, that is the kind of thing that will put you in contempt of court. Ms. DeVille you may proceed with your opening statement.

Prosecutor: I'm sorry, Your Honor. Thank you, Your Honor. The Defendant, from all accounts, appears to be a kind and loving, law-abiding soccer mom. However, "appears" is the key word. It took very little effort for my investigators to determine her true nature. Ms. Gilda Guilty, Your Honor, has broken every single one of the "big ten" commandments. *("gasp")*

Gilda Guilty: I object!

Public Defender: Shhhh! Sit down!

Prosecutor: Your Honor, I will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Ms. Guilty is indeed wicked, deceitful, a slanderer, selfish and she is a rebellious, adulterous murderer.. (*"murmuring"*)

Judge: Order in the Court!

Gilda Guilty: I object! Counsel is grossly exaggerating...

Public Defender: Shhh! Stop!

Prosecutor: If I may continue, Your Honor, you can see that she is aggressive and violent.

Gilda Guilty: (*hits table*) I AM NOT VIOLENT!!

Judge: (*to Public Defender*) Keep your client under control, or I will hold you in contempt of court.

Gilda Guilty: But those are blatant lies!

Public Defender: We apologize, Your Honor, for these outbursts from my client. It won't happen again. (*looks sternly at Gilda*)

Prosecutor: As I was saying, every law has been broken by this seemingly unassuming individual. I intend to prove to the court that she is not what she seems. It is all a sham. Indeed, she is a sinner, worthy of the death penalty. Thank you Your Honor. (*sits down*)

Gilda Guilty and Public Defender (*no words, but Gilda Guilty is outraged, dying to say something, Public Defender trying to calm her*)

Judge: Thank you. Ms. Fender, do you have an opening statement?

Public Defender: I do, Your Honor. I intend to prove that while my client agrees that she did sin, she had the best of intentions most of the time. Her desire is to be law-abiding and upstanding in her community, and an example of prudence to those around her. The prosecutor is bringing up charges based on hearsay and false reports. I will show the court that she is not deserving of the death penalty, but, in fact, hopes to obtain mercy and a reasonable sentence of community service.

Judge: Ok, Ms. DeVille, do you have any witnesses you wish to call at this time?

Prosecutor: No, Your Honor, I don't. But I would like enter into evidence these documents of record as Exhibit A. I also have recordings and DVDs of Ms. Guilty's activities and thoughts, and her computer which details her browsing history that I would like to enter as Exhibits B through F.

Gilda Guilty: *(whispering)* Where did he get all that?

Public Defender: In this courtroom, all of your activities, seen and unseen, are public record...

Gilda Guilty: Even my thoughts?!! I'm in big trouble.

Ms. DeVille: With this evidence, I can prove without a shadow of a doubt that Ms. Guilty has willfully and knowingly premeditated each and every sin of which she is accused, and not the least of which, she has taken the Lord's name in vain numerous times...

Gilda Guilty: You try driving down Highway 75 at rush hour...

Ms. DeVille: She has had idols in her life

Gilda Guilty: Idols? Like "American Idol"?

Prosecutor: She has worked on Sunday, stolen, had murderous and lustful thoughts, she has spread rumors and coveted. *(refer to folder)* I don't even want to talk about the bad attitudes and idle words that have come out of her mouth. It is all right here in black and white, and I have proof for everything. She does not deserve mercy or leniency, Your Honor. She deserves the harshest punishment that the law allows and demands. The death penalty.

Gilda: What? This is travesty of justice!!

Judge: Your rebuttal, Ms. Fender?

Public Defender: The defense would like to request a continuance based on discovery in order to review and examine evidence relevant to the case as presented by the prosecution.

Judge: I will grant your request. Court will adjourn, and reconvene next Monday night at which time we will hear the testimony. Court adjourned.

Bailiff: All rise! *(Judge leaves)* *(Bailiff releases Public Defender and Defendant)*