



## "YOUR DAY IN COURT" - ACT 3

### EVIDENCE AND DEFENSE

**Setting:** Judge (with gavel) 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's case was presented in court. The prosecutor presented evidence that Gilda had broken every single law at some time in her life, and she had documented evidence to prove it. She is pursuing the death penalty for Gilda. Gilda's public defender hopes to prove that Gilda is mostly a law abiding citizen and is asking for a more reasonable sentence of community service. A continuance was requested, so that evidence could be reviewed by the defense. Today evidence and defense will be presented in court.

**Bailiff:** All Rise! (*Judge enters*)

**Bailiff:** The Honorable Judge Righteous is presiding. You may be seated.

**Bailiff:** Today we're hearing the case of Ms. Gilda Guilty versus the State of Texas. The prosecutor may call her first witness.

**Prosecutor:** I call the defendant, Ms. Gilda Guilty to the stand. (*Gilda steps up to witness stand*)

**Prosecutor:** Good evening, Ms. Guilty. Your Honor, I have here signed affidavits from some of Ms. Guilty's friends from high school. According to these affidavits, on multiple occasions throughout your high school career you were observed being rebellious, in all forms--rebellious to parents, rebellious to school authorities, rebellious of traffic laws...I have their whole list. Would you like me to read the entire list?

**Gilda:** Rebellious? Well sure, I don't argue that. I was a teenager. I'm sure I missed curfew, earned a detention or two...and as far as traffic violations, I will admit I did inherit my father's lead foot. But I was punished for those things and I grew up and learned from those mistakes.

**Prosecutor:** Let's move on. OK, forget high school, let's see (*flipping through papers*) Ms. Guilty, did you, or did you not take the Lord's name in vain on numerous occasions just this year - let's see here--I have documented that there were 20 recorded instances on the 3rd of May alone...Twenty instances! ("*gasp*")

**Gilda:** Wait, wait. But that's the exception--not a habit. There were extenuating circumstances. We were doing some construction on the house, and you know how stressful that can be. It was under my breath anyway. No one was around to hear me.

**Prosecutor:** Ok, Ms. Guilty, we won't belabor that point. Let's move on. I have here multiple charges of "abuse of power." Did you or did you not coerce your children by simply stating "Because I said so?"

**Public Defender:** Objection. Heresay. This is the children's opinion, and not credible fact.

**Judge:** Sustained.

**Prosecutor:** OK, I also have charges of conspiracy to commit gossip, a variety of hate crimes involving friends, neighbors, and coworkers, fraud, tax evasion from 2012, 2015, and 2017.

**Gilda:** I object!

**Judge:** Ms. Guilty, you can't object.

**Gilda:** (*to Defender*) But he's making me look bad. Would you please say something?

**Public Defender:** (*throws hands up in despair*) What can I say???

**Prosecutor:** Your Honor, may I continue? This may take a while. I've just scratched the surface. This is one wicked sinner.

**Judge:** Continue

**Prosecutor:** Where was I? Numerous counts of perjury and falsifying evidence by lying about her weight and age on official documents, attempted manslaughter with a cast iron tortilla maker, attempted poisoning by garlic overdose...("*murmuring*")

**Judge:** Order in the Court! (*hits gavel*)

**Gilda:** Whoa! Hold on--My husband loves garlic! I'm only punishing myself when I give him too much garlic...I'm the victim.

**Judge:** I'm warning you, no more outbursts like that, Ms. Guilty!

**Prosecutor:** (*more aggressive, louder*) And did you, or did you not, aid and abet in fraud and money laundering while overseeing the PTA wrapping paper/cookie dough fund raiser? And did you or did you not aid and abet your complaining girlfriend's rant against her husband?

**Gilda:** (*stuttering*) But, but, I..

**Public Defender:** Your Honor, the prosecution is badgering the witness.

**Prosecutor:** Alright. I can continue reading these pages and pages of documented, verifiable and source-checked charges of very real and very disgraceful crimes. Admittedly, some of these seem minor, but let's cut to the chase. I have at least two counts of first-degree murder and one count of intent to commit adultery. (*"gasp!"*) (*"murmuring"*)

**Judge:** Order in the court! (*hits gavel*)

**Gilda:** No way! It's not true!

**Prosecutor:** State will prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that these crimes were not only committed, but were premeditated and well-planned out.

**Gilda:** No way!

**Judge:** Ms. Guilty, I won't warn you again. Your lawyer will get a turn to present your defense.

**Prosecutor:** Your honor, in regard to the murder charges, I have evidence in the defendant's own handwriting that on two separate occasions Ms. Guilty expressed the desire to kill her mother-in-law. Here it is, from Ms. Guilty's very own journal dated August 23, 2013 "If that woman criticizes my pie crust one more time, I'll kill her." and this one, dated December 28, 2015, she writes "after that embarrassing scene at our Christmas dinner, I'll be glad when I'm rid of that lady." Murderous words.

**Defender:** Objection! Argumentative and misleading.

**Gilda:** You're twisting my words. I was just ready for her to go home. I wasn't going to physically harm her.

**Prosecutor:** (*pulls out the Bible*) Ms. Guilty, let me read the law to you: It clearly states right here, Article 3, Section 15 "Whoever hates her mother-in-law is a murderer."

**Gilda:** Hate's a strong word. Hasn't anyone here ever spent two weeks with their mother-in-law in their home? Two very, very long weeks?

**Prosecutor:** Now, as far as the serious charge of adultery...

**Gilda:** I have never stepped out on Arnold!

**Prosecutor:** Again, your own words, your own handwriting, I quote: "Wow! Bill looked so hot tonight. I couldn't stop staring at him. I hope Arnold didn't notice. I wish Arnold would work out more. Those abs! Those biceps! Can you imagine being with him? Arnold just went to sleep after the party--he's such a bore. If I could have gone home with Bill, we would have enjoyed breakfast at sunrise."

**Gilda:** It was just a fantasy. I know my reality. I love Arnold--he's not perfect. Sure, he's boring, out of shape and doesn't pick up his dirty socks, but he's my boring slob and I love him.

**Prosecutor:** Ms. Guilty, again I refer to the law: "Whoever looks to lust has already committed adultery with him in her heart." Did you or did you not lust after Bill?

**Public Defender:** That calls for a conclusion from the witness.

**Judge:** Sustained.

**Prosecutor:** I withdraw that last question. I will submit this record of sins into the court record as evidence. Your witness, Ms. Fender.

**Public Defender:** Your honor, may I have a quick conference with my client?

**Judge:** Yes, Ms. Fender, but make it quick. The court's time is valuable.

**Public Defender:** These are serious charges, Gilda. It doesn't look good for us. I don't know of any legal way around some of these charges.

**Gilda:** Some of those things were years ago, I was young and immature, I didn't know. He didn't mention any of my volunteer work, or the times I served in the nursery and delivered meals. You have to believe me, I'm a good person. I am more than what is in those files.

**Public Defender:** But here's my question. Is everything he said TRUE?

**Gilda:** Well, kind of, I guess, sort of. It all sounds so much worse the way she says it.

**Public Defender:** We all try to gloss over and justify our sin. But we need to see all those things for what they are: wicked, detestable and evil. Yes. You are a sinner.

**Gilda:** Ok, I'm a sinner. Can we appeal to a higher court?

**Public Defender:** I'm sorry, I'm afraid not. This is the highest court. Judge Righteous presides over the highest court in the land. No one can overturn His rulings. I think the best we can do is an insanity defense and plead for mercy from the Judge.

**Gilda:** Do it! Surely the funny farm has to be a better alternative than jail.

**Public Defender:** Your Honor, the defendant would like to enter a plea of guilty by reason of insanity. (*"murmuring"*)

**Judge:** Order in the Court! (*hits gavel*)

**Prosecutor:** Your Honor, I see no evidence of insanity. There is nothing to indicate Ms. Guilty was not aware of exactly what she was doing.

**Judge:** Alright, after careful consideration and review of all testimony and evidence presented by both sides, my ruling is that Ms. Gilda Guilty is GUILTY of being a sinner in the first degree. Please stand up, Ms. Guilty. (*Gilda stands up*)

**Judge:** Ms. Gilda Guilty, I pronounce you GUILTY of being a sinner in the first degree, a verdict punishable by death. (*"murmuring"*) Order in the Court! (*hits gavel*) The punishment phase of this trial will continue next Monday night, same time, same courtroom.

**Gilda:** All I can do is plead for mercy, Your Honor. I can't change anything. I regret it all. If I would have known that those things were so serious, and that they were being documented.... Can I just say to the court how very sorry I am? My sin is inexcusable.

**Judge:** Your words have been heard. Bailiff, will you take the prisoner to her cell?

**Bailiff:** All rise! (*judge leaves courtroom*). (*Bailiff leads prisoner out.*)

**Narrator:** By her own words, Ms. Guilty was condemned. The evidence against her was insurmountable. Will the Judge have mercy? Or will Gilda be condemned to suffer the just punishment for her crimes?