

R. v. Madam Evilyn

A One Act Play
Approximate running time: 1 Hour
Law Clerks 2010-11

Cast of Characters:

Speaking parts:

Witnesses	Crown Lawyers	Defence Lawyers	Court Personnel
Cinderella	Crown Counsel 1 ("CC1")	Defence Counsel 1 ("DC1")	Judge ("J")
Fairlene "Fairy" Gottmutter ("FG")	Crown Counsel 2 ("CC2")	Defence Counsel 2 ("DC2")	Court Clerk ("C")
Prince Charming ("PC")	Crown Counsel 3 ("CC3")	Defence Counsel 3 ("DC3")	Sheriff ("Sheriff")
Anistasia Evilyn ("Ani")			Jury Foreperson
Drizella Evilyn ("Driz")			
The Evil Stepmother – Madam Evilyn			
The Butler -- Mr. Alfred Smithers			

11 jury members - non-speaking

Note: No gavels in Canadian courtrooms!

Character Descriptions:

Cinderella: Cinderella is a sweet and caring person. Now that she is a princess, she is well put-together, but does not flaunt her new status in attire or in personality. She has a brilliant singing voice and excels in everything she does. She gives away her emotions

quite easily -- visibly sad about the loss of her father and happily in love with the Prince. She doesn't like conflict and is terrified of her stepmother.

Fairlene "Fairy" Gottmutter: Fairlene is a flamboyant, kooky and dynamic woman with hippy roots. Consider her the "crazy aunt" and/or "artsy" neighbour. She visibly cares very much for Cinderella and is very protective of her. She's getting on in her years.

Prince Charming: The Prince presents himself as conceited and snobby, but a little sweet underneath - especially when speaking about Cinderella, which generally involves singing "baby, baby, baby". When the Prince sings, everyone swoons, including the court staff and lawyers! He likes to flaunt his status whenever possible.

Ugly Step Sisters -- Anastasia & Drizella ("SS"): Cinderella's ugly stepsisters are, in this version, twins. They are terribly awkward, bicker about everything and are endlessly annoying. They are pretty much the snobbiest girls at school. They stick close to each other at all times, like glue.

The Stepmother – Madam Evilyn (pronounced "EVIL-IN"): Madam Evilyn is a calm, ice-cold woman. She walks smoothly, has excellent posture and is very well put-together. Her mannerisms, facial expressions and voice do not give away any emotion. She is aware that Smithers is in love with her, and though she tries not to show it, she has feelings for him too. She adores her two daughters, and despises Cinderella, but tries not to show it.

The Butler -- Mr. Alfred Smithers: Smithers is the typical prim-and-proper English butler and dresses the part. He seems pretty normal, except that he has one big secret: he's madly in love with Madam Evilyn!

Stage Set-up:

The court clerk usually sits at the desk in front of the judge. The judge will be in the centre of the stage. The witness box will be located to one side of the judge, with the counsel's lectern located on the opposite side. The positioning of the characters and the set will change depending on the size of the stage. The accused, Stepmother, does not sit with her lawyers, but to the side with the sheriff.

Lights up, all characters in place as mentioned above

[Court Clerk]: Order in Court.

Everyone stands as Judge enters the courtroom

[Court Clerk]: In the Supreme Court of British Columbia at
[INSERT OTHER REGISTRIES/Vancouver]
this [first/23rd/etc.] day of [month],

___[year]___, calling Her Majesty the Queen against Madam Evilyn.

[Judge]: You may be seated.

Everyone sits except the clerk

[Judge]: Are all parties present?

All Crown stand

[Crown Counsel 1]: Yes My Lord/Lady. I am ___[name]___ and these are my friends ___[name]___ and ___[name]___. We are acting on behalf of the Crown in this matter.

Crown sits; Defence stands

[DD1]: My Lord/Lady. I am ___[name]___ and these are my friends ___[name]___ and ___[name]___. We are acting on behalf of the accused, Madame Evilyn, Cinderella's stepmother. That's spelt E-V-I-L [pause] Y-N.

Defence sits

[Court Clerk]: Will the accused please stand?

Clerk, defence, and Stepmother stand

[Court Clerk]: Madam Evilyn, you are charged with two offences. The first - that between the dates of 2005 and 2008, you did unlawfully exploit Cinderella. Madam Evilyn, how do you plead on the first count?

[Madam Evilyn]: Not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: Madam Evilyn, you are also charged with a second offence - that on the date of September 19, 2008, you did forcibly confine Cinderella. Madam Evilyn, how do you plead?

[Madam Evilyn]: Not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: [turning to judge] The accused pleads not guilty to both counts, My Lady/Lord.

[Judge]: Alright then. Are counsel ready to proceed with this trial?

[Crown Counsel 1 / Defense Counsel 1]: (In turn, Crown speaking first) Yes My Lady/My Lord.

[Judge]: I will just take a moment to address the jury. [*turns to jury*] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Before beginning this trial, I am going to make a few comments about your role here today. As the judge in this case, it is my role to interpret and judge the law. As the jury, you are the judges of the facts and it is your duty to assess the evidence that is presented by the witnesses today.

There are two other principles that are important to your role as jurors. They are the presumption of innocence and the requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Madam Evilyn is presumed to be innocent until the Crown has satisfied you beyond a reasonable doubt that she is guilty. The responsibility is on the Crown to prove each element of the crime Madam Evilyn has been charged with beyond a reasonable doubt. Because of the presumption of innocence, Madam Evilyn is not required to prove she is not guilty or to explain the evidence presented by the Crown.

Madam Evilyn is charged with two crimes.

In order for you to find her guilty of unlawful exploitation under s. 279.04 of the Criminal Code, the Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- that the accused did, between 2005 and 2008, cause the complainant, Cinderella, to provide labour or services;
- that providing such labour or services was done against Cinderella's will; and
- that in causing Cinderella to do labour, the accused led Cinderella to reasonably believe that her safety or the safety of a person known to her

would be threatened if she failed to provide the labour or services.

I note to you that she has to have “reasonably believed” that her safety or the safety of a person known to her was threatened - this means the Crown has to show that a reasonable person (not necessarily Cinderella herself), would fear for their safety or that of someone they know.

In order for you to find Madam Evilyn guilty of forcible confinement under s. 279(2) of the Criminal Code, the Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- that on or about Sept 18, 2008, Madam Evilyn confined, imprisoned, or forcibly seized Cinderella;
- that she intended to confine, imprison, or forcibly seize Cinderella; and
- that she did so without lawful authority.

I note to you that the legal definition of forcible confinement does not require total physical restraint of the victim. What it does require is an intentional deprivation of liberty to move about.

These charges are not related to each other; you may find that the accused is guilty of both offences, neither offence, or just one offence.

I will discuss these matters with you further in my charge to you after the Crown and defence have had their opportunity to present their cases.

I now call the Crown to begin their case.

CC1 stands and goes to lectern

[Crown Counsel 1]:

Members of the jury, myself and my colleagues seated with me represent the Crown in the matter before you. I will keep our opening very brief.

We intend to call several witnesses to testify before you to prove that the accused—The Evil Stepmother, aka Madam Evilyn— did between the dates of 2005 and 2008, unlawfully exploit

Cinderella, and did on the date of Sept 19, 2008, forcibly confine Cinderella.

At the end of this trial, we will ask you to return a verdict that the accused, Madam Evilyn, is guilty of both unlawful exploitation and forcible confinement.

Thank you.

[Judge]: Is the Crown ready to call its first witness?

[Crown Counsel 1]: Yes, thank you my Lord/Lady. [*Approaches lectern*] The Crown calls Cinderella to the stand.

Cinderella enters from offstage and goes to witness box

[Court Clerk]: Would you like to affirm or swear an oath?

[Cinderella]: Swear.

[Clerk]: Take the Bible in your right hand. [*pause as witness does so*] Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[Cinderella]: I do.

[Clerk]: Please state your full name for the record.

[Cinderella]: My name is Cinderella.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And your last name?

[Cinderella]: No. Just Cinderella – like Beyonce, or Rihanna.

[Crown Counsel 1]: How old are you now?

[Cinderella]: 19.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And what do you do for a living, Cinderella?

[Cinderella]: I'm a princess.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Do you have job?

[W]: No. Princesses don't work. But I do dedicate a lot of time to volunteering.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Where do you volunteer?

[Cinderella]: At the animal shelter – I give the animals voice lessons.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Where do you currently live?

[Cinderella]: At the Burnaby Palace.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Have you always lived there?

[Cinderella]: No, I grew up with my stepmother and my two stepsisters in a house in Burnaby.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And that is in Burnaby, BC, Canada?

[Cinderella]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Do you see your stepmother in the room today?

[Cinderella]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Describe for the court where she is sitting and what she's wearing.

[Cinderella]: *[Points and describes.]*

[Crown Counsel 1]: How old were you when your stepmother moved in?

[Cinderella]: 12.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And you mentioned you grew up with your two stepsisters; did they also move in at this time?

[Cinderella]: Yes, they moved in with my stepmother.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Can you describe for the court what it was like when they moved in?

[Cinderella]: I was excited at first, because I was an only child and I wanted big sisters. They had cool clothes and cool friends, and I wouldn't be so lonely anymore. But after a little while I guess I wasn't cool enough for them.

They did their own thing. My stepmother wasn't very nice to me and I didn't like her very much. She gave us all chores, but I had more than anyone else, and pretty soon I was doing all of my stepsisters' work too. I did all the cleaning, and didn't get to play piano or take singing lessons like the other girls. I was alone a lot, and wasn't allowed to go out much.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What about your father? Was he at home with you?

[Cinderella]: [*Sad*] Yes, he lived with us until he died in 2005.

[Crown Counsel 1]:
[*Passes a paper up to Cinderella.*] You mentioned that you did a lot of chores. Do you recognize this document Cinderella?

[Cinderella]: [*Takes exhibit*] Yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: My Lord/Lady, I'd like to enter this as Exhibit #1.

[Judge]: Any objections?

[Defence Counsel 1]: No, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Clerk, please mark this as exhibit #1

[Crown Counsel 1]: Can you tell me about the document?

[Cinderella]: This is the chores list. I didn't have to do all of these in the beginning – we all had to. That was how Dad liked it. But after he died, I did it all. I had to clean the floors, the blinds, the windows. I cleaned out the stables, where I spent a lot of time with the animals. I also had to do anything else that needed to be done around the house to clean and organize. I cooked a lot of the meals, and brought everyone else their meals, tea and cookies.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What did your stepsisters have to do for chores?

[Cinderella]: Clean their rooms and do their laundry, in the beginning, but that didn't last long once Dad died; then I had to do everything.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What would happen if you didn't do your chores?

[Cinderella]: At first my stepmother took away my piano lessons, and then any other fun activities. Then I got so busy with chores that I just didn't have time for anything other than work. And sometimes I would be shut up in my room.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What do you mean by "shut up"?

[Cinderella]: I wasn't allowed to leave, and I couldn't get the door open. I wouldn't have been able to climb out of the window – it was too high. Oh, and I wouldn't get to eat dinner with the family.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Who made that dinner?

[Cinderella]: Most of the time it was me.

[Crown Counsel 1]: At what point would you be allowed out of your room?

[Cinderella]: Only when there was more work to do, like clean up after dinner.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And what did you usually eat for dinner?

[Cinderella]: Whatever was left over – although there weren't often leftovers.

[Crown Counsel 1]: How often did you get to leave the house?

[Cinderella]: Never [*surprised*].

[Crown Counsel 1]: Never?

[Cinderella]: Not often – in the evenings I wasn't allowed out anyways.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Never to the movies, or anything?

[Cinderella]: Never. Before moving to the palace, I hadn't seen a movie in years! Not in the theaters, not on TV, not even on YouTube.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Well, what about seeing your friends?

[Cinderella]: My only friends were the mice and the birds.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What about school?

[Cinderella]: I had some school books at home, but with all my work I didn't have time to go to school. I guess you could say I was home-schooled.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What else can you tell me about your interactions with your stepmother?

[Cinderella]: She has never really liked me – I've never been a daughter to her. And she's scary, because every time I didn't do something the way she wanted me to, she shut me in my room. She was evil – a witch. She scared me.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Objection! The witness is not qualified to call the accused a witch! The witness is offering opinion evidence.

[Judge]: I'll allow the objection. Cinderella, please limit your answers to things that you yourself witnessed or heard, and do not provide your opinions.

[Cinderella]: Okay, well, she was controlling and demanding and she terrified me. I knew that if I didn't do everything she said, terrible things would happen to me.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What kind of things?

[Cinderella] (to Judge): Can I give an example?

[Judge]: Go ahead.

[Cinderella]: One day I had to clean all the windows in the front hall. It was pretty dark that day, so I thought I'd cleaned it all perfectly. The next day was sunny, and you could see one streak on one window. I spent the day in my room, and didn't get to eat anything all day, and then she made me re-clean all the windows – and she said if I didn't do it "right" this time, things would go a lot worse for me. She said my life wasn't hard – but she could make it hard.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Were there any other instances when she made threats?

[Defence Counsel 1]: Objection. The crown's misstating the evidence. The witness never used the word threat.

[Cinderella]: But she did threaten me! And she said she'd feed the mice to Vicious, the cat!

[Judge]: Alright counsel. I'll allow it this once. But please watch how you phrase your questions.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Is there anything else you want to add about living in the house?

[Cinderella]: My stepmother encouraged my stepsisters to be mean to me, to leave their rooms messy so I'd have to clean them. They teased me endlessly and bullied me. She never did anything to stop them.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did anyone ever strike you or harm you physically?

[Cinderella]: My stepsisters hit me, and pulled my hair, and ripped my clothes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What about your stepmother?

[Cinderella]: She threatened to – she lifted the broomstick at me and swung it threateningly.

[Crown Counsel 1]: I'd like to direct your attention now to the date of the homecoming ball – September 18, 2008. Do you recall that date?

[Cinderella]: Yes, of course!

[Crown Counsel 1]: What is remarkable about that day?

[Cinderella]: [*Dreamily*] That was the day I met my husband. That was the day of homecoming.

[Crown Counsel 1]: How did you find out about homecoming?

[Cinderella]: Well the day before, a man came to the door with a gold envelope. I brought it straight to my stepmother, because she would get really angry at me if I opened any mail. She opened it, and it was an invitation to the homecoming.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Do you recognize this letter?

[Cinderella]: This is the invitation to homecoming.

[Crown Counsel 1]: My lord/lady, I would like this exhibit tendered as exhibit # 2.

[Judge]: Any objections?

[Defence Counsel 1]: No, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Clerk, please mark this as exhibit #2

[Crown Counsel 1]: *[introduces exhibit]* What does the invitation say?

[Cinderella]: *[Reading]* All eligible bachelorettes between 16 and 21 are required to attend the prince's inaugural homecoming ball. *[to CC1]* And that includes me – and I got really excited, because I would get to be allowed out of the house for the first time in four years. My stepmother said my stepsisters needed new dresses, so they decided to go to Metrotown to shop for clothes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did you go too?

[Cinderella]: No, I wasn't allowed to go, because my stepmother gave me, like, twice as many chores to do as usual. Then when they got back from Metrotown, I had to do alterations to my stepsisters' dresses. I still didn't have a dress to wear, so I used my mother's old dress and the scraps from the stepsisters' dresses to make my own dress.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And did you get the dress done in time?

[Cinderella]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What about your chores?

[Cinderella]: I got them all done too.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What happened next?

[Cinderella]: The limo came at 7:00 p.m. I came downstairs in my dress, and they all looked at me, and then Drizella screamed at me and freaked out, and then both of them started ripping my dress apart.

[Crown Counsel 1]: How did your stepmother respond to this?

[Cinderella]: She didn't do anything to stop them. She just left, and my stepsisters followed her. They locked the door from the outside, locking me in the house.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What did you do then?

[Cinderella]: There was nothing I could do.

[Crown Counsel 1]: So, what happened next?

[Cinderella]: I was crying and my mice were there to comfort me. And then out of nowhere, my fairy godmother appeared!

[Crown Counsel 1]: What did she do?

[Cinderella]: She said she could make sure I could get to the ball – she had a beautiful dress for me, and the cutest little glass shoes, and an SUV limo pulled up and the doors to the house just burst open, and I got to go to the ball.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What happened at the ball?

[Cinderella]: Well, there were loads of people there, and everyone was meeting the prince. Then I came down the steps, and the crowd just parted, and he saw me.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What happened next?

[Cinderella]: It was love at first sight and he started singing... [*singing*] "Baby, Baby, Baby". He walked right up to me. I couldn't believe that he was in front of me, asking me to go to the patio to dance. That voice. It's magical. We danced the night away.

[Crown Counsel 1]: When did you leave?

[Cinderella]: All of a sudden I caught sight of my stepsisters, and I freaked because I thought they would tell on me, so I just raced out. I lost a shoe, and when I got home I just threw myself on the bed and cried myself to sleep.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What happened the next morning?

[Cinderella]: When I woke up, my door was locked. It's not normally locked when I wake up, so I banged on the door trying to get out. My stepmother came to the door and told me I was being punished and had to stay in my room.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Were you able to leave the room at any point?

[Cinderella]: Well, I kept trying to open the door, and it wouldn't and then I heard it unlock, so I tried it and it opened.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Do you know who unlocked it?

[Cinderella]: No, it was just suddenly open.

[Crown Counsel 1]: At what time did it open?

[Cinderella]: I saw when I left my room that it was 5:00 in the evening.

[Crown Counsel 1]: What happened next?

[Cinderella]: I heard glass shatter and a man's voice saying "there goes my last chance at finding my true love," and I grabbed the other shoe and I went downstairs, and the prince was there with pieces of broken glass all around him. He knew it was me right away, I showed him my shoe, and it fit, and then we just lived happily ever after.

[Crown Counsel 1]: No more questions.

[Judge]: *(to DC1)* Your witness, counsel.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Thank you, my Lord/Lady. Cinderella, you said that while you lived with your stepmother and stepsisters, there were some chores that everyone had to do, is that correct?

[Cinderella]: In the beginning, yes. But pretty soon I had to do all of them.

[Defence Counsel 1]: So it is your position that your stepsisters didn't have to do chores?

[Cinderella]: No! My stepmother made me do all the work around the house!

[Defence Counsel 1]: Except for the work that the full-time butler employed by your stepmother did, right?

[Cinderella]: Um, right.

[Defence Counsel 1]: So in fact you *didn't* have to do all the work around the house, did you?

[Cinderella]: No, but I did a lot of it.

[Defence Counsel 1]: You did the chores your stepmother assigned you, but other housework was done by the butler, correct?

[Cinderella]: I guess so – yeah.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Now, you testified that you had so much work to do on a daily basis that you never had any time to go out, isn't that right?

[Cinderella]: Yes. The work my stepmother gave me was endless.

[Defence Counsel 1]: And you testified earlier that on the day of the homecoming ball, your stepmother gave you twice as many chores to do as usual, is that correct?

[Cinderella]: Yes – so I wouldn't be able to go to the ball.

[Defence Counsel 1]: But in fact she never said you couldn't go to the ball, did she?

[Cinderella]: Well...not exactly, but she gave me so much work that it was almost impossible to get it done to go to the ball.

[Defence Counsel 1]: But you actually did get it all done, didn't you?

[Cinderella]: Well, yeah. But I really had to work hard.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Cinderella, I'm going to suggest to you that if you had twice as much work to do that day as you normally did, and you got all the work done in one day, then the amount of work you normally got should only take half a day – wouldn't you agree?

[Crown Counsel 1]: Objection! My friend is asking the witness to speculate.

[Defence Counsel 1]: My Lord/Lady, I'm merely asking her to do some simple math. If it takes one day to do twice what she normally does, then what she normally does should only take half a day.

[Judge]: I will allow the question.

[Cinderella]: Well, actually, that day I got help.

[Defence Counsel 1]: And who did you get help from?

[Cinderella]: I don't want to say.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Cinderella, I'd like to remind you that you are under oath and must answer each of the questions posed to you honestly and to the best of your ability.

[Cinderella]: Well... the butler.

[Shock in the crowd!]

[Defence Counsel 1]: So it is now your position that you did not in fact finish the work yourself on the day in question.

[Cinderella]: Yes. But she still wouldn't buy me a dress!

[Defence Counsel 1]: Cinderella, are you suggesting that your stepmother was legally required to buy you a party dress?

[Cinderella]: No, but it's not fair that the other girls got them and I didn't.

[Defence Counsel 1]: I see. But you did go to the ball that night, didn't you?

[Cinderella]: Yeah, obviously!

[Defence Counsel 1]: Even though you thought your stepmother didn't want you to, right?

[Cinderella]: Yes.

[Defence Counsel 1]: And you knew she would be at the ball, right?

[Cinderella]: Yes.

[Defence Counsel 1]: And you weren't wearing a mask or anything, were you?

[Cinderella]: Um, no?

[Defence Counsel 1]: You weren't that concerned that she would see you, were you?

[Cinderella]: Well, not really...

[Defence Counsel 1]: And that's because you weren't actually scared of her, isn't it?

[Cinderella]: No! I was scared of her! She was always threatening to do bad things to me and my mice and bird friends if I didn't obey her!

[Defence Counsel 1]: But in the four years you were living with her, she never did any of those things, did she?

[Cinderella]: Only because I was scared and always did what she said.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Didn't you just testify that you *didn't* do what she wanted you to when you went to the ball?

[Cinderella]: Yes, but that was just that one time.

[Defence Counsel 1]: You told the court today that on the afternoon after the ball you left your room when your stepmother wanted you to stay in there, though, didn't you?

[Cinderella]: Yes, but the door had been locked all morning. Then, when it was open, I took the opportunity to leave.

[Defence Counsel 1]: But you left the room even though you knew your stepmother didn't want you to, isn't that right?

[Cinderella]: Yes.

[Defence Counsel 1]: So you didn't actually believe she would do anything bad to you, did you?

[Cinderella]: Yes I did!

[Defence Counsel 1]: If you say so.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Objection!

[Defence Counsel 1]: I'll withdraw my statement. No further questions.

[Judge]: Would the Crown like to re-examine the witness?

CC1 stands

[Crown Counsel 1]: No my Lord/Lady.

CC1 sits

[Judge]: Cinderella, [*to witness*] you may step down.

Cinderella leaves witness box and exits stage.

CC2 stands and approaches lectern

[Crown Counsel 2]: The Crown calls as its next witness Prince Charming.

Prince takes the stand - sworn in

[Crown Counsel 2]: Your name is Prince Charming?

[Prince Charming]: It's Prince Bieber. Charming's my middle name. *[Exaggerated wink to the audience.]*

[Crown Counsel 2]: How old are you now?

[Prince Charming]: 21.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Are you employed?

[Prince Charming]: Yes. I'm a full-time prince. *[Exaggerated]* It's not as easy as it sounds.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Where do you currently live?

[Prince Charming]: In the Burnaby Palace.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Are you married?

[Prince Charming]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: To whom?

[Prince Charming]: To my *[singing]* "baby, baby, baby".

[Crown Counsel 2]: And *WHO* is that?

[Prince Charming]: My darling Cinderella.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And how did you two meet?

[Prince Charming]: At the homecoming ball.

[Crown Counsel 2]: When was that?

[Prince Charming]: September 18, 2008.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Can you tell me about the ball?

[Prince Charming]: Sure. My father arranged it so that I could find my princess. I had letters sent out beforehand to every household asking for every daughter to be in attendance.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And was every daughter in attendance?

[Prince Charming]: How could I possibly know that?

[Crown Counsel 2]: Ok. Anyway, so what happened?

[Prince Charming]: My publicists sent out the invitations, my prep staff dressed me, did my hair, makeup, etc... really, I just showed up.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And when you were at the ball, what happened?

[Prince Charming]: I danced with girls. A lot of them. But none of them was really the right girl, my one true love, you know? And I was going to give up, until I met Cinderella. From the moment I saw her ... nobody's ever made me break into song the way she did. We danced the night away under the stars... it was magical. But, suddenly, she looked surprised and ran off before I could even catch her name. And forgot her shoe. So I grabbed it.

[Crown Counsel 2]: You grabbed her shoe?

[Prince Charming]: Yes. She forgot it.

[Crown Counsel 2]: What did that shoe look like?

[Prince Charming]: It was a Louis Vuitton glass slipper. Everyone knows what a Louis Vuitton slipper is. It's THE SHOE of the season.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Is this the shoe? (Show exhibit)

[Prince Charming]: Of course! Well, that's what the shoe I picked up looked like. But the actual shoe broke. That looks to be its partner.

[Crown Counsel 2]: My lord/lady, I would like this exhibit tendered as exhibit # 3

[Judge]: Any objections?

[Defence Counsel 1]: No, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Clerk, please mark this as exhibit #3

[Crown Counsel 2]: You stated that the other shoe broke. How did it break?

[Prince Charming]: When that ugly stepsister of Cinderella's forced her foot into it.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Ok. Let's backtrack. We'll get to the forcing of feet into shoes later. Can you tell me about what happened after the ball?

[Prince Charming]: I was determined to find my girl. So I started at one end of the town and went knocking on every single door. To try and find the owner of the glass slipper.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And did you find the owner of the shoe?

[Prince Charming]: Eventually yes. But not without difficulty.

[Crown Counsel 2]: What do you mean? What happened?

[Prince Charming]: Well, I got to this house. It was 6060 Marlborough Avenue. I knocked on the door, and was let in by Cinderella's stepmother.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Do you see the woman who let you into the house in this courtroom today?

[Prince Charming]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Can you point to her and explain what she is wearing for the record?

[Prince Charming]: Yes. She is over there [points at Madam Evelyn] in the [*describe her outfit*].

[Crown Counsel 2]: And what did she say to you when you arrived at the door?

[Prince Charming]: She said she'd be right back with her two daughters.

[Crown Counsel 2]: So what happened next?

[Prince Charming]: I came in, sat down, and waited. The lady scurried upstairs and I heard two girls scream and run down the stairs.

[Crown Counsel 2]: How did you know just from listening that there were two girls screaming and running down the stairs?

[Prince Charming]: Do you know who I am? I'm surrounded by screaming girls all the time.

[Crown Counsel 2]: All right. What happened next?

[Prince Charming]: I could tell right away that neither of these girls was my [*singing*] "baby baby baby". But out of fairness I had to at least let them try on the shoe.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Did anything else notable happen while this was going on?

[Prince Charming]: Yes. I heard something like a thumping coming from the upstairs, but I didn't pay much attention. It sort of sounded like someone banging on a door. It was as though someone was locked up and trying to get out somewhere.

[Crown Counsel 2]: What happened next?

[Prince Charming]: Well, the girls tried on the shoe and the one girl shoved her big foot in it and broke it.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And then what happened?

[Prince Charming]: All of a sudden a third girl came running down the stairs. The two sisters and the stepmother

looked so angry. But I recognized her right away.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

And who was that?

[Prince Charming]:

It was my [*singing*] “baby baby baby” Cinderella.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

And what happened next?

[Prince Charming]:

She had a shoe in her hand. The matching one. And she put it on, and I knew right away she was the one.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

No more questions. Your witness, counsel.

[Defence Counsel 2]:

Now, my lord...

[Judge]:

Yes? [note: if the Judge is a girl, have her say “you mean *my Lady*”]

[Defence Counsel 2]:

Excuse me, I meant my Prince.

[Prince Charming]: (*snobbily*)

Your *Highness*.

[Defence Counsel 2]:

Pardon?

[Prince Charming]:

The correct form of address is “*Your Highness*.”

[Defence Counsel 2]:

I apologize again, *your Highness* (*exaggerated*). Prince Bieber, you testified that the reason you had come to the Evilyn residence on the day in question was because you were looking for a girl whose foot fit into a slipper.

[Prince Charming]:

Yes, she was the hottest girl I had ever seen. I was in love.

[Defence Counsel 2]:

That sounds exciting. I have heard that love can distract people from the ordinary business of life... I wouldn't know, of course, being a lawyer. Had your daily routine been disrupted at all?

[Prince Charming]:

Yah, I hadn't really eaten or slept much since the ball, to be quite honest.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Perfectly understandable, your Highness. Do you recall, by chance, how many houses you'd visited during your search that day before visiting Cinderella's?

[Prince Charming]: Let me think... . It was probably the twentieth... maybe the twenty-fifth.

[Defence Counsel 2]: A lot of walking, I'd imagine.

[Prince Charming]: Well, I have a limo, so it was mainly a lot of sitting.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Naturally, your Highness. In any case, it was your testimony that, while you were in the stepmother's home, you heard a thumping coming from upstairs.

[Prince Charming]: That's right.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Did you see the door from which you thought this thumping came?

[Prince Charming]: No, I didn't see it. I was in the foyer of the house, doing the glass slipper thing. There was an open area off to my left; I could see a staircase spiralling upward. The thumping was coming from up there.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Do you remember what material the stairs of the spiral staircase were made of?

[Prince Charming]: I'm pretty sure they were wooden.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Wood... Precisely the substance out of which doors are made.

[Prince Charming]: Most of mine are marble, actually.

[Defence Counsel 2]: But the banging you heard would have been on a wooden door?

[Prince Charming]: Yes.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Thank you, your highness. Have you spent much time listening to the sound of people thumping on doors during your life?

[Prince Charming]: Not a lot of time, no. My father has some prisoners I don't have a lot to do with them.

[Defence Counsel 2]: That's certainly understandable. Please remind me, your Highness, it was your testimony, that, on the day of your visit, you hadn't eaten or slept, and that you had been on your feet for hours...

[Prince Charming]: Well, I had been neglecting myself a bit. I don't see what that has to do with anything.

[Defence Counsel 2]: But, despite your tiredness, despite your exhaustion, despite your distraction as you searched for the woman of your dreams, you are certain that the sound you heard was the sound of a person banging on a door?

[Prince Charming]: Yes!

[Defence Counsel 2]: And not, say, the sound of heels hitting the boards of a staircase as a person is running down them. Perhaps the heels of an excitable teenage girl eager to con a prince into marriage?

[Prince Charming]: Hey, just a minute. Do you know who my mother is? She's the queen. That means you, along with everyone else here, work for me. How dare you suggest that I can't tell the sound of banging on a door from the sound of running on stairs! And how dare you say that about my wife! You there, sheriff, give me your sword!

[Defence Counsel 2]: No more questions, my Lord/Lady! [Quickly sits down]

[Judge]: Please call your next witness.

CC3 stands and approaches lectern

[Crown Counsel 3]: Thank you my Lord/Lady. The Crown calls to the stand Fairlene Gottmutter.

Fairlene enters stage and sits in witness box

[Clerk]: Would you like to affirm or swear an oath?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: I'll swear an oath.

[Clerk]: Do you solemnly affirm that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: I do.

[Clerk]: Please state your full name for the record.

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Fairlene Gottmutter.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Thank you, Ms. Gottmutter. Do you go by any other names?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well, Cinderella calls me her Fairy Godmother. She had trouble pronouncing my name when she was young.

[Crown Counsel 3]: What is the nature of your relationship with her?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well, I have been her next-door neighbour since before she was born. I was an old friend of her mother's. Her dying wish was that I watch over her. I've tried to do that ever since, although lately it hasn't been easy.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Can you describe what happened after Cinderella's mother's death?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well, her father was a wonderful man too, with a fine, lustrous moustache and a lovely head of hair. He had such a positive aura, a bright purple in fact. But he was lonely after his wife's death and his taste in women seemed to have deserted him...

[Defence Counsel 3]: Objection. That statement is a scandalous and prejudicial characterisation of my client!

[Crown Counsel 3]: My Lord, the witness is simply providing the background of this case, and describing the

events leading to the commission of these offences.

- [Judge]:** Indeed, Counsel, but she can do so without being nasty about it. Please confine your testimony to events as you witnessed them, Mrs. Gottmutter, and refrain from insulting the accused.
- [Fairlene Gottmutter]:** I apologize. Well, as I was saying, he was lonely and that's when SHE came into the picture.
- [Crown Counsel 3]:** Can you please point out to whom you are referring to, Mrs. Gottmutter?
- [Fairlene Gottmutter]:** Her... in that little wooden box at the back of the room. points at Madam Evilyn]
- [Crown Counsel 3]:** Let the record reflect that the witness has indicated the accused, Madam Evilyn.
- [Judge]:** Identification noted. Go on, counsel.
- [Crown Counsel 3]:** What happened after Madam Evilyn entered Cinderella's life?
- [Fairlene Gottmutter]:** For as long as Cinderella's father was alive, there weren't too many problems. Her stepmother was quiet and unassuming, and she seemed to take a genuine interest in Cinderella's wellbeing.
- [Crown Counsel 3]:** Was there any change after her father's death?
- [Fairlene Gottmutter]:** Yes. Very quickly, her hair became gray and she began to look like a stern old lady. Her behaviour seemed to take a similar turn. She bundled Cinderella out of her childhood room and moved her way up into what had previously been a storage room. I was still permitted into the house at this time, and helped Cinderella to move a cot into the storage room, because no one else would.
- [Crown Counsel 3]:** You said you were still permitted into the house... at this time?
- [Fairlene Gottmutter]:** Yes. Within six months of Cinderella's father's death, [*emphatic*] "That Woman" told me that I was a bad

influence and that she didn't want me coming around anymore. After that, Cinderella was almost totally isolated.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Can you describe the condition of the room when you helped her move?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: It is a damp room about 10 feet square, with a single window that is so high that it can barely be seen out of. I can just imagine. It must be dreadfully freezing in the winter and stifling in the summer.

[Crown Counsel 3]: And what was the door to the room like?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: It was a heavy oak door and it had a big steel lock on it.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Did Cinderella ever leave the property?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: As far as I know, she rarely left the property and, if then, only in the company of her stepmother or the stepsisters. The only time she really left the house itself on her own was to do work in the yard. I would see her over the garden fence, and it gave us the opportunity to exchange a few words.

[Crown Counsel 3]: What was her day-to-day routine like?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well, I could see her through the windows of the house, slaving away from dawn till dusk. She never seemed to stop working.

[Crown Counsel 3]: What did you see Madam Evilyn do to get Cinderella to be so obedient?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Just as Cinderella had been kicked out of her room, her stepmother made it understood that the house belonged to her, and that if Cinderella did not do what she was told, she would be out on her rear, at her stepmother's whim.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Did Madam Evilyn use any other kinds of threats to extract labour?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes, those daughters of hers were completely out of control. They delighted in bullying that girl! Their mother did nothing to stop it.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Was there anything else?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes, I heard the stepmother once tell Cinderella, while she was in the courtyard, that if she didn't hand-wash her stepsisters' Lulu's, the stepmother would let that big fat cat of hers loose in Cinderella's room to take care of Cinderella's little friends.

[Defence Counsel 3]: Objection. I question the relevance of this line of questioning, my Lady/Lord.

[Crown Counsel 3]: My Lord/Lady, exploitation can be proven where the accused has forced the complainant to work by threatening the safety of someone known to them.

[Defence Counsel 3]: My friend states the law correctly: *someone*. Not some MOUSE. A mouse is not a person and therefore any negative characterization of the efforts the accused may have made to control the rodent population on her property are not only irrelevant, but grossly prejudicial.

[Crown Counsel 3]: As far as the complainant is concerned, my lord, these mice can carry on an intelligent conversation. That is more than can be said for some lawyers I know. Certainly, it is enough to make Madam Evilyn's threats effective: for better or worse, these mice were among Cinderella's only friends.

[Judge]: I do not appreciate your tone of voice, Counsel, but you do raise some strong arguments. I will reserve judgment on this point. Until my decision, please continue your examination.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Thank you, my Lord/Lady [*turns to defence and gives an "I win" look*]. Mrs. Gottmutter, there's one final point I want to ask you about: can you please describe what happened on the night of the homecoming ball?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes. I was out polishing my pumpkins when I heard a ruckus coming from that house! I poked my head over

my prized pumpkin, [*proudly*] which is as tall as a car, and I could see those two ugly stepsisters tearing a dress Cinderella was wearing to shreds.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Was her stepmother there?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes, she was standing there with her arms folded on her chest, just watching it.

[Crown Counsel 3]: What happened then?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: The three women, the stepsisters and stepmother, piled into a stretch limo and drove off. I made sure they were gone, and then I ran over to Cinderella and asked her if she was all right. She said she was but that she was miserable not to be going to the homecoming dance. So, like any good godmother with magical powers, I conjured up a limo, chauffeur, and dress from whatever was at hand.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Um... ok. [*Looks a bit uneasy*] Did you “create” anything else for her?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Oh, yes, I nearly forgot. I made her a pair of beautiful glass Louis Vuitton slippers, so finely crafted that they would fit only on her dainty feet, and on no one else’s.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Thank you, Mrs. Gottmutter. Nothing further for this witness, my lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Your witness, defence counsel.

DC3 stands

[Defence Counsel 3]: Thank you, my Lord/Lady. Ms. Gottmutter, it was your testimony that you saw Cinderella slaving away from dawn to dusk?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes, and may I say, not just dawn to dusk but dawn to *dark*. Poor soul.

[Defence Counsel 3]: You also testified that you saw Madam Evilyn’s daughters bully Cinderella?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Oh yes, when they could tear themselves away from their iPhones, all they did was tease her and call her names.

[Defence Counsel 3]: And you testified that on at least one occasion you heard Madam Evilyn threaten Cinderella's "mice friends" [*sarcastically*]?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes.

[Defence Counsel 3]: Now, Ms. Gottmutter, wasn't it also your evidence that you were not permitted at the house since Cinderella's father died?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes, thaaaat woman, thought I was a bad influence. Utter hogwash!

[Defence Counsel 3]: And isn't it true that there is a garden fence separating your property from the Evilyn house?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Yes.

[Defence Counsel 3]: And next to that fence is a pumpkin patch with hmmm, let me see, how did you put it? [*checks notes*] Ah, that's right "a pumpkin as tall as a car"?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Oh yes [*proudly*]. My prized pumpkin! I call him Humphrey.

[Defence Counsel 3]: Ms. Gottmutter, how tall are you?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Me, dear? I'm 5'2".

[Defence Counsel 3]: So you are not as tall as a car?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: No, not quite.

[Defence Counsel 3]: And yet, you were able to see all these things happening at Cinderella's house from your property even though there was a pumpkin "*as tall as a car*" in the way?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well, no, dear, don't be silly. Since I couldn't be there, because *she* banished me, I had the birds tell me what was happening.

[Defence Counsel 3]: I'm sorry, Ms. Gottmutter, the birds told you what Madam Evilyn was up to?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Oh yes, I follow their tweets on Twitter!

[Defence Counsel 3]: *[Incredulous]* I see... Ms. Gottmutter you testified that you "conjured up" a dress and limo for Cinderella on the night of the homecoming ball. How does one "conjure up" a dress and limo?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: With magic of course.

[Defence Counsel 3]: I'm sorry, did you say, magic?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: What? Haven't you ever seen a woman with magical powers before?

[Defence Counsel 3]: I ask the questions here, Ms. Gottmutter. Now, let me get this straight – you're suggesting that you used magic to create a dress and a car?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well, of course. I don't have the figure I once did, so I couldn't loan Cinderella a dress for the ball. And I'm sure she wouldn't want to fly on my Nimbus 3000 to get there

[Defence Counsel 3]: Ms. Gottmutter, you don't really expect the Court to believe in magic do you?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well of course I do!

[Defence Counsel 3]: And what proof of magic do you have?

[Fairlene Gottmutter]: Well unfortunately sir, the sheriff confiscated my magic wand.

[Defence Counsel 3]: *[Smirks]* The sheriff confiscated your magic wand eh? No further questions, My Lord/Lady.

[Fairlene Gottmutter]:*[Sighs]* Silly Muggles.

[Crown Counsel 3]: The Crown rests its case, my Lord/Lady.

CC3 sits

[Judge]: Does the Defence wish to call evidence?

DC1 stands

[Defence Counsel 1]: The defence does, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Very well, would the defence like to make an opening statement?

[Defence Counsel 1]: Yes, thank you my Lord/Lady.

[DEFENCE OPENING]

[Defence Counsel 1]: Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury, as did my friend, I intend to keep this opening brief.

We are here today to explain to you that Madam Evilyn is NOT guilty. We will call witnesses who will tell you that Cinderella needed to be protected for her own good, is completely exaggerating her chores, and that Madam Evilyn was just a concerned parent.

Most importantly, members of the jury, Madam Evilyn has a right not to testify at her own trial. This is a very important right in our legal system. She has given up that right so that she might testify, in front of you, and tell you her side of the story. I ask that you do not take this lightly ladies and gentlemen, and I ask you to listen carefully to her version of events.

At the end of this trial, we will ask you to return a verdict that the accused, Madam Evilyn, is NOT guilty of unlawful exploitation or forcible confinement.

Thank You.

DC1 approaches lectern

[Defence Counsel 1]: [to Jury]

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury...At the close of this trial, we will ask you to return a verdict of not guilty.

DC1 sits

[Judge]: Please call your first witness.

DC1 stands and approaches lectern

[Defence Counsel 1]: The defence calls Anastasia and Drizella Evilyn to the stand.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Objection my Lord/Lady. This is absurd! Two people cannot take the stand at once.

[Judge]: Counsel [*addressing DC2*], your friend has a valid point. How do you respond?

[Defence Counsel 1]: My Lord/Lady, for the sake of brevity, we decided to call the stepsisters together. They are inseparable and through the course of depositions, we concluded that their testimony overlapped substantially. Understanding that this is most unusual, with my friend's permission, I will continue.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Fine, go on.

[Judge]: Ladies, [*to the sisters*] you may take the stand.

The two sisters struggle to sit in one chair and fight the whole time.

[Judge]: [*Rolls eyes.*] Sheriff, please bring a second chair.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Would you please state your name(s) and age(s) for the record.

[Simultaneously – Ani and Driz say their name and age]

[Anistasia]: Anastasia Evilyn, 21 years old.

[Drizella]: Drizella Evilyn, 21 years old.

[Defence Counsel 2]: And what is your relationship with the complainant?

[Anistasia]: She's our stepsister, duhhhhh.

[Drizella]: Not that we had any choice in the matter.

[Anistasia]: Yeah, seriously!

[Defence Counsel 1]: And how would you describe the relationship between your mother and the complainant, Cinderella?

[Drizella]: Well, they fight a lot. I think the problem is that Cinderella does not respect mom's authority and that gets her into trouble sometimes.

[Anistasia]: Yeah, totally! She used to be "daddy's little princess" and since her father passed away, she's never really adjusted to being just another member of our family.

[Drizella]: I agree completely. She's got this sense of entitlement. She expects special treatment. I think she is unstable.

[Anistasia]: Yes, Unstable. That is precisely it! She keeps talking to mice and birds...she's crazy!!!

[Crown Counsel 1]: Objection, the witnesses are not qualified to give an opinion on Cinderella's mental state.

[Judge]: Sustained. Members of the Jury, you will ignore that last part.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Alright, getting back to the relationship between Cinderella and your mom, would you say that your mom was particularly harsh on Cinderella?

[Ani and Driz]: No!

[Drizella]: ...Well if she was, Cinderella deserved it!

[Anistasia]: Oh yeah, Cinderella can be quite nasty and manipulative when it suits her.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Can you provide a specific example?

[Drizella]: Well it was pretty much an everyday occurrence. Cinderella was always bringing vermin into the house and this upset mom because she is concerned about our health and sanitation.

[Anistasia]: And rabies.

[Drizella]: Right, rabies. Who knows where all these filthy creatures have been?

[Anistasia]: Oh, and she was always talking back, and slamming doors. And sometimes she abused mom's beloved cat.

[Drizella]: I'd say the biggest thing is that Cinderella is constantly trying to get out of her chores. We all have responsibilities, but Cinderella thought she deserved special treatment.

[Anistasia]: Yup! It's that sense of entitlement.

[Defence Counsel 1]: And how did your mom respond when Cinderella talked back or disobeyed or neglected her responsibilities?

[Anistasia]: In the usual way I suppose. I mean she might send Cinderella to her room without supper. Or ground her for a few days. Or give her more chores as punishment.

[Drizella]: But mom was always justified.

[Anistasia]: Completely justified.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Okay. Let's move on to the days leading up to Homecoming. Were you surprised that Cinderella wanted to go?

[Anistasia]: Yeah, totally. She never wanted to go anywhere. She loved just moping around her room.

[Drizella]: Yeah, such a loser. She has like four Facebook friends and they are all animals. I can't imagine who she expected to talk to once she got there.

[Anistasia]: She probably just wanted to go so that she could drag us down.

[Drizella]: That's so like her.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Did your mom forbid Cinderella from going to Homecoming?

[Drizella]: Of course not. Mom wanted all of us to go together, but Cinderella had not finished her chores - -

[Anistasia]: As per usual.

[Drizella]: ...So naturally, that was a precondition on her going. She had to finish her chores first.

[Anistasia]: Oh, and she had to find something suitable to wear...

[Drizella]: Quite a feat given that Cinderella has the fashion sense of a beige wall.

[Anistasia]: Haha. That's generous! But seriously, she is hopeless.

[Defence Counsel 1]: Now how about the day after Homecoming, when the prince came to the house. Do you remember if Cinderella was locked in her room at the time?

[Drizella]: I remember she was being punished for something...

[Anistasia]: Justifiably so.

[Drizella]: Anyway, she must NOT have been locked up, because just as I was trying on the shoe, Cinderella came bursting down the stairs and had to spoil my one chance of becoming a princess.

[Anistasia]: Yeah right! Like the prince would ever marry you. He was clearly on the verge of proposing to me!

[Drizella]: WHAT - ever.

[Defence Counsel 1]: No more questions, my Lord/Lady.

DC1 sits

[Judge]: Crown, would you like to cross-examine this witness?

CC1 stands and approaches lectern

[Crown Counsel 1]: I would, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Proceed.

[Crown Counsel 1]: ...

[Cellphone rings. The two sisters start fumbling in their pockets. Fight about whose phone it is. Anastasia answers her phone.]

[Judge]: [Angrily.] Anastasia. This is a courtroom. Turn OFF your phone. You are to respect the seriousness of the situation at hand. Sheriff, would you please confiscate Miss Evilyn's iphone.

[Sheriff approaches the stand and takes Anastasia's phone. She folds her arms and pouts]

[Judge]: Counsel, please continue.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Alright, ugly stepsisters, so what - -

[Defence Counsel 1]: Objection, I don't think it is fair that the Crown call our witnesses "ugly"

[Drizella]: Yeah, like we have names you know.

[Anistasia]: And, like, we're not ugly. We just got botox injections.

[Judge]: [to the sisters] Please refrain from speaking until you are asked a question. Sustained. Counsel, please refer to the witnesses in a more polite manner.

[Crown Counsel 1]: So what chores do you have?

[Anistasia]: Well, I have to put my own dirty clothes in the laundry hamper at the end of each day, AND I have to lock the door behind me when I leave the house.

[Drizella]: Same, but we have to spend a lot of time studying and practicing our music and stuff.

[Crown Counsel 1]: So, Cinderella had a lot more chores than you, didn't she?

[Anistasia]: Well, I guess she had a few more than us. But, like, not much.

[Crown Counsel 1]: You were annoyed when Cinderella didn't do all her chores well enough, weren't you?

[Drizella]: Yeah, obviously [*flips her hair, rolls her eyes*]

[Crown Counsel 1]: And you helped your mom punish Cinderella when she didn't do her chores well enough, didn't you?

[Anistasia]: Well, yeah, because Cinderella needs to be punished or she'll never learn, as our mom says. But I mean, mom would never lock her in her room for that long... oops [*covers her mouth*].

[Crown Counsel 1]: And your mom encouraged you to be mean to Cinderella, didn't she?

[Drizella]: Well, yeah, I guess so, she liked it when we walked across floors Cinderella had just cleaned with our muddy Uggs, and stuff like that, and she liked it if I "spilled" (she does quotations in the air) milk and ketchup and stuff on the tablecloth so Cinderella would have to clean up. But, I mean, it's just normal sibling rivalry stuff, you know...

[Crown Counsel 1]: So things weren't exactly fair between you and Cinderella, were they?

[Drizella]: Yeah, things were fair.

[Anistasia]: Mom always tried to be fair. Cinderella just deserved more chores and punishments.

[Drizella]: She brought it on herself.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Ok, well, you have an iPhone, and she doesn't, right?

[Anistasia]: Yeah, but she doesn't need one, she has no friends to call.

[Drizella]: And mice can't answer phones.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And you have an iPad, but she doesn't, right?

[Drizella]: Yeah, but she doesn't need one, she doesn't have any emails to check - -

[Anistasia]: ...or online shopping to do.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And you have, I believe, attended no less than 83 Jonas Brothers concerts, while Cinderella has attended none, correct?

[Driz] Well ...yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And how many pieces of clothing from Lululemon do you have?

[Drizella]: Um, about like 450

[Anistasia]: Too many to count.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And how many pieces does Cinderella have? Remember, you are under oath up there...

[Anistasia]: Ok, none. But she likes wearing second hand men's sweatpants all the time.

[Crown Counsel 1]: So you think things are fair between all the siblings, but you have been to 83 Jonas Brothers [or whatever the students choose] concerts, and have an iPhone, iPad, and 450 pieces of Lululemon clothes, and when she lived with you she had a scrub brush and a bucket for her toys, and had to wear second hand sweatpants every day, AND had never seen a Jonas Brothers [or whatever the students choose] concert?

[Drizella]: I don't know!

[Anistasia]: If you knew her, you would think it was fair.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And the one time that she did make something nice for herself to wear to Homecoming, you proceeded to rip it off of her.

[Anistasia]: First of all, that dress was not nice, it was soooo last year!

[Drizella]: We were just taking back what was rightfully ours. She snuck into our room without permission and stole material to make that dress.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And your mom took your side?

[Anistasia]: Of course, she always does. I mean... When we are right.

[Drizella]: ... which is always.

[Crown Counsel 1]: No further questions my Lord/Lady.

CC1 sits

[Judge]: Would the Defence like to re-examine the witnesses?

DC1 stands

[Defence Counsel 1]: No, my Lord/Lady.

DC1 sits

[Judge]: *[to witnesses]* You may step down.

The sisters, making a ruckus, get off the stage.

[Judge]: Defence counsel, your next witness??

DC2 stands and approaches lectern

[Defence Counsel 2]: The Defence calls Mr. Alfred Smithers to the stand.

[Clerk]: Would you like to affirm or swear an oath?

[Smithers]: Swear.

[Clerk]: Take the Bible in your right hand. *[pause as witness does so]* Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[Smithers]: I do.

[Clerk]: Please state your full name for the record.

[Smithers]: *[Presents in a very clear and proper voice, maybe with an accent.]* Mr. Alfred Smithers.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Mr. Smithers, what do you do for a living?

[Smithers]: I'm a butler.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Where do you live?

[Smithers]: At 6060 Marlborough Avenue with the Evilyn family. I have quarters within the house.

[Defence Counsel 2]: And how long have you lived there?

[Smithers]: I was hired by the Madam ten years ago, in October of 2004.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Please tell me, what was the atmosphere like in the house?

[Smithers]: Oh, I do say, *[nodding]* it was very welcoming. It was a splendid family to be a part of. As a matter of fact, I pursued employment with the Evilyn's because I saw that family values were very important.

[Defence Counsel 2]: So you spent a lot of time with the family?

[Smithers]: Oh, yes. I was welcomed as one of the family. *[Smiles broadly, looking towards Madam Evilyn]*

[Defence Counsel 2]: Did you live comfortably?

[Smithers]: Oh, of course. I was assigned the room adjacent to the Madam's. *[Smiling broadly]* It is certainly one of the nicest in the house.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Now, Mr. Smithers, what does your job entail?

[Smithers]: Madam hired me to do the work outlined in the job description.

[Defence Counsel 2]: My Lord/Lady, I would like to enter this document as the next Exhibit.

[Judge]: Go ahead.

[Defence Counsel 2]: *[Hands two copies of the job description to the Clerk. Also hands a copy to one of the CC, and a copy to Smithers.]*

[Judge]: Clerk, please mark that as Exhibit #4.

[Court Clerk]: Exhibit # 4 my Lord/Lady. *[Passes one copy to the Judge, keeps one for self.]*

[Defence Counsel 2]: Mr. Smithers, could you please tell the court what duties were included in your job description?

[Smithers]: As outlined here, I was responsible for getting fresh flowers for the house, taking care of the Madam's guests, stocking the house with food and wine, attending to the mail and the bills, and performing general accounting.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Were you responsible for any physical labour around the house?

[Smithers]: Why yes, in the first year of my employment, but as the girls got older they took care of more of the responsibility for the chores and my role shifted.

[Defence Counsel 2]: How do you mean, it shifted?

[Smithers]: I took on the roll as described here [*holds up paper*]. I took on the role that a butler is intended to have. A more [*emphasis*] **supervisory** role.

[Defence Counsel 2]: All right. How would you say the chores were distributed among the girls?

[Smithers]: Oh, of course each child had their equal share of household responsibilities. Extra chores were doled out to the children, but [*emphasis*] only if they misbehaved.

[Defence Counsel 2]: Did any of the girls misbehave more often than the others?

[Smithers]: Oh, yes. Cinderella certainly did. If she ever had more to do than the others then it was her own fault [*spoken with confidence*].

[Defence Counsel 2]: Were you familiar with what extracurricular activities the girls participated in?

[Smithers]: Well, both Anastasia and Drizella spent a great deal of time on their school work and learning

the arts. Unlike Cinderella, who, I might add, has a beautiful voice [*realizes that he's complimented Cinderella and regains his composure*]... they weren't naturally gifted musicians. Cinderella certainly had more time to devote to the chores. Everyone must work on their weaknesses. Cinderella needed to learn to do things right – she was careless and sloppy. You should just see how she folds Madam Evilyn's underpants. Terrible [*shaking his head*].

[Defence Counsel 2]:

Thank you Mr. Smithers [*speaking up before Smithers goes too far*]. Did you have any other responsibilities?

[Smithers]:

Oh, yes. I really did anything the Madam required me to do [*winking towards Madam Evilyn*]. [*Spoken with confidence*] I was a vital asset to this family.

[Defence Counsel 2]:

No further questions.

[Judge]:

Crown counsel, do you have any questions for cross examination?

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Yes, thank you my Lord/Lady. Mr. Smithers, you said that you have the room adjacent to the stepmother's, is that correct?

[Smithers]:

Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

And that is a nicer room than Cinderella or even her stepsisters had, right?

[Smithers]:

Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

And you said that you felt welcome and a part of the family, right?

[Smithers]:

Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

You would agree, then, that this is a very good job you have, wouldn't you?

[Smithers]:

Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]: More than a job, it's your home and your family, isn't it?

[Smithers]: Yes, it is.

[Crown Counsel 3]: And you wouldn't do anything that would put you in danger of losing it, would you?

[Smithers]: No, but I'm not lying, if that is what you're suggesting.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Not at all. But you do care a great deal about the stepmother, don't you?

[Smithers]: *(gazing lovingly at Stepmother, who blows him a kiss)*

[Crown Counsel 3]: Can I take that exchange to mean yes?

[Smithers]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]: And in fact you would never do anything to get her in trouble, would you?

[Smithers]: No.

[Crown Counsel 3]: No further questions, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Reexamination, Defence Counsel?

[Defence Counsel 2]: No, my Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Thank you, witness, you may step down.

Smithers stands up very straight and walks very properly back to his seat.

[Defence Counsel 3]: The Defence will now call as its last witness, Cinderella's Stepmother, Madam Evilyn.

[Clerk]: Will you swear an oath or solemnly affirm?

[Madam Evilyn]: Swear.

[Clerk]: Take the Bible in your right hand. *[pause as witness does so]* Do you swear that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the

whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[Madam Evilyn]:

I do.

[Clerk]:

Please state your full name for the record.

[Madam Evilyn]:

[Presents in a very clear and proper voice, maybe with an accent.] Madame Evilyn. Spelled E-V-I-L *[takes a sip of water]* Y-N.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Madam Evilyn, as the mother of three daughters, would please explain to the court your approach to parenting generally?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Well, I believe in running a fairly strict household, but that is because I love my children very much and want them to grow up to be responsible and self-sufficient young women. I try to make sure that they know how to keep a good home, so that when they get married and have children of their own, they have all the skills necessary to make good mothers themselves. I take motherhood very seriously.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

So is it fair to say that you make your children do chores?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Certainly. I think that all children should do chores. I certainly can't look after the entire house on my own! But mostly, it's because I love my children very much and believe that, in the end, it will help build character and teach them responsibility.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Can you describe your relationship with Cinderella?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Well, she's a lovely girl, but slightly troubled. She was more difficult to raise than my other two daughters. She tended to get quite distracted when doing chores, and often dawdled. I tried to keep her on task and teach her better time management skills, but she couldn't seem to get her head of the clouds.

Her imagination was also a bit of a worry. She was so clever and inventive when I first met her, but over the years she started to live in a fantasy world. I became very concerned a couple of years ago, because she started constantly talking to birds and mice. That's just not healthy for a girl. She also stopped going to school part way through high school, which I did not approve of, so I made certain we had all the necessary teaching materials on hand so she could continue to study. She became very antisocial and withdrawn in her teens.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

And did you do anything about that?

[Madam Evilyn]:

I tried to be a bit sterner with her, but it didn't help much. I sent her to her room when she neglected her chores, and when I caught her talking to animals, in the hopes that something would sink in. Honestly, she seemed perfectly happy to spend hours reading or daydreaming in her room.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

And what have you observed between Cinderella and her two sisters?

[Madam Evilyn]:

My other two daughters are very different from Cinderella. They are much more outgoing and have lots of friends. They are engaged in their studies and in learning music. They acted like normal teenagers in high school. Unfortunately, Cinderella is so strange that they don't seem to relate to her very well. At times when Cinderella still lived with us, there were disagreements, but I expect that to happen between girls of their ages.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

And what would you do when there was a disagreement?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Well, I couldn't monitor their every move, and I don't think it's healthy for girls who are nearly grown to have their mother constantly hovering over them. But I still believe in discipline. When the girls fought, they would all be sent to their rooms. But of course I still allowed my

daughters to engage in any scheduled extracurricular activities.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

When Cinderella was sent to her room, did you ever lock her in there?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Certainly not! I would never “lock” my children in their room. I would normally just tell her the reason that she had been sent to her room, and that she could come out once she was ready to behave.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Was Cinderella ever sent to her room at dinner time?

[Madam Evilyn]:

There have been times where she has been sent to her room before dinner, but I would never starve her! She was always allowed to come out to eat. Sometimes I had the girls eat at different dinnertimes to avoid conflicts, when they were fighting.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

All right, turning to the night of September 14, 2008, I understand that you received a letter about a homecoming ball with the prince? Did you read that letter?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Yes I did. It said that all bachelorettes were invited to a homecoming ball.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

And did Cinderella tell you she wanted to go?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Yes she did. All of my daughters asked to go.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

What did you respond?

[Madam Evilyn]:

I told them all that they could go to the ball once they finished their list of chores and if they could find something appropriate to wear. Because my other two daughters had finished their chores, I took them shopping. I told Cinderella she could go shop once she finished her chores. She was taking a long time that day because she kept talking to those darn vermin that she brings into the house.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Objection – the witness is calling the mice and birds a species-ist name.

[Judge]: Defence counsel?

[Defence Counsel 3]: I'll ask the witness to rephrase, my Lord/Lady. Evilyn, for the purposes of this proceeding, we'd appreciate if you referred to Cinderella's companions as mice and/or birds.

[Madam Evilyn]: If I must.

[Defence Counsel 3]: So, after you returned from shopping, what happened?

[Madam Evilyn]: Well, Cinderella had done very few of her chores. The floors were not up to my standards. But I told her that if she found a dress, she could go. Then, she did some alterations for her sisters' dresses. Later, when the limo arrived to take them to the ball, she put on a dress. I could tell that parts of the dress had been taken from her sisters' dresses. They were very upset that she had stolen parts of their dresses. They tried to take those parts back and in the process, a bit of Cinderella's dress was damaged. I'm sure it was an accident.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Objection – the witness is speculating.

[Defence Counsel 3]: Evilyn, I'll ask you not to speculate about what might or might not have been accidental. All right, so was Cinderella then allowed to go to the ball?

[Madam Evilyn]: Well no, she wasn't appropriately dressed! If she were, I would have given her permission to go.

[Defence Counsel 3]: Then what happened?

[Madam Evilyn]: Well, I was chaperoning homecoming for my daughters and who should arrive but Cinderella, in a dress that was clearly not her own. I was concerned she may have stolen it.

But, I left it alone, thinking we could talk about it the next day in private.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

What happened when you went home?

[Madam Evilyn]:

I went to bed – it was quite late. The next morning I went up to talk with Cinderella about the dress and she denied having stolen it. She said something about mice and magic and fairies... I was concerned after how her behaviour had been deteriorating and that she might actually be losing her mind... so I shut her door and asked her to stay there until I came back.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Did you call a doctor?

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Objection – that’s a leading question.

[Judge]:

I agree; Counsel, please reword the question.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Did you take any steps based on your belief that she might be losing her mind?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Well, I was about to call the family doctor when I heard a knock at the door. It was the prince. I let him in and he asked about the ball the night before. He was looking for a girl he had danced with. I thought he might be talking about my other two daughters, because they had been at the dance as well. So I went to get them. They were very excited to see the prince.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Did you also get Cinderella?

[Madam Evilyn]:

No, I didn’t feel that she was acting well enough to receive visitors then.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

What happened then?

[Madam Evilyn]:

The prince had a glass Louis Vuitton shoe with him for my daughters to try on. But he tripped and dropped it. It shattered! It was ever so unfortunate... no one could try it on. Then, I heard pounding upstairs. Cinderella came rushing down the stairs. I was worried she may

have broken her door. I was deeply concerned about her mental health. But she was carrying another glass Louis Vuitton shoe. When the prince saw that, he took her away.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Have you seen Cinderella since then?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Only since the beginning of these court proceedings

[Defence Counsel 3]:

And how do you feel about that?

[Madam Evilyn]:

I miss her so much. Even though she's not my flesh and blood, she is my daughter. I really did everything I could to raise her properly and am very concerned about her well-being.

[Defence Counsel 3]:

Thank you – those are my questions, My Lord/Lady.

[Judge]:

Crown, would you like to cross-examine the witness?

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Thank you, my Lord/Lady. Madam Evilyn you testified that when the girls fought, or misbehaved, you would send them to their rooms, correct?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

But, you let your daughters out of their rooms in order to attend extracurricular activities?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Yes, of course.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

What activities did your daughters attend?

[Madam Evilyn]:

Well, they are very talented girls, so they were involved in all sorts of activities - field hockey, ballet, piano, volleyball, student council, hip hop, violin...I could go on...

[Crown Counsel 3]:

That is okay, Madam Evilyn. Which of these activities was Cinderella involved in?

[Madam Evilyn]: Oh, well, ummm. You know she never really took an interest in any of these activities. As I said, she was very withdrawn in her teenage years.

[Crown Counsel 3]: So Cinderella was not involved in any activities, but your other daughters were?

[Madam Evilyn]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]: So even though you sent all three daughters to their rooms, only two of them were able to leave to attend activities?

[Madam Evilyn]: I suppose so - but Cinderella could have been involved in activities - nobody was stopping her!

[Crown Counsel 3]: Only your daughters attended school, isn't that right?

[Madam Evilyn]: Yes...

[Crown Counsel 3]: And only two of your daughters were allowed to attend the ball?

[Madam Evilyn]: Yes, only two of them finished their chores on time.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Which two daughters were those?

[Madam Evilyn]: Anastasia and Drizella.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Not Cinderella?

[Madam Evilyn]: No.

[Crown Counsel 3]: So, if Cinderella was not allowed out of her room to do activities and she was not allowed out of her room to attend the ball, and she didn't attend school, when was she allowed out?

[Madam Evilyn]: Oh, well, to do her chores of course. And at most mealtimes, when her chores were done.

[Crown Counsel 3]: So Cinderella was only allowed out of her room to do her chores?

[Madam Evilyn]: Well...she could leave her room if she wanted to. I mean I never locked it or anything. She was free to leave. She just loved those vermin...I mean, mice, so much she didn't want to.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Madam Evilyn, you're sure you didn't lock the door to Cinderella's room?

[Madam Evilyn]: Yes, I'm sure. I never locked that door. I simply told her she couldn't come out until she was ready to behave and do her chores properly.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Madam Evilyn, that's a lovely necklace you're wearing. Would you mind showing it to the Court?

[Madam Evilyn]: (*preening*) Oh, thank you. Yes, it's Sterling Silver. A gift from my daughters.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Is that a key hanging on the chain?

[Madam Evilyn]: (*Gasps, stammers*). Um, umm, oh, well, um...it's just a pendant.

[Crown Counsel 3]: That's an awfully big pendant Madam Evilyn. In fact, that looks like a real key.

[Madam Evilyn]: I assure you, it's not.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Madam Evilyn, why are you wearing a key around your neck?

[Madam Evilyn]: I told you, it's just a pendant. A gift. I never really thought about it.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Madam Evilyn, this key looks a little rusty. Wouldn't you agree?

[Madam Evilyn]: Oh, well, it must need a little cleaning that's all.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Why would you wear a rusty old key around your neck, Madam Evilyn?

[Madam Evilyn]: It's my jewelry.

[Crown Counsel 3]: A rusty old key is hardly a decorative piece of jewelry, wouldn't you agree, Madam Evilyn?

[Madam Evilyn]: Well, um. I guess so.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Yes or no, Madam Evilyn. A rusty old key is not the latest fashion in jewelry?

[Madam Evilyn]: No.

[Crown Counsel 3]: I put it to you, Madam Evilyn, that this key is the key to Cinderella's bedroom and that you not only locked her in her room but guarded this key so fiercely you wore it around your neck 24/7.

[Madam Evilyn]: I told you I didn't lock it! I left her in there for her own good!

[Crown Counsel 3]: But on the day the prince came to the house, you told the Court you thought Cinderella had broken her door down, did you not?

[Madam Evilyn]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Now why would you think Cinderella had to break down her door, unless you had locked her in there in the first place?

[Madam Evilyn]: *(Softly)* I don't know....I didn't mean what I said.

[Crown Counsel 3]: No further questions.

[Defence Counsel 2]: My Lord/My Lady, that is all the witnesses for the Defence.

[Judge]: Alright, is the Defence ready to proceed with closing argument?

[Defence Counsel 2]: We are My lord/my lady.

DC2 moves to stand closer to the jury (in order to address them) but without turning his/her back to the judge.

[DEFENCE CLOSING]

[Defence Counsel 2]:

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. This is the final opportunity that we, the Defence, will have to speak with you.

I ask you to accept Madam Evilyn's testimony as truthful, and if you do—as I'm sure his/her Lordship will advise you—you must accordingly find her not guilty of unlawful exploitation or confinement.

That said, the way our legal system works in Canada is that there is no onus on Madam Evilyn to prove her innocence. The Crown must prove her guilt to you beyond a reasonable doubt.

As you heard from the witnesses, every child in that household had to do chores. There was nothing extraordinary about Cinderella having to do some work around the house. In fact, as you heard, on at least one occasion, the butler, Mr. Smithers, even helped her with her chores and he had responsibility for many of the household tasks.

All teenagers have to do chores – and it can hardly be called exploitation to demand they do them thoroughly and properly.

The Crown will try to convince you that Madam Evilyn tried to threaten Cinderella to get her to do her chores and that that made Cinderella fear for her safety and the safety of her mouse friends.

This is clearly untrue! If Cinderella failed to do her chores, she was punished, as any teenager would be, by being denied privileges. As you heard, Madam Evilyn occasionally punished Cinderella when she didn't do her work. But Cinderella has testified that she went to the ball even when it was expressly prohibited by her stepmother, so she clearly

wasn't afraid to disobey her stepmother and leave the house when she was grounded. Is that how someone who is afraid for their safety behaves? I don't think so!

The Crown hasn't shown that a REASONABLE person would fear for their safety in these circumstances. What did Madam Evilyn do? Sent Cinderella to her room, told her she couldn't go out at night, made her skip a few meals.

It is completely normal for parents to send their children to their room. The night of September 19, 2008 was no different. The crown hasn't shown beyond a reasonable doubt that Cinderella was locked in the room, or even if she was, that it was Madam Evilyn who did the locking. She was free to leave. She obviously wasn't that confined, because she was able to run downstairs to see the prince.

The Crown called Fairlene Gottmutter to tell you that Madam Evilyn exploited and threatened Cinderella. I remind you that this woman told you she follows BIRDS on Twitter and believes in magic. But when asked to actually prove this, she told the Court her magic wand had been confiscated. Can we honestly believe anything this woman says? I think not.

The Prince told you he thought he heard a banging sound when he came to the house on September 19, 2008, but he also told you that he was tired and hadn't eaten for days. It was entirely possible that the sound could have been Cinderella running down the spiral staircase to see her prince and not thumping on the door at all. The Prince is clearly blinded by his love for Cinderella and would do or say anything to protect her.

As for young Cinderella, she is clearly mentally unstable and has fabricated this story. I mean, she talks to animals! What more can I say?!

Madam Evilyn is just a working single mom, trying to do the best she can for her daughters. Some discipline is necessary with teenagers these days. It's not against the law to not buy all your children iPhones and tickets to 83 Jonas Brothers [or whatever the students choose] concerts!

Ladies and gentlemen, after you consider all of the evidence, we ask that you return a verdict of not guilty of unlawful exploitation and not guilty of forcible confinement. Thank you.

DC2 sits

[CROWN CLOSING]

[Judge]: Crown, you may proceed when ready.

CC2 stands at the lectern facing the jury, without putting his/her back to the judge.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Discipline! This case goes far beyond disciplining teenage girls. Does it really count as disciplining when you force your teenage stepdaughter to run the entire household all day every day, and then lock her in her room for full days at a time! When you threaten to kill her only friends in the world, the mice? Is it discipline to raise your daughter to fear for her safety day in and day out?

The Defence is correct on the point that we the Crown bear the onus to prove Madam Evilyn's guilt to you. I submit to you that we have met this heavy burden.

The evidence before you today clearly establishes that Cinderella was unlawfully exploited against her will. You heard the evidence about how Cinderella couldn't even go to school or have any friends or activities because she had so much housework to do. Cinderella told you about the threats her stepmother made against the mice - Cinderella's only friends and allies in this world!

You heard how she regularly went without dinner when she wasn't finished all her chores. All of this could have led a reasonable person to believe that their safety was threatened.

Fairlene Gottmutter told you about how extreme the situation was and how she worried about Cinderella's safety. Without any evidence to suggest that she engages in fantastical acts, the reliability of her evidence cannot be questioned. Furthermore, her beliefs are irrelevant.

The stepsisters testified that they have chores too and that Cinderella wasn't threatened, but they clearly have an interest in keeping on their mom's good side, and in having this free labour continue.

Cinderella also told you that the day after the homecoming ball, when the prince visited the house, she was locked in her room and could not leave on her own. She told you that she banged on her door, trying to get out. The prince testified that he heard the banging noise which confirms Cinderella's evidence. You even saw how the accused wears a rusty key, the key to that very room Cinderella was locked in, around her neck.

Cinderella is just an innocent victim here. She was young and vulnerable and her stepmother took advantage of her father's death to exploit and confine her. The accused is a [*numbering these off on his/her fingers*] evil, conniving, domineering, manipulative, stupid, sour-faced hag!

[takes a deep breath, turns, nods to the audience, turns to the jury]

We ask you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that after you consider all of the evidence that is before you, to return a verdict of guilty on both charges.

Thank you.

CC2 sits

[Judge]:

I will now turn to my jury charge.

[to jury] Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that concludes the evidence in this case. You have heard evidence from the Crown that the accused unlawfully confined and exploited the complainant Cinderella.

When you retire to deliberate, the first question you must consider is whether the Crown has proven—beyond a reasonable doubt—the elements of the charge of unlawful exploitation under s. 279.04 of the Criminal Code. The Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt: that the accused, between 2005 and 2008, caused Cinderella to provide labour against her will, that in so doing the accused lead Cinderella to believe that her safety or the safety of the mice would be threatened if she failed to provide the labour, and that a reasonable person would have believed that their safety or that of someone they know, would be threatened. If you find that the Crown has proven all of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt, you must find Madam Evilyn guilty of unlawful exploitation contrary to s. 279.04 of the Criminal Code.

The second question you must consider is whether the Crown has proven—beyond a reasonable doubt—the elements of the charge of unlawful confinement under s. 279(2) of the Criminal Code. The Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt: that on or about September 19, 2008, Madam Evilyn confined, imprisoned, or forcibly seized the complainant, Cinderella, that she intended to do so, and that she did so without lawful authority. I note that the legal definition of forcible confinement does not require total physical restraint of the victim, it is an intentional deprivation of liberty to move from

one place to another. If you find that the Crown has proven all of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt you must find Madam Evilyn guilty of forcible confinement contrary to s. 279(2) of the Criminal Code.

The standard of a reasonable doubt can be an obscure concept. Very briefly, it is something less than absolute certainty but more than the balance of probabilities. It is not beyond *any* doubt, as that might be impossible; that doubt must be reasonably held. The Defence does not need to prove that Madam Evilyn is innocent; all accused persons are presumed innocent. The Crown must have proven, through evidence led in this courtroom, to the standard of beyond a reasonable doubt, that Madam Evilyn is guilty of unlawful exploitation and forcible confinement.

You may find the accused guilty of both charges, one of the two charges, or neither charge.

Normally I would canvass the evidence as I understand it and address some finer points of law at this point. But, you look like a sharp bunch so we'll just skip all that.

You may now proceed to the jury room for deliberations. Your verdict must be unanimous. That is to say, everyone must agree with the decision. When you have reached a verdict please inform the Sheriff. He/she will inform the Court that you are ready to return to the courtroom to announce your verdict.

Jury leaves the courtroom for deliberations. Defence, Crown, and accused stand out of respect for the jury. Sheriff directs the jury to the jury room

[Judge]:

Thank you counsel. We will now adjourn until the jury returns with the verdict.

[Court Clerk]:

Order in Court. This court is adjourned to await the return of the jury.

All stand while the judge leaves the courtroom.

[Defence Counsel 3]: [to CC3] Well that's it for the easy part!

[Crown Counsel 3]: I know what you mean! Nice submissions by the way.

[Defence Counsel 3]: Thanks, you too.

DC3 walks over to Accused.

[Madam Evilyn]: How long is this going to take?

[Defence Counsel 3]: It depends on how long it takes for the jury to reach a verdict. The clerk will let us know by saying...

[Court Clerk]: [*interrupting*] Order in Court.

[Defence Counsel 3]: That!

DC3 returns to counsel seat. Judge enters the courtroom. Everyone stands.

[Judge]: You may be seated. Madam Registrar, has the jury reached a verdict?

[Court Clerk]: They have, My Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Sheriff, please bring the jury in.

Defence, Crown, and Accused stand as Sheriff directs the jury to their seats. Everyone can be seated when the jury sits

[Court Clerk]: Members of the jury, have you reached a verdict?

Jury Foreperson stands

[Jury Foreperson]: Yes, we have.

[Court Clerk]: Mr./Madam Foreperson, what is your verdict on the count of unlawful exploitation contrary to s. 279.04 of the Criminal Code?

[Jury Foreperson]: Guilty/not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: *[to the Judge]*

The jury finds the accused guilty/not guilty, My Lord/Lady.

[Court Clerk]:

Mr./Madam Foreperson, what is your verdict on the count of unlawful confinement contrary to s. 279(2) of the Criminal Code?

[Jury Foreperson]:

Guilty/not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: *[to the Judge]*

The jury finds the accused guilty/not guilty, My Lord/Lady.

[Court Clerk]:

Members of the jury, listen to your verdict as the court does not record it. You find the accused Madam Evilyn guilty/not guilty of unlawful exploitation and guilty/not guilty of unlawful confinement. This is your verdict, so say you all. Please stand to confirm your verdict.

All members of the jury stand

[Court Clerk]:

The verdict is unanimous, My Lord/Lady.

[Judge]:

*[If verdict is **guilty**]*

Madam Evilyn, a jury of your peers has found you guilty of exploitation/forcible confinement. Sheriff, please take this woman into custody pending sentencing.

*[if verdict is **not guilty**]*

Madam Evilyn, a jury of your peers has found you not guilty. You are free to go.

[Judge]:

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we thank you for your service acting as jurors in this matter. Both society and the law benefit from your contribution. In return, I hope you have found it to be an interesting and rewarding experience.

[Court Clerk]:

This Court stands adjourned. Order in Court.

All stand while the judge leaves the courtroom. All lights go out.

FIN