



A WIN-WIN SITUATION
BY
DAVE PROCTOR

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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A WIN-WIN SITUATION

A Play by

Dave Proctor

Characters

Pat Smith	A woman of pensionable age
Joyce Greenall	A woman of pensionable age
Sylvia Hunter	A woman of pensionable age

The following characters can be played by male or female actors of any age.

Judge

Defence Barrister

Prosecution Barrister

Clerk to the Court

Run Time 35 minutes (approx)

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Int Scene: A Courtroom

Clerk The next case Your Honour. The Queen versus Patricia Smith,
Joyce Greenall and Sylvia Hunter.

Defendants, please stand.

Are you, Patricia Smith?

Pat Yes.

Clerk Are you, Joyce Greenall?

Joyce Yes.

Clerk Are you, Sylvia Hunter?

Sylvia Yes.

Clerk You are all jointly charged with just one offence, that between first
of August and sixth of August this year, you conspired
together to kidnap Matthew Phillip Brian Best, which is an offence
contrary to common law.

How do you plead?

Pat Guilty.

Joyce Guilty.

Sylvia Guilty.

Clerk You may sit down.

Defendants sit as Prosecution Barrister stands.

Prosecution Barrister Now I should explain that the victim in this matter is Mister Best, a wealthy man, who inherited Syndall Hall and a large sum of money from his Grandfather.

He has since gone on to increase his worth by engaging in trade with numerous Countries, mainly concerned with the provision of armaments.

The facts of this case, your Honour, are that on the first of August, Mister Matthew Best was at his home of Syndall Hall, Great Birchford, when at about two o'clock in the afternoon, an intruder alarm sounded.

Mister Best lives alone at the Hall and his resident housekeeper was away on holiday at the time.

Given the nature of his occupation, Mister Best is extremely security conscious and has had installed a sophisticated alarm system, together with a virtually impenetrable safe area within the premises.

On the alarm sounding, Mister Best went to the safe area and locked himself in.

Once the alarm stopped, Mister Best attempted to leave the safe area but found that he was locked in.

Normally there is a system for an automatic call to be made to the Police on the alarm being raised, but it was later discovered that this

system had been disabled, by the simple expedient of unplugging a telephone wire.

This also isolated the person in the safe area, with no means of communicating to the outside world.

Judge Didn't he have a mobile telephone?

Prosecution Barrister Syndall Hall is a relatively isolated property, and I am advised, had what can only be described as a patchy mobile telephone reception at the best of times. But, of course, being encased in the safe area, which is to all intents and purposes is a steel box within the Hall. This ensured that no mobile telephone reception could be obtained.

I believe Physicists would call this the Faraday effect.

The following day Mister Best's Father, Sir Leonard Best received an email addressed to his personal email account, which simply stated:

"We have your son. We demand a ransom of four hundred and fifty thousand pounds in used notes for his release."

Interestingly, the email had a picture attached to it, which was of Matthew Best, naked and tied up.

The email was apparently sent via a Virtual Private Network, so the source could not be traced.

On the third of August, Sir Leonard received a further email, detailing him to leave a carrier bag containing the money in a particular rubbish bin in Victoria Park on the fifth of August at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Sir Leonard was told to do this in person and not to call the Police.

In the circumstances, Sir Leonard was advised not to pay the ransom and to try to establish contact with the kidnappers.

Sir Leonard insisted on paying the ransom and the Police, therefore, told him, that they would stake out the area.

Sir Leonard left the carrier bag containing the amount demanded in the rubbish bin, but the Police could not ascertain who picked it up, despite having a team of Police Officers trained in covert surveillance in the vicinity.

Judge What went wrong?

Prosecution Barrister It transpired that that afternoon, there was a protest march by a large Number of people, some three or four hundred, Old Age Pensioners through the park, protesting against the proposed pension reforms and it is believed that one of the protestors must have picked up the carrier bag when the march went past the rubbish bin.

The next evening, Sir Leonard received a further email, detailing where his son was.

He attended the Hall with Police and there discovered the safe room secured from the outside with a simple padlock device and they were able to release his son.

Matthew Best was readily able to identify the accused, Sylvia Hunter, from recorded closed circuit television footage, which covered the door to the safe area.

The defendant, Sylvia Hunter, had worked for Matthew Best as a housekeeper for approximately eight years until her retirement, just over two years ago.

I should perhaps add that during his confinement, Matthew Best had no contact whatsoever with his kidnapers, and indeed, was under the impression that his being locked in the safe area was due to some electrical or mechanical malfunction.

In the circumstances, it is fair to say that, he was never threatened or otherwise assaulted by the defendants.

The safe area was provisioned for an extended period, possibly up to three months, and the victim had access to clean water and hygiene facilities.

The accused, Sylvia Hunter, was arrested at her home address, together with her co-defendants, who were with her at the time of her arrest. These ladies were also identified from the CCTV footage.

The accused, all chose not to answer Police questioning, when interviewed under caution, at the Police Station.

The accused are of previous good character.

The money has not been recovered.

Judge Thank you, Mister Ruddick.

Prosecution Barrister sits, Defence Barrister stands up.

Mister James.

Defence Barrister I am afraid that I do not have specific instructions in this case, as, like the Police, the accused refused to talk to either me or the instructing solicitors, other than to indicate that they were guilty.

I can only highlight that the accused are of previous good character, and are of senior years, and would ask for a lenient sentence in this matter.

Pat stands up in the dock.

Pat Judge, do we have to listen to Old Pomposity? Can we talk straight to you.

Judge

Laughs.

“Old Pomposity,” what a lovely name for a Barrister.

Of course, whilst we do not advise people to act as their own Counsel, it is of course permitted.

Pat

Well on behalf of all three of us,

Pat points at the Defence Barrister.

you’re fired.

There, I’ve always wanted to say that!

Pat

Well, then here it is.

Judge

Please, I am intrigued, but first I must ask why did you not give your Solicitor instructions?

Pat

We came to the joint decision that he was so far up his own backside, all he could smell was his own sh.....
- whoops, I’d better not swear.

Judge

And tell me, why didn’t you answer the Police Officer’s questions?

Pat

Because he treated us like criminals, he was horrible.
Now, Patricia, I must ask, are you speaking for all the defendants?

Pat

Yes, we all agreed, I’m the loudest one.

Judge

And Sylvia, you are happy with this?

Sylvia

Oh, yes.

Judge

And Joyce, are you happy to leave Patricia to speak for you all?