

LAW v. LIAR

by

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LAW v. LIAR

SETTING — A courtroom.

CHARACTERS — JUDGE, DEFENSE ATTORNEY, CLIENT, PROSECUTION, and SECURITY.

AT RISE — All are assembled. DEFENSE ATTORNEY is standing.

JUDGE

And how does your client plead?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Not guilty.

CLIENT

(overlapping)

Guilty!

JUDGE

I'm sorry?

CLIENT

Extremely guilty.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Uh, Your Honor, my client—

CLIENT

—is your best hope of solving the real crime here: This lawyer is a liar!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

What??

CLIENT

Your Honor, with your permission, I'd like to call my lawyer to the stand.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(to CLIENT)

I hope you're amused, because you just threw the rest of your life away.

JUDGE

(intrigued)

I'll allow it.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You will??

JUDGE

(shrugs)
Yeah, sure.

Bewildered, DEFENSE ATTORNEY
makes his/her way to the stand. CLIENT
follows.

CLIENT

Did you or did you not counsel me NOT to reveal the fact
that I had killed many people?

JUDGE

Sorry, “many”? You’re on trial for one.

CLIENT

I’ve got bigger fish to fry.

JUDGE

(intrigued)
Go on...

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Aren’t I supposed to be sworn in, or...?

JUDGE

Meh.

CLIENT

(slamming the podium)
ANSWER THE QUESTION.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You still have attorney-client privilege—I don’t have to
answer this.

CLIENT

I invoke this privilege to COMPEL you to answer truthfully.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Okay, well that’s not really a thing, but I guess it’s your
funeral. Yes, you told me on several occasions that you
murdered a lot of people.

CLIENT

So I am, in fact, “guilty.”

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

As sin.

CLIENT

And yet! You advised me to plead innocent here today.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You are innocent until proven guilty. Until about two minutes ago, it was the prosecution's job to make that case. That's how this works.

CLIENT

(smug)

And how does it work for you to set a guilty man free?

PROSECUTION

Objection! Your Honor, my opponent's client is badgering my opponent.

(quick beat)

You know what? I rescind that.

JUDGE

Rescinded.

(to CLIENT)

Make your case.

CLIENT

The witness admits that I murdered lots of people.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You claimed to have—

CLIENT

Your honor, Exhibit A: the knife.

CLIENT procures a tagged knife from a box and displays it while crossing to the jurors.

JUDGE

Exhibit A is entered into the record.

CLIENT

Exhibit B!

CLIENT stabs a juror to death.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(horrified)

What are you doing!!

JUDGE

Oh my God!

(quick beat)

You really did tell him to lie! And you lied yourself!!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

I... but I...!

JUDGE

(banging the gavel)

The lawyer is a liar, and is hereby sentenced to death.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

We don't even have the death sentence here!

JUDGE

TO DEATH I SAID!

THE COURTROOM applauds. CLIENT
takes a deep bow, then walks out.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You're not even going to arrest the confessed murderer?!

JUDGE

At. Least. He's. Not. A. Liar. Take him away!

SECURITY drags DEFENSE
ATTORNEY away.

JUDGE (cont.)

The People's Court is now adjourned.

END OF PLAY.