

Prudence Is Nobody's Fool

By Alan O'Hashi
Inspired by an old joke!
Hitching Post Theater
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Props: Boulder Valley Real Estate Sign
Courtroom set up - One Chair for the witness stand
Fake finger - prosthetic

Effects: Thunderclap, Gavel banging

Players: Prosecutor, balding, glasses, suit and tie
Mrs. Jones, elderly grandmother type

FADE IN:

INT. SMALL TOWN COURT ROOM -- DAY

A small town PROSECUTOR, middle-aged, slightly balding, and in a fancy suit rises and calls his first witness to the stand.

PROSECUTOR

Your Honor, the people of Frost
Bite Falls would like to call our
first witness to the stand. Mrs.
Prudence Jones.

MRS. JONES, grandmotherly, elderly woman slowly rises and hobbles over to the witness stand. She awaits instructions.

PROSECUTOR

Bailiff?

MRS. JONES

I'm just an honest little old lady. You
don't have to worry. People like me
will always play the fool for you
government lawyers I ALWAYS tell the
truth!

The Prosecutor approaches Mrs. Jones who is now sitting down in the witness stand.

PROSECUTOR

I can assure you, you're nobody's fool, Mrs. Jones. For the record, can you state your name and address to the court?

MRS. JONES

I'm Prudence Jones, 1650 Yellow Pine Avenue.

(beat)

And your former fourth grade teacher there at Fairview Elementary. Those were the good old days when everyone had to walk to school. No hot lunches back then...

GAVEL BANGS off stage. Prosecutor looks the towards the Judge's direction (towards the audience)

PROSECUTOR

I don't have to remind you that this is a court of law? And the court doesn't really care where I went to grade school.

MRS. JONES

The court would mind if they knew I caught you looking up Jane and Jean O'Malley's skirts during naptime!

PROSECUTOR

Thank you Mrs. Jones of 1652 Yellow Pine? That's in the north side?

MRS. JONES

1650 Yellow Pine and you didn't listen in the 4th grade either! It's over by the where the new shopping mall is being built.

PROSECUTOR

Enough small talk. I'm just trying to establish the objectivity of your testimony. For the record, do you know me?

Mrs. Jones listens intently, smiles then answers.

MRS. JONES,

Why, yes, I do know you, Little Johnny Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy. You were such a good boy.

The Prosecutor beams when he senses he has some rapport with the witness.

PROSECUTOR

Thank you Mrs. Jones, but I go by John or Mr. Williams these days. Now then, on the evening of January twenty second, can you...

MRS. JONES

(Interrupting)

...and since then, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie to the press...

PROSECUTOR

(looking a bit shaken)

Now, now, Mrs. Jones, I don't know where you're hearing all this. It's common knowledge the Tea Party has been out to get me since that misunderstanding about the securities fraud.

MRS. JONES

...and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs.

PROSECUTOR

I can assure you that I was nowhere near Bernie Madoff when he was in town!

MRS. JONES

And you've been cheating on your wife!

PROSECUTOR

You know as well as I do that those charges about me and women's clothing and the O'Malley twins were never proven!

(beat)

I'm trying to establish YOUR credibility.

MRS. JONES

Credibility? Wanna talk about credibility. You think you're a big shot because you swindle widows out of their homes? You and your flim flam real estate company.

She sets up the BOULDER VALLEY REAL ESTATE SIGN for all to see.

MRS. JONES (cont'd)

Exhibit A! I found this hidden next to my garage. Every property owner in the county would dance on your grave if the Good Lord struck you down by lightning as you're standing here today.

(beat)

Yes, I know you, Johnny Williams.

There's a THUNDERCLAP and the Prosecutor flinches. The stunned Prosecutor points across the room.

PROSECUTOR

Ahem ... That's enough of your antics Mrs. Jones, do you know, the defense attorney Miss Smith?

The Prosecutor and Mrs. Jones glance toward the defense table.

MRS. JONES

Why, yes, I do. I've known Miss Smith since she was a youngster, too.

PROSECUTOR

Can you disclose your knowledge about Miss Smith?

MRS. JONES

She's loose, and she has a drinking problem made worse with those diet pills and medical marijuana.

Mrs. Jones. glares in Miss Smith's direction.

PROSECUTOR

Drinking alcohol and taking diet pills and medical marijuana are all legal.

MRS. JONES

Not when she hooks up with strange men she meets on craigslist! No one in this town will have her!

(disgusted)

Look at her sitting over there reeking of Channel with her short skirt and plunging neckline and fish net stockings and dark red...

The Prosecutor starts to sweat, wipes his brow and get a bit turned on by the description.

PROSECUTOR

I think we get the picture, Mrs. Jones!

The Prosecutor embarrassingly glances around the courtroom and he regains his composure.

MRS. JONES

Everyone knows Miss Smith made HER money from those bogus class action lawsuits.

PROSECUTOR

I'm not defending Miss Smith, but the Vegemetic finger-loss case put our little town on the legal map!

MRS. JONES

She pocketed millions and all we
victims got was one of these.

(she pulls off a fake finger from
her knuckle stub)

You know that ambulance chaser
advertises on the Jerry Springer Show?

The Prosecutor smiles confidently back to the jury.

MRS. JONES (CONT'D)

Plus, she's had affairs with some
of the creepiest men in this town
- including you, Johnny Williams!

The Prosecutor pulls out a handkerchief and daubs off his brow
while nervously smiling.

PROSECUTOR

Objection, your honor. I know
Frost Bite Falls is a tiny little
hamlet but I'm not on trial here.

MRS. JONES

Tiny little Hamlet? To be or not to be!
Ha Ha! Get it? Your Honor? I'm his
witness! I say, Overruled!

Mrs. Jones continues to sit in the witness stand and continues
to testify by miming arm actions and talking wildly as the
Prosecutor steps towards the judge's bench.

PROSECUTOR

(aside, in the direction of
the judge)

Your honor? If anyone asks Mrs. Jones
if she knows you, I'd plead the fifth!

(beat)

By the way, I have a great deal on a
piece of property at 1650 Yellow Pine.

FREEZE FRAME

FADE OUT

THE END