**Trial of Cinderella’s Stepmother, Madam Evilyn**

**This is a slightly condensed and revised edition of the mock trial posted by the Justice Education Society of BC. I simplified it for my grade 5s. I recommend you view all the scripts on the Justice Education Society of B.C.’s website to find the best fit for your class.**

**Elaine Jaltema**

Judge needs whole script

Crown Counsel (CC) and Defence Counsel (DC) roles can be divided into several parts

Stepmother: pages 2, 26,27,28,29,30

Cinderella: pages 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10

Prince: pages 11, 12, 13

Fairy Godmother: pages 14,15,16,17

Stepsisters: pages 18,19,20,21,22

Smithers, the butler: pages 23,24,25,26

Clerk has the following small, repetitive role every time there is a new witness called:

**[Clerk]:** Do you wish to affirm or swear an oath?

If person wishes to affirm:

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

If person wishes to 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?

Clerk also has a small role every time exhibits are brought forward (3 in total)

Exhibits:

1: list of Cinderella’s chores

2: ball invitation

3. butler’s job description

**[C]:** Order in Court.

*Everyone stands as Judge enters the courtroom*

**[C]:** In the Supreme Court of British Columbia at Vancouver this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, calling Her Majesty the Queen against Madam Evilyn.

**[J]:** You may be seated.

**[J]:** Are all parties present?

*All Crown stand*

**[CC]:** Yes My Lord/Lady.

*Crown sits; Defence stands*

**[DC]:** Yes, My Lord/Lady.

*Defence sits*

**[C]:** Will the accused please stand?

*Clerk, defence, and Stepmother stand*

**[C]:** Madam Evilyn, you are charged with two offences. The first that you did unlawfully exploit Cinderella. Madam Evilyn, how do you plead on the first count?

**[E]:** Not guilty.

**[C]:** Madam Evilyn, you are also charged with a second offence - that on the date of September 19th last year, you did forcibly confine Cinderella. Madam Evilyn, how do you plead?

**[E]:** Not guilty.

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

**[J]:** Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. 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.

Madam Evilyn is charged with two crimes.

In order for you to find her guilty of unlawful exploitation the Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

* that the accused made the complainant, Cinderella, provide labour or services against her will
  + that 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.

In order for you to find Madam Evilyn guilty of forcible confinement the Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

* that on or about Sept 19th of last year, Madam Evilyn confined or imprisoned Cinderella and that she did so intentionally

The legal definition of forcible confinement is stopping someone from being able to move about freely.

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

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

*Cinderella enters from offstage and goes to witness box*

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

*Cinderella is sworn in*

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

**[Cinderella]:** My name is Cinderella.

**[CC]:** What do you do for a living, Cinderella?

**[Cinderella]:** I’m a princess.

**[CC]:** Do you have job?

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

**[CC]:**  Where do you currently live?

**[Cinderella]:** At the Burnaby Palace.

**[CC]:**  Have you always lived there?

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

**[CC]:**  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 my dad died, they weren’t very nice to me. My stepmother 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.

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

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

**[CC]:**  My Lord/Lady, I’d like to enter this as Exhibit #1.

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

**[CC]:** 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.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  And what did you usually eat for dinner?

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

**[CC]:**  How often did you get to leave the house?

**[Cinderella]:** Never [*surprised*].

**[CC]:**  Never?

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

**[CC]:**  Well, what about seeing your friends?

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

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  What else can you tell me about your interactions with your stepmother?

**[Cinderella]:** She has never really liked me . 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 controlling and demanding and she terrified me. I knew that if I didn’t do everything she said, terrible things would happen to me.

**[CC]:**  What kind of things?

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

**[J]:** 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.

**[CC]:**  Were there any other instances when she made threats?

**[DC]:** 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!

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

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  Did anyone ever strike you or harm you physically?

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

**[CC]:**  What about your stepmother?

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

**[CC]:**  Do you recall what happened on September 19th last year?

**[Cinderella]:** Yes, of course!

**[CC]:**  What is remarkable about that day?

**[Cinderella]: [***Dreamily*]That was the day I met my husband at the palace ball.

**[CC]:**  How did you find out about the ball?

**[Cinderella]:** Well the day before, a man came to the door with a fancy 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 ball at the palace.

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

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

**[CC]:**  [*introduces exhibit*] What does the invitation say?

**[Cinderella]: [***Reading***]** All eligible bachelorettes between 16 and 21 are required to attend the prince’s ball. [*to CC*] 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.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  And did you get the dress done in time?

**[Cinderella]:** Yes.

**[CC]:** What about your chores?

**[Cinderella]:** I got them all done too.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  What did you do then?

**[Cinderella]:** There was nothing I could do.

**[CC]:**  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!

**[CC]:**  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 she made the cutest little glass shoes, and then called a taxi to take me to the ball and bring me back home at midnight.

**[CC]:**  What happened at the ball?

**[Cinderella]:** It was love at first sight. The prince 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. We danced the night away.

**[CC]:**  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. Then I noticed it was midnight when the taxi was due to pick me up, so I just raced out. I lost a shoe. The taxi picked me up and when I got home I just threw myself on the bed and cried myself to sleep.

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:**  Were you able to leave the room at any point?

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

**[CC]:**  Do you know who unlocked it?

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

**[CC]:**  At what time did it open?

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

**[CC]:**  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.

**[CC]:** No more questions.

**[J]:** (*to DC*) Your witness, counsel.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** 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!

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

**[Cinderella]:** Um, right.

**[DC]:** 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.

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

**[Cinderella]:** I guess so – yeah.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** And you testified earlier that on the day of the 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.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** But you actually did get it all done, didn’t you?

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

**[DC]:** 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?

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

**[DC]:** And who did you get help from?

**[Cinderella]:** I don’t want to say.

**[DC]:** 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!]*

**[DC]:** 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!

**[DC]:** I see. But you did go to the ball that night, didn’t you?

**[Cinderella]:** Yeah, obviously!

**[DC]:** Even though you thought your stepmother didn’t want you to, right?

**[Cinderella]:** Yes.

**[DC]:** And you knew she would be at the ball, right?

**[Cinderella]:** Yes.

**[DC]:** You weren’t that concerned that she would see you, were you?

**[Cinderella]:** Well, not really...

**[DC]:** 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!

**[DC]:** But in the 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.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** So you didn’t actually believe she would do anything bad to you, did you?

**[Cinderella]:** Yes I did!

**[DC]:** If you say so.

**[CC]:** Objection!

**[DC]:** I’ll withdraw my statement. No further questions.

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

*CC stands*

**[CC]:** No my Lord/Lady.

*CC sits*

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

*Cinderella leaves witness box and exits stage.*

CC stands and approaches lectern

**[CC]:** The Crown calls as its next witness Prince Charming.

*Prince is sworn in.*

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

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

**[CC]:** Are you employed?

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

**[CC]:** Where do you currently live?

**[PC]:** In the Burnaby Palace.

**[CC]:** How did you meet your wife, Cinderella?

**[PC]:** At the palace ball.

**[CC]:** Can you tell me about the ball?

**[PC]:** 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.

**[CC]:** And when you were at the ball, what happened?

**[PC]:** 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. 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 she forgot her shoe. So I grabbed it.

**[CC]:** Can you tell me about what happened after the ball?

**[PC]:** 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.

**[CC]:** And did you find the owner of the shoe?

**[PC]:** Eventually yes. But not without difficulty.

**[CC]:** What do you mean? What happened?

**[PC]:** Well, when I got to Cinderella’s house, her stepmother answered the door and let me in. She said she’d be right back with her two daughters.

**[CC]:** What happened next?

**[PC]:** I sat down and waited. The lady scurried upstairs and I heard two girls scream and run down the stairs.

**[CC]:** What happened next?

**[PC]:** I could tell right away that neither of these girls was my true love but out of fairness I had to at least let them try on the shoe.

**[CC]:** Did anything else notable happen while this was going on?

**[PC]:** 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.

**[CC]:** What happened next?

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

**[CC]:** And then what happened?

**[PC]:** 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.

**[CC]:** And who was that?

**[PC]:** It was my darling Cinderella.

**[CC]:** And what happened next?

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

**[CC]:** No more questions. Your witness, counsel.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Do you recall, by chance, how many houses you’d visited during your search that day before visiting Cinderella’s?

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

**[DC]:** You must have been very tired.

**[PC]:** Yes, I was.

**[DC]:** It was your testimony that, while you were in the stepmother’s home, you heard a thumping coming from upstairs.

**[PC]:** That’s right.

**[DC]:** Did you see the door from which you thought this thumping came?

**[PC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Do you remember what material the stairs of the spiral staircase were made of?

**[PC]:** I’m pretty sure they were wooden.

**[DC]:** Wood... Precisely the substance out of which doors are made.

**[DC]:** The banging you heard would have been on a wooden door?

**[PC]:** Yes.

**[DC]:** Despite your tiredness, you are certain that the sound you heard was the sound of a person banging on a door?

**[PC]:** Yes!

**[DC]:** 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? No more questions, my Lord/Lady!

**[J]:** Please call your next witness.

*CC stands and approaches lectern*

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

*FG is sworn in.*

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

**[FG]:** Fairlene Gottmutter.

**[CC]:** Thank you, Ms. Gottmutter. Do you go by any other names?

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

**[CC]:** What is the nature of your relationship with her?

**[FG]:** 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.

**[CC]:** Can you describe what happened after Cinderella’s mother’s death?

**[FG]:** Well, her father was a wonderful man too.. But he was lonely after his wife’s death and

and that’s when SHE came into the picture. (points to Evilyn)

**[CC]:** What happened after Madam Evilyn entered Cinderella’s life?

**[FG]:** 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.

**[CC]:** Was there any change after her father’s death?

**[FG]:** Yes. Very quickly, she moved Cinderella out of her into a little storage room on the top floor. I was still permitted into the house at this time, and I helped Cinderella to move a cot into the storage room, because no one else would.

**[CC]:** You said you were still permitted into the house... at this time?

**[FG]:** 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.

**[CC]:** Can you describe the condition of the room when you helped her move?

**[FG]:** It is a damp room about 4 metres square, with a single window that is so high that it can barely be seen out of.. It must be dreadfully freezing in the winter and stifling in the summer.

**[CC]:** And what was the door to the room like?

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

**[CC]:** Did Cinderella ever leave the property?

**[FG]:** 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.

**[CC]:** What was her day-to-day routine like?

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

**[CC]:** What did you see Madam Evilyn do to get Cinderella to be so obedient?

**[FG]:** 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..

**[CC]:** Was there anything else?

**[FG]:** Yes, those daughters of hers were completely out of control. They delighted in bullying that girl! Their mother did nothing to stop it. I also heard the stepmother once tell Cinderella, while she was in the courtyard, that if she didn’t do what she was told, the stepmother would let that big fat cat of hers loose in Cinderella’s room to take care of Cinderella’s little friends.

**[DC]:** Objection. I question the relevance of this line of questioning, my Lady/Lord.

**[CC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** My friend states the law correctly: some*one*. 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.

**[CC]:** 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.

**[J]:** 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.

**[CC]:** 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 ball?

**[FG]:** 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.

**[CC]:** Was her stepmother there?

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

**[CC]:** What happened then?

**[FG]:** 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 dance. So, I loaned her one of my own ball gowns. Since her feet are unusually tiny, I didn’t have any shoes to fit her. But I am a glass blower – that is how I make my living – I make beautiful objects out of glass. So, I made her a pair of glass slippers and called her a taxi.

**[CC]:** Thank you, Mrs. Gottmutter. Nothing further for this witness, my lord/Lady.

**[J]:** Your witness, defence counsel.

*DC stands*

**[DC]:** Thank you, my Lord/Lady.  Ms. Gottmutter, it was your testimony that you saw Cinderella slaving away from dawn to dark?

**[FG]:** Yes. Poor soul.

**[DC]:** You also testified that you saw Madam Evilyn’s daughters bully Cinderella?

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

**[DC]:** And you testified that on at least one occasion you heard Madam Evilyn threaten Cinderella’s “mice friends” [*sarcastically*]?

**[FG]:** Yes.

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

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

**[DC]:** And isn’t it true that there is a garden fence separating your property from the Evilyn house? 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”?

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

**[DC]:**  Ms. Gottmutter, are you as tall as a car?

**[FG]:** No, not quite.

**[DC]:** 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?

**[FG]:** I sometimes sneaked into the yard to see if Cinderella was alright. After all, I had made a promise to her mother.

**[DC]:** [*Smirks*] No further questions, My Lord/Lady.

**[CC]:** The Crown rests its case, my Lord/Lady.

*CC sits*

**[J]:** Does the Defence wish to call evidence?

*DC stands*

**[DC]:** The defence does, my Lord/Lady.

**[J]:** Please call your first witness.

**[DC]:** The defence calls Anastasia and Drizella Evilyn to the stand.

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

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

**[DC]:** My Lord/Lady, for the sake of time, we decided to call the stepsisters together. They are inseparable and their testimony overlaps substantially. Understanding that this is most unusual, with my friends’ permission, I will continue.

**[CC]:** Fine, go on.

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

*Something along the lines of 🡪 the two sisters struggle to sit in one chair and fight the whole time.*

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

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

**[A/D]:** (argument between them)Affirm, no swear, no affirm, no swear, no affirm

*Sisters are sworn in.*

**[A/D]:** I do (together)

[A]: I did, first.

*(Driz sticks tongue out at her sister.)*

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

[*Simultaneously – Ani and Driz say their names*]

**[Ani]:** Anastasia Evilyn,

**[Driz]:** Drizella Evilyn,

**[DC]:** And what is your relationship with the complainant?

**[Ani]:** She’s our stepsister, duhhhhh.

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

**[Ani]:** Yeah, seriously!

**[DC]:** And how would you describe the relationship between your mother and the complainant, Cinderella?

**[Driz]:** 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.

**[Ani]:** 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.

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

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

**[CC]:** Objection, the witnesses are not qualified to give an opinion on Cinderella’s mental state.

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

**[DC]:** 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!

**[Driz]:** ...well if she was, Cinderella deserved it!

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

**[DC]:** Can you provide a specific example?

**[Driz]:** 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.

**[Ani]:** And rabies.

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

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

**[Driz]:** 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.

**[Ani]:** Yup! It’s that sense of entitlement.

**[DC]:** And how did your mom respond when Cinderella talked back or disobeyed or neglected her responsibilities?

**[Ani]:** 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.

**[Driz]:** But mom was always justified.

**[Ani]:** Completely justified.

**[DC]:** Okay. Let’s move on to the days leading up to the ball. Were you surprised that Cinderella wanted to go?

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

**[Driz]:** 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.

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

**[Driz]:** That’s so like her.

**[DC]:** Did your mom forbid Cinderella from going to the ball?

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

**[Ani]:** As per usual.

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

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

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

**[Ani]:** Haha. That’s generous! But seriously, she is hopeless.

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

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

**[Ani]:** Justifiably so.

**[Driz]:** 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.

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

**[Driz]:** WHAT - ever.

**[DC]:** No more questions, my Lord/Lady.

*DC sits*

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

*CC stands and approaches lectern*

**[CC]:** I would, my Lord/Lady.

**[J]:** Proceed.

**[CC]:** What chores do you have?

**[Ani]:** 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.

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

**[CC]:** So, Cinderella had a lot more chores than you, didn’t she?

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

**[CC]:** You were annoyed when Cinderella didn’t do all her chores well enough, weren’t you?

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

**[CC]:** And you helped your mom punish Cinderella when she didn’t do her chores well enough, didn’t you?

**[Ani]:** 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*].

**[CC]:** And your mom encouraged you to be mean to Cinderella, didn’t she?

**[Driz]:** 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...

**[CC]:** So things weren’t exactly fair between you and Cinderella, were they?

**[Driz]:** Yeah, things were fair.

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

**[Driz]:** She brought it on herself.

**[CC]:** Ok, well, you have an iPhone, and she doesn’t, right?

**[Ani]:** Yeah, but she doesn’t need one, she has no friends to call.

**[Driz]:** And mice can’t answer phones.

**[CC]:** And you have an iPad, but she doesn’t, right?

**[Driz]:** Yeah, but she doesn’t need one, she doesn’t have any emails to check - -

**[Ani]: ...** or online shopping to do.

**[CC]:** And you have, I believe, attended no less than 23 rock music concerts, while Cinderella has attended none, correct?

**[Driz]** Well, ...yes.

**[CC]:** So you think things are fair between all the siblings, but you have been to 23 concerts, and have an iPhone, iPad, 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 been to a concert of any kind?

**[Driz]:** I don’t know!

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

**[CC]:** And the one time that she did make something nice for herself to wear to the prince’s ball, you proceeded to rip it off of her.

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

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

**[CC]:** And your mom took your side?

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

**[Driz]: ...** which is always.

**[CC]:** No further questions my Lord/Lady.

*CC sits*

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

*DC stands*

**[DC]:** No, my Lord/Lady.

*DC sits*

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

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

**[J]:** Defence counsel, your next witness??

*DC stands and approaches lectern*

**[DC]:** The Defence calls Mr. Alfred Smithers to the stand.

*Butler is swron in.*

**[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.

**[DC]:** Mr. Smithers, what do you do for a living?

**[Smithers]:** I’m a butler.

**[DC]:** Where do you live?

**[Smithers]:** At 6060 Marlborough Avenue with the Evilyn family. I have a room in the house.

**[DC]:** And how long have you lived there?

**[Smithers]:** I was hired by the Madam ten years ago..

**[DC]:** 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..

**[DC]:** 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*]

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Now, Mr. Smithers, what does your job entail?

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

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

**[J]:** Go ahead.

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

**[J]:** Clerk, please mark that as Exhibit #3.

**[C]:** Exhibit # 3 my Lord/Lady. [*Passes one copy to the Judge, keeps one for self.*]

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** 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.

**[DC]:** 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

**[DC]:** 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. Cinderella certainly had more time to devote to the chores. 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*].

**[DC]:** No further questions.

**[J]:** Crown counsel, do you have any questions for cross examination?

**[C3]:** 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.

**[C3]:** And that is a nicer room than Cinderella or even her stepsisters had, right?

**[Smithers]:** Yes.

**[C3]:** And you said that you felt welcome and a part of the family, right?

**[Smithers]:** Yes.

**[C3]:** You would agree, then, that this is a very good job you have, wouldn’t you?

**[Smithers]:** Yes.

**[C3]:** More than a job, it’s your home and your family, isn’t it?

**[Smithers]:** Yes, it is.

**[C3]:** 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.

**[C3]:** 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*)

**[C3]:** Can I take that exchange to mean yes?

**[Smithers]:** Yes.

**[C3]:** And in fact you would never do anything to get her in trouble, would you?

**[Smithers]:** No.

**[C3]:** No further questions, my Lord/Lady.

**[J]:** Reexamination, Defence Counsel?

**[DC]:** No, my Lord/Lady.

**[J]:** Thank you, witness, you may step down.

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

**[DC]:** The Defence will now call as its last witness, Cinderella’s Stepmother, Madam Evilyn.

*Madam Evilyn is sworn in.*

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

**[SM]:** Madam Evilyn

**[DC]:** Madam Evilyn would please explain to the court your approach to parenting?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Can you describe your relationship with Cinderella?

**[SM]:** 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 become 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.

**[DC]:** And did you do anything about that?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** And what have you observed between Cinderella and her two sisters?

**[SM]:** 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. Unfortunately, Cinderella is so strange that they don’t seem to relate to her very well. At times there were disagreements, but I expect that to happen between girls of their ages.

**[DC]:** And what would you do when there was a disagreement?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** When Cinderella was sent to her room, did you ever lock her in there?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Was Cinderella ever sent to her room at dinner time?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** I understand that you received a letter about a ball with the prince? Did you read that letter?

**[SM]:** Yes I did. It said that all bachelorettes were invited.

**[DC]:** And did Cinderella tell you she wanted to go?

**[SM]:** Yes she did. All of my daughters asked to go.

**[DC]:** What did you respond?

**[SM]:** 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 mice and/birds.

**[DC]:** So, after you returned from shopping, what happened?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[CC]:** Objection – the witness is speculating.

**[DC]:** 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?

**[SM]:** Well no, she wasn’t appropriately dressed! If she were, I would have given her permission to go.

**[DC]:** Then what happened?

**[SM]:** Well, I was chaperoning my daughters at the ball 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.

**[DC]:** What happened when you went home?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Did you take any steps based on your belief that she might be losing her mind?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Did you also get Cinderella?

**[SM]:** No, I didn’t feel that she was acting well enough to receive visitors then.

**[DC]:** What happened then?

**[SM]:** The prince had a glass 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 down. I was deeply concerned about her mental health. But she was carrying another glass shoe. When the prince saw that, he took her away.

**[DC]:** Have you seen Cinderella since then?

**[SM]:** Only since the beginning of these court proceedings

**[DC]:** And how do you feel about that?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[DC]:** Thank you – those are my questions, My Lord/Lady.

**[J]:** Crown, would you like to cross-examine the witness?

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

**[SM]:** Yes.

**[CC]:** But, you let your daughters out of their rooms in order to attend extracurricular activities?

**[SM]:** Yes, of course.

**[CC]:** What activities did your daughters attend?

**[SM]:** 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…

**[CC]:** That is okay, Madam Evilyn. Which of these activities was Cinderella involved in?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[CC]:** So Cinderella was not involved in any activities, but your other daughters were?

**[SM]:** Yes.

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

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

**[CC]:** Only your daughters attended school, isn’t that right?

**[SM]:** Yes…

**[CC]:** And only two of your daughters were allowed to attend the ball?

**[SM]:** Yes, only two of them finished their chores on time.

**[CC]:** Which two daughters were those?

**[SM]:** Anastasia and Drizella.

**[CC]:** Not Cinderella?

**[SM]:** No.

**[CC]:** 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?

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

**[CC]:** So Cinderella was only allowed out of her room to do her chores?

[**SM]:** 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 mice, so much she didn’t want to.

**[CC]:** Madam Evilyn, you’re sure you didn’t lock the door to Cinderella’s room?

**[SM]:** 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.

**[CC]:** 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?

**[SM]:** Yes.

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

**[SM]:** (*Softly*) I don’t know….I didn’t mean what I said.

[**CC]:** No further questions.

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

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

**[DC]:** We are My lord/my lady.

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

***[DEFENCE CLOSING]***

**[DC]:** Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. I ask you to accept Madam Evilyn’s testimony as truthful, and if you do, you must accordingly find her not guilty of unlawful exploitation or confinement.

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

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!

It is completely normal for parents to send their children to their room. The crown hasn’t shown beyond a reasonable doubt that Cinderella was locked in the room. 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 what she claims to have seen and heard. I remind you that this woman’s property was separated from the Evilyn’s property by a fence and a large pumpkin patch.

The Prince told you he thought he heard a banging sound when he came to the house. It was entirely possible that the sound could have been Cinderella running down the spiral staircase to see the 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 support 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?!

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.

*DC sits*

***[CROWN CLOSING]***

**[J]:** Crown, you may proceed when ready.

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

**[CC]:** 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?

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 also told you that the day after the 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.

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.

*CC sits*

**[J]:** 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.

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 the Criminal Code of Canada. The Crown must prove that the accused caused Cinderella to provide labour against her will, that 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.. 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.

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 the Criminal Code of Canada. The Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt: that Madam Evilyn intentionally confined or imprisoned the complainant, Cinderella If you find that the Crown has proven this beyond a reasonable doubt you must find Madam Evilyn guilty of forcible confinement contrary to the Criminal Code.

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

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.

*After the jury returns and gives the verdicts:*

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

**[C]:** This Court stands adjourned. Order in Court.

*All stand while the judge leaves the courtroom*