

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Opening Activity

Whodunit #1?

The Case of the Missing Ring

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

Grand larceny is a very serious crime. It is the theft of something worth a great deal of money. Dora Law, the plaintiff, has accused Garrett Jones of breaking into her bedroom and stealing her expensive diamond ring. Garrett Jones, the defendant, states that the ring was never stolen. He claims it was lost by Miss Law. He found it in a movie theater the same evening she was there.

Miss Law has testified as follows: "On Saturday evening, July 8, my boyfriend and I went out to see a movie. "When we returned home late that evening, I realized the ring was not on my finger. But I thought I had just forgotten to put it on when I dressed for the theater. I searched frantically in my bedroom, but I couldn't find the ring anywhere. "When I couldn't find the ring at home, I figured I must have worn it to the theater and it had fallen off my finger that evening. It had been a little loose and I had meant to get it tightened. I called Blake Theater to see if anyone had found a ring. But no one had reported it."

Miss Law's roommate (Erika) stated that while she watching her favorite TV show, she heard a strange noise in Dora's bedroom. When she went upstairs to check, nothing seemed wrong. But as she looked out the bedroom window, she saw a man walking across the lawn of their condo. Erika didn't think much of it until her roommate said the ring was missing.

Miss Law placed an ad in the paper offering a reward to anyone finding her diamond ring. This advertisement is entered as **EXHIBIT A**. The day the ad appeared, Garrett Jones came to the Law house. He explained to Miss Law that he had been in the Blake Theater the same evening that she was. He was one of the last to leave and had found a ring on the floor in a corner of the lobby.

Garrett Jones removed a diamond ring from his pocket and asked Miss Law if she could identify it. Miss Law was thrilled. Her ring had been found. She gladly offered to pay Jones the reward money.

This diamond ring is entered as **EXHIBIT B**.

During all the excitement, Erika whispered to her roommate that Garrett Jones looked just like the man she had seen walking across the lawn that Saturday evening. Miss Law slipped into the kitchen and called the police.

While Garrett Jones was still at the Law home, the police arrived. They arrested him for the theft of Miss Law's diamond ring. He is charged here today with grand larceny. The lawyer for the defense claimed that the identification of Garrett Jones was a case of mistaken identity. At the time Erika looked out the bedroom window, it was very late at night. It would have been difficult to see clearly the person who was in her backyard.

Garrett Jones testified as follows: "I was nowhere near the Law house that night. When I saw the ad in the paper, I thought it might be talking about the ring I found. I was only trying to do a good deed." Mr. Jones provided proof that he was at the theater the same night as Miss Law. While he could not produce a witness who saw him, he entered as evidence a torn ticket stub from the movie. This evidence is shown in **EXHIBIT C**.

The management of Blake Theater acknowledged that the stub was from a ticket purchased on the same Saturday Miss Law went to the theater. But they were unable to verify the exact time it was bought.

Garrett Jones continued his testimony: "When the movie was over I stopped at a vending machine to buy some candy. As I was eating it, I saw something shiny in the corner. To my surprise, I discovered it was an expensive ring. The manager of the theater wasn't around and I didn't want to leave it with anyone else. So I took the ring home.

"I never stole any ring. I found it in the theater and that reward money is mine."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

You have just heard the Case of the Missing Ring. You must decide the merits of Dora Law's accusation. Be sure to carefully examine the evidence in EXHIBITS A, B, and C. Did Garrett Jones steal Miss Law's ring? Or did he find it at the Blake Theater?

THESE ARE YOUR EXHIBITS OF EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT A

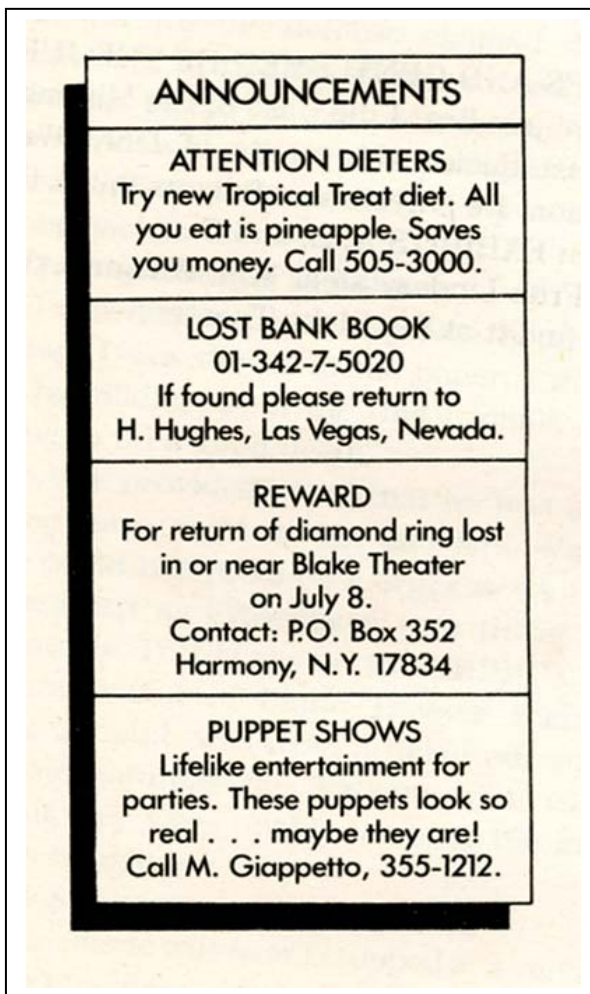


EXHIBIT B

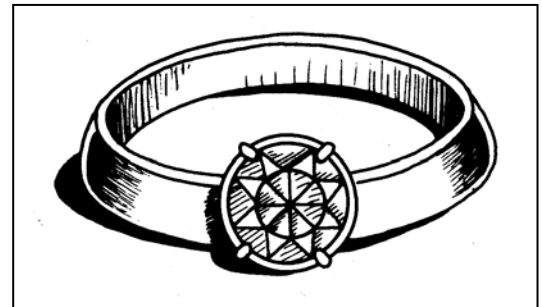


EXHIBIT C



THE VERDICT! (Explain your decision)
