

THE ACCUSED

SARA

Who the fuck is it?

KATHERINE

Katherine Murphy.

SARA

Katherine Murphy?

KATHERINE

Yes, Katherine. Your attorney.
Sara? [Pause.] Sara, are you okay?

SARA

No, I'm not fucking okay,
Katherine Murphy my fucking
attorney. Why'd you let them out
on bail?

KATHERINE

I didn't let them out, it's
standard procedure.

SARA

You didn't let them out? Who let
them out? What are you talking
about, 'standard procedure'?

KATHERINE

Until a jury finds you guilty,
you're free if you can post bail.
They posted bail. That's the
system.

SARA

Fuck the system, and fuck you.

KATHERINE

Sara, can I come in?

SARA

The guy on TV made it sound like I
did a live sex show.

KATHERINE

Well, that's not the last time
that's going to happen. Can I come
in? Please?

SARA

You want to come in?

KATHERINE

Yes.

SARA

You really want to come in here?

KATHERINE

Yes.

[Sara opens door at last.]

SARA

Well sure, come on in.

KATHERINE

The bartender at the Dugout said
you were sick.

SARA

The bartender should shut the fuck
up. You looking for me? Here I am.

KATHERINE

Yes, I see that. I was worried..

SARA

I had to go to the doctor's and
nobody at work knows. What are you
looking at?

KATHERINE

Nothing. I'm not looking at
anything.

SARA

You don't like my apartment?

KATHERINE

I wasn't looking at anything.

SARA

Okay.

KATHERINE

Okay.

SARA

You want a seat? Would you like something to drink? I could really use a drink.

KATHERINE

Um, thank you, no.

SARA

What, you on the clock? Live it up, Katherine Murphy my attorney. Go crazy.

KATHERINE

No thanks. You usually drink at 3 o'clock?

SARA

Oh, just to smooth out the rough edges a little, you know? Hey, listen, what time were you born?

KATHERINE

I already told you, I don't believe in astrology.

SARA

Does it look like I give a shit? You believing in it doesn't matter. It's my believing in it that matters. So what time?

KATHERINE

At night, 7 o'clock. August 9th.

SARA

Where?

KATHERINE

Portland. Do you always drink to smooth out the edges?

SARA

Portland, where?

KATHERINE

Portland, Oregon. Do you always have a drink to smooth out the edges?

SARA

Portland, August 9th, 7pm. I need to get a year out of you at some point you know...

KATHERINE

Sara...

SARA

No, I don't always drink. Sometimes I'll take a hit of pot or something. Why? You want some?

KATHERINE

No, thanks. Did you have anything to drink before you went to the Mill? Or smoke anything?

SARA

Half a joint, a couple of beers. Nothing heavy.

KATHERINE

While you were there?

SARA

I don't know. Listen, I wasn't falling down drunk or anything.

KATHERINE

How were you dressed?

[Longish beat.]

SARA

What the fuck is that supposed to mean?

KATHERINE

It means were you dressed provocatively? Showing a lot of cleavage? See-thru blouse?

SARA

What the fuck difference does it matter how I was dressed? I could have been wearing a nun's habit for all they cared - they tore it off of me!

KATHERINE

But did how you dress make them think they could have sex with you?

SARA

What the...?.

KATHERINE

Did you put on a show?

SARA

What the hell are you talking about? You saw me at the hospital. What, you think I asked for that? Is that what you think? If that's what you think, you get the fuck out of my house!

KATHERINE

Why didn't you tell me you had a record?

SARA

Fuck You! I ain't got no record.

KATHERINE

You want to tell me about it?

SARA

All right, look. I was helping my girlfriend move a U-Haul, you know, and we was going through New Jersey. We ran into this cop, right, and he sees we have a broken tail light. He pulls us over and starts going through her desk and all sorts of stuff she's got in the back. Finds a half gram of coke. It was nothing big. It was her desk, it wasn't my desk. It was her stuff, not mine.

KATHERINE

So why is it still in the books?

SARA

I don't fucking know, you tell me, you're the expert in 'standard procedure.' They said my record would be... Whatever...

KATHERINE

Expunged?

SARA

Yeah, expunged.

KATHERINE

Have you ever made love to more than one man at a time?

SARA

What the fuck kinda question is that?

KATHERINE

It's the kind of question you're going to be asked on the stand. You're also going to be asked if Larry or any other man has ever hit you, and if you liked it. You're going to be asked about your drug bust and how many drinks a day you have to smooth out the

edges. And how many joints. And how often you go to bars alone and whether or not you wear underwear when you go to them. And which diseases you've caught and how many abortions you've had. And I will object to all those questions. And sometimes the judge will sustain me. And sometimes not.

SARA

Well you got a really awesome system there, Katherine Murphy.

KATHERINE

Sara, you're a witness. And it is the defense's job to show to the jury that you're a rotten witness because you've got a rotten character.

SARA

You think I got a rotten character?

KATHERINE

No. Sara. That's not what I'm saying. I'm saying that's what they're going to say...

SARA

...You ain't gonna defend me because I'm some low class bimbo, right?

KATHERINE

I didn't say that. Oh, Jesus Christ why is this so difficult with you?

SARA

Because you're a fucking Libra that's why.

KATHERINE

Because you make me... You make me have to be strong with you so you get it. But I'm tough on you so I can be even tougher on them. I'm on your side, Sara. Do you get it? Do you believe that?

SARA

Will those bastards go to jail?

KATHERINE

Is that what you want?

SARA

I want those motherfuckers put away forever.

KATHERINE

Well, Sara... We finally agree on something.

SARA

You ain't listening to me. I want them put away forever. You got that?

KATHERINE

I'm listening. I got it. That's what we'll do.