

A Lady Called Justice

Hey lady, how are you? Looking good but seeing nothing. What's the matter, you been blind so long you can't see? Oh well, it's just as well because what there is to see is not very pretty anyway. Take Sarah, for example, she came home and found her man in bed with another woman. But she didn't see that. You know she convinced herself that he was not at fault. She said the woman had been trying to pull her house down for years and she did not fault her man. He gave her a diamond and they made up. Two years later he is still double timing his woman and she's telling people how much he loves her.

Can't see, the woman can't see. Remains me of the lady outside the courthouse in the town where I grew up. Her name was called Justice and she represented the Justice Department. The problem I had with the lady is that she was support to have been blind but she had an amazing ability to rule in favor of the rich people in town whenever they had a legal problem.

I remember this one family called the Jones. They were the leading family in town. The old man was known for loving colored women but he didn't want anyone to know his secret. He had half dozen children by colored women and everybody in the Black community knew about it. It was the White community that was blind. What the colored folks knew, they didn't tell Whites but they showed did tell other colored people.

Well, at any rate, one of the colored women got to be very close to the old man. He promised her that he was going to put her in his will. Why he had at least three children by the woman. He would give her a little money every now and then and he always made sure she had a job. One day, the woman overheard the old man talking with his lawyer about his will. He instructed the lawyer to leave the bulk of his estate to his wife and to divide among his children, with his wife of course, the bank accounts and other liquid access.

The woman remembered hearing the lawyer asked if he was going to leave anything for any of his trusted helps in his house. He said, "matter of fact, I do want to leave a little something for one of my helps." This made the woman's heart glad. But when he told the lawyer that he was going to leave his 1954 pickup truck for Tom, his yard man, the woman became very bitter.

From that day to this one, the old man has not been able to look upon her nor any other woman. After the lawyer left, the woman confronted the old man. (AT THIS POINT THE PLAY OPENS WITH THE OLD MAN AND WOMAN IN A ROOM TOGETHER).

Woman:

Sir, I thought it time we talked about the arrangement for Saturday's social for you daughter.

Old Man:

Not now women, I have something else to do.

Woman:

But sir, if we don't take care of the business now, it will not get done in time.

Old Man:

First things first. Come to daddy. I have some sweet kisses and a mighty powerful appetite.

Commentator:

The woman knew the old man's daughter was in the house but he thought she had left for piano lessons with his son. She played up to him not revealing the hatred in her heart for him.

Woman:

Can't say that I don't have a strong appetite myself. But here in the house? Don't you think we should wait until the midnight hour at our little meeting place.

Old Man:

Can't wait. What I have to do can't wait.

Woman (approaching the man says):

Do you still love me like you use to? Remember when you use tell me how much you loved me. I haven't heard you say it lately. Tell me you love me. No. Tell me how much you love.

Old Man:

Why you know you'll the only woman I love. I have always loved you since I first hired you ten years ago. You have mothered three of my children. Don't I always take care of you and them. While earlier today, I spoke to the lawyer about putting you and the children in the will. It is my expressed desire that you and my children share the estate with my wife. I have always told you that the summer home was your and that my life insurance policy would go to our children to assure them of a good life without want.

Commentator:

The old man did not know it, but his daughter had suspected that he was having an affair with the woman. Now she knew it because she had seen the two of them together and she had recorded their conversation. Albeit, she did

not know it at the time. Of course, the woman knew the daughter was listing in on their conversation and she wanted to hurt the old man by revealing their secret.

AT THIS POINT THE DAUGHTER CALLS OUT TO HER FATHER

Daughter:

Daddy, are you home? Anybody home?

Old Man:

Damn, I thought that girl had gone to piano lessons. Yes, sweetheart, I am in the study.

DAUGHTER ENTERS STUDY ONE WAY AND THE WOMAN LEAVES THE OTHER.

Daughter:

Hi daddy, what's up? My you look might spry. Been keeping up your exercises?

Old Man:

Tell me what you want girl, I have things to do.

Daughter:

I wanted to tell you earlier but I didn't that I have some class mates from my detective group coming over later. We are going to practice some electronic tricks of the trade.

Old Man:

That's fine. I will be going now. I have that deal cross town that I must complete.

Daughter:

Bye daddy.

Commentator:

Earlier in the day, the daughter set up electronic listing devices in the study. She wanted to have everything in place for her class project. When she went to check on the equipment which was in a discrete location in the room she found the tape recorder running. She turned the tape off and left the room.

In the meantime, the old man was traveling cross town in his pickup when suddenly a cat dotted out in front of the car. As the old man swerved to miss the cat, he lost control of the truck and it went over an embankment killing him.

NOT KNOWING OF HIS ACCIDENT, THE DAUGHTER SPEAKS WITH THE WOMAN IN THE KITCHEN OF THE HOUSE

Daughter:

Tell me one thing, who is the father of your children?

Woman:

Girl, why are you asking me this? Are you still writing that detective story?

Daughter:

Yes, I am still writing but your children looked so much lighter than the average Black child, it look like they could be the offspring of mixed parents.

Woman:

Could be, sometime even the mother can't be sure who the daddy is.

Daughter:

Does that mean you do not know?

Woman:

Could be. You'll the detective. Detect!

AS THEY SPEAK A PHONE CALL COMES IN. THE WOMAN REACHES FOR THE PHONE BUT THE DAUGHTER BEATS HER TO IT

Daughter:

Hello. (SILENCE A BRIEF MOMENT AND THEN THE DAUGHTER SAYS) No! No! Say it's not so. No! No! (SHE LEAVES THE PHONE IN TEARS. THE WOMAN PICKS UP THE PHONE)

Woman:

Hello, may I help you, please (SHE IS INFORMED OF THE OLD MAN'S DEATH.) THE WOMAN GOES OVER TO COMFORT THE DAUGHTER HAVING A CHANGE IN FEELING TOWARD THE OLD MAN NOW THAT HE IS DEAD.

Daughter:

I loved my daddy. He was not always the best husband to mom, but I loved my daddy. He treated me with love. I know I'm going to miss him so much now that he's gone. What am I going to do?

Commentator

The woman never said a word. She held the daughter in her arms stroking her hair. The daughter, however, took note of the sorrow the woman felt in learning about the old man's death.

The family got through the next few days as well as could be expected under the circumstances. There were many things to take care of after the

funeral especially on the business side. The family leaned heavily on their lawyer's advice during this time.

As for the woman, she took a few days off after the funeral to try and gather her thoughts as to what the future held for her children and herself. Her greatest fear was that the family would not pay her a livable wage and because of this, she and her children would have to suffer. She thought it grossly unfair that children of the old man, who had so much money, should not be provided for. She decided to seek advice from a lawyer she knew in town.

Woman in Lawyer's Office

Lawyer Yank:

Good morning Ms. Wilson (the woman's name was Nancy Wilson).

Woman:

Good morning to you Mr. Yank

Lawyer Yank:

Sit, sit. What can I do for you? I heard about Harvey Jones' death. You were close to the family. Must have taken it pretty hard.

Woman:

Yes, it was a tragic accident. I will miss him in many ways. As for my visit to your office, I need legal advice.

Lawyer Yank:

You know that's what I am here to do. What do you need counsel in?

Woman:

I will get right to the point. My three children were fathered by Harvey Jones. He promised me that he would provide for them in his will. I am afraid that he did not. If he did not, I am left out in the cold, and my children, well, he should be made to take care of them.

Lawyer Yank:

Hold on! You'll taking me too fast. You mean to tell me that old man Jones and you were, oh, well, he is the father you said of your children. This is strong stuff Ms. Wilson. While, people in this town respect the Jones. They are the town's leading citizens. I am sorry, I can't help you.

Woman:

You can't help me! You'll a lawyer aren't you? The sign on your door says that you are a defender of justice. What do you mean you can't help me. Sound more like you won't help.

Lawyer Yank:

Take it anyway you want to Ms. Wilson, I have my family to see after. The people of this town are my friends. I am not going to get involved in your folly.

Woman:

Folly. I am a paying customer. I have need of a lawyer and I

Lawyer Yank

(Interrupting the woman). Enough. Good day Ms. Wilson and may God show you mercy. Because it's clear the town's people won't.

THE WOMAN LEAVES OFFICE IN DISGUST

Commentator:

The woman went to several lawyers in town but met with the same results. Before she could get in the door good,.

During one morning, the woman heard the family lawyer discussing the estate. He indicated that the old man had not left a will. He said that the old man was in the process of drawing up one but he never finished because of the accident. He went on to tell them that the old man wanted his wife and children to divide the estate between them and that the old pick up truck was to have gone to the yard man but it was destroyed in the accident.

All of this would not have mattered but that in the process of overhearing the lawyer, she also came across the tape recorder the daughter had set up in a discrete place. She noticed a tape in the recorder and right away she thought the family was trying to catch her saying something against them so that they could fire her. She took the tape out planning to see what was on it later.

When she got off work, she went straight home. Having looked in on the children, she made supper for them. After supper, she went into her bedroom and pulled out the tape. To her surprise, the tape was about the last conversation she had had with the old man where he promised her that he would take care of his children and provide for her in his will.

ACT ONE ENDS

ACT TWO OPENS WITH THE DAUGHTER TALKING TO THE FAMILY LAWYER

Daughter:

Mr. Thompson, I know you have worked for the family for a long time. And during that time, you no doubt have learned many things about the family. One thing I want to know from you. Who is the father of Nancy Wilson's children? (THE LAWYER DOES NOT ANSWER BUT LOOKS STUNDED BY THE QUESTION. So the daughter continue to speak.) I know you have the politically correct answer, but don't give me a twister, I am looking for the truth.

Lawyer Thompson:

Mable, I don't know who fathered Nancy's children. You know how promiscuous those people are. Why she could have three different daddies.

Daughter:

Mr. Thompson, Nancy has been working in this house for ten years, you for twice as long. If anybody knows what was going on in this house you do.

Lawyer Thompson:

I know a lot about your father's business dealings—some things I don't care to mention, but about Nancy's children, I don't have a clue. Any way, why is it a concern?

Daughter:

The day daddy died, I saw him kissing Nancy. I know he didn't know I was home but I am sure Nancy knew that I was. I also heard father tell Nancy that he had spoken unto you about taking care of Nancy's children. My father said that Nancy's children were his. He said that

Lawyer Thompson:

You what!! You heard Harvey say that he was the father of Nancy's children?

Daughter:

That's right.

Lawyer Thompson:

Don't say anymore. Whatever you heard, keep it to yourself.

Daughter.

But, Mr. Thompson, if it true, Nancy's children are my kin folks.

Lawyer Thompson:

Never, never, never on God's earth and certainly not in this town will such a lie not be vigorously challenged. I will go to my death fighting this matter.

Daughter:

Even if it's true.

Lawyer Thompson:

Let me tell you about your family. Your great grandfather was the first man to sit on the bench in this town. He was the most God fearing man in the town. An enemy of his said that he had some bastard children by a Black woman. Of course we didn't call them Black then—it was an insult. But your great grand father never so much as gave the time of day to the charges. He was a man of outstanding character. Once he found out who was behind the charge, he hauled him into court and found him guilty of malicious slander of a justice of the peace. He sent that man straight to jail and kept him there.

Daughter:

Yes, but that case was over turned on appeal.

Lawyer Thompson (LOOKING PUZZLED)

You know about that case?

Daughter

Yes, I know about the case and I also know that my great grandfather was a womanizer.

Lawyer Thompson:

Womanizer??? Why young lady there was no such thing as womanizing in your great grandfather's day.

Daughter:

True in a legal sense, but in a moral sense it was still womanizing.

Lawyer Thompson:

No so. You see, the woman was one of those black jelly beans. White men did what they wanted to in those days with the black jelly beans and no body cared enough to so much as raise the issue but for that foolish nigger lover, who slandered your great grandfather.

Daughter:

Why, Mr. Thompson, you sure do have a lot of malice in your heart toward Blacks. How can you live with yourself?

DAUGHTER LEAVES THE ROOM WHILE LAWYER THOMPSON IS SAYING SOME WORDS UNTO HIMSELF.

SONG: DRUMROLL FOR JUSTICE

Commentator:

The daughter remembers that she left a tape in the tape recorder. Thinking it recorded the conversation of the woman and the old man, she goes to the record to retrieve the tape only to find it missing. She first thinks the family lawyer removed the tape. But she thought better of that idea. She knew it was not her mother because she never came in the study. That left two logical choices: her brother and the woman. She asked her brother about the tape and he assured her that he didn't have it. The only person left was the woman.

Before turning in for bed, she called a third year law student she had been secretly dating at her university. They discussed the case and he agreed to come to her home the next day. The daughter knew that her mother and brother would not be there in that the brother had driven her to the summer home for the weekend. She knew the woman would be in the next day and she would have a golden opportunity to speak with her.

The daughter went to bed thinking about the matter. She asked, what if the tape reveals her father wanted Nancy and her children in his will? She thought about it and brushed it aside thinking that because her father did not have a will, the statutes of the state would kick in. She thought: Lost cause. Then she thought, what if the tape revealed her father owning up to being the father of Nancy's children.

When she awoke that morning, Nancy was already at work. She kept watch for the law student. When he drove up she met him at the door so as to keep his presence secret. After the two greeted each other, the daughter decided to speak with the woman.

DAUGHTER ENTERING THE ROOM WHERE NANCY WAS CLEANING.

Daughter:

Good morning Nancy.

Woman:

What's good about it?

Daughter:

My, we are in a very good mood this morning.

Woman:

Go on about your business girl, I don't feel up to fun and games today.

Daughter:

Good because I am not about fun and games. Nancy, I have a friend who would like to talk to you about a private matter.

Woman:

I don't want to talk to your friend about a private nor public matter. Leave me to my work.

Daughter:

He's a lawyer.

Woman: (TAKEN BY SURPRISE SAYS)

He's what?

Daughter:

A live, breathing lawyer whose willing to talk to you Ms. Grumpy. Oh woman cut the bull. You need a lawyer and I need a realistic class project. I know you know that I overheard your conversation with daddy about being the father of your children. Now we can help each other. If daddy is the father of your children that makes them by brothers and sister. I always wanted some young brothers and sisters and frankly speaking I am not about to let my blood be railroaded and driven in to poverty.

Woman:

Talk is cheap, girl. You think you'll some detective. You live in a dream world. Please leave me to my work.

Daughter:

Douglas, Douglas, will you please come in the study.

ENTERING THE STUDY WAS A TALL BLACK MAN WITH A STRIKING PERSONALITY.

Daughter:

Douglas, I want you to meet Nancy Wilson AKA Ms. Grumpy. She's the woman with the problem. Ms. Grumpy, meet Attorney Douglas.

Douglas: (EXTENDING A HAND)

Ms. Wilson I am glad to meet you.

Woman:

I'm not glad to meet you. What I don't need is some smart Black lawyer whose going to get himself all messed up on my account.

Douglas:

Hold on there Ms. Wilson. I am a smart lawyer and I am Black but you don't have worry about me getting messed up.

Woman:

You'll to young to fight the bigotry of this town. Every lawyer in town I have been to see and all of them are afraid to take my case because of the

power of the Jones' family. You will do well young man to get away from here and from me.

Douglas:

Ms. Wilson, I am not a lawyer. I am a third year law student. My professor is the lawyer. He does not live in this town and he could care a green fig less about the power of the Jones' family. If it was that powerful, don't you think Mable would be afraid to help you?

THOSE WORDS REACHED MS. WILSON AND SHE BECAME MORE AGREEABLE TO THE VISIT BY DOUBLAS.

Woman:

You do have a point but what can you do? You have said that you are not a lawyer?

Douglas:

But I am a law student whose certified to practice law under the leadership of my professor. What we proposed to do is the take your case as a pro bono publico, that is for the welfare of the public. Mable will take your case on as a class project also in her detective course. Between the two of us, we will overcome.

Commentator:

The woman had some genuine concern for both Douglas and the daughter. She knew the mean spirit she was fighting. At one attorney's office she learned that the judge who would likely try the case was a friend of the family. She also learned that the State Prosecutor received his appointment because of the old man. Moreover, she learned that every judge in the town had, at some point, socialized with the Harvey family and thought highly of them.

All that being true, the woman also knew that this was her last chance to receive help. She had hoped the family lawyer would offer her compensation to keep her mouth shut but he had not spoken one word to her. Now she was faced with a do or die decision insofar as her case was concerned. She decided to allow the lawyer to take on the case.

Woman:

Are you sure this thing isn't going to cost me anything?

Douglas:

I never said that the case would not cost you anything. To the contrary, it will cost much but not in terms of money that you will have to pay out. You will have to stand up to a town full of people who have sworn to up hold justice whose hearts have given over to favoritism, who have lost all sense of fair play and who is willing to protect a family's name above doing right. Some of these

people are not above doing you and your family bodily harm. So you see there are costs associated with the case.

Woman:

I'm not concerned about myself. It's the children that concern me. I don't know if I want to subject them to such a thing.

Douglas:

Do you have relatives in another city?

Woman:

None that I care to leave my children with. But I do have a friend who might agree to keep them over the summer. He has this big farm out in the mid west. I am sure he will keep them if it becomes necessary.

Commentary:

The woman contacted her friend about keeping the children. It was agreeable with him and she sent them by plane to the mid west. In the mean time, the daughter had asked the woman to have her children take blood tests. She wanted to know if the children's blood matched the old man's. She knew the old man had a rare blood type, and if it could be established that the children had the same type, they had a prima facie case.

Douglas, on the other hand, sought counsel from his professor regarding the case. Douglas was surprised to learn that his professor was not keen about him taking on the case. To Douglas' surprise, the Jones' family had been big contributors to the law school. This was not public knowledge but the professor knew because he was dean of the law school when the contributions rolled in. It took all that Douglas could do to persuade the professor to assist in the case. What turned the professor's heart was Douglas' appeal to the "rightness" of the case. The professor was known in the community as an advocate for children's rights. He had published widely on the role of parents in caring for their children. Douglas also knew the professor was a very religious man and that he had campaigned vigorously in the Save the Children campaign only a summer ago. In the end, Douglas asked the professor whether it was morally right to do right or justify not doing right when it's convenient seeing he had taught them to stand up for justice. The professor put aside his fears about the law school losing funds and stood on the principles he was known for teaching.

While this was going on, the family lawyer had contacted the Chief Judge and State Prosecutor about the woman's case. They had agreed to stone wall the case. The State Prosecutor was adamant about not allowing the Jones' family name to be drug through the mud. The family lawyer had also contacted the owner of the local news paper and TV station about the matter. On every side, the people agreed that justice would not be served by the woman even raising the issue that the old man was the father of her children.

The one voice that did speak in mild protest was the minister of the largest church in the town. He told the family lawyer that it was not his will to oppose children. He said that if Harvey was the father of the woman's children, he should be made to take care of them even in death. But when the family lawyer reminded the pastor that not a few members in his congregation had been contacted by him and that they agreed with the position taken by those who were friends of the Jones, he abruptly did an about face, saying, he would go along with them because the Jones had helped the church in its time of need.

ACT TWO COMES TO AN END SONG "JUSTICE"

The professor told Douglas that he could try to win his case in court but that the State Attorney would stonewall the case. He said the woman and her children would be put at risk by those who were prejudice against them. He told Douglas that he needed to settle the matter out of court. Douglas, however, was not willing to settle out of court. He wanted to go to trial. Douglas saw the case as his opportunity to make a name for himself. He was looking forward to a court trial so as to demonstrate his skills as a defense attorney. The professor would have none of it. He told Douglas that most of his work as a lawyer would deal with settling cases before reaching court. He showed him that the Jones family was too powerful to charge head on when there was no need to do so. Finally, he persuaded him that it was only his bullheaded desire to be on stage that led to his decision to go the route of a trial. He pressed the point that the important issue was not Douglas's career nor even showing up the Jones. He declared that the one and only thing that mattered was justice for the children and the woman. Relenting, Douglas heard the professor out.

DOUGLAS' PROFESSOR ARRANGES A MEETING BETWEEN DOUGLAS AND THE FAMILY LAWYER.

Family Lawyer:

Good afternoon young man. Your professor speaks highly of you. He told me that it would be mutually beneficial for us to talk. I am glad you came.

Douglas:

And a good afternoon to you sir. I hope we will be able to see eye to eye.

Family Lawyer:

I see no reason why we cannot.

Commentator:

The family lawyer had agreed to the meeting not because he had any desire to settle the case out of court. He did not believe Douglas had a snowball chance in hell of standing up to him. Not even Douglas' professor was viewed as a challenge. He had agreed to the meeting to put the "black boy" in his place.

Douglas:

I represent Nancy Wilson and her children. We have reason to believe that her children were fathered by Mr. Jones, now deceased. As Ms. Wilson only wants her children provided for, we thought a reasonable minds could work out an settlement in the interest of all parties.

Family Lawyer:

Young man, you don't have a leg to stand on let alone legal grounds for your case. I will not stand by and let anyone extort from the Jones family. As for as I am concerned, this meeting is waste of time with the exception that I might give you some advice.

You are a young man with high aspirations. Don't let your aspirations cloud good judgment. I know you want to help Nancy and if it were any other family, I might be persuaded to show some mercy. But my feathers are ruffed when you come into my office and act as if my friend, Harvey Jones, could stoop so low as to lay up with a black whore. Harvey treated Nancy in a fatherly manner. He gave her work for 10 years and from time to time he even gave her a little extra to help out with the children. This good man's name will not be tarnished. Do I make myself clear? Will not be tarnished!

Douglas:

Old man, you don't have a leg to stand on let alone legal grounds to win if I go to court. I will not stand by and let you or anyone else extort funds that's rightfully belong to my client and her children. As for as I am concerned, this meeting will surely be a waste of time if you don't come down off that white horse you have been riding.

Family Lawyer (Taken BY SURPRISE AT THE BOLDNESS OF DOUGLAS)

Mr. Douglas, I think I have made my point. If you have nothing else to add, I have other business matters to see after.

Douglas:

You don't have anything to see after that comes close to the matter before you. I didn't come here with hat in hand as an Uncle Tom out of the woods. I came here to offer you and the Jones family an opportunity to do what's right in a non public environment. Other wise you, and I mean you, and the Jones' family are going down. No decent person in this town or any other will dare to call you a friend when the word gets out as to your behavior and Harvey's regarding certain, as you say, "black whores."

Family Lawyer:

You had better leave young man.

Commentator:

The daughter had gone to Nancy and told her about the meeting with Douglas. She also informed Nancy that they were seeking to settle the case out of court so as to keep herself and the children out of harms way. As they spoke, Nancy volunteered information about the tape. The daughter took the tape as if she did not already have a copy of it. The daughter told the woman that Douglas would be contacting the family lawyer about settling the case. As they talked further, Nancy told the daughter about a rumor she had heard for years that the family lawyer had a relationship with a woman from one of the Islands in the Bahamas. She said that she was not sure which one, but she had seen a woman once from Freeport whom she had to take to the airport at the direction of Mr. Jones. She said that she had not thought about the matter since, but she could be the woman behind the rumor. The daughter shared this information with Douglas. She also shared with Douglas the family lawyer's travel itinerary over the past three years. She had gone to his law office while he was out of town. She told the secretary that she was working on a project for a tourism class and that she would be grateful if she could have a real live travel history of their family lawyer to complete her work. The secretary knew the daughter and thought the request a little strange, then she thought better of that thought agreeing to the request. The daughter asked the secretary to keep her request a secret at least until she finished her assignment because the class was very competitive and she did not want to reveal her grand plan "to steal the show", so to speak.

As for the daughter, she knew not only the family lawyer's past travel itinerary but also his future planes. The family lawyer had made reservations to visit Freeport the day after Douglas had met with him. In his arrogance, he never figured Douglas knew about his relationship with the Bahamian woman. The daughter had booked an earlier flight to Freeport and as she had the woman's name and phone number, she went to work on her plane.

DAUGHTER REQUESTED A MEETING WITH FAMILY LAWYER REGARDING HER DETECTIVE WORK

Family Lawyer:

Good morning Mable. How are you doing today?

Daughter:

Very fine, very fine indeed.

Family Lawyer:

What can I do for you.

Daughter:

As you know I'm working on this class project for my detective class I'm doing a real to life story. I thought you would make an interesting subject.

Family Lawyer:

Tell me about the work.

Daughter:

It about a young White woman who is secretly dating a Black man. The woman's family does not care much for Blacks and so the two of them decided to keep there love for each other a secret. The Black man is a lawyer and he takes on this case of a poor woman who was being railroaded out of her pension. The company she worked for didn't want to pay her a pension because they said she was not entitled to it as she was dismissed due to a flaw in her character. It was rumored that the woman had an out of wedlock child by one of the officials of the company who had moved on to another job. They did not want the woman around any longer because she was "unfit" in their words.

Family Lawyer (NOT YET SUSPECIOUAL)

Sounds like a good case. Tell me more.

Daughter:

The lawyer of the woman runs into problems in trying to defend the woman. The company had friends a plenty in the town and the state. Every where the lawyer turned for help, he was rebuffed. His girl friend aided him by filtering information to him about certain extramarital relationships of other officials in the company.

On one occasion, she went to an exotic island where a well respected official of the company frequented. The pictures she brought back aided the lawyer much in getting the company to reconsider the pension due the woman.

Family Lawyer:

Enough of this. If you think you are going to come into my office and intimidate me young lady, you are wrong.

Daughter:

Sir, I am not trying to intimidate you. I am telling you about my class project. By the way, the lawyer was able to reach a national magazine who was very much interested in the lady's case. The lawyer used that as leverage to gain the settlement without having to spill the company's dirty laundry.

Family Lawyer:

You had better leave young lady.

Daughter: (AS SHE WALKS OUT THE DOOR)

Douglas and I are getting married.

Commentary:

The family lawyer knew without a shadow of doubt that the daughter had been speaking about the Nancy Wilson's case. He wondered how much they knew about Harvey and himself. He thought about the pending scandal if news were to get out regarding their extramarital affairs. He considered the business deal he was working on for the family and knew that it was dead if the news of his dealings with woman in the Bahamas became public news. He considered his wife. Would she divorce him? How would his children take the news? What about his church after all he was looked up to as an example for others to follow.

CLOSING SONG: "WHICH WAY DO WE GO"

Act I

Actors/Actresses

Commentator

Mr. Harvey Jones-prominent white man in his community

Ms. Nancy Wilson-The Jones's housekeeper and one of Mr. Jones's black women

Mable Jones-Mr. Jones's daughter

Lawyer Yank

Town Gossip

Voice on the telephone

Mrs. Jones

Scene I

The Town Gossip is speaking of the blindness he has seen over the years. He speaks very dramatically in black dialect while often motioning with the hands and body to make a point. The Town Gossip directs his conversation to the audience and a figure that represents Lady Justice. He is standing in front of the closed curtains. Behind the curtains Scene II is set up like a study with a desk, chairs, bookshelf, etc.

Song "Justice"

Justice is an ethical statement

A statement of the people

A Statement as to what is right

A statement as to what is right

In a democracy, the majority rules

When its rules are just

And the people declare them so

There is no greater thing that this

Justice shows respect for the rights of others

Justice is charitable toward the needy

Justice is realized, when all people are honored

Justice is realized, when all people are honored

Justice is an ethical statement

A statement of the people

A statement as to what is right

A statement as to what is right

A Lady Called Justice

(Looking at the figure that represents Lady Justice) Hey lady, how are you? Looking good, but seeing nothing. What's the matter, you been blind so long you can't see? (Throwing hands up to show a feeling of hopelessness) Oh well, it's just as well because what there is to see is not very pretty anyway. (pointing toward Lady Justice) Take Sarah, for example, she came home and found her man in bed with another woman. (waving hands/finger and head to indicate no) But she didn't see that. (pointing with authority as Lady Justice) You know she convinced herself that he was not at fault. She said the woman had been trying to pull her house down for years, and she did not fault her man. He gave her diamond and they made up. Two years later he is still double timing his woman and she's 'round here tellin' people how much he (drags the word love out as he snickers) loves her.

Can't see, (stamps foot) the woman just can't see! (Looking at the figure that represents Lady Justice as if his/her memory has been jogged) Reminds me of the lady outside the courthouse in the town where I grew up. She was called Justice, and she represented the Justice Department. The problem I had with the lady is that she was suppose to have been blind, but she had an amazing ability to rule in favor of the rich people in town whenever they had a legal problem.

I remember this one family called the Jones. They were the leading family in town. The old man was known for loving colored women, (snickers and somewhat covers his/her mouth) but he didn't want anyone to know his secret. (waving at the audience as the secret is revealed) Child he had half dozen children by colored women and everybody in the Black community knew it. It was the White community that was blind. What the colored folks knew, they didn't tell Whites, but they sho' did tell other colored people.

Well, at any rate child, one of the colored women got to be (drags the word very out and deepens voice) very close to the old white man. (said sarcastically) He even promised her that he was going to put her in his will. Why he had at least three children by the woman. He would give her money ever' now and then, and he always made sure she had a job. (Leans toward audience) One day, the woman just happen to overhear the old man talking with his lawyer about his will. You know he instructed the lawyer to leave the bulk of his estate to his wife and to divide among his children, with his wife of course, the bank accounts and other liquid assets.

The woman remember hearing the lawyer ask if he was going to leave anything for any of his trusted helps in his house. He said, "matter of fact, I do want to leave a little something for one of my helps." You know this made the woman's heart glad. But when he told the lawyer that he was going to leave his 1954 pickup truck for Tom, his yard man, the woman became very bitter.

From that day to this one, the old man has not been able to look upon her nor any other woman. After the lawyer left, the woman confronted the old man (very loudly says/signs UMF). Let's see what happens (turns and exits very dramatically).

Scene II

In the study.

Nancy:

(walking into the study) Sir, I thought it time we talked about the arrangements for Saturday's social for your daughter.

Mr. Jones:

(as he walks away and sits on the sofa/chair) Not now woman, I have something else to do.

Nancy:

(following Mr. Jones, but not quite catching up) But sir, if we don't take care of the business now, it will not get done in time.

Mr. Jones:

First things first. (using his fingers to motion for Nancy to join him on the sofa/chair) Come to daddy. (poking out his lips, motioning a kiss) I have some sweet kisses and a mighty powerful appetite.

Commentator:

The woman knew the old man's daughter was in the house, but he thought she had left for piano lessons with her brother Timmy. She played up to him not revealing the hatred in her heart for him.

Nancy:

(walking over to Mr. Jones seductively) Can't say that I don't have a strong appetite myself. (said with concern) But here in the house? (snuggling up to the old man) Don't you think we should wait until the midnight hour at our little meeting place.

Mr. Jones:

(hugging the woman and pulling her close) Can't wait. What I have to do can't wait.

Nancy:

(jumping up) Do you still love me? Remember when you use tell me how much you loved me? I haven't heard you say it lately. Tell me you love me. (motioning no with her finger) No! Tell me how much you love me.

Mr. Jones:

(standing and motioning with hands; Nancy steps back) Why you know you're the only woman I love. I have always loved you since I first hired you ten years ago. You have mothered three of my children. Don't I always take care of you and them. Why earlier today, I spoke to the lawyer about putting you and the children in my will. It is my expressed desire that you and my children share the estate with my wife. (a persuading look, pulling Nancy close) I have always told you that the summer home was yours, and that my life insurance policy would go our children to assure them of a good life without want.

Nancy:

Before you get anything here, put it in writing.

Mr. Jones:

I have already told the lawyer what to do. Don't you trust me?

Nancy:

As much as you love me, you could as least write down what you told the lawyer.

Mr. Jones:

That's not necessary.

Nancy:

(giving him a napkin) Write it on this.

Mr. Jones:

(loving at the napkin and thinking Nancy was kidding around said) All right woman. You drive a hard barging. (writing on napkin)

Nancy:

Your autograph, please. (the old man signed the paper thinking still Nancy was kidding around)

Commentator:

The old man didn't know it, but his daughter had suspected that he was having an affair with the woman. Now she knew it because she had seen the two of them together. She had recorded their conversation, albeit she did not know it at the time. Of course, the woman knew the daughter was listening in on their conversation and she wanted to hurt the old man by revealing their secret.

(at this point the daughter calls out to her father)

Mable:

(looking around) Daddy, are you home? Anybody home?

Mr. Jones:

(pushing Nancy away) Damn, I thought that girl had gone to piano lessons. (looking/talking in direction of his daughter's voice) Yes, sweetheart, I'm in the study.

(daughters enters one way and the woman leaves the other)

Mable:

(going over and kissing her father on the cheek) Hi daddy, how are you today? My you look mighty spry. Been keeping up your exercises?

Mr. Jones:

(turning and moving toward the desk) Tell me what you want girl, I have things to do.

Mable:

I meant to tell you earlier that I have some classmates from my detective group coming over later. (says excitedly) We are going to practice some electronic tricks of the trade.

Mr. Jones:

(kind of waving Mable off and fumbling with some papers on his desk) That's fine. I'm going to leave now. I have that deal across town that I must complete.

Mable:

(waving) Bye daddy.
(Nancy enters the study again to place some mail on Mr. Jones' desk)

Mable:

(talking to Nancy) I'm going to check on the electronic listening devices that I set up in here earlier today. I wanted to have everything in place for my class project.

(Nancy exits and Mable moves to check on the discreetly placed recording devices)

Mable:

(thinking out loud) Oh, the tape recorder is on. Umf, I'll just turn it off so that's it's ready for later. (she turns the tape off and leaves the room)

Scene III

In the kitchen Nancy is preparing a meal, and tidying up the counter/sink area. Nancy strolls in and leans back on one of the chairs at the table. She is facing Nancy's back. She begins speaking)

Mable:

(walking in and leaning on the chair) Tell me one thing Ms. Nancy, who is the father of your children.

Nancy:

(not turning around) Girl, why are you asking me this? Are you still writing that detective story?

Mable:

(moving next to Nancy) I'm still writing, but your children looked much lighter than the average Black child. It looks like they could be the offspring of mixed parents.

Nancy:

(shrugging her shoulders while continuing her task) Could be, sometimes even the mother can't be sure who the daddy is.

Mable:

(moving to face Nancy, said with curiosity) Does that mean you do not know?

Nancy:

Could be. (looking face to face with Mable) You're the detective. Start detecting! (Nancy walks off)

(as they speak a phone call comes in. The woman reaches for the phone, but the daughter beats her to it)

Voice on the phone:

Hello, Mable. I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but your father is dead. (a brief moment of silence and then the daughter breaks out into tears)

Mable:

Say it's not so. No! No! (she drops the telephone as she walks away)

Nancy:

(Nancy picks up the telephone) Hello, may I help you please.

Voice over the phone:

Mr. Jones was traveling cross town in his pickup when suddenly a cat dotted out in front of front of the truck. As he swerved to miss the cat, he lost control of the truck and it went over an embankment killing him. I'm sorry.

Would you please inform Mrs. Jones and the rest of the family of this tragic accident. Thank you.

Mable:

I loved my daddy. he was not always the best husband to mom, but I loved my daddy. He treated me with love. I know I'm going to miss him so much now that he's gone. (standing up with outstretched hands)

Commentator:

The woman never said a word. She held the daughter in her arms stroking her hair. The daughter, however took note of the sorrow the woman felt in learning about the old man's death.

The family got through the next few days as well as could be expected under the circumstances. There were many things to take care of on their lawyer's advice during this time.

Nancy:

Ms. Jones, if it is okay with you, I will need to take a few days off. I have some personal business I need to attend to.

Ms. Jones:

Fine Nancy, we'll be able to get along without you for a few days.

Music allowing time to change scene.

Scene IV

Nancy goes to visit a lawyer at his office.

(Nancy in Lawyer Yank's office)

Lawyer Yank:

Good morning Ms. Wilson. (Nancy)

Nancy:

Good morning to you Mr. Yank.

Lawyer Yank:

(motioning toward a chair) Sit, sit. What can I do for you? (sitting down behind his desk) I heard about Harvey Jones's death. You were close to the family. Must have taken it pretty hard.

Nancy:

(head down) Yes, it was a tragic accident. (wiping a tear from her eye) I'll miss him in many ways. (looking at Yank) As for my visit to your office, I need legal advice.

Lawyer Yank:

You know that's what I am here to do. What do you need counsel in?

Nancy:

I will get right to the point. My three children were fathered by Harvey Jones. (Yank looks shocked) Nancy leaning in over the desk toward Yank while sliding to the edge of the seat) He promised me that he would provide for them in his will. If he did not, I fear that me and my children will be left out in the cold. I don't think the family would pay me a livable wage and that it would be grossly unfair that the children of Mr. Jones, who had so much money, should not be provided for. (pounding on the desk)

Lawyer Yank:

(sitting back, and shaking his head in disbelief) Hold on! You're taking me too fast. (pause) You mean to tell me that old man Jones and you were, oh well, he is the father you said of your children. This is strong stuff Ms. Wilson. Why, people in this town respect the Joneses. They are the town's leading citizens. (waving hand to signify no) I'm sorry, I can't help you.

Nancy:

(standing up) You can't help me! You're a lawyer aren't you? (pointing to the door) The sign on your door says that you are a defender of justice. What do you mean you can't help me. (leaning over the desk and raises her voice) Sounds more like you won't help me.

Lawyer Yank:

(standing up and moving toward the office door) Take it anyway you want to Ms Wilson. I have my family to see after. The people of this town are my friends. I am not going to get involved in your foolishness.

Nancy:

Foolishness! I'm a paying customer. I need a lawyer and I...

Lawyer Yank:

(interrupting the woman) Enough! (opening the office door and motioning to show Ms. Wilson out). Good day Ms Wilson and may God show you mercy. Because it's clear the town's people won't.

(Nancy leaves Yank's office in disgust)

Town Gossip:

The woman went to several lawyers in town, but met with the same results. Before she could get in the door good, they were ushering her out. She tried time and time again but no one would give her the time of day. Coming to the end of her wits, the woman was about to give up. Added to her problems was the fact that the family was not very keen on keeping her. You see word had gotten back to the family that the woman had been seeking legal counsel about the matter of her children's welfare

ACT TWO

Acts two opens with Mable, the daughter talking to Mr. Thompson, the family lawyer. Both were sitting at the family table.

Scene I

Mable:

Mr. Thompson, I know you have worked for the family for a long time. And during that time, you no doubt have learned many things about the family. One thing I want to know from you. Who is the father of Nancy Wilson's children? (Mr. Thompson does not answer but looks stunned by the question. So Mable continues to speak.) I know you have the politically correct answer, but don't give me a twister, I'm looking for the truth.

Mr. Thompson:

Mable, I don't know who fathered Nancy's children. You know how promiscuous those people are. Why they could have three different daddies.

Mable:

Mr. Thompson, Nancy has been working in this house for ten years, you for twice as long. If anybody knows what was going on in this house you do.

Lawyer Thompson: (He left the table and began pacing around the room).

I know a lot about your father's business dealings--some things I don't care to mention, but about Nancy's children, I don't have a clue. Any way, why is it a concern?

Mable:

The day daddy died, I saw him kissing Nancy. I know he didn't know I was home but I am sure Nancy knew that I was. I also heard father tell Nancy that he had spoken to you about taking care of Nancy's children. My father said that Nancy's children were his. He said that....

Lawyer Thompson: (Interrupting Mable)

You what!!! You heard Harvey say that he was the father of Nancy's children?

Mable:

That's right.

Lawyer Thompson: (Came face to face with Mable. Points a finger at her)
Don't say anymore. Whatever you heard, keep it to yourself.

Mable:
But, Mr. Thompson, if it's true, Nancy's children are my kin folks.

Lawyer Thompson: (By this time he was back at his end of the table)
Never, never, never on God's earth and certainly not in this town will such a lie not be vigorously challenged. I will go to my death fighting this matter.

Mable:
Even if it's true?

Lawyer Thompson:
Let me tell you about your family. Your great grandfather was the first man to sit on the bench in this town. He was the most God fearing man in the town. An enemy of his said that he had some bastard children by a Black woman. Of course, we didn't call them Black then--it was an insult. But your great grandfather never so much as gave the time of day to the charges. He was a man of outstanding character. Once he found out who was behind the charge, he hauled him into court and found him guilty of malicious slander of a justice of the peace. He sent that man straight to jail and kept him there.

Mable:
Yes, but that case was over turned on appeal.

Lawyer Thomspon: (Looking puzzled)
You know about that case?

Mable:
Yes, I know about the case and I also know that my great grandfather was a womanizer.

Mr. Thompson:
Womanizer??? Why young lady there was no such thing as womanizing in your great grandfather's day.

Mable:
True in a legal sense, but in a moral sense it was still womanizing.

Mr. Thompson:
Not so. You see, the woman was one of those black jelly beans. White men did what they wanted to in those days with the black jelly beans and no

body cared enough to so much as raise the issue but for that foolish nigger lover, who slandered your great grandfather.

Mable:

Why, Mr. Thompson, you sure do have a lot of malice in your heart toward Blacks. How can you live with yourself?

Mable leaves the room while Mr. Thompson is saying some words to himself.

Song: "Drumroll for Justice" (to be introduced with substantial drum roll.)

Let the voice of the trumpet sound
Go into all the land
Cry unto the people
Justice is alive!

Let the voice of the people ring out loud
Justice is alive!

What are you waiting for?
The time is now
Go unto the people
Declare justice to be alive

Let the voice of the people ring out loud
Justice is alive! Justice is alive!

With a drum roll, let the voices sing out loud
Cry unto the people, Justice is alive!

Say unto the people, she is doing well
Tell the people, Justice is alive!

Justice is alive, Justice is alive
Justice is alive, she is doing well.

SCENE II

Commentator: The daughter remembers that she left a tape in the tape recorder. Thinking it recorded the conversation of Ms. Nancy and her dad, she goes to the recorder to retrieve the tape only to find it missing.

Mable: (Thinking aloud she said)

I know I left the tape in the recorder, I wonder if Mr. Thompson removed it? No! He wouldn't. It couldn't be mom because she never came in the study. Therefore, it must be that nosey brother of mine or Ms. Nancy.
(At this moment her brother enters the room)

Mable:

Hey Timmy, did you take my cassette from the recorder (holding up the tape recorder).

Timmy: (Showing no interest, answered, then exited the room)

No!

Mable: (Spoke softly as Timmy left the room)

Then it must be Ms. Nancy.

SCENE III

Opens with Mable in bedroom, dialing Douglas her boyfriend - only her end of the conversation will be heard).

Commentator:

Before turning in for bed, she called a third year law student she had been secretly dating at her university. They discussed the case and he agreed to come to her home the next day.

Mable:

Hi Doug. I need your help. My father, fathered Ms. Wilson's kids and I don't think Mr. Thompson is of a mind to provide support for them. Doug, remember the tape I told you about? I believe Ms. Wilson took it. What will happen if the tape reveals that my father wanted Nancy and her children in his will, seeing that he did not make a will? I also believe the tape will reveal father owning up to being the father of Nancy's children. Will you come over tomorrow?
(She paused as Douglas responded, then smiled).

Mable:

Don't worry about them, my mother and brother will be driving to our summer house tomorrow for the weekend. (Paused for his response). Okay, so see you tomorrow.

Commentator:

Mable knew that Ms. Nancy will be in the next day and she would have a golden opportunity to speak with her. She went to bed thinking about the matter. When she awoke the next morning Nancy was already at work. She kept watch for the law student. When he drove up she met him at the door so as to keep his

presence secret. After the two greeted each other, the daughter decided to speak with Nancy.

SCENE IV

Opens with Mable entering the room where Nancy was cleaning.

Mable:
Good morning Ms. Nancy.

Nancy:
What's so good about it?

Mable:
My, we are in a very good mood this morning.

Nancy:
Go on about your business girl, I don't feel up to fun and games today.

Mable:
Good because I am not about fun and games. Ms. Nancy, I have a friend who would like to talk to you about a private matter.

Nancy:
I don't want to talk to your friend about a private nor public matter. Leave me to my work.

Mable:
He's a lawyer.

Nancy: (Taken by surprise says)
He's what?

Mable:
A live, breathing lawyer whose willing to talk to you Ms. Grumpy. Oh woman cut the bull. You need a lawyer and I need a realistic class project. I know you know that I overheard your conversation with daddy about him being the father of your children. Now we can help each other. If daddy is the father of your children that makes them my brothers and sisters. I always wanted some young brothers and sisters and frankly speaking I am not about to let my blood be railroaded and driven in to poverty.

Nancy:

Talk is cheap, girl. You think you're some detective. You live in a dream world. Please leave me to my work. Mable:

Douglas, Douglas, will you please come in the study.

Entering the study was a tall black man with a striking personality.

Mable:

Douglas, I want you to meet Nancy Wilson AKA Ms. Grumpy. She's the woman with the problem. Ms. Grumpy, meet Attorney Douglas.

Douglas: (Extending a hand. Ms. Wilson turned away slightly, without taking his hand).

Ms. Wilson I am glad to meet you.

Nancy: (With her back still turn to him)

I'm not glad to meet you. What I don't need is some smart Black lawyer whose going to get himself all messed up on my account.

Douglas:

Hold on Ms. Grumpy (using her AKA affectionately) I am a smart lawyer and I am Black but you don't have to worry about me getting messed up. Nancy:

You're too young to fight the bigotry of this town. (Turning now to face him and speaking in a much softer tone). I have been to see every lawyer in town and all of them are afraid to take my case because of the power of the Jones' family. You will do well young man to get way from here and from me.

Douglas:

Ms. Wilson, I am not a lawyer, I am a third year law student. My professor is the lawyer. He does not live in this town and he could care a green fig less about the power of the Jones' family. If it was that powerful, don't you think Mable would be afraid to help you?

Those words reached Ms. Wilson and she became more agreeable to the visit by Douglas.

Nancy:

You do have a point but what can you do? You have said that you are not a lawyer?

Douglas:

But I am a law student who is certified to practice law under the leadership of my professor. What we proposed to do is to take your case as a pro bono publico, that is for the welfare of the public. Mable will take your case on as a class project also in her detective course. Between the two of us, we will overcome.

Commentator:

Nancy had some genuine concern for both Douglas and Mable. She knew the mean spirit she was fighting. At one attorney's office she learned that the judge who would likely try the case was a friend of the family. She also learned that the State Prosecutor received his appointment because of Mr. Jones. Moreover, she learned that every judge in the town had, at some point, socialized with the Harvey family and thought highly of them.

All that being true, Nancy also knew that this was her last chance to receive help. She had hoped that Mr. Thompson would offer her compensation to keep her mouth shut but he had not spoken one word to her. Now she was faced with a do or die decision insofar as her case was concerned. She decided to allow the lawyer to take on the case.

Nancy:

Are you sure this thing isn't going to cost me anything?

Douglas:

I never said that the case would not cost you anything. (Ms. Wilson's features register concern) To the contrary, it will cost much but not in terms of money that you will have to pay out. You will have to stand up to a town full of people who have sworn to uphold justice whose hearts have given over to favoritism, who have lost all sense of fair play and who is willing to protect a family's name above doing right. Some of these people are not above doing you and your family bodily harm. So you see, there are costs associated with the case.

Nancy:

I'm not concerned about myself. It's the children that concerns me. I don't know if I want to subject them to such a thing.

Douglas:

Do you have relatives in another city?

Nancy:

None that I care to leave my children with. But I do have a friend who might agree to keep them over the summer. He has this big farm out in the mid west. I am sure he will keep them if it becomes necessary.

SCENE V

Scene opens with Douglas speaking with his professor, Mr. Mac Intyre regarding the case, Professor Mac Intyre is heard saying.

Professor:

Douglas, drop it. Don't try to tackle something that is too big for you. Between you and me The Jones' family has been big contributors to the law school. This is not public knowledge, I know only because I was the dean of the law school when the contributions were made.

Commentator:

Douglas was surprised to learn that his professor was not keen on him taking on the case. It took all that Douglas could do to persuade the professor to assist in the case.

Douglas: (looking directly into the eyes of the professor, speaking with respect but firmness)

Professor, I do not want us to take this case based on our own prejudices or even fears. What I am asking is for equity, fair play, and justice to prevail. Not for you, not for myself but for Ms. Wilson's kids. They deserve to be provided for by the man that brought them into this world, whether white or black, rich or poor, having status or not.

(While Douglas spoke the professor paced the classroom in deep thoughts)

Commentator:

What turned the professor's heart was Douglas' appeal to the "rightness" of the case. The professor was known in the community as an advocate for children's rights. He had published widely on the role of parents in caring for their children. Douglas also knew the professor was a very religious man and that he had campaigned vigorously in the Save the Children campaign only a summer ago.

Douglas:

Professor, is it morally right to do right or can we justify not doing right when it is convenient to us. Haven't you taught us to stand up for justice?

Professor Mc Intyre:

Okay Douglas, we'll do it. But we must do our homework.

Commentator:

The professor putting aside his fears about the law school losing funds, stood on his principles that he was known for teaching.

While this was going on, the family lawyer had contacted the Chief Judge and State Prosecutor about Ms. Wilson's case. They had agreed to stone wall the case. The State Prosecutor was adamant about not allowing the Jones' family name to be drug through the mud. The family lawyer had also contacted the owner of the local news paper and TV station about the matter. On every side, the people agreed that justice would not be served by the woman even raising the issue that Mr. Jones was the father of her children.

The one voice that did speak in mild protest was the minister of the largest church in the town. He told the family lawyer that it was not his will to oppose children. He said that if Harvey was the father of the woman's children, he should be made to take care of them even in death. But when the family lawyer reminded the pastor that not a few members in his congregation had been contacted by him and that they agreed with the position taken by those who were friends of the Jones, he abruptly did an about face, saying, he would go along with them because the Jones had helped the church in its time of need.

SONG: 'A LADY CALLED JUSTICE'

Who is calling for justice
Who seeks truth

While others trust in vanity
Even some think it right to lie
A lady called justice
Is a guiding light

Full of favor
Is a lady called justice
The poor and the needy
Are precious in her sight

A lady called justice
A lady called justice
A lady called justice
Is a guiding light

A lady called justice was once asleep
She wore a blindfold which kept her from
seeing injustices

Injustices to the poor and to the needy
A lady called justice is a guiding light

Behold the blindfold has been removed
The lady is able to see

A lady called justice
A lady called justice
A lady called justice
Is a guiding light

Full of favor
Is the lady called justice

The poor and the needy
Are precious in her sight

ACT III

ACT THREE OPENS WITH DAUGHTER AND THIRD YEAR LAW STUDENT
TOGETHER IN AN EMBRACE

SCENE I

Douglas:

Mable, it's good to see you. I have been so busy with this case until I have let slip the most important thing in my life, you.

Mable:

We have been busy. I missed you though.

Douglas:

Damn Mable, I didn't think this case would be as hard as it is. Do you know that even people I considered to be good friends won't help with the case. They are running away from me like a bear chased by honey bees. Even my friend in the States Attorney's office is giving me the cold shoulder. The dean has dropped hints that maybe I should find another case to work on for the good of all.

Mable:

You aren't quitting are you?

Douglas:

To be frank, Mable, I have given it some thought. You know the law firm out of state I have spoken to you about that was so high on me just a few weeks ago, today they sent me an E mail saying they were a little concerned about certain activities that have been brought to their attention and that it would put me in good stead with the company if I could see fit to focus on finishing up my studies with the least amount of friction.

Mable:

Well.

Douglas:

Well what?

Mable:

Well, did you answer them?

Douglas:

Not yet. I've decided to wait and see how things work out with the case.

Mable:

You know Douglas, it was very wise of you to have me to back away from the case. My family had begun to suspect that I was working against them. They would not talk to me about matters of father's business. Lately, however, they have begun to loosen up as I have been a good girl. I haven been going out and I have been staying close to mother. They say a change has come over me.

Douglas:

Your role in the case must be kept secret.

Mable:

They think I am so involved in my detective class until I don't have time for anything else. I have even overheard my mother say to my brother that she hopes I am not taking daddy's death too hard in that I don't have company at the house as I once did. But, I understand that the case we are working on, demands discretion.

Douglas:

What about Ms. Nancy, how is she holding up?

Mable:

Ms. Nancy is doing fine. Mother has offered to keep her on the job for as long as she wants to stay. That is as long as she doesn't make waves. By the way, I have some good news Ms. Nancy's children, at least two of them have the same rare blood type as did daddy.

Douglas:

That is good news. That's very good news but for whom. It shows the children have the same rare blood type as your father had but it does not prove he is the father.

Mable:

I have some better news. I am willing to testify that I heard daddy say that the children are his.

Douglas:

I am not so sure about that. I need time to think on this matter.

Mable:(COMING CLOSER TO SAYS)

I saved the best news for last. Detective Snoopy Doo has been detecting. While Ms. Nancy was out shopping two days ago, I borrowed the keys to her apartment. What do you think I found in the apartment?

Douglas: (WAITING IN ANTICIPATION)
What?

Mable:
Easy big boy. Good things come with a reward. Promise you will see me on my birthday.

Douglas:
I promise.
(Mable reaches into her bag and retrieves a tape and the napkin which she holds up, demonstrating an air of triumph. Douglas looks with intrigue. Scene closes.)

Commentator:

Mable took the confession of Mr. Jones regarding Nancy's children being his own which was written on the napkin. She also played the tape she found in Nancy's room. Douglas thought he had his smoking gun. His problem was knowing how to use what he had effectively, so he went back to his professor for advice. Reaching the professor, he brought him up on how the case was going.

(Douglas is in the professor's study.)

Douglas:
Professor, I have been faced with problems getting this case adjudicated, on every turn.

Professor:
I am not surprised.

Douglas:
Well, in spite of it all, Mable brought me three pieces of good news. First, Ms. Nancy's children's blood types were tested and at least two of the blood types match that of Old Man Jones. And you do know he has a rare blood type?!

Professor:
Hum (pensively). That is rather an interesting turn of events but no banana.. But I'm afraid that this alone may not hold up in court.

Douglas:
Wait, Nancy also said that she would be willing to testify in court on Ms. Nancy's behalf.

Professor:

That young lady sure has spunk. But speaking frankly, she'll open a can of worms and her testimony, while revealing, could tear up this town and make things worse for Nancy and her children. (Pausing for a moment, still thinking) But at least, we have some things to work with. What's the third news?

Douglas:

(Douglas hands the professor the written confession) This is a written confession from Mr. Jones stating the children are his and that they are to be provided for in his will as well as Nancy. Listen, this will top 'em all. (Douglas plays the tape, both listen intently.)

Professor:

Hallelujah. We definitely have something here. (He ponders for an instant, pacing about.) Now, Douglas, we have the law on our side but the truth is the Jones' family has money on theirs. Money all too often wins out even when the law seems to be clear. We could try to win this case in court, but the State Attorney would stonewall the case. What's more, the woman and her children would be put at risk by those who were prejudice against them. You'll just have to settle it out of court.

Douglas:

What, and let the people of this town get away with their bigotry and hypocrisy. Besides, Professor, you have been teaching us to try to uphold the cause of the oppressed. I can make a name for myself if I stick to integrity and establish myself as an attorney who does not allow big money to push him nor his clients around.

Professor:

Noooo Douglas, you have much to learn. Don't you know that most of your work, even as an attorney, will be in settling cases out of court. Sometimes it's necessary, like with the Jones family. They are too powerful and your bullheaded desire to be on stage by going to trial will only hurt Nancy and her family. (Professor walks up to Douglas, places his hand on his shoulder and tenderly speaks.) Look Son, the most important thing right now is not your career--you haven't even finished school yet -- nor is it showing up the Jones' and their high society hypocrisy. The most important thing Douglas is JUSTICE - - justice for those children and their mother.

Douglas:

Well, I guess you are right Professor.

Professor:

And as for your career, good things come to those who wait. But remember, those who are as gifted as you, much is required from them.

(Douglas reflects upon his words, then speaks)

Douglas:

So then, what do we do?

Professor:

Well, as I've said, you'll have to settle out of court. I'll arrange a meeting for you with the Jones' family lawyer and you lay it all out for him and see if he bites. Ha ha.

(Scene dims as the two continue to converse)

SCENE III

DOUGLAS' PROFESSOR ARRANGES A MEETING BETWEEN DOUGLAS AND THE FAMILY LAWYER.

Mr. Thompson:

Good afternoon young man. Your professor speaks highly of you. He told me that it would be mutually beneficial for us to talk. I am glad you came.

Douglas:

And a good afternoon to you sir. I hope we will be able to see eye to eye.

Mr. Thompson:

I see no reason why we cannot.

Commentator:

The family lawyer had agreed to the meeting not because he had any desire to settle the case out of court. He did not believe Douglas had a snowball chance in hell of standing up to him. Not even Douglas' professor was viewed as a challenge. He had agreed to the meeting to put the "black boy" in his place.

Douglas:

I represent Nancy Wilson and her children. We have reason to believe that her children were fathered by Mr. Jones, now deceased. As Ms. Wilson only wants her children provided for, we thought reasonable minds could work out a settlement in the interest of all parties.

Mr. Thompson:

Young man, you don't have a leg to stand on let alone legal grounds for your case. I will not stand by and let anyone extort from the Jones family. As for as I am concerned, this meeting is waste of time with the exception that I might give you some advice. You are a young man with high aspirations. Don't let your aspirations cloud good judgment. I know you want to help Nancy and if it were any other family, I might be persuaded to show some mercy. But my feathers are ruffed when you come into my office and act as if my friend, Harvey Jones, could stoop so low as to lay up with a black whore. Harvey treated Nancy in a fatherly manner. He gave her work for 10 years and from time to time he even gave her a little extra to help out with the children. This good man's name will not be tarnished. Do I make myself clear? Will not be tarnished!

Douglas:

Old man, you don't have a leg to stand on let alone legal grounds to win if I go to court. I will not stand by and let you or anyone else extort funds that's rightfully belong to my client and her children. As for as I am concerned, this meeting will surely be a waste of time if you don't come down off that white horse you have been riding.

Mr. Thompson (Taken BY SURPRISE AT THE BOLDNESS OF DOUGLAS)

Mr. Douglas, I think I have made my point. If you have nothing else to add, I have other business to see after.

Douglas:

You don't have anything to see after that comes close to the matter before you. I didn't come here with hat in hand as an Uncle Tom out of the woods. I came here to offer you and the Jones' family an opportunity to do what's right in a non public environment. Other wise you, and I mean you, and the Jones' family are going down. No decent person in this town or any other will dare to call you a friend when the word gets out as to your behavior and Harvey's regarding certain, as you say, "black whores."

Mr. Thompson:

You had better leave young man.

SCENE IV

Commentator:

Mable went to see Nancy and told her about the family lawyer's meeting with Douglas. She also informed Nancy that they were seeking to settle the case out of court so as to keep herself and the children out of harms way. As they spoke, Nancy volunteered information about the tape. She did not mention the written confession Mable has taken from her room. The fact is, she did not know of its importance. She thought she had misplaced the napkin. Mable did not mention the written confession either.

(Scene opens with Mable and Nancy conversing in Nancy's home.)

Nancy:

You know Mable, I was wrong about you. You really stuck it out with us and we won't forget you for this. That's why I want to show you this? (Nancy takes out the tape. Mable reacts somewhat surprised.)

Mable:

Oh. This looks like the tape I had been looking for, for my class project. What's on it.

(Nancy looks and acts a bit uncomfortable.)

Nancy:

Well, you left it in the tape player in the study and as I was cleaning, I stumbled upon it. I listened to it, Mable. When I found that it had been a recording of your daddy's and mine's conversation, I took it hoping to prove my case. I would have returned the copy to you when I figured out what to do with it. Well, here's the tape, take it and listen to it.

Mable:

I understand. Thank you, Ms. Nancy. I remember that conversation, this should make things even tougher for Mr. Thompson. He cares nothing about integrity and honesty.

Nancy:

Well, yes. As a matter of fact, Mr. Thompson is no saint either. I had heard a rumor for years that that man had been having an affair with a woman from one of the Islands in the Bahamas. I think I even met her once when at the direction of Mr. Jones, I had to escort this lady from Freeport to the airport. Didn't think about the matter since, but that Bahamian lady could be the woman behind the rumor.

Mable: (Outraged)

This is amazing!! And Mr. Thompson is the one throwing the first stone at you. (She speaks as if speaking and thinking to herself, but aloud.) Well, I'm going to check into this. The best

place to start is looking into Mr. Thompson's travels for the past three years. Maybe he went to the Bahamas or something.

Nancy: (Looks at Mable attentively.)

Oh child, be careful. Don't go getting yourself into trouble on my account.

Mable: (As though waking from a dream.)

Huh, oh, Ms. Nancy, don't worry, I've got things under control. I'm Ms. Detective, remember?

SCENE V

Commentator:

Mable performed her investigation of the family lawyer's travel itinerary for the past three years and made important findings. She also uncovered that Mr. Thompson had made reservations to visit Freeport the day after Douglas had met with him. In his arrogance, he never figured Douglas knew about his relationship with the Bahamian woman. Mable scheduled an earlier flight to Freeport and knowing the woman's name and phone number, she went to confirm Nancy's suspicions. All this information was shared with Douglas and Mable soon requested a meeting with Mr. Thompson, regarding her detective work.

(Douglas and Mable walking towards an office speaking as they walk.)

Mable:

You should have seen me, Douglas. For a moment there, I was a real actress. I went to Thompson's office while he was not there and said to his secretary (She speaks in a babyish voice), "I would be ever so grateful if you could help me with this travel history project for my tourism class." Ha ha. It took some persuasion, but finally I told her my grade and graduation would be if I did not score well on this project. Then she told me what I wanted to know.

Douglas:

You won't lie like that to me will you? (They both laugh. They arrive at the door.) Well honey, I will be waiting right here if you need me.

Mable: (Squeezing his hands for assurance.)

Thanks. Well, we've rehearsed this, let's hope this works.

(Mable enters Mr. Thompson's office.)

Mr. Thompson:

Good morning Mable. How are you doing today?

Mable:

Very fine, very fine indeed.

Mr. Thompson:

What can I do for you.

Mable:

As you know I'm working on this class project for my detective class. I'm doing a real to life story. I thought you would make an interesting subject.

Mr. Thompson:

Tell me about the work.

Mable:

It's about a young White woman who is secretly dating a Black man. The woman's family does not care much for Blacks and so the two of them decided to keep their love for each other a secret. The Black man is a lawyer and he takes on this case of a poor woman who was being railroaded out of her pension. The company she worked for didn't want to pay her a pension because they said she was not entitled to it as she was dismissed due to a flaw in her character. It was rumored that the woman had an out of wedlock child by one of the officials of the company who had moved on to another job. They did not want the woman around any longer because she was "unfit" in their words.

Mr. Thompson (NOT YET SUSPECIOUS)

Sounds like a good case. Tell me more.

Mable:

The lawyer of the woman runs into problems in trying to defend the woman. The company had friends a plenty in the town and the state. Every where the lawyer turned for help, he was rebuffed. His girl friend aided him by filtering information to him about certain extramarital relationships of other officials in the company. On one occasion, she went to an exotic island where a well respected official of the company frequented. The pictures she brought back aided the lawyer much in getting the company to reconsider the pension due the woman.

Mr. Thompson:

Enough of this. If you think you are going to come into my office and intimidate me young lady, you are wrong.

Mable:

Sir, I am not trying to intimidate you. I am telling you about my class project. By the way, the lawyer was able to reach a national magazine who was very much interested in the lady's case. The lawyer used that as leverage to gain the settlement without having to spill the company's dirty laundry. What do you think of that ending, isn't this a good conclusion?

Mr. Thompson:

You had better leave young lady. (He turns his back to her as she also turns to exit)

Mable: (AS SHE WALKS OUT THE DOOR, with a smile on her face.)

Oh, by the way, Douglas and I are getting married.

(Mr. Thompson (reacts in shock and buries his face in his hands.)

Commentator:

The family lawyer knew without a shadow of doubt that Mable had been speaking about the Nancy Wilson's case. He wondered how much they knew about Harvey Jones' and his dealings. He thought about the pending scandal if news were to get out regarding their extramarital affairs. He considered the business deal he was working on for the family and knew that it was dead if the news of his dealings with the woman in the Bahamas became public news. He considered his wife. Would she divorce him? How would his children take the news? What about his church; after all, he was looked up to as a God fearing man. He was seen as an example for others to follow.

CLOSING SONG: "WHICH WAY DO WE GO"

Which way do we go? Are we going forward or backward
Which way do we go, O people of mine?
Which way do we go? Show me the way.
Which way do we go? Do we go forward or backward.

Do we go together or must we depart?
Which way do we go?

Which way do we go? Which way do we go?

Which way do we go? There are two roads.
One road says: equity, fair play, friendship, unity and love.
It beckons us to come to travel thereupon.

There is a second road and it says: inequity, foul play, enemies, division, and hate
It also beckons that we travel there upon.

Way do we go? Which way do we go?

Do we go up together, ascending higher in love”
Do we go up together, ascending higher in love?
Or will we be pulled apart, going down to destruction, the destruction of hate.
Which way do we go?

Which way do we go? Which way do we go?

Which way do we go? Which way do we go?
Equity, fair play, friendship, unity and love or inequity, foul play, enemies, division
and hate.

Which way do we go? Which way do we go?

We are at the crossroad, we must go one direction of the other.
Which way do we go? Which way do we go?
Equity, inequity, fair pay, foul play, friendship, enemy, unity, division, love or hate.
Which way, tell me, all you people, which way do we go?

Which way do we go, Which way do we go?