

COURTROOM

Rory Barber

INT. COURTROOM - MORNING

A JUDGE brings the courtroom to order.

JUDGE

We are here today to try the defendant, Tom Pelican, for double homicide.

JUROR 1

Ooh spicy.

Judge side-eyes juror 1.

JUDGE

Two counts of first degree murder by poison.

JUROR 1

Ooooh, **YES** and he's evil!

JUDGE

Order in the court! We will not cast judgments on the defendant's personality.

JUROR 1

Sorry judge, that's just what I do. You see I'm an actor, writer, stand-up comedian with a background in improv from the Upright Citizens Brigade and Second City. As an upright citizen in this city court I feel I bring-

Judge bangs her gavel.

JUDGE

No *yes*, *anding* in my courtroom, juror! You're here to help uphold justice.

JUROR 1

I'm here to serve the audience, perform guerrilla theater at all times. My calling in life.

JUDGE

No more outbursts. How does the defendant plea?

TOM PELICAN

Your honor I am not guilty. I promise.

JUROR 1

Yeah, that's what they all say down at the station.

JUDGE

Alright, bring forth the evidence.

A bloody knife in a Ziplock bag is presented.

TOM PELICAN

I don't see what my bloody knife has to do with this case.

JUROR 1

Well you clearly own a lot of bloody knives. A lot of dirtied weapons. You dirty, dirty boy.

TOM PELICAN

What? Aren't you supposed to be my unbiased peer? Where the hell is this coming from?

JUROR 1

Well, if it's true you own a bloodied knife, then what else is true? Huh? Some filthy little secrets you'd like to reveal now? That might make things a little more amusing around here.

Judge bangs her gavel.

JUDGE

Shockingly, the defendant is correct and murder is no laughing matter. Quiet down jury. Was this the murder weapon?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

No your honor. The autopsy results showed poison on both counts. This "evidence" is completely erroneous. There's no law against owning a bloody knife.

JUROR 1

That was good but try saying it again, with more conviction this time. Maybe cry too.

JUDGE

Ok let's see the rest of the evidence.

A WITNESS is called to the stand.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

You worked with him at the same diner and witnessed the killings?

WITNESS

Yes. I watched him pour a powder into this man's coffee mumbling "this will teach you to ask for extra whipped cream." The second time he whispered "this one is just for fun." It wasn't until later I learned it was rat poison.

JUROR 1

(Law and Order sound)
DUN DUN!

JUDGE

I've seen enough. Let's take a recess and let the jury convene. And when we come back no more extra chit chat.

JUROR 1

Yes, please no more excess chatter from the peanut gallery. Let the *professionals* do our jobs.

Everyone leaves the court. Beat. Everyone returns.

JUDGE

Alright what has the jury decided?

JUROR 1

We the jury, by the power vested in us by the court, have decided Tom Pelican is guilty. Mr. Pelican murdered 3 people, with 3 bloody knives, in 3 different libraries.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection! My client was not being tried for...well any of that.

(MORE)

DEFENSE ATTORNEY (CONT'D)

He only killed two people.
ALLEGEDLY! And there were no
 mentions of libraries.

JUROR 1

Yeah well we decided to punch it
 up. Rule of threes works anywhere
 really, a courtroom is no
 exception. And library sounds like
 Clue, that movie was comedy gold.
 So triple homicide it is haha.

Judge banging her gavel.

JUDGE

Order in the court. That's enough
 out of the jury, thank you very
 much. The defendant has been found
 guilty, obviously. I sentence him
 to 40 years with no parole. Case
 dismissed!

The judge bangs her gavel again.

JUROR 1

WAIT!

JUDGE

WHAT NOW??

JUROR 1

I think you could really heighten
 the ending. You know escalate more.
 Like they would if this was a
 Saturday Night Live sketch.
 Sentence him to death! Because
egads he's a nasty little serial
 killer. That really adds a bang-

Banging gavel harder and louder.

JUDGE

-That's enough out of you juror. So
 help me god if you keep talking you
will be found in contempt and I
will throw you in my special little
 judge jail cell. Don't try me. I
 will not miss my Judge Judy!

Blackout.