



“YOUR DAY IN COURT”

PRODUCTION NOTES

Setting: Court setting. Judge (with gavel) at the bench. Prosecutor at one table; Public Defender and Defendant and another table.

Series of four skits; Skit four has two parts, and setting changes.

Characters:

- Narrator/Bailiff (all acts)
- Judge Righteous (acts 2,3 and 4)
- Prosecutor - Ms. DeVille
- Public Defender - (socially awkward, blunt, doesn't spare feelings) (all acts)
- Defendant Gilda Guilty (all acts)
- Extra (only holds up signs to audience)(acts 2 and 3)
- Janitor (act 4, part 2 only)

Costumes:

Judge Righteous is wearing a black robe. We used a graduation robe.

Prosecutor and Public Defender - suit coat

Gilda Guilty - orange prison garb and hand cuffs

Janitor (work clothes)

Props

Gavel, Broom, Files to flip through, Files labeled Exhibits A-F, Two signs; “GASP” and “MURMURING”

Skit Summaries

THE JUDGE AND THE PROSECUTOR

Public defender meets with the defendant to explain how the trial will go. Public defender explains that they have been very lucky with the judge assigned to them, but it's going to be an uphill battle because the prosecutor (district attorney) is notoriously tough

THE DEFENDANT AND THE CHARGES

In the courtroom. Charges are read, the defendant makes her plea, and the prosecutor and public defender make opening statements

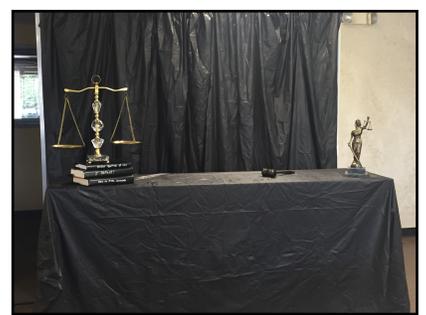
EVIDENCE AND DEFENSE

In the courtroom. Overwhelming evidence is presented, for which there is no adequate defense. Verdict is pronounced.

OUR PARDON AND FREEDOM

Part 1 - In the courtroom. Punishment phase of trial, and the judgment is made. However, someone has stepped up to be a substitute and take the defendant’s punishment by dying in her place. Defendant must accept the pardon offered.

Part 2 - Defendant is still in courtroom; no judge; prosecutor (district attorney) is reading a long list of accusations. Janitor comes by, sweeping up, and is confused to find anyone remaining in the courtroom. The defendant is agonizing over sins which have already been forgiven because Jesus took her punishment on the cross. The janitor points out that inconsistency and takes the accusations to be incinerated. There is no longer any condemnation.





“YOUR DAY IN COURT” – ACT 1

THE JUDGE AND THE PROSECUTOR

Setting: Public defender is meeting with the accused in jail.

Characters:

Narrator/Bailiff

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

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

Open with the defendant in handcuffs, sitting at a small table, dejected

Public Defender walks in, looking at a file, flipping through papers, concerned

Narrator: Gilda Guilty is sitting in the conference room at the Collin County Jail, awaiting her first meeting with the attorney assigned to her case.

Public Defender: *(walks in with folder)* Hello, my name is Debby D. Fender, and I will be your court appointed public defender. And you are *(look at folder)* Gilda R. Guilty?

Gilda Guilty: Everyone calls me “Gilda Guilty.”

Public Defender: Ok, Gilda Guilty, nice to meet you. Let's get started. I've had some time to look over your case, and from what I've read so far, I think we have our work cut out for us.

Gilda Guilty: I can't imagine why that file is so thick. I'm not even clear on why I was arrested and why I'm even here...wearing this. This orange is hideous. I don't know what I am being accused of! Why have I been assigned a public defender? Friday I was at soccer practice with my kids, and all of a sudden the police descended on the soccer field, and I've been sitting in that nasty holding cell all weekend. What is going on?

Public Defender: Well, Miss Gilda Guilty, that's what I'm here to discuss with you. First of all, I was assigned to you because I was told that you are poor and wretched. Apparently you have no means to hire a private attorney, is that right?

Gilda Guilty: *(insulted)* Poor? Wretched? That's a little excessive. I may float a check from time to time, but we get by

Public Defender: I'm not here to judge you. I'm here to help you plan a defense. We need get down to business, because your trial has been scheduled for next week.

Gilda Guilty: A trial? What am I accused of? Tell me, what I am on trial for?

Public Defender: According to these court documents I was given, you have been charged on several counts of possession...with evil intent...criminal mischief...

Gilda Guilty: What are you talking about?

Public Defender: Basically, you’ve been charged with ten counts of first degree sin.

Gilda Guilty: First degree sin? It sounds awful...Isn’t everybody a sinner? I hope I have a jury of my peers. They’ll understand that I may be a sinner, but I’m a good person. I’ve done a lot of good things in my life. Doesn’t that at least balance it out?

Public Defender: I do hope we can come up with a better defense than your good works. And no, there won’t be a jury. Unfortunately, this a non-jury deliberation. Our case will be heard and decided by a judge only. However, I do have good news on that.

Gilda Guilty: Good news? I’ll take any good news...

Public Defender: The judge who will be hearing your case is the best around. His reputation is that He is fair and just, compassionate and merciful. But I have to say, on the other hand, I have heard that He hates sin with a passion. Sin is one of His pet peeves.

Gilda Guilty: Great...that’s the good news?

Public Defender: It is good news, because He takes delight in studying each case on its own merits. He will not jump to conclusions or assume guilt. He will read your file carefully, and will know every detail behind your alleged crimes. And, as I said, He will look on you with compassion and pity, because He knows you are just dust.

Gilda Guilty: Dust? What is happening to my life? I rarely cut in line at carpools, I try not to even take the pen at the bank...and today I’m wretched and poor and dust?

Public Defender: Sorry, I can be a little insensitive. But I do have some bad news, too.

Gilda Guilty: Wait? What you just told me was all the good news?

Public Defender: Trust me, this is the judge you want to have hearing and deciding your case. The bad news is that I am very familiar with this prosecutor, and he has no compassion, he’s notoriously tough and is out for blood. And for some reason, he seems to have a personal vendetta against you.

Gilda Guilty: What have I ever done to him? Does he even know me? Have we met?

Public Defender: I’m just letting you know what I’ve seen in the file. You need to be prepared for a bloody battle in that courtroom. He’s known for bringing to light crimes and sins that you have hidden for a lifetime, maybe even forgotten about, in order to prove his case. He has no scruples--he will lie and deceive and twist your words in order to destroy you. Who knows what witnesses he will find. If you have any skeletons in your closet, I suggest you tell me now.

Gilda Guilty: Skeletons? Like what? Some horrifying, deep dark sin? I have no idea what could be in that file. I’m in the dark here...

Public Defender: Ok, for instance, have you ever cheated in poker on a riverboat on the Mississippi? Have you ever lied when you went to Six Flags about your child’s age? Did you ever purposely interrupt your mom’s TV time with an unnecessary request? Have you ever pictured yourself driving your neighbor’s convertible? Fantasized about Brad Pitt? Lied to your husband? Taken a right on red when it was not allowed? Harbored unforgiveness and bitterness? Talked about your boss behind her back?

Gilda Guilty: What? No! Maybe! Are you serious? Is this seriously happening? Is there a hidden camera here somewhere?

Public Defender: Oh I’m very serious, Ms. Guilty. And your prosecutor will be dead serious. He’s quite the schemer, and he will find anything and everything that can be used against you in a court of law.

Gilda Guilty: I’m doomed. You are planning a defense, right? You’re going to make your best effort to get me off? If it is about money, maybe I could set up a payment schedule.

Public Defender: (*under breath*) Attempted bribery of a public official...delusional... irrational... (*looks up*) Going back to those skeletons, Ms. Guilty...anything like that in your past? In order for me to make a credible defense, you are going to have to tell me everything.

Gilda Guilty: I don’t know of anything I need to confess. I can’t think of anything I have deliberately done to hurt anyone. Yes, I’ve sinned, but they’re minor sins. Any lies I’ve told were little and white. I’ve tried to live a good and honest life. Do you really think they have a case against me?

Public Defender: Well, I’ve just skimmed all this paperwork. But they seem to have plenty of evidence and witness testimony to get a conviction. But I will make every effort to provide the best defense possible under the circumstances. That’s my job.

Gilda Guilty: Remember to bring up that I volunteered at the hospital for three summers when I was a teenager, and that I donated my old car, oh--and I regularly

drop off donations at Goodwill. I even put together a Christmas box last year. Surely that will mean something...

Public Defender: That's not much to build a case on, Gilda. But I will keep digging. Now, you go back to your holding cell. Worrying will not do any good. Try to relax, keep your nose clean, and don't talk to anyone--you never know who may be an informant in here.

Gilda Guilty: Maybe I'll check out some legal books from the prison library. When will I see you again?

Public Defender: I will see you in the courtroom next Monday, and we'll see what shenanigans that prosecutor has up his sleeve. *(both stand and exit)*

Public Defender: *(arm around her)* Hey, it's Monday night, that means steak fingers and gravy in the prison cafeteria.

Gilda: *(Sighs and hangs head in defeat as she leaves)*

Narrator: Is Gilda truly guilty of first-degree sin? Will there be enough evidence to convict her? What does the Prosecutor have on her?



“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.

Characters:

Narrator/Bailiff

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

Prosecutor - Ms. DeVille

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.

Prosecutor: 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...

Prosecutor: 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)*



“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)

Prosecutor

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. Here-say. 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?



“YOUR DAY IN COURT” – ACT 4 OUR PARDON AND FREEDOM (Part 1)

Setting: Judge (with gavel) at the bench. Prosecutor at one table; Public Defender and Defendant and another table.

Characters:

Narrator/Bailiff

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

Prosecutor

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

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

Narrator: Last week, Gilda Guilty was found guilty of being a sinner in the first degree, despite her arguments and excuses to the contrary. Tonight, court is reconvening for the punishment phase of her trial.

Bailiff: All Rise! *(Judge enters)*

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

Judge: Today is the punishment phase for the case of Ms. Gilda Guilty versus the State of Texas. This court has found her guilty of being a first degree sinner, which carries with it a punishment of death with no possibility of prison, parole or dismissal.

Gilda: *(turns to her Defender)* Oh, no. I don't think I can hear this. I'm afraid. *(crying)*

Judge: However, it has come to the court's attention that someone has come forward and offered His life as a substitute for Ms. Guilty. He has offered to take upon Himself fully all of her sin and forthcoming punishment.

Gilda: What? Who?

Public Defender: What? I've never heard of such a thing in a court of law. Is this legal?

Gilda: Shhh! Let the judge finish:

Defender: Permission to approach the bench, Your Honor. *(judge motions them to the bench)*. Your honor, I've never heard of this before.

Prosecutor: Finally we agree on something. Ms. Guilty is undeniably guilty of this charge. I’m not aware of any precedent for a substitution like this.

Defender: I’m a little surprised as well. But speaking for my client, we are open to hearing more.

Judge: Atonement has been made and accepted in prior cases. But you are right that this is a unique offer. So, if it’s okay with you ladies, I’d like to continue. Please return to your seats. (*everyone sits down*) As I was about to say, the party has made the offer to take Ms. Guilty’s sin and shame upon Himself.

Gilda: But why would He do that?

Judge: Apparently, He loves you and is willing to demonstrate that great love by dying in your place.

Gilda: Wow! What would I need to do? This is unbelievable. I don’t deserve it. Who is this person that would do such a great thing for me?

Judge: His name is Jesus. His death fulfills the righteous requirement of the law. He loves you so much and is rich in mercy. He wants you to live free of sin and guilt rather than face the eternal penalty of sin. No, you don’t deserve it, you were judged guilty before this court. But according to the law, IF you accept His offer, it is legal and binding and I then can offer you a full pardon.

Gilda: A full pardon!! Like...I just go home and live my life?

Judge: Yes, the court will set you free, not to go back to your old life, but to live a better life...an abundant life.

Public Defender: We accept the court’s offer.

Gilda: Yes! I accept! I accept! Thank you! Thank you! What a relief!

Judge: With your acceptance, I am signing this document of pardon. This document forgives you, the sinner, of sin in the first degree that you were convicted of, and restores you who were dead in trespasses and sin to life abundant. Furthermore, you should be aware of the term “double jeopardy” which states that you cannot be tried again on these charges.

Gilda: So you’re saying I can just walk out of this courtroom, and all those accusation are behind me?

Judge: Not just behind you, Ms. Guilty. They are gone as far as the east is from the west. You are free to go, Ms. Guilty. I won’t see you in this courtroom again.

(Gilda emotional, hugging, crying, everyone shaking hands)

Prosecutor: *(to Gilda) (not happy)* You deserved death. You are very lucky, and just so you know, I don't like to lose. I'm not done with you, and I'm not going to forget your sins. You'll be hearing from me--this was just a technicality. *(storms out)*

Narrator: Gilda Guilty has been pardoned from her sin, and that not of herself, it was a gift. She didn't earn it, her good works didn't sway the judge, and she certainly didn't deserve it. But nonetheless, Jesus, commending His love toward Gilda while she was still a sinner, gladly stepped in to die in her place, and Gilda wisely accepted His amazing offer. How will Gilda's life change? Will she still wear orange? Will she remember to be grateful for the great forgiveness she so freely received? Will she impart the grace she has received on her mother-in-law, poor Arnold, and others in her life?



“YOUR DAY IN COURT” – ACT 4 OUR PARDON AND FREEDOM (Part 2)

Setting: Prosecutor sitting at desk, reading from his file. Gilda sitting at her table, head in her hands. Janitor with broom to arrive.

Characters:

Narrator/Bailiff

Prosecutor

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

Janitor - with broom

Narrator: In court earlier today, in an unexpected turn of events, Gilda Guilty was informed that someone had come forward and offered His life as a substitute for Ms. Guilty, taking upon Himself all of her sin and forthcoming punishment. If Gilda accepted His offer, she would be considered pardoned and was free to go. Of course, Gilda jumped at the chance and accepted His offer. However, the prosecutor did not like losing the case, and promised to continue to pursue her conviction. He did not even leave the courtroom after the end of the trial...

Prosecutor: (*reading charges*); *As he reads, Gilda responds as below*

- June 3, 1986, Gilda hits her little brother after not sharing her toys
- June 5, 1986, Gilda deliberately disobeys when her mom instructs her to clean her room
- September 12, 1991, Gilda cheats on a spelling test
- October 5, 1995, Gilda lies to her mom about where she and her friends are going
- November 10, 1996, Gilda lies about her age and goes to a “R” rated movie
- Thanksgiving, 1998 Gilda left the Thanksgiving table insulted and angry
- Christmas 2002 - Gilda buys her mom the shoes she herself wanted so that she can borrow them
- April 5, 2003 - Gilda realized she wasn’t charged for the water bottles in the bottom of her cart and didn’t go back to pay what was owed
- July 5, 2005 - Gilda lied told the panhandler she had no money
- September 12, 2010 - Gilda blamed her husband for overdrawn bank account
- Feb. 2, 2015 - Gilda gossiped about her two best friends in order to look good herself
- June 17, 2018 - Gilda roasted the pastor after his Sunday sermon

Gilda: (*responding to the various charges*)

- He deserved that!
- That was so long ago!
- I needed a good grade on that test!
- I just really wanted to go!
- It was a good movie with only a few bad words!

- Anyone would have reacted to that!
- I was just being thrifty!
- It was the cashier's fault--I didn't try to hide it from her
- He would have just bought alcohol
- That was during an emotional time of the month
- You don't know my side of the story
- Everyone was doing it!

Janitor arrives, sweeping up, and looks surprised. prosecutor leaves, but leaves his stack of papers

Janitor: (to Gilda) What are you doing here? The courtroom is closed. The judge went home hours ago. There is no more condemnation. Look around--there's no one here condemning you. You're the only one here.

Gilda: I know. I wanted to leave. The judge told me I was free to leave, but I keep hearing my list of sins. I feel so bad. I was guilty, and I can't let go of the guilt and shame. I'm afraid it will never end for me.

Janitor: Wait just a second. I'm pretty sure I heard that you were that terrible sinner who was pardoned.

Gilda: I am that terrible sinner.

Janitor: You know what that means, right? A pardon means that you are free and absolved of that conviction, as if you were never convicted. The court no longer remembers or has record of your sin.

Gilda: Well, I do have a pardon, but I know what I did. I deserve to be punished. I can't get the Prosecutor's voice out of my head; he harasses me constantly, reminding me of all my sins and failures. His accusations are all true.

Janitor: But he is a known liar!

Gilda: No, what he is saying is all true. I hear the list of charges over and over, and there are hundreds of sins he hasn't even mentioned yet--and I did them all. I have regrets, but I did them.

Janitor: Maybe the accusations are true, but apparently he is deceiving you about your pardon. You are free and clear, as if you never sinned. Why in the world are you still here listening to him? Go home. That's what I plan to do after my shift is over. This is my last room to clean tonight. Look at this mess! All these accusations--they're trash now. I'm going to incinerate these, and you shouldn't listen again to any of these accusations ever again. You should be focusing on the One who paid the price for your