

THE TRIAL OF THE PRODIGALS SON

Setting - Courtroom, 1978, Charges have been laid against the (son) by his brother. The Crown Attorney will attempt to show the guilt of the accused. The Defense Lawyer will attempt to show the witnesses as being as much at fault as the (son). The father of the (son) will be the last witness, He will be a witness for the defense and will bring the case to a close.

Characters: Judge Law - be the judge

Crown Attorney - call upon own witnesses, interrogate them

Roni
Susan Sweet - girl of the streets, lived with defendant for quite a while when he had money.

Billy Bacon - Pig farmer, has been cruel to animals in past.

Sam Shark - Gambler, played often with defendant, last game involved a brawl.

Leroy Rogers - The accused, Son of Ron Rogers, brother to Ron Rogers Junior. Has squandered a whole inheritance.

Defense Lawyer - Tries to make the witnesses of the Crown be as guilty as his client.

Ron Rogers - Father of defendant.

Ron Rogers Jr. - Jealous, despises brother and his actions, seemingly doesn't really care about father.

Scene opens with Defense and accused in place and Crown Attorney in his place. Everyone to rise as Judge enters and takes his place, calling upon Crown to bring up the first case.

Crown: This case Leroy Rogers, called to stand before Judge, while are read. This man is charged with Deceit, causing his father to give him the inheritance he wouldn't have gotten until his father had died, cruelty to animals, adultery living with another mans wife, gambling, public disturbance, dontributing to juvenile deliquency, buying drinks for minors.

We intend to prove beyond doubt this man is guilty and should be given the death penalty or put away for life.

Judge: You have heard the charges against you, it is a serious matter, How do you plead.

Accused: "Guilty, your honour."

Judge: Very well, we will continue this trial to determine the guilt and penalty prescribed.

Take your seat and the Crown will call his first witness.

Crown: Call Susan Sweet to the stand.

Raise right hand and promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Susan: "I do"

Crown: You know the defendant, Leroy Rogers!

Susan: Yes, I do

Crown: Please tell this court of your relationship to this man.

Susan Sweet: I work in the Sourdough Hotel. I've been there almost a year. I work in the bar serving the customers. A few months ago, this man came in, a complete stranger, flash-ing a lot of money and well dressed and took an interest in me. We went out a few times and he told he loved me, promised me a good time and a good life. He looked good, he seemed sincere and I believed him. I moved in with him with the understanding that someday soon we'd get married. The creep, just wanted to use me. He started drinking heavy and coming in and beating me, causing problems at my work and even in the end was trying to get me to support him. he was always drunk and having affairs with other women as well. He's a no good scum.

Crown: Did he keep any promises to you?

Susan Sweet: No. He promised me good living and kept me in a dump of an apartment, he promised to love me and he beat me, he promised me good times and gave me misery.

Crown: Did he take advantage of your goodness?

Susan Sweet: Yes. He even ruined my name around the town.

Crown: No further questions!

Defense: Would you say you know the defendant very well?

Susan Sweet: Yes.

Defense: Is it not true that you lived with this man in a rented house from May till July, in the town of Paprika, 218 Lost Street. You acted as his wife and in fact are now carrying his child, and you have a husband by the name of Hosea who is still wanting to be re-united to you.

Susan Sweet: No!!!

Defense: Is it also not true that this isn't the first man you have taken up residence with, but there have been many others. Some I can bring into this court to verify what I have said and also your husband is here who I could bring onto the stand. Remember, you are not or trial, though I feel you should be.

Crown: "I object"

Judge: Carried, Defense, be careful how you are phrasing your words.

Defense: Remember what you say is not held against you. If I feel you are lying I will charge you with perjury. Therefore, did you not live with him, pretend willing you were his wife, accept many gifts he gave you and entice him into making a down payment on a house, in you name.

Susan Sweet: Yes, it's all true.

Defense: No further questions.

Judge: You may step down.

Crown, you may call your next witness.

Crown: We call Billy Bacon to the stand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Billy: "I do"

Crown: Mr. Bacon. You know the accused I believe and he at one time worked for you.

Billy: Yes, that is correct, the no good scoundrel.

Defense: "I object" making insinuations against my client.

Crown: Mr. Bacon, will you tell us about your association with the accused, Mr. Rogers Jr.

Mr. Bacon: (he goes on to tell how Leroy was caught on more than one occasion of eating the pigs food and not caring for them properly)

Crown: Is it not true he never gave them any clean straw but slept in it himself, leaving them outside, while he had the comforts of the barn.

Billy Bacon: Yes this is all true.

Crown: No more questions.

Defense: Mr. Billy Bacon. You have a farm 2 miles from Paprika.

Actually its a shed and a hut on 1 acre of land, you have pigs, goats, cows, horses and 7 dogs. You have been in front of this court yearself because of the cruel ways you treat your animals, and many of your animals have never been properly fed. There is an investigation going on this very day at your farm, to see the inhumane manner you are raising your animals. You have been like this for at least the last 4 years, long before my client ever went to ask you for work. You offered him no money, only the shed with the animals and any food he could find. Is this not true.

Billy: Yes, this is true.

Defense: No more questions.

NOTE: MR. BILLY BACON IS A HARD TYPE OF PERSON, HE TRIES TO MAKE HIMSELF FEEL BETTER BY FINDING HIS FAULTS IN OTHERS.

remember!!! the crown makes the accused seem guilty, the defence makes the witness just as guilty.

Judge: Thank you, step down, call next witness.

Crown: I'd like to call Sam Shark. Do you swear, etc.

Mr. Shark, you are also familiar with the accused, you have as I understand it, been closely associated with him over the past few months. I understand you are a professional gambler very well known in your circles as a gentleman and a pleasant person to be with. Would you tell us about your association with the accused here, beginning with when you met and what the following events were.

Sam Shark: (Goes on to tell how one night playing with the boys, this dude comes in, flashing money and wanting to take part in the games. He won at first then began to lose and left. He came in many nights, hardly missed any and became a well known loser and drunk. Accused Sam of cheating on many occasions, started more than one fight and was often evicted from the "Den". He was caught getting liquor for young people not old enough to enter the Den and sold it at a high price to them, to make money for himself.)

Crown: No further questions.

Defense: Sam Shark you also practice magic and witchcraft. You have according to my information, spent 3 years in jail for attempted murder, you are divorced and living with a young girl, many people have accused you of cheating, some who are here today and they have met with serious accidents after, you are jealous man and my client took the girl you wanted, you also are to appear in this court very shortly on a charge of indecent assault and there are no less than 3 families living in the poor house because you took their money through gambling. You can be sure I have witnesses to back up what I've said. Also, I have witnesses to say you provoked my client into fights, you openly stole from him while he was drunk and you have caused him to be scarred for life by a knife wound across his back. He has the scar and I have witnesses. He never charged you because he owed you money and he is afraid of you. Isn't this all true.

Sam Shark: Yes, it is true.

Defense: No further questions.

Judge: You may step down, next witness please.

Crown: Call Ron Rogers Junior... Do you promise to tell the truth...

Crown: Mr. Rogers, you are the brother of the accused, you live with your father on the double "R" farm and actually own a part of that farm with your father. You have worked on this farm for many years and have been manipulated out of things that are rightfully yours. Could you tell this court your situation.

Ron Rogers Junior: goes on to tell how younger brother from early age was the favoured. He used to lie to his dad a lot and he always got away with it, he used to get his brother in trouble by doing things and blaming him. The straw really was broken when he told father he wanted half the estate or whatever he would get when dad died because he wanted to make it on his own and the prospects were good for investment and later on they might not be. He went and threw away all he had, wasted and squandered, came crawling home with a sob story he would even be a servant, but dad gave him a new car, threw a big welcome home party and told him he was still his son. I'm the one who should have what's left and not have it shared with him. I've worked hard, I've never run around, I've built up this farm and I want what is mine. Dad never threw a party or even gave me a birthday party.

Crown: Thank you, that's all, your witness.

Defense: "You don't like your brother, do you?"

Junior: "No..!"

Defense: "That's all" "No more questions."

Judge: You may step down, next witness.

Crown: That's all the witnesses your honour, the crown rests.

Judge: Defense council, do you wish to call any witnesses?

Defense: Yes your honour, I'd like to call the accused father, Mr. Ron Rogers Senior.

Defense: Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Mr. Rogers, the accused man before you is indeed your youngest son. You have heard today many things about his life, perhaps things you may or may not have known. He certainly has fallen into bad ways and done wrong things either through his own faults or because of the encouragement of others. It seems he has terribly upset his brother, to have this matter come to court. Your son has been a victim of circumstances and has been framed in some of the accusations brought against him. The person who has really been hurt and taken advantage of in all this, seems to have been you. You have been embarrassed by being brought to this court, the farm is yours, until you die to do with as you wish and your son has certainly wasted a big portion of it. He has most assuredly disappointed you greatly. Sir: This whole case really rests upon your testimony. Have you anything to say?

Mr. Ron Rogers Sr.: Sir; my wife died many years ago and I have tried to raise my sons. I thought I had been as fair to both as I could without showing favouritism. Neither of my sons ever had a birthday party because I didn't know what to do, they never asked and I made sure they had a nice gift on that occasion. Everything I have now will go to my son Ron Junior when I die. He is a good son, selfish and spiteful. ~~But~~ ~~still~~ ~~is~~ ~~good~~ ~~boy~~. Leroy has on many occasions caused me grief, but I still love him also. It is not normal to make such a request as he did, but, since he asked I gave him what he would eventually be getting anyhow. I had faith in the lad that he might make good. He is not really a bad boy. He has always wanted to do the right thing but has made some bad judgements, particularly

in choosing his friends. When I saw him coming down the road my heart leaped into my throat, I was so happy because he had come back. He is my son and I treated him as such. His actions didn't change our relationship. I love both my sons. I want this court to know I forgive Junior for his attitude toward my actions and for Leroy, I forgive him too.

Defense: Thank you, no further questions.

Crown: No questions.

Judge: Mr. Rogers you may step down, and Leroy Rogers come stand before me. ... Young man, the one you have truly sinned against has forgiven you. This court has no jurisdiction over an action of love such as this. Because he forgives, so also must we, you are free.

CASE CLOSES WITH PARTICIPANTS LEAVING THE SCENE QUIETLY.