

**HEADLINE**

**NEWS**

**BY TOM STEVENSON**



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**ACT 1**  
**SCENE 1**

*Set in Virginia, America. in a court room style lay out, on one side sits John Wayne Bobbitt and His Lawyer Lisa Kemler, on the other sits Lorena Bobbitt. They are sat behind desks amongst paperwork. In the centre of the stage is a judges seat with a name card 'Herman Whisenaut, Jr.', in front of which is an evidence table, furnished with the offending knife (red handle), pictures of the bed and wounded penis, and a tape recorder. Downstage right is a lectern behind which stands the person being questioned.*

*Lorena's Lawyer, Gregory Murphy, enters.*

**MURPHY:** Lorena, Sorry I'm late. Have you had time to prepare everything?

**LORENA:** I have everything. I just want this over. I want see him in prison for all what he did to me.

**MURPHY:** Just remember, he's on trial for the one incident of abuse on the 23rd of June - they wont accept evidence from any previous act of violence.

**LORENA:** But he has hurt me a lot. They need to know.

**MURPHY:** But that's not how it works here.

**VOICE:** *[off stage]* 8th of November 1993, Court is in session. All rise for the honourable Judge Herman Whisenaut, Jr.

*Judge Whisenaut enters and takes his seat.*

**JUDGE:** You may be seated.

*All sit.*

**JUDGE:** We are here today to observe a 'marital sexual assault' claim. Mrs Lorena Bobbitt claims that on Wednesday the 23rd of June at 3am in the morning she was sexually assaulted by her husband, the defendant Mr John Wayne Bobbitt. Miss Kemler, please call your first witness to the stand.

**KEMLER:** Thank you, I would like to call Mrs Lorena Bobbitt to the stand please

*There is a blackout on stage with a spotlight on Lorena. This is the first of many 'cut away' scenes.*

**LORENA:** I moved to the united states when I was just 16, I came here to experience the American dream and to learn at the best schools in the world. I am a Catholic girl originally from Ecuador. I never thought I'd end up so heavy in the spotlight, all the worlds eyes on me. Every man, every woman, every child knowing my name. I never wanted the legacy I left behind to be one of such pain and humiliation - but here I am, about to take the stand, to accuse my husband of raping me.

*The lights brighten. Lorena finds her was to the lectern, she is very nervous and shaken.*

**JUDGE:** Ma'am, do you swear on the holy bible that you will tell the whole truth, nothing but the truth so help you god?

**LOREMA:** I swear.

**KEMLER:** Tell us, how did you meet Mr John Wayne Bobbitt?

**LORENA:** Dancing— Yes, I remember us, dancing.

*Cut away to John and Lorena dancing the night they first met. there is a clear romantic spark.*

**JOHN:** So, do you have your own place, or?

**LORENA:** I live with another family. Friends of my parents. Just while I get through school.

**JOHN:** Do you not see your mum?

**LORENA:** I visit. She visits. I don't see her much. Do you live with your parents?

**JOHN:** I live at my mums house now, I don't really know my dad.

**LORENA:** You live with your mum?

**JOHN:** No, she's in prison. My uncle, kinda, raised me. But we didn't get along, so when I turned 18, I joined the forces.

**LORENA:** How long have you been in the military?

**JOHN:** Just over a year, or so. I love it

**LORENA:** It is good?

**JOHN:** It's great now. The best thing Clinton did was get the gays out of the army. We're on the up and up. Done a few terms, but I'm on a break at the moment. That's why I don't have my own apartment.

**LORENA:** I see

*Janna enters*

**JANNA:** Is this man bothering you Lorena?

**LORENA:** No— I think we're quiet getting along.

**JOHN:** Getting along

**JANNA:** Well just be sure his intentions are pure

**JOHN:** Oh my intentions are pure

**JANNA:** Did I ask you?

**LORENA:** Janna, please. John Wayne is just being friendly. It's nothing like that.

**JOHN:** Our connection, is more, personal.

*John pulls her close.*

**JANNA:** I can see where I'm not needed. I'll be over there if you need me.

*Janna goes over to talk to Robby.*

**LORENA:** Have you ever experienced love?

**JOHN:** I love beer, if that's what you mean.

**LORENA:** Have you ever felt love, with a woman?

**JOHN:** I have fallen in love, but I can't say I've ever been loved in return. although—

**LORENA:** Yes?

**JOHN:** I don't know, but this feels really good right now. Lorena—

**LORENA:** Yes?

**JOHN:** May— May I kiss you?

**LORENA:** Yes.

*They kiss - it is intimate and shows passion. They are in love*

**KEMLER:** Mrs Bobbitt, Please recount for the jury your recollection of the events of the night you severed your husbands penis.

*Lorena pauses she does not respond, she shuffles nervously*

**LORENA:** Sorry, I don't understand quite.

**KEMLER:** My apologies. Could you tell us what happened on the night of the allegation.

**LORENA:** My husband, John, he went out with his friend, Robby. They went out and drinking all night. He came back smelling like alcohol and woke me up, I was so tired that night. I could not sleep for worrying. I told myself I can't wait up any longer, I need sleep.

*During this speech Lorena is flashing back to the night in question, the lights are dim. It's 3am in the morning. Lorena is clearly distressed, like she has been up all night.*

**LORENA:** He will be home soon, he will have been good and moral. If not he will come clean to me in the morning. Or maybe Robby will tell me. Why do you worry me like this, why do you throw my mind around so much and make me think— I am your one wife. These rumours, they do not sit well in my mind. Perhaps I'll wake up fresh. Perhaps this is all a bad dream. I feel sick.

*Lorena gets into bed. John and Robby enter 'trying to be quiet' but accidentally making a commotion. They are drunk.*

**LORENA:** What's that? John Wayne. Is that you.

**JOHN:** We're home. Robby is staying the night, Daniella is being a bitch because he's stayed out all night.

**ROBBY:** Fuck her John. Is it okay if I sleep on your couch.

**JOHN:** Yeah. Get your head down.

**ROBBY:** Dude we should have brought those two blonds back.

**JOHN:** I'm a married man Robby — Keep your voice down, Lorena is only through there.

**ROBBY:** So what. What happened to the Sleep all day party all night John I know?

**JOHN:** Do you want a bud from the refrigerator?

**LORENA:** John, come to bed please.

**JOHN:** Later Lorena. Can't you see Robby is round.

**ROBBY:** I'm staying here tonight.

**LORENA:** Come to bed and sleep, with me.

**JOHN:** Help yourself to beer Robby, I'm going straight to bed now.

*John undressed to his boxers and slides into bed. He cuddles up to Lorena and kisses her.*

**LORENA:** Where have you been until now?

**JOHN:** Oh, just to the usual bar. Robby and I have had a few and put the world to rights

**LORENA:** Are you getting the car tomorrow?

**JOHN:** No, we drove home. It's outside.

**LORENA:** I hope you were careful. I have been worried sick. I'm so glad you have come home, I thought you were playing around again.

**JOHN:** You know you're the only girl for me, now, quiet down, I don't want Robby to hear.

*John becomes a bit more sexual. Lorena is silent.*

**LORENA:** John I have to be up early in the morning.

**JOHN:** Sh.

*The scene is interrupted by the Lawyer, Kemler, interrupting with her next question. Lorena returns to the lectern.*

**KEMLER:** Then what happened?

**LORENA:** He— He was very drunk. He jumped on top of me. He forced sex on me. I told him no sex, no sex.

**KEMLER:** You claim in your statement to Virginia Police Department, and I'm quoting 'He always forces sex on me, sometimes I say yes'. He always forces sex on me, but sometimes you say yes.

**LORENA:** Yes

**KEMLER:** Perhaps it's your English, but this to me sounds like you may be confused around the subject of consent?

**LORENA:** No miss. When I say, no sex. John tells me he can do it whenever he likes, because I am his wife.

**KEMLER:** Very well, when was the last time John allegedly raped you?

**JUDGE:** I want to make it clear Mrs Bobbitt, that this trial is specifically about the alleged abuse on June the 23rd, and the 5 days leading up to that event. I want the jury to disregard any allegations of previous abuse or abuse after these dates.

**LORENA:** It was the Friday before.

**KEMLER:** That is convenient, 5 days before. After he had sex with you on the Friday, did he say anything to you about that sex?

**LORENA:** Yes. He said that forced sex excites him.

**KEMLER:** Were those his words, 'Forced sex excites him'?

**LORENA:** Yes. Yes.

**KEMLER:** A kink perhaps? What happened on the Sunday?

**LORENA:** We had consensual sex

**KEMLER:** Why did you have consensual sex 2 days after he raped you on the Friday?

**LORENA:** I was afraid that if I said no, he will rape me anyways. I just remember his voice saying "I will follow you, wherever you are" and "he can have any type of sex he wants with me". He pinned me down. Tore off my clothes. How could you do this to me again and again?

**KEMLER:** Could you describe Mr Bobbitt's behaviour after the sexual encounter on the night of the incident?

**LORENA:** Cold.

**KEMLER:** Care you expand?

**LORENA:** He make me feel worthless. Like he used me and threw me to the side. Like I am some kind of sex object, I just have to take it and then be happy with what I get. He didn't treat me like a wife.

**KEMLER:** The night in question, if there is a history of abuse - why did you not leave Mr Bobbitt?

**LORENA:** He is very strong. I was between 93 and 95 pounds. I basically surrender myself. Like, okay, as a survival instinct. I just wanted to surrender my body, my mind to get it over with.

**KEMLER:** Forgive me miss, why then had you not left Mr Bobbitt as a partner

**LORENA:** As a Catholic, I don't believe in divorce, I really believed that when he said sorry, he meant it.

**KEMLER:** The night in question, you committed a crime yourself. What happened after Mr Bobbitt allegedly raped you?

**LORENA:** I remember going to the car, and I see that in one hand was the knife, in the other was his organ. His penis. I tossed it somewhere while I was driving.

**KEMLER:** Mrs Bobbitt is referring to the penis that she chopped off. In the report from the police, again I am quoting, you said "He always have orgasm, and he never waits for me to have orgasm. He's selfish".

**MURPHY:** Objection, Your honour, please bare in mind my Client was hysterical and English is her second language

**JUDGE:** Miss Kemler, continue.

**KEMLER:** I ask, why is it important for you to have an orgasm, if this was an unwanted sexual assault?

**LORENA:** You know, I might've said things I didn't mean to say. Again, I was still learning English, and I tried to connect the words together, and you know, it was just a mess. I was trying to explain myself that there is no good when a man and woman have nonconsensual sex. There was no translator at all, and that's a very important point. Now that I look back at these things, I'm like, Oh, my God, a translator would've been nice.

**KEMLER:** Are you suggesting you may not have been clear about the sex not being consensual.

**MURPHY:** Your honour, she's twisting her words.

**JUDGE:** Agreed. Mr Murphy would you like to cross examine Mrs Bobbitt.

**MURPHY:** Lorena, please tell the Jury what happened after your husband sexually assaulted you

**LORENA:** I cut off his penis,

**MURPHY:** Yes. I'm talking about you visiting the doctor.

**LORENA:** I had to go to the hospital for a rape kit. I had tried to fight him, but the more I said no, the more he wanted to do it. He had force sex on me again and again. I have screamed at him before, because I didn't want to have sex. It wasn't right. I thought he might kill me if I leave. No woman should be treated like this John, no woman.

**JOHN:** I didn't

**JUDGE:** Mr Bobbitt, please.

**JOHN:** Sorry sir. But this is all a lie

**JUDGE:** Continue Mr Murphy

**MURPHY:** A rape test was done on Mrs Bobbitt which came back positive that sexual intercourse between Mr and Mrs Bobbitt did occur that night, and there was significant bruising to the vagina, and some bleeding. She also has ripped and torn clothing from the night in question.

**KEMLER:** That proves nothing. Your honour, along with the rape kit evidence, you also provided us your underwear from that evening. Could you confirm that mrs?

**LORENA:** Yes Ma'am.

**KEMLER:** Underwear in which you claim was ripped off you by Mr Bobbitt?

**LORENA:** Yes, he ripped them off me, I was trying to push him, but I couldn't. He forced me into it. My panties were torn off. I was fighting it.

**KEMLER:** The evidence shows the pants were cut with scissors. You have no evidence my client was forceful. In a note from the chief forensic scientist on the scene he says "There is a clear straight cut in the underwear, followed by a tare. There is only one way these pants could have this damage, and that is to be made with scissors.

**LORENA:** No

**KEMLER:** Your honour, I press to remove this evidence, as it has been falsified, and who



knows what else has been.

**JUDGE:** I request that the jury disregards the torn clothing as evidence. But bare in mind the rape kit evidence.

**KEMLER:** I see it that Mrs Bobbitt was angry that she did not orgasm after sex, cut off her husbands penis in a malicious act and then cried rape to try and keep herself out of jail.

**LORENA:** No.

**KEMLER:** I have no further questions.

**MURPHY:** I have no further questions

**JUDGE:** Mrs Bobbitt you may stand down.

**LORENA:** No, He did it. He forced sex on me.

*Murphy whispers into Lorena's ear and leads her to her seat.*

**MURPHY:** Your Honour I'd like to call John Wayne Bobbitt to the stand please. Don't worry Lorena, I got this.

*John moves to the podium.*

**JUDGE:** Mr Bobbitt, do you swear on the Holy Bible to tell the whole truth, nothing but the truth, so help you god?

**JOHN:** I swear on my momma - I aint never told a lie

**JUDGE:** We usually say I do

**JOHN:** Oh - I do sir. I swear on this good book.

**MURPHY:** Thank you. Mr Bobbitt. Care to tell the court how you met Lorena?

**JOHN:** Was the happiest day of my life. I remember it like it was yesterday. Robby and I were out at a bar.

*Cut away to John Wayne Bobbitt and his friend 'Robby' are out at a bar, they have been drinking. It is late 1988 and the music should reflect this. We see John and Robby mid-conversation.*

**JOHN:** Come on! Lightweight. One more bar

**ROBBY:** Why don't we just stay here for one more.

**JOHN:** Let me think, because this is an old man's bar and it's crap. You only come here because the beer is cheap.

**ROBBY:** What better reason to come?

**JOHN:** It smells funny, the toilets are disgusting. There is no atmosphere and I'm sure that guy In the corner is dead. He hasn't moved in an hour.

**ROBBY:** It's quiet, a whole bar to ourselves. Why would we leave

**JOHN:** Because there's no girls here.

**ROBBY:** And—

**JOHN:** And I don't want to be going home on my own again.

**ROBBY:** Military man like yourself - I'm sure you've worked out how to sort yourself out when there are no women about.

**JOHN:** Military man like myself just needs to put on his uniform to get some. Come on Robby, drink up, one more bar.

**ROBBY:** No, John. You know what happens when we go there - we can't ever stay for one. One becomes five then I end up making a fool of myself

**JOHN:** Oh. Like that time you showed your parents your ID to get into your house, thinking it was a bar?

**ROBBY:** What about your growing traffic cone collection?

**JOHN:** Memorabilia of a good night. Don't forget when you took a girl to a skip and told her it was your house, before being chased off by the angry Spanish woman.

**ROBBY:** You're one to talk! What about when we were out and bumped into our old teacher, Miss Betts, and you put your hand up before you spoke to her.

**JOHN:** Miss Betts! Oh I remember her. They don't call me Johnny Nob-it for no reason.

**ROBBY:** You're right - they don't call you Johnny Nob-it.

**JOHN:** You're just jealous, I've got a pick of the women and you've got to be good for Daniella.

**ROBBY:** I haven't 'got' to be good. I Just choose not to sleep around. I love her.

**JOHN:** Are you gay? Well if I was you, I would. All the talent around us.

**ROBBY:** If you don't go there, you don't know what you're missing. Anyway, what 'talent', you want to leave because there's no fucker here. Unless you're gonna pick up that old sleeping guy.

**JOHN:** All the girls are down at the club at this time. Come on, drink up.

*Against his better judgement, Robby begins to drink his drink, fast. John is cheering him on and encouraging him to finish. Scene is interrupted by Layer, Murphy.*

**MURPHY:** Mr Bobbitt, is all this relevant?

**JOHN:** Erm. No, I guess not sir.

**MURPHY:** Could you tell the jury how you met Lorena, your wife.

**JOHN:** Sure.

*Lorena and Janna walk into the bar, John see's Lorena and cannot stop staring.*

**ROBBY:** Come on then.

**JOHN:** We're staying here.

**ROBBY:** But you—

**JOHN:** We're staying here. Robby the gods have blessed me with a walking angle.

**ROBBY:** John Bobbitt, thinking with his cock since 1967. Why do you want to meet someone while you're shit-face drunk?

**JOHN:** You met Daniella after holding her hair back while she was being sick!

**ROBBY:** Not quite true.

**JOHN:** Look at that Robby. Look at the perfection that has just walked into the room. Look at that walk Robby. She will be mine before the evening is out, let me tell you.

**ROBBY:** And when she rejects you and you feel crushed, then we go to the club?

**JOHN:** I will marry that woman. Get us both a drink

**ROBBY:** It's your round

*John throws some money at Robbie and pushes him over to the bar to get drinks. John walks over to Lorena.*

**JOHN:** Marine officer John Wayne Bobbitt.

**LORENA:** Sorry?

**JOHN:** Sorry, I'm John Wayne Bobbitt, ma'am, named after the movie star. How are you?

**LORENA:** Oh. Hello, Lorena Gallo.

**JOHN:** You've got a bit of an accent, you're not from round here are you?

**LORENA:** No. I come from Ecuador, but I come here for school.

**JOHN:** You're very beautiful.

**LORENA:** Did Janna tell you to say that?

**JOHN:** Pardon? I don't know what you mean, ma'am.

**LORENA:** She said I should talk to you.

**JOHN:** Sorry, I don't know no Janna, miss. I just came over to talk to you.

**LORENA:** Well, it's nice to meet you John Wayne.

**JOHN:** I wondered if you'd like to come over and sit with us tonight?

**LORENA:** I'm just waiting for my friend. I think she's more of what you're looking for.

**JOHN:** And what exactly am I looking for?

**LORENA:** Sex

**JOHN:** Straight to the point but I'm—

**LORENA:** You will flirt with me, get me drunk and try sleep with me. But I am afraid I am a good catholic girl. So I don't want you to waste your time Mr John Wayne. My friend Janna, she'd be more than happy to I'm sure. I know she'll find you as attractive as I do.

**JOHN:** As attractive as you do?

**LORENA:** Sorry, My English.

**JOHN:** Well what if I don't find her as attractive as you. How do you know I'm not looking for the woman to be my wife. The woman to be my forever.

**LORENA:** Why are you looking for her here?

**JOHN:** Shucks, I wasn't looking tonight. God blessed me with an opportunity, so I took it.

**LORENA:** God does seem to be looking out for us both tonight.

**JOHN:** How would you like to dance Miss Gallo?

**LORENA:** I can't dance—

**JOHN:** It's easy. Take my hand.

*Interrupted by the Lawyer, Murphy.*

**MURPHY:** You have a very vivid memory of the occasion, Perhaps you could give us your account of the day in question. Did you work at all?

**JOHN:** Sure thing. Until my boss said, you know, that he didn't need me that night, that we were slow, and I could go home.

**MURPHY:** Then you went out with Robby that night?

**JOHN:** Yes, went out to a few clubs, had a few Budweisers. 5 to be accurate.

**MURPHY:** How were you feeling?

**JOHN:** You know, I didn't feel I was under the influence at all. When I got home I was just tired. I folded up my clothes - a drunk person doesn't fold up their clothes.

**MURPHY:** What do you remember of that night?

**JOHN:** I remember Lorena playing around with me, while I was sleeping. I felt a pull, then a jerk, then a pain. She cut off my penis sir. I thought I was bleeding to death - my penis was gone. I woke up Robby, said 'What do I do', and the he just got up, went and brushed his teeth!

**MURPHY:** It's quite drastic action to take. To cut off a mans penis. What would drive a woman to cut off her husbands penis?

**JOHN:** She did it because I told her I was divorcing her. She did it because she was mad at me. With all due respect sir. You don't know her like I do. She is manipulative.

**MURPHY:** Manipulative maybe, but not mutilating. You get home drunk, you think 'I can have sex with my wife', she tells you no, forced or not, having sex with a woman saying no is still none consensual sex. Which is still a sexual assault.

*Murphy sits down looking rather triumphant with himself.*

**KEMLER:** Mr Bobbitt. How's the penis?

**JOHN:** It's still healing, miss. I can barely walk.

**KEMLER:** I hear the surgery was a success?

**JOHN:** Three days after surgery, I woke up and I was like 'wow, it's working, kind of!'. I called there hotel where my mom and dad were. My mom answered and I was like "Mom, I got an erection!" She didn't want to hear that.

**KEMLER:** Let me put a question to you Mr Bobbitt, if you did rape your wife - would you say that having your penis cut off was a— reasonable punishment? — Like for like?

**JOHN:** No ma'am, I've never hurt my wife, and she hurt me in the worst place for a man.

**KEMLER:** Have you ever hit your wife?

**JOHN:** No I have not.

**KEMLER:** Not even after she cut off your penis?

**JOHN:** No ma'am. I sat straight up in my bed, I applied pressure. It never even entered my head to chase her, or hurt her. I was just thinking, why?

**KEMLER:** Is this the first time your wife was violent to you?

**JOHN:** No, I have called the police on her several times.

**JUDGE:** We have 4 previous calls made. In 1991 John called to report Lorena attacking him twice. In 1992 John called to report Lorena attacking him once, and in 1992 Lorena's mum called to report her daughter attacking John, once. From the evidence before me, John is the one being battered.

**MURPHY:** Your honour, domestic violence is not taken seriously in the US. There are a lot of women outside this court house holding their breath for Lorena, because they have been in the same position.

**KEMLER:** On the contrary, US congress have filed the Violence Against Women Act to be reviewed. Domestic abuse is being taken very seriously. Let us not forget the recent death of Nichole Simpson, and the abuse she suffered at the hands of her killer. It is getting press.

**MURPHY:** I would like the Jury to disregard anything they have seen ore read in the press. Please be aware that these newspapers and TV editors are usually men. They don't want to publish articles about DV, about rape, about abuse to women - because it isn't happening to them. They are rose tinted ideas.

**KEMLER:** Don't be so ridiculous.

**JUDGE:** Excuse me. Mrs KEMLER do you have any further questions for your witness?

**KEMLER:** No sir.

**JUDGE:** Okay, then I suggest you re-take your seat Mr Bobbitt, we will have a short break before hearing from the last witnesses. But I must say, this case is a cultural movement. Never before have I seen the word 'penis' so branded in the newspapers. Never before have I heard of a penis being severed and re-attached. But I must say, had John and Lorena been a less attractive couple, this would not have been such a public affair.

*The judge ruffles through his papers and takes a drink of water. The Lawyers both sit back with their clients and make actions as though they are calming and collecting themselves ready for the rest of the trial.*

**LORENA:** I went for some food; there was a woman reading the paper - she said "Great, someone has finally done what I've always wanted to do". I am inspiring these people.

**MURPHY:** Please remember it is your rebellion to the rape that they admire, not your action.

**LORENA:** The papers they call it mutilation. One says I did it for some attention.

**MURPHY:** Let's not worry about the papers okay. The Jury seem to believe the abuse, I just wish we could use evidence on the history of abuse to you.

**LORENA:** I can tell them about the police? I can tell them about the other rapes. I can—

**MURPHY:** It's no use Lorena, they'll have to disregard any evidence. It's like Lisa said, 'To convict of Rape in Virginia we need signs that the sex was forced.' Hopefully the next witnesses will give us that evidence.

**JOHN:** How do you think it's going?

**KEMLER:** They like you, I think you have the Jury on side. There is no evidence of rape, and no clear evidence of any sexual assault on the dates in question.

**JOHN:** I have never. You believe me right.

**KEMLER:** Just think yourself lucky they can't use previous evidence in this case, kid.

**JUDGE:** Are we all ready? Mrs Janna Bisutti, could you stand? Mr Murphy.

**MURPHY:** Hello Janna, How do you know Mr and Mrs Bobbitt.

**JANNA:** Lorena works at my beauty salon. I've known her for a few years now. John, He's the son of a bitch she's married to.

**MURPHY:** Forgive me, but weren't you the reason Lorena met her husband?

**JANNA:** regrettably so. I took Lorena out for a few drinks after work, one thing led to another I guess.

*Cut to Janna and Lorena at the bar.*

**JANNA:** I'm so ready for a blow out tonight. Come on Lorena, what are you having, drinks are on me?

**LORENA:** Er. Vodka?

**JANNA:** Two double Vodka's please. Strong doubles. What a week, you have been amazing.

**LORENA:** Thank you Janna

**JANNA:** I mean it, a new nail girl who knows what she is doing, gets the job done and doesn't keep a customer sitting around talking about meaningless crap! You nearly doubled my takings today. So you deserve tonight. Let your hair down!

**LORENA:** Oh, I can't be out too late. I'll wake the children.

**JANNA:** Those your sisters?

**LORENA:** No, my sisters are all in Ecuador with my mother. This are my families friends.

**JANNA:** Yes, I remember you saying now. You really need to get your own apartment. You've just turned 18, you've got a job. Let's get looking

**LORENA:** You think?

**JANNA:** Tomorrow morning, come to my house and I'll take you to the estate agents. We'll find you a little apartment, so you can have some privacy and maybe even take a man home.

**LORENA:** Privacy? A man?

**JANNA:** You know what I mean, girl. Find yourself a hunk. What about him over there?

**LORENA:** Where?

**JANNA:** Behind you, at the bar.

*Lorena sheepishly looks over her shoulder and see's John staring.*

**LORENA:** Oh. You mean a husband

**JANNA:** Yes, let us find you a husband, so you can finally have some fun.

**LORENA:** I'm not sure I'm up for that tonight.

**JANNA:** Fine, your loss. But if you don't I will. He looks like a good time.

**LORENA:** No, Janna, just us tonight okay?

**JANNA:** So you don't want me to bring him over?

**LORENA:** No, Just us girls tonight.

**JANNA:** Well, I'm going to powder my nose.

**LORNEA:** Janna, please no.

**JANNA:** I'm just going to the loo. Calm down.

*Janna leaves a very nervous Lorena on her own and goes off stage. John plucks up the courage to go and speak to Lorena. Interrupted by Lawyer, Murphy.*

**MURPHY:** So you were lead to believe John was a nice person.

**JANNA:** Don't judge a book by its cover ma'am. Robby told me about the real John Wayne Bobbitt.

**MURPHY:** Go on.

*Return to cut-away*

**JANNA:** You have to understand that her happiness will have a knock on effect on me. This John guy, he is very attractive, but I don't see a good nature about him.

**ROBBY:** With any luck your friend might ground him. Lord knows he needs it. Can't stay with the same girl for too long.

**JANNA:** Tries to be the big man does he?

**ROBBY:** They always end up walking out on him, or he cheats on them. Just be ready for the break up.

**JANNA:** I'll be waiting for it, don't worry.

*Interrupted by Lawyer, Murphy. Janna returns to the lectern.*

**MURPHY:** Lorena came straight to you after the incident, could you explain what happened.

**JANNA:** She said 'I cut his penis off', I said 'excuse me what?' She told me, she did it because he raped her.

**MURPHY:** And did you believe her?

**JANNA:** Every word of it. I know what that bastard is capable of.

**JOHN:** This isn't fair, can't just call her whore friend up as a witness!

**JANNA:** Wash your mouth out you filthy cretin.

**KEMLER:** John, not helpful.

**MURPHY:** And it was you who called the police, is that right?

**JANNA:** That I did. I called the police and told them everything Lorena told me, everything!

**MURPHY:** Indeed. But why? Did you not think of protecting your friend?

**JANNA:** Why? Because they wouldn't believe me if I didn't. Those police officers sat before you are men are they not? Their bosses are men. The chief detectives, and the station managers all men, all with penises. I knew it would grab their attention. I knew they'd have to get up off their asses and investigate this damn case.

**MURPHY:** So what exactly did you tell the police?

**JANNA:** The truth. Lorena came and found me, and I told the police everything that happened.

*Cut away to Lorena arriving at Janna's house after the incident. Lorena is clearly shaken, and Janna is tired. Lorena knocks frantically at her door.*

**JANNA:** Lorena, what are you doing here. It's 5am

**LORENA:** I did it. I left him. I left the bastard. For good this time. There is no turning back Janna, I did it.

**JANNA:** I suppose you want a place to stay for the night?

**LORENA:** He cam home, he fucked me, he raped me. Janna he ripped my vagina apart. I cannot take it anymore.



**JANNA:** Come in. The neighbours will here you. Come in, sit down. Tell me everything, what has happened?

**LORENA:** I cut his fucking penis off. I cut it off and threw it away. He won't rape me anymore. He can't touch me Janna.

**JANNA:** Slow down, Lorena. You're not making any sense. Tell me from the beginning. You did what?

**LORENA:** He came home. He was drunk and he raped me. He ripped my privates and I was bleeding. I told him I didn't want to. So when he finished. I went to clean up, and I saw the knife in the kitchen. I cut his penis off Janna. I pulled it tight and I sliced it off.

**JANNA:** You're crazy. Tell me you're joking?

**LORENA:** I am not.

**JANNA:** Don't panic, but I've got to call the police. Not on you. If he has raped you, this was self defence. I think. They need to catch that bastard once and for all.

**LORENA:** They won't, they'll arrest me, Janna please no.

**JANNA:** They may, yes, you have just cut off John's dick. But as women we have to stand up to rapists Lorena. Or do you think it's okay for him to go about raping people?

**LORENA:** Call them, if you must. But help me.

*Back in the courtroom.*

**MURPHY:** To pick up on a point, they wouldn't believe you if you didn't, can you expand on that?

**JANNA:** 2 years ago, no one believed Anita Hill was raped. William Kennedy-Smith got off. She didn't speak up, because no one would have believed her. She's a migrant, she's a woman. Just like Lorena. She had to cut off a dick just to get someone to listen.

**MURPHY:** Thank you Janna.

**JANNA:** Am I done here?

**KEMLER:** I have a few questions.

**JANNA:** Go for it sweetie.

**KEMLER:** Thanks, you've known Lorena for some time, you treat her almost like a little sister, have helped her out in this trial.

**JANNA:** Yes, I paid for her attorney, I paid for her publicist, not because I am protecting her. Because no one else would help her.

**KEMLER:** So you've been working pretty closely with her legal team?

**JANNA:** Yes ma'am.

**KEMLER:** Members of the jury, I don't think you can count this woman as an unbiased witnesses. She has made clear her feelings towards Mr Bobbitt, and she has been privy to conversations from Lorena's legal team on how to get out of this situation.

**JANNA:** Not true! Lorena is an innocent victim in all of this. She has never done any wrong.

**KEMLER:** Never?

**JANNA:** No, never.

**KEMLER:** Could you explain to the court why you suspended Mrs Bobbitt from work last year?

**JANNA:** I don't see how that is relevant

**JUDGE:** continue miss.

**JANNA:** Lorena was going through some money problems. John was too lazy to get off his ass and get a job, so she stole money from the til. He expects that poor girl to pay for everything while he does nothing. I suspended her, pending an investigation, and when she came clean and explained it to me, I welcomed her back.

**KEMLER:** Under a watchful eye, no doubt.

**JANNA:** Under CCTV miss.

**KEMLER:** So, Lorena does have a history of crime?

**JANNA:** You're the one calling it a crime.

**KEMLER:** Theft is a crime.

**JANNA:** She paid it back. It's in the past.

**KEMLER:** Perhaps for you. But psychologist will tell you most major criminals have a history of crime. I have no further questions your honour.

*Janna leaves the stand and returns to her seat*

**MURPHY:** *[to Lorena]* That's what we needed. The Jury loved her.

**JUDGE:** The court called Sargent Cecil Deane to the stand, representing the police department of Virginia. Mr Murphy.

**MURPHY:** Your team were called to look for Mr Bobbitt's Penis, is that correct.

**DEANE:** I was given a key to John's apartment, and was told to look for the 'appendage'. I said 'Appendage'? Well, you can't say penis over the radio, the news media tack our radios. We Initially thought she had swelled the penis. I looked everywhere, the sink, the fridge, the dishwasher.

*Cut away - Deane and Morgan are 2 police officers looking for John Waynes Penis.*

**DEANE:** "Officer Deane, I am on Grant Avenue - currently no sight of the, erm, appendage here sarge. Over." What the fuck, it's 5am and I'm searching the streets for a severed dick.

**MORGAN:** This woman is clearly mental. She'll have burned it or something.

**DEANE:** Burned it — if the crazy bitch can cut it off, there's nothing stopping her eating it.

**MORGAN:** Eating it? She wouldn't. The poor guy.

*Deane looks in the bin. Talks into his radio.*

**DEANE:** “Sarge. I have found a knife in the bin on Grant Avenue... 13 inch blade with a red handle Looks like the missing one from the Bobbitt apartment.”

**MORGAN:** Great the psycho is around here somewhere.

**DEANE:** And you thought a mid week night shift would be quiet.

*Morgan photographs the bin*

**DEANE:** “The knife does seem to have blood on it. We are on high alert for the attacker. Send back up to Grant Avenue. Over”

**MORGAN:** What should we do if she comes for us?

**DEANE:** Keep your trousers on for a start.

*Cut away interrupted by Lawyer, Murphy.*

**MURPHY:** How did you find it in the end?

**DEANE:** We got a call from the station to see Mrs Bobbitt, asked her where it was, and she told us.

**MURPHY:** It's not uncommon of a woman to disarm her attacker before escaping. She was willing to tell you where the penis was

*Cut away, the police, Morgan and Deane, are knocking on Janna's door.*

*Janna opens the door and Deane walks in, he begins to question Janna.*

**MORGAN:** Hello Madamme. I need to ask you a few questions about your husbands penis.

**JANNA:** Good morning to you too. However the woman who is clearly in shock on the chair is the person you wish to talk to. It's a good job I knew you were coming.

**DEANE:** Sorry ma'am.

**JANNA:** First day on the job?

**DEANE:** We've never had a case like this before. As you can imagine, there isn't a textbook protocol to follow.

**MORGAN:** We're simply investigating what has happened, whilst searching for the rest of Mr Bobbitt.

**JANNA:** I'm sure. Can I get you a drink officers?

**DEANE:** No thanks, just some privacy. Mrs Bobbitt.

*Lorena flinches and is sobbing.*

**DEANE:** Lorena. I'm Officer Deane. I have a few questions for you. Your friend rang us to inform us you were raped this evening.

**LORENA:** It was John. John Wayne Bobbitt. He— He raped me. He is a monster. He pinned me down, tore my clothes off and he raped me.

**MORGAN:** And what time did the incident occur?

**LORENA:** About 4:00, morning.

**DEANE:** Okay mam. Is this the first time?

**LORENA:** He always force sex on me, sometimes I say yes. But he say 'If you say no, I will follow you, wherever you are'. He is evil. He always have orgasm, and he never waits for me to have orgasm. He is selfish.

**MORGAN:** We've also had reports of a dismembered, member. What can you tell us about that.

**LORENA:** I chopped of his penis if that is what you are asking.

**DEANE:** But, for heavens sake why miss?

**LORENA:** Sometimes a big gesture is the only way people see what is real.

**MORGAN:** So you assaulted your husband, in his penis.

**LORENA:** He come at me, he rape me, he take away my dignity. So I take away his. I make sure he never rape another woman again.

**DEANE:** Ma'am, you need to understand that you cannot just amputate people.

**LORENA:** But he—

**MORGAN:** What he's trying to say is, regardless of what has happened, you cannot go around cutting off body parts. His acts were bad, but you are looking at 20 years in prison for this assault.

**LORENA:** No, I cannot go to prison. They will deport me. No.

**MORGAN:** You should have thought about that before you sliced of Mr Bobbitt's penis.

**LORENA:** I panicked, I was worried. I did what I had to do to stay safe, you have to believe me.

**DEANE:** Okay, I can see you are very distressed. Ma'am, I am going to have to detain you for allegations of— Maliciously wounding a penis. You do not have to say anything, but anything you do say may be taken down as evidence and used in a court of law.

*PC Morgan attempts to cuff Lorena — but she is too resistant in shock.*

**LORENA:** No! Janna, you said you wouldn't let them arrest me. You promised you would keep me safe.

**MORGAN:** Ma'am, please keep still.

*Janna Enters*

**JANNA:** Let her go. Are you crazy. She has just been raped, then you think it is okay to lay your hands on her like that! Do you not know anything about Trauma.

**DEANE:** Miss?

**JANNA:** How about some respect and compassion for what she's been through. damn. Lorena, will you go with the officer to his car?

**LORENA:** Yes. I will go. I will go with him now.

**JANNA:** Just be careful officer. You could find yourself with a heavy lawsuit over your head. Handling a vulnerable woman, who is willing to follow instructions without the use of force. The media would eat you alive.

**DEANE:** Are you threatening us miss?

**JANNA:** It's not me you've come here for. Lorena is ready to go. I suggest you go and do your jobs.

**DEANE:** Lorena Bobbitt, you are under arrest. Please make your way to the police vehicle. Any attempt to abscond or refusal to co-operate will result in you being detained in handcuffs until we are at the station. Happy?

**LORENA:** I will come quietly. Thank you, Janna.

**DEANE:** Oh, one more thing.

**LORENA:** Yes officer?

**DEANE:** Did you swallow your husbands penis?

**LORENA:** No.

**DEANE:** Do you have any idea where it is?

**LORENA:** I threw it. I threw the knife in the bin. The penis was in my hand and I just threw it.

**MORGAN:** Okay, and where about's was this?

*Return to the court room.*

**DEANE:** She told us it was in a filed, outside the 7 Eleven. We found it. Took the penis into 7 Eleven, they put it on ice in a hotdog bag. We were sat outside the surgery, I was sat wondering would me wife—?

**MURPHY:** Do you think rape would drive your wife to commit such a crime?

**DEANE:** Something must have pushed her over the edge.

**MURPHY:** While at the Bobbitt's apartment, did you find anything that caught your eye.

**DEANE:** As a matter of fact yes. We found several pamphlets and leaflets on rape and abuse.

**MURPHY:** Thank you.

*Murphy sits.*

**KEMLER:** Officer Deane. Could you remind the Jury what Mrs Bobbitt said to your officers when they first questioned her.

**DEANE:** Yes, certainly. She said "He always have orgasm, and he never waits for me to have orgasm. He's selfish"

**KEMLER:** He is selfish. You took her into the station for questioning.

**DEANE:** In her interview, she gave us a detailed message. 'I was angry'. She claimed Mr Bobbitt raped her, but we believe that was a challenge to her sense of control. She could have left the building. She could have called 911. But she didn't. She grabs a knife and does the unthinkable.

**KEMLER:** In your opinion, Is that an action of a delicate women who's just bean raped? Or a woman who was very much in control?

**DEANE:** That was the action of a woman in control. After she didn't get her own way,

**KEMLER:** Thank you Mr Deane.

**JUDGE:** Officer, you may stand down. We're a little pressed for time, could Dr James Sehn come to the stand please.

*Deane retakes his seat in the gallery and Dr Sehn rises to the stand.*

**SEHN:** Good afternoon.

**JUDGE:** Afternoon. Dr Sehn of the Prince William Hospital. You were the Doctor who re-attached Mr Bobbitt's penis?

**SEHN:** Yes Sir.

**JUDGE:** How was that?

**SEHN:** It was 50/50 on wether the penis was going to take - we waited for a sign

**JUDGE:** and?

**SEHN:** The member went pink

**KEMLER:** Have you ever seen an act of revenge like this before doctor?

**SEHN:** The surgeons who were working on other cases were very curious. The fact it was totally severed from the body was the biggest thing. They were like 'come on, it's hanging off him right?'. I was like, 'No, here, look - it's on the table'.

**KEMLER:** Mr Bobbitt is lucky to have his penis then?

**SEHN:** If we didn't find it, theres nothing we could have done. The only option we had was to expose the mid bulbous urethra to the perineum. So he would have to sit to pee like a woman for the rest of his life.

**KEMLER:** What an awful act to commit. I ask you doctor. Is this the action of a delicate woman who's just been raped? Or a woman in control.

**SEHN:** That is for the police and yourselves to decide. But the actions taken by Mrs Bobbitt do not equate to rape. It is my opinion that there is more going on here.

**KEMLER:** Thank you. *[to Murphy]* He's all yours.

**MURPHY:** Doctor Sehn. You were present when my client came in for a rape test. correct?

**SEHN:** We like to see a case through, I was present with my colleague Dr Thompson.

**MURPHY:** The test came back that Mrs Bobbitt had, had sexual intercourse with her Husband, and that it had left bruising on the vagina and some bleeding - which marks positive for rape. correct?

**SEHN:** Speculation. There can be many causes for vagina bleeding and more 'passionate' sex will often cause some bruising. But the test did not have an overwhelming sign of rape.

**MURPHY:** But it could show signs.

**SEHN:** It could be interpreted as such.

**MURPHY:** How did my client appear when you saw her.

**SEHN:** Shaken. Nervous. Panicking and out of breath.

**MURPHY:** Signs of a rape victim.

**SEHN:** Or a woman who has just cut off her husbands penis? My colleague and I examined her. I saw no outward signs of rape on the date in question. Her mental state did not show that of a victim. The pants she claims were torn, were definitely cut. Not torn.

**JUDGE:** May I remind you doctor, we are looking into Marital Sexual Assault, and not rape.

**SEHN:** Yes, yes. You must show that the sex was forced. I'm afraid the evidence we have doesn't show that.

**JUDGE:** Mr Murphy, would you like to give us your closing statement.

**MURPHY:** Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury. My client Mrs Bobbitt sits before you, a broken, sad victim. You have heard countless tales on her act of cutting off Mr Bobbitts Penis, but she is not the one on trial here, he is. Why did Mrs Bobbitt commit such an act? What does it take to push a vulnerable woman over the edge to do such a thing? Rape. Abuse. We can't tell you of the countless times this has previously happened in this toxic relationship, as this state law's forbid it. But look at that woman. She is not a malicious attacker, she is a scared woman who did what she could to get away from the man who has caused her so much pain. She is an abused woman. She is a victim of rape. She is a victim of abuse. She is a victim of Marital Sexual Assault. I plead for justice, I plead for a vote of guilty. Thank you.

**KEMLER:** Mr Murphy will stand here and tell you to disregard the abuse that Lorena inflicted on John. But I say it is relevant. It is important to know Mrs Bobbitt's history of abuse towards John, it is important to know Mrs Bobbitt's history of crime. You have seen tampered evidence, you have seen biased witnesses, all from Mrs Bobbitt. The professionals in this case, Sargent Deane, Dr Sehn, ex-Marine John Bobbitt - they all tell very detailed stories of Mrs Bobbitt, supported with evidence, that this woman has false accusations of rape and abuse on the 23rd of June. I stand before you representing an innocent man. A man who has had his dignity taken away, and has nothing to hide. Mr John Wayne Bobbitt is the victim in this story.

**JOHN:** Here, here!

**KEMLER:** He shouldn't be on trial. He is an innocent man. I know the Jury will agree to a verdict of innocent. Thank you.

**JOHN:** Yes!

**JUDGE:** While the Jury are deliberating - I would just like to say that this story has all the makings of a Shakespearean play. It has love and betrayal. I can see that you have a very high image of yourself Mr Bobbitt. You think yourself some kind of Jean Claud Van Dan. You are a

young, fit, and attractive young man. But you don't come across a violent man. Misguided, yes. Naive, definitely.

*The Judge walks off stage*

**LORENA:** No. He is going to get away with this. JUDGE!

**MURPHY:** Lorena, stop. There is nothing to be done now. We wait.

**LORENA:** The lies. He lies. They twist my words and make me out to be a monster.

**MURPHY:** That's court for you. Just pray the Jury are on our side.

**JOHN:** That felt good, I think we may win this one.

**KEMLER:** Just hold your thoughts.

**JOHN:** Ain't no one can one over John Wayne Bobbitt.

**KEMLER:** Were you listening to a word the Judge just said?

**JOHN:** Yes Mam. He said 'I don't think your a violent man'.

**KEMLER:** Unbelievable.

*The Judge comes back on with an envelope.*

**JUDGE:** I have the Jury's verdict. Would the defendant please stand.

*John stands, and is whispering his prayers under his breath.*

**JUDGE:** In the case of Lorena Bobbitt against John Wayne Bobbitt, criminal number 33745. We find the defendant John Wayne Bobbitt, not guilty.

**JOHN:** YES!

**LORENA:** No, no, no, no.

**JUDGE:** There we have it. Members of the Jury, this Court dismisses you and thanks you for a job well done.

**LORENA:** Well done? He's guilty, can't you see. He is smirking. He is mocking me!

**MURPHY:** Lorena, calm down!

**LORENA:** Why do you do this to me. Why do you hurt me. Torment me.

**JUDGE:** This court is adjourned.

**JOHN:** Thank you so much.

**KEMLER:** It's not over yet. We have Lorena's case yet.

**JOHN:** But that's her trial not mine. I'm an innocent man.

*John leaves, KEMLER collects her things.*

**MURPHY:** We have filed for a restraining order until your trial is over. He cannot hurt you. If he



tries to contact you, you phone the police. Do you understand. If he comes near you, you have every right to use reasonable force to escape, but you must call the police if this happens - do you understand?

**LORENA:** I understand

**MURPHY:** Now go home. Get some sleep and try and forget today.

**LORENA:** Get some sleep? The reporters knock on the doors all night long - I can't get no sleep.

**MURPHY:** They do?

**LORENA:** They climb the tree's and take photos in my window.

**MURPHY:** Perhaps you could stay with a friend tonight. go. Get some rest.

*Lorena leaves. Murphy goes to speak to KEMLER.*

**MURPHY:** You don't honestly think he's innocent in all this do you?

**KEMLER:** I can't stand the man. He's so arrogant. The bastard hasn't even paid me yet. But it's my job to defend him and the facts show that he didn't do it.

**MURPHY:** On that date.

**KEMLER:** On that date - exactly.

**MURPHY:** Well, all the best for the next trial.

**KEMLER:** You too, You'll need it.

**MURPHY:** We can use previous acts of violence - we're covered what do you have?

**KEMLER:** I have a client with severed dick.

*Kemler and Murphy leave. The curtains close.*

**ACT 2**  
**SCENE 2**

*Set in the same court room style lay out, on one side sits John Wayne Bobbitt and His Lawyer Lisa Kemler. They are sat behind desks amongst paperwork. In the centre of the stage is a judges seat with a name card 'Herman Whisenaut, Jr.', in front of which is an evidence table, furnished with the offending knife (red handle), pictures of the bed and wounded penis, and a tape recorder. Downstage right is a lectern behind which stands the person being questioned.*

**JOHN:** Let's win this one as well.

**KELMER:** It's not a competition John. You must give only truthful evidence - don't get caught up in the press and excitement.

**JOHN:** The whole trial being shown on TV, I'll be famous.

**KELMER:** After the Vanity Fair article, the pair of you are already pretty famous. Please John, do not act up in front of the camera. This is still a court case after all.

**JOHN:** I hear ya'.

*Lorena and Murphy enter. Lorena is clearly in distress, Murphy is trying to calm her.*

**LORENA:** I am not ready

**MURPHY:** We have no choice. Today is the day.

**LORENA:** I would rather die than go to prison. If I loose this trial they will deport me

**MURPHY:** We'll cross that bridge if we get to it. But for now let's focus on the trial.

*The Judge enters and takes his seat.*

**JUDGE:** Good morning everyone - We're here to oversee the case of commonwealth of Virginia against Lorena Bobbitt, for the act of maliciously wounding her husbands penis on the 23rd of June 1993. I'm not going to ask you if you've heard about this case or not. Of course you've heard about it. Unless you've been living under a rock. All I ask is that you keep an open mind about the facts that are presented. John Bobbitt the victim in this case had his penis amputated. It is your judgement here today whether what Mrs Lorena Bobbitt did to her husband is justifiable or excusable. You must do that based on what you hear in this courtroom alone. Understood? Me Bobbitt, please stand.

**JOHN:** Yes sir.

*John is chipper, cocky, looking for laughs - as though playing up to the camera's.*

**JUDGE:** How's the penis now?

**JOHN:** It's okay. My girlfriend Stephany and I have had a lot of good sex.

**KELMER:** Mr Bobbitt could you inform us of what happened on the morning of Wednesday the 23rd of June?

**JOHN:** My wife decided to cut off my penis and throw it into a field ma'am. If you mean, did I rape her? No, that isn't true. It came out in my trial, she was lying, and she was inconsistent. The Jury didn't believe her, and that's why I was acquitted.

**KELMER:** So why did she do it?

**JOHN:** Well. Here it is, I didn't rape her. She's upset. She's crazy. Because I was leaving her.

**KELMER:** You had been drinking that night, would you say you were drunk?

**JOHN:** Not drunk no. We were sober enough to drive home

**KELMER:** What happened when you got home?

**JOHN:** I got into bed. I remember touching my wife, but she was asleep. So, I went back to sleep.

**KELMER:** Did you or did you not have sexual intercourse with your wife that night?

**JOHN:** I— Well— I honestly don't know if we did or not. I can't remember.

**LORENA:** You did! He pull down my underwear and he was on top of me. He pressed my arm down to my hips, I could not breath

**JUDGE:** Mrs Bobbitt, please.

**LORENA:** I said I didn't want to have sex. But you pulled my underwear off. He forced himself into me again. I tried to cry but I couldn't breath.

**JOHN:** You lying bitch

**LORENA:** It was hurting me

**KELMER:** You were frightened of him?

**LORENA:** Yeah! He was hurting me. I felt like my vagina was ripping - I'm sorry, you understand me.

**JOHN:** Your highness - that is not true.

**LORENA:** I said he hurt my feelings, you do this to me again and again.

**KELMER:** Thank you Mrs Bobbitt. I can see your wife is impulsive, brash. Is she always like this?

**JOHN:** Never a dull moment with Lorena about. She would always accuse me of sleeping around - I was sick of it.

**MURPHY:** Thank you. Mr Bobbitt, did you ever force your wife to have sex with you?

**JOHN:** No Sir.

**MURPHY:** Have you ever pushed or shoved your wife?

**JOHN:** *[Hesitant]* Yes Sir, I have.

**MURPHY:** How often?

**JOHN:** Many-a-time. I have never hit her. I've pinned her down and restrained her from hitting me. Told her this isn't lady like. But I've never hit her.

**MURPHY:** That's interesting - I have a form here, from Virginia Police, admitting that you had physically assaulted your wife.

*Murphy hands John a form.*

**MURPHY:** Please confirm that is your signature on the paper.

**JOHN:** That is my signature, but, I don't recall this document.

**MURPHY:** You pleaded guilty in 1991 of assaulting your wife.

**JOHN:** I didn't plead nothing. She just said I did it.

**MURPHY:** I have countless statements saying people have witnessed you being physically and verbally abusive to Lorena? This one here "One Christmas, John Grabbed her by the wrists, shoved her and called her a bitch?"

**JOHN:** That's a lie sir.

**MURPHY:** Another saying "One night I heard John screaming at Lorena, the next day she was covered in bruises"

**JOHN:** That was her own doing.

**MURPHY:** Do you remember telling your friends that you liked forced sex?

**JOHN:** I do not.

**MURPHY:** I have statements from 3 of your basketball friends all say the same thing "He said that he liked to have forced sex because it turned him on. He like to fuck them up the ass. He liked to make them bleed". One added "He looked pretty serious about that." Did you say these things?

**JOHN:** A joke. We were just having a laugh. You know how men do.

**MURPHY:** It's a bit sick though, isn't it?

**KELMER:** Your honour!

**JUDGE:** Agree'd. Back to your point please Mr Murphy.

**MURPHY:** Forgive me. Perhaps the Jury would be interested to know that Mr and Mrs Bobbitt did conceive a baby.

*Cut away to a house - Lorena is cleaning John is horny.*

**JOHN:** What's say we go upstairs now and have a little fun?

*John pulls her in close and begins to kiss her neck.*

**LORENA:** Not right now John.

**JOHN:** My Lorena

**LORENA:** Maybe later

*John doesn't stop and continues to kiss her and takes her jacket off.*

**JOHN:** You don't need this. I know what you're saying, why go upstairs when we can do it right here. Just innocent fun between me and my beautiful wife.

**LORENA:** Okay, but we will have to be quick.

*There is a knock at the door.*

**JOHN:** Ignore it - salesman, he'll go in a second

*John undoes his trousers and lowers them while kissing Lorena's neck. The knocking at the door continues. Lorena pushes him away. Embarrassed John grabs his coat off a chair and throws it on quickly.*

**LORENA:** Where are you going?

**JOHN:** I'm going to call on Robby, see what he's doing. Go to a bar and have a few beers.

**LORENA:** You are going to see your women.

**JOHN:** How many times - I don't have another woman.

**LORENA:** You out with Robby, and who else?

**JOHN:** Who know's I might find someone who listens to me, someone who wants to be with me, not just to stay in the country. I'm the only reason you can stay in this country, I can easily be the reason you have to leave.

*John exits slamming the door behind him. Lorena looks around holding herself tightly. She looks scared and doesn't know what to do with herself.*

**LORENA:** Deported. He will have me deported. I should go after him, catch him up and tell him I love him. But he will want my, my, chastity. That's all he ever wants from me anymore. I was pure before I met you John Wayne. I gave you my everything, my love, my heart, my flower. I love you. Life has become an uphill struggle since I married you, you have changed. I don't know who you are anymore. I don't know who I am. What do I do— What do I do?

*Lorena grabs the telephone*

**LORENA:** I call Janna, she will help me. Give me guidance. She is the only person who knows, she is only person I trust. Janna you have to save me. You are the only person who knows what I am going through, how to I fight this darkness coming over my mind— what do I do.

*Lorena picks up the receiver and puts it to her ear, begins dialling before slamming it back down.*

**LORNEA:** But what would John say? 'Why do you bring her into our lives. She corrupts me' he says. He hates her, because she is like no other woman I know. She is strong, she is independent. He says I become like her when I spend too much time with her. But I don't want to be like that. I am happy being good Christian wife. I am happy to cook, and clean, and please my husband. It is all I've ever wanted. I want a family with children, and married, and house of our own. I am on my way to happy.

*Lorena takes a deep breath and pauses.*

**LORENA:** Maybe now is the right time to tell him. I shouldn't. Your daddy will be so proud, he would never deport the mother of his first child. Little John Wayne Junior, he will protect his mummy, he will stop all of this hurting. I hope he loves you as much as I do. My dreams are finally coming true - my husband, my house, my baby— my family.

*John Wayne re-enters*

**LORENA:** John.

**JOHN:** I forgot my wallet. Can I have some money.

**LORENA:** Yes. Yes. How much do you need.

*Lorena takes out her purse and hands John some money.*

**JOHN:** It depends how late I stay out.

**LORENA:** You could always stay home — with me

**JOHN:** You want me to stay home, have changed your mind?

**LORENA:** I have. I was a bad wife to you. You are my husband and I owe my body to you.

**JOHN:** That's right. I knew you wouldn't let me down. Come here.

*John grabs her by the wrist aggressively and pulls her in to kiss her, he begins to take her clothes off. He unbuttons his trousers, pulls them down and pushes Lorena on the Sofa, he pins her down and makes sexual advances.*

**LORENA:** Be careful.

**JOHN:** Sh. are you ready for me?

**LORENA:** No. One second John. I— I'm pregnant.

*John pauses. Returns to the courtroom.*

**JOHN:** I didn't know anything about the pregnancy to begin with. Then she told me and— I wasn't ready, you see. I told her 'we're just kids, we're just getting settled'. She wanted it all, but we just didn't have the means. I told her she had a choice.

**MURPHY:** A Choice?

**JOHN:** Me or the baby.

**KELMER:** What relevance does this have?

**MURPHY:** John Wayne Bobbitt had full emotional control over my client. He was a dominating man who forced her into having an abortion!

**JOHN:** She'd spoken to Janna, her boss, she'd had a couple of abortions. Said they're not too bad. So we both agree'd on getting an abortion.

**LORENA:** You said I can't have the child. It's what bad girls do. I was crying so much in the hospital the nurse had to take me away from you.

**KELMER:** Mrs Bobbit.

**LORENA:** I feel so guilty. My Baby. I couldn't eat. I felt weak. I felt sick. I feel my life is over.

**JUDGE:** Mrs Bobbitt, please remain seated, and silent. I don't think Mrs Bobbitt is ready for the stand at the moment Miss Kelmer, I'm going to ask Dr Sehn to take the stand.

*Sehn moves to the stand - confident as though he knows the drill.*

**SEHN:** Dr James Sehn, of the Prince William Hospital, Virginia.

**KELMER:** Doctor. You have had the Bobbitt's coming to your hospital for some time?

**SEHN:** Indeed, I have been seeing Lorena since 1990.

**KELMER:** What reports do you have from the abortion?

**SEHN:** We have a disclosure saying that Lorena was happy to go ahead with the procedure.

**KELMER:** It is documented as her choice.

**SEHN:** yes, yes. It is 'evidenced' that she signed it. But there are also notes on the file that during the abortion process. He told her she was ugly, had a bad figure, comments with racial overtones. After the procedure, doctors noted that 'Mrs Lorena Bobbitt expressed she felt worthless and that she was scared of being deported'.

**KELMER:** Deported?

**SEHN:** This is a very common thing on our records. Lorena told me she was being subject to consistent verbal abuse, but wanted to stick by her husband.

**KELMER:** If she was being abused, why didn't she leave, why did she choose to stay.

**SEHN:** It's very common in women who are experiencing these kinds of battering and violence. Unfortunately for her this all came when she fell pregnant. She had stopped taking the birth control pill to have his child. To have his baby.

**KELMER:** She wanted to control him.

**SEHN:** Or maybe she wanted a reason for him to stop hurting her.

**KELMER:** Thank you Dr.

**SEHN:** You're welcome.

**MURPHY:** Your hospital is responsible for the re-connection of Mr Bobbitts Penis also, is that correct.

**SEHN:** Yes, a rather bizarre thing, none of us have ever had to do before... reattach a penis. In many ways, John should be thanking his wife. She should train to be a doctor, because the cut she made on the penis was a perfect cut!

**MURPHY:** A perfect cut?

**SEHN:** Yes, either Mrs Bobbitt did it with a steady hand, or in haste. We're pushed towards the latter of course.

**MURPHY:** Of course. She proclaims to have cut the penis in a spur of the moment. But, when Mrs Bobbitt arrived at the Hospital that night - would you say she was suffering from any kind of Mental Illness, or ailment at that time?

**SEHN:** Yes. Definitely. I would say she was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, and Panic Disorder.

**MURPHY:** As a result of the rape?

**SEHN:** It could be, though that is a speculation, without proof.

**MURPHY:** What impact would you say those disorders had on her impulse control?

**SEHN:** I don't think she had any control over her actions at that point in time. She was already experiencing severe distress. Her husband had psychologically closed off every other escape for her.

**JOHN:** Oh, come on!

**SEHN:** He had said to Lorena 'If she left, he'd follow her, and continue to be violent to her'

**JOHN:** No!

**SEHN:** with the fear that he would rape her. And abuse her. She became Psychotic. She attacked the instrument of torture, the thing that had tore her world apart. Her husbands penis.

**MURPHY:** Would you say that was consistent with 'Irresistible impulse', as defined by Virginia Law?

**SEHN:** Her behaviours were consistent with 'irresistible impulse'.

**MURPHY:** Thank you.

*Sehn Stands down and takes his seat. Murphy returns to sit next to Lorena, he looks over some papers. John is looking uncomfortable.*

**KELMER:** No John, it's not good.

**JOHN:** Well fuck me. What do we do then?

**KELMER:** We need a new angle - I told you not to play up to the camera.

**JOHN:** She married me for a green card. That will get them talking.

**KELMER:** It will also get you thrown in prison - I'd keep that one to yourself.

**MURPHY:** We won't win on the grounds of rape Lorena, not after we lost the last trial.

**LORENA:** I will go to prison then? I will accept the courts offer.

**MURPHY:** The courts offer was 4 years in prison. If you submit to a felony you can not be an American citizen.

**LORENA:** They will deport me. What shall I do?

**MURPHY:** Your honour. May we change our plea?

**JUDGE:** Do you wish to accept the settlement offer?

**MURPHY:** No sir. We're pleading for not guilty of malicious wounding. On the grounds my client was suffering from temporary insanity and irresistible impulse.

**JUDGE:** on what basis?



**MURPHY:** Post-Traumatic Stress. My client has gone through years of trauma. I have evidence to support this.

**JUDGE:** Very well. For Members of the Jury, Irresistible Impulse is a term meaning someone is not liable for their actions, because they could not control those actions. Even when they know them to be wrong.

**KELMER:** Shit.

**JOHN:** Is that bad?

**KELMER:** Very. We need to show that Lorena was of a clear mind and that her actions were pre-meditated.

**JOHN:** You what?

**KELMER:** That she'd been planning it.

**JUDGE:** Could Mrs Bobbitt please—

*Lorena moves to the stand.*

**KELMER:** Tell me, How did you meet John?

*Lorena doesn't talk, She just looks sad.*

**KELMER:** Miss?

**LORENA:** I met him at a club. He was handsome, a lance corporal. I was in love with him. To me he represented everything, the start of my family here in the United States. We dated for 10 innocent months. It was love at first sight.

*Cut away - the bar where they first met.*

**JOHN:** Lorena, have you ever felt love?

**LORENA:** I feel loved. I have felt love, just now.

**JOHN:** I— Yes, the same. Lorena, do you want to come home with me.

**LORENA:** No, Mr John Wayne, I told you—

**JOHN:** Not for that. I swear. Would you like to come to my house and have a rest from those screaming children you spoke about?

**LORENA:** They're okay—

**JOHN:** So I can lay awake all night watching your beautiful face sleep through the night. Then I can make you breakfast, ready for when you wake in the morning. And see you wake up, and talk to you all night and all day tomorrow.

**LORENA:** Oh, I have work tomorrow

**JOHN:** Then I can take you to work, and pick you up afterwards. We could go to a diner or something—

**LORENA:** Oh—

**JOHN:** If you want to

**LORENA:** Yes. Yes I do.

**JOHN:** If you'll let me, I'd like to see you more and more. I'd like to wake up to your beautiful eyes every morning and watch them close at the end of a long day.

**LORENA:** You are so sweet Mr John Wayne.

*John looks around and spots a packet of Hula-Hoops on a table and picks one up.*

**JOHN:** Miss Lorena Gallo. I hope you don't think I'm being too forward. But—

*John gets down on one knee. Lorena looks shocked.*

**LORENA:** John—

**JOHN:** Lorena. Until I can find you the most perfect ring, and prove to you that I will be your forever love. Will you take this Hula Hoop, as a token of my undying love. You are the most beautiful, interesting and special woman I have ever, and will ever, meet. Will you take this potato chip to show me that you will stay true to me, as I will stay true to you.

**LORENA:** John I—

**JOHN:** Please don't say no. I have never met someone as genuine, and loving, and lovely as you. I don't want anyone other. Please Lorena, will you be my one true love.

**LORENA:** Get up. Yes I will. I will you silly silly man!

**JOHN:** Shall we get out of here?

**LORENA:** And go where?

**JOHN:** Go to a club, or another bar. This one's a little, crappy. I want out first night together to be more than a few beers in the local bar.

**LORENA:** I'm supposed to be out with Janna.

**JOHN:** Looks like she's getting on pretty well with Robby over there. They won't know we've left.

**LORENA:** Okay, lets go.

*They embrace and leave the 'bar' together.*

**JANNA:** Does he always propose to women with baked goods on first sight?

**ROBBY:** This would be a first

**JANNA:** So, What is his type?

**ROBBY:** Audrey Hepburn - but still alive.

**JANNA:** Is that supposed to be funny?

*Interrupted by Layer Kemler - Back in the courtroom.*

**KELMER:** What are your cultural views on pre-marital sex?

**LORENA:** It is not allowed.

**KELMER:** Did John show any violence to you in this time?

**LORENA:** No.

**KELMER:** Had he ever referred to you in a derogatory way in this time?

**LORENA:** No.

**KELMER:** So where did it all go wrong?

**LORENA:** Things started to change. He couldn't keep a job. I don't know why. I could not make the payments on the home anymore.

*Cut away - John Wayne comes home from the Job Centre,*

**JOHN:** 'We can't find a job for you John Wayne, you don't have any transferable skills Sir', that's what they said to me today. 'You could try McDonalds again', I ain't working in no greasy kitchen with a bunch of teenagers, I told them. They can't even find a job for a man who fought for this country, a military man like myself left jobless.

**LORENA:** Have you looked for a job recently?

**JOHN:** I ask you, what is the point of a 'Job Centre' if I have find all the jobs myself. Make me laugh If someone from the Job Centre got fired they'd have to go back to work the next day.

**LORENA:** Yes, they would.

**JOHN:** At least while I'm jobless I don't fear Monday mornings.

*John laughs at himself, but Lorena clearly doesn't get the jokes.*

**JOHN:** Come on— I'm telling you all these jokes about being unemployed, but none of them are working.

*John laughs at himself, Lorena forces a laugh.*

**LORENA:** You're a funny man John. I'm just tired.

**JOHN:** Anyway you make enough working at the salon for the two of us - I'm only looking for a job so I'm not so bored when you leave. You know how I get when I'm bored.

**LORENA:** Two things I've learned since we married. You love to drink, and you love your porn.

**JOHN:** Like I say, 'If jacking off were a sport, I'd have a gold medal'.

**LORENA:** You often fall in the hands of pleasure. I don't know how you can be so horny all of the time!

**JOHN:** Well it's a good job my loving wife likes a good hard pounding as much as me!

**LORENA:** I suppose.

*Interrupted by Later - Kemler, back in the court room*

**KELMER:** That is why you stole from your employer?

**LORENA:** Yes ma'am. I had a lot of payments to do.

**KELMER:** Then why were you caught stealing dresses from Nordstrom?

**LORENA:** I stole from there because my husband told me he hated my dresses. And I was Ugly. I did it for him.

**KELMER:** When did the physical abuse start?

**LORENA:** About a month after we married. We went to a club called Chelsea's. As we drove back, he had been drinking. He punched me, he hurt me.

**KELMER:** John's friend Robby was in the car with you on that occasion. I can see in his statement he does attest to this. What happened when you got home?

**LORENA:** When we got home he kicked me. Said 'I told you not to cry'. We argue. Someone called the police. The officer arrived, he became another person. Not aggressive. I left the house. I drove to work, I sleep in my car.

**KELMER:** Did you tell anybody about this?

**LORENA:** No, I was shocked. I was embarrassed that the person I loved could do this to me. This was the first time - but not the last.

**MURPHY:** Wasn't there an incident with a tape recorder.

**LORENA:** Yes Sir. I wanted to divorce, I got a tape recorder so I could capture the abuse and threats. So I could show the divorce Lawyer.

*Murphy picks up the cassette - we hear johns voice shouting, and being abusive.*

**MURPHY:** What happened when John found the tape recorder?

**LORENA:** He hit me, slapped me, pulled my hair. He raped me there. I tried to resist. And when I resist, he force me to anal sex. He grabbed me, I was stomach down. He did it. He. He. He. He um. He have anal sex.

**MURPHY:** Did he ask you?

**LORENA:** No

**MURPHY:** Did he use lubricant?

**LORENA:** No.

**MURPHY:** Did he hurt you?

**LORENA:** Yes.

**MURPHY:** What injuries did you sustain?

**LORENA:** Bleeding sir. He threaten to do it every time we have sex. *[struggling to talk]* He said he would like to have that kind of sex. I would say, no I didn't want to.

*Lorena begins to sob uncontrollably.*

**JOHN:** Why are you letting this happen? Say something.

**KELMER:** This is good for us. If the Jury see that this anger has been building up then it will be pre-meditated.

**JOHN:** But it's making me look bad.

**KELMER:** You should have thought about that before then.

**MURPHY:** Was that the end? After he raped you, did you leave after that?

**LORENA:** No sir. Because he said he'd follow me if I left. He will find me at work. He told me he can have any type of sex, anyhow. I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep. My health was deteriorating.

**KELMER:** You filed a restraining order on Mr Bobbitt on June the 21st. 2 days before the incident. Did the order go through?

**LORENA:** No. The lawyer said his secretary wasn't there to do it?

**KELMER:** Why didn't you chase it up? You've finally gotten away from your abuser, why did you choose to return.

*Lorena doesn't have an answer*

**KELMER:** Tell me, what do you remember of the incident?

**LORENA:** He got home drunk. He lay on top of me, I said no. He forced sex on me.

**KELMER:** Anal sex?

**LORENA:** No, regular sex. But I was not ready, he used no lubricant. It hurt me.

**KELMER:** Then what happened?

**LORENA:** He finished and he went back to sleep. He told me I was useless.

*Cut away - the night of the incident. John Wayne and Lorena are in bed. John has just had sex with his wife.*

**JOHN:** You know what Lorena, I've had a real good night tonight with Robby. We've been out and had a real good time - then I come home to this. I should be the happiest man alive, but sometimes it's like fucking a store mannequin with you.

*John turns off his bedside lamp, and falls to sleep. In the darkness we see the silhouette of Lorena sit bolt up right.*

**LORENA:** Again. We've had sex every night this week. I am sore. My head, my heart, my privates, they're all sore.

Lorena gets out of bed and turns on her lamp, she walks around to check he is asleep.

**LORENA:** You do these things to me. You make me feel like I am not worth anything. You make me bruised, you make me bleed, but you cannot make me cum. I am filthy. I am a dirty, filthy, woman. I can feel you all over me, and I cannot get it to stop. I see pictures in my head, that will not fade away. I am in a vice and I am being crushed by you. I have nothing left to give to you

John Wayne, you have taken everything from me. You stole who I am. I am empty now, you have it all.

*Lorena begins to talk to the Lawyer - while still in the flashback.*

**LORENA:** He told me I don't excite him anymore. I couldn't sleep after that. I went to get some water to cool down.

**KELMER:** From the kitchen?

**LORENA:** Yes. The only light that was on was the refrigerator - I saw the knife. It all came back to me. I remembered the first time he raped me. I remembered the abortion. I remembered the put downs and the threats. There were so many pictures in my head. I remember the insults, the bad words he told me. I remembered every time he forced anal sex with me. He hurt me. I remember everything. He Hurt me!

*Returning to the flashback. Lorena picks up the long serrated knife with a red handle. She holds it in her hand, facing the audience, still. Her face tells the story of what she has been through. She takes a deep breath.*

**LORENA:** Tell me now, what is her name, this blond. You were going to bring her home to my house. But instead you come home and use me instead. Over and over. Like I am a toy to be used and thrown to the side again. I ask you. Are you satisfied?

*Lorena turns off the lamp, in the darkness she pulls off the cover and cuts off his penis. We hear a loud scream from John. John collects his clothes from the floor and presses them against his crotch to try stop the bleeding.*

**JOHN:** Robby! Robby, get in here quick. What the fuck. Robby!

*John picks up an old Cell phone and dials 911.*

**JOHN:** Police please, Ambulance. I don't know, quick send me some help... My dick... My wife has just cut off my penis... There's a lot of blood, I feel woozy... No I can't make it to the hospital on my own... quickly help me.

**ROBBY:** What have you done!

**JOHN:** Yes... I need an ambulance. My wife has just cut my penis off... There is a lot of blood... I'm going to be sick... Can I what?... Robby see if you can find my dick!

*John and Robby 'exit'. The stage is a dark. Lorena runs on stage with the knife in one hand and the severed penis in the other hand. She stands still and screams hysterically. She looks at the penis in her hand.*

**LORENA:** For so long. I have put up with you for so long.

*Lorena throws the penis. She begins to sob.*

**LORENA:** I am free. At last I am safe and I am free.

*Lorena throws the knife in the bin.*

**LORENA:** I can start my life all over again. A new start.

*Lorena looks at her watch.*

**LORENA:** The salon won't be open yet. The sun will be up soon. Janna.

*Blackout. Return to the court room in silence.*

**KELMER:** Do you remember cutting him?

**LORENA:** No, I don't remember that.

**KELMER:** What do you remember of the incident?

**LORENA:** I threw the penis out of the window. I threw the knife in the bin. I remember driving to work, but no one was there, so I drove to Janna's house. I stepped out the car and I just felt... Peace, for the first time. All I wanted was to be safe.

**KELMER:** But you don't remember cutting your husbands penis? You don't remember thinking about using this knife on John?

**LORENA:** No ma'am. I just remember the pictures and the words.

**KELMER:** You don't remember leaving the house that night? You don't remember picking up your keys, and Robby's gameboy?

**LORENA:** I don't remember that.

**KELMER:** You remember all of these things. Now it doesn't seem very credible that you recall all of your emotions, the refrigerator light illuminating the knife, but you don't remember dismembering your husband or leaving your house? You went to the police station, you had a recorded interview - do you remember that?

**LORENA:** Yes.

**KELMER:** You said 'I was angry already, I turned my back and the first thing I saw was the knife'. Then you said "So I took it. I was just angry. I was just mad". Do you remember saying that.

**LORENA:** Yes ma'am. That was the truth.

**KELMER:** To me these don't seem like rash, out of the blue actions. It crosses my mind as a very planned set of actions. Fuelled by anger towards your husband. Anger because he was leaving you. Anger because he was going out without you. Anger because you were having disappointing sex, anger because you believed John Wayne to be having an affair with a woman at the bar - am I correct?

**LORENA:** He is a flirt. But I don't think that.

**KELMER:** I have a statement here from a Miss Connie James. Could you confirm who that is please?

**LORENA:** It is one of the girls I work with at the Salon.

**KELMER:** She says "In a conversation with Lorena, we discussed what we would do if our husbands cheated on us - I jokingly said I would kill him, but really I would get my stuff and leave. Lorena said 'I would chop his dick off, because that would hurt him more than killing him'". And there we have it, members of the Jury, proof that this act was not a spur of the moment, but instead a calculated act that Mrs Lorena Bobbitt had been planning as a result of her her beliefs that her Husband was having an affair. Proof!

**LORENA:** But. He abuses me. He would choke me, two hands around my neck like this, He would push his thumbs deep into this part here, low on the throat.

**JUDGE:** Mrs Bobbitt you may stand down. Sargent Deane please report to the stand.

*Deane approaches the stand watching Lorena closely.*

**DEANE:** Sargent Cecil Deane - Head of investigation for this case sir. I have collated evidence of this couples history since 1989

**MURPHY:** and?

**DEANE:** It's a long, and interesting read sir. Take you more than one night.

**MURPHY:** *[looking at some paper]* Many reports of abuse made by Lorena.

**DEANE:** I'd say the reports are about 50/50. They're both as bad as each other - as I think we have all seen over the last few months.

**MURPHY:** Indeed. Where do you stand on the emotional state of Mrs Bobbitt?

**DEANE:** I couldn't say this is insanity. This lady was emotionally aroused, excited, angry and enraged. But I see no evidence of a psychotic episode. None of the traditional symptoms of an impulse disorder are here. It feels like she lied. She has changed her story to meet the requirements of the law.

**MURPHY:** When did she lie?

**DEANE:** When she testified about forgetting everything that happened that night. John broke up with her, she wanted to hold on to him. When he said no, she lost her shit. She lost her temper.

**MURPHY:** So you don't see elements of Post Traumatic Stress disorder in Lorena? You can't see the symptoms? Blaming herself, inability to remember aspects of trauma, feeling detached, sleepless nights, hyper vigilance— You don't see this?

**DEANE:** I see those as a reaction to her crime of maliciously wounding John Waynes Penis. I think that is the trauma she is trying to forget. Without being too vulgar; it was my Sargent Morgan and me who had to go and find my Bobbitt's penis after the event. Does no one wonder about the trauma we had to go through?

**MURPHY:** How do you mean?

**DEANE:** We were granted time off work to recover from the incident. Having to search, find and collect a severed penis. That is not the usual role of a law enforcement officer.

**MURPHY:** You call it trauma?

**DEANE:** We were searching, when we got the call to visit Lorena.

*Cut away - Deane and Morgan are searching.*

**DEANE:** "No sign of the appendage as of yet sir, they may have to operate without"

**MORGAN:** Poor guy.

**DEANE:** "947 West Street, Yes we are near by"... "That's where Mrs Bobbitt is?"... "Has she said where the appendage is sir?"... "I will go and investigate." Brilliant, the penis hunt is over.

**MORGAN:** Now I get to interview the female Freddy Kruger.



**DEANE:** Strap in Morgan, this is going to be a long-ass night.

*Interrupted by Lawyer Murphy.*

**MURPHY:** So you interviewed and arrested Mrs Bobbitt, then what.

**DEANE:** Then we had to go find the penis, sir.

**MURPHY:** Go on...

*Returning to flashback.*

**DEANE:** Thank you "Appendage should be outside the 7 Eleven, any available officers?"... "Okay. What do you want me to do with Mrs Bobbitt?"... "She is of rational mind"... Mrs Bobbitt, could you go and sit in the police car please. I have to go and— retrieve your husbands penis. "Officer Deane, I have found the appendage"... "Sir, I don't feel comfortable doing that"... "I know every man has got one sir, I'm just not happy about touching another mans— penis."

*Morgan enters*

**DEANE:** I have found the penis Morgan. Could you pick it up for me.

**MORGAN:** I can't pick that thing up, for religious reasons

**DEANE:** For fuck sake.

*Deane picks up the penis and gags.*

**MORGAN:** You need to put that thing on ice before it dies. Can't be reattaching a dead penis.

**DEANE:** Will you go into the store and get me some Ice then please. And a bag to carry this thing in.

**MORGAN:** Oh, give me the awkward jobs 'excuse me sir can I have a bag and some ice to store a mans severed dick so it doesn't die'. Boy's gonna laugh in my face.

**DEANE:** Well you hold it and I'll go.

**MORGAN:** I'll go, I'll go.

*Morgan exits*

**DEANE:** "I'll be bringing in Mr Bobbitt's penis for reattachment shortly" I need a new fucking job. Join the police force Cecil, it's exciting Cecil. Exciting is it? Walking the streets at 5 in the morning with half of another dudes dick in my hands. So exciting.

*Morgan enters with a hotdog bag with ice in it. He is also eating a sausage roll*

**DEANE:** You're eating a sausage. My stomach is already churning.

**MORGAN:** Come on, let's get this thing to the hospital and lets get the woman in for questioning. Leave no stone unturned, and all that.

*Morgan exits. Deane returns action to the court room.*

**KELMER:** I'd like to bring you back to the history of violence in the household.

**DEANE:** Yes, there are patterns of reported physical abuse throughout the relationship since 1989. Lorena does have a history of attacking John Wayne and Vice-Versa. We have been called to the apartment about half a dozen times for DV cases. One time we actually arrested John Bobbitt and charged him with assault and battery. Lorena was left with Bruises and a cut lip.

**KELMER:** Would a fair assumption be that John has a history of violence towards his wife, and that she was looking for the 'ultimate revenge', something to put a stop to the violence?

**DEANE:** I think there was enough time for Lorena to decide against the action she took. I think that this was in the back of her mind all along. I think she chose to do this, and chose to do this in a sane mind.

**KELMER:** Thank you very much.

**DEANE:** Thank you.

*Deane retakes his seat. Lorena is staring at him uncomfortably.*

**KELMER:** Could we have Miss Seacrest please

**JUDGE:** Miss.

*Jillian Seacrest takes the stand. She is an older neighbour. She remains very factual.*

**SEACREST:** I am Jillian Seacrest, I live in the apartment directly bellow the people on trial.

**KELMER:** How long have you known the Bobbitt Family?

**SEACREST:** I've lived there for the last 20 years, I've known them since they moved in, around 1988, so 5 nearly 6 years.

**KELMER:** Are they good neighbours?

**SEACREST:** They're loud. They come home late and are disruptive and they don't clean up. But they have never done anything personally to offend me. Either of them.

**KELMER:** What is your take on the event in question?

**SEACREST:** Well it's illegal, it's despicable. This was an angry woman. She did it so he wouldn't have sex with her or anyone else ever again. I think that's the real reason. How long can you beat on somebody before they flip?

**KELMER:** So do you think that she planned this?

**SEACREST:** I think she just went crazy.

**KELMER:** You're a regular woman, could you picture yourself doing such a thing?

**SEACREST:** I've never thought about it. But I suppose if the circumstance was bad enough.

**KELMER:** It's not the only case of people going crazy this week, is it? Tonya Harding, world class figure skater having her opponent injured before the competition. The Mendez brothers admitted to the 1989 Shotgun Murders. So the question is, what brings a person to flip and commit these crimes?

**SEACREST:** Abuse.

*Kelmer is taken off guard.*

**KELMER:** Pardon?

**SEACREST:** What do all of those cases have in common? A History of abuse.

**KELMER:** Thank you miss.

*Seacrest goes to leave.*

**MURPHY:** May I ask you a few questions first miss?

**SEACREST:** Certainly.

**MURPHY:** Have you ever tried to help Lorena?

**SEACREST:** I gave her support, she came to stay with me on a few occasions, but she said he will always track her down, yes. Why do you ask?

**MURPHY:** Emotional abuse miss. He wanted to control her mind. Did Lorena ever seem vengeful or mad?

**SEACREST:** No.

**MURPHY:** Did you help Mrs Bobbitt in any other way?

**SEACREST:** I told her, you know, there are places to go. Silly girl, she's only young, she didn't listen to me. But you can't force a woman to leave her husband. In the end, she went back home. She always did.

**MURPHY:** Were you ever afraid of Mr Bobbitt?

**SEACREST:** It would take more than a jumped up kid to scare me, sir. Her husband once held her, by the wrists over the balcony at their apartment. He was going to let go. He said 'I'll tell everybody that you jumped'. I told her to leave him, she could live with me. She said "He will follow me, he will kill me". I remember it vividly! Then she said "He will come after you". I gave her a hug. It was like hugging my daughter. I didn't want to leave her, because I was very afraid for her.

**MURPHY:** And there you have it Ladies and Gentlemen. This woman was tortured by Mr Bobbitt. Of course she committed this act - She was so frightened.

**SEACREST:** This is a global problem. Women are being beat every day and nothing is happening to fix it.

**MURPHY:** Exactly! 2,000 women died at the hands of their abusers in 1993. Of the millions of women abused daily, very few strike back.

**KELMER:** But to claim self defence, the law states you must be in imminent danger - scared for your life.

**MURPHY:** Yes, however if this falls under post-traumatic stress disorder—

**KELMER:** Yes?

**JUDGE:** Then there is a heightened sense of fear. The imminence is prolonged.

**MURPHY:** The fear is 'he might come back to get me'. This is the only chance to escape. So she grabbed the knife, cut off her husbands penis, and ran. Ran to the safest place she knew.

Your honour may I call Miss Janna Bisutti to the stand.

**JUDGE:** Indeed.

*Seacrest leaves the stand, she hugs Lorena, holds her tight as Janna walks to the stand. Seacrest leaves the stage.*

**JANNA:** Let's get this over with.

**MURPHY:** Miss Janna. You are Lorena's boss at the Salon and friend of 5 years correct.

**JANNA:** That is correct.

**MURPHY:** Had she mentioned anything about her husband leading up to the incident?

**JANNA:** She was always very professional. She never spoke about it at work. But I knew. The way someone walks and talks when they are having a rough time. You know. She had told me previously about the abuse - I have witnessed them once or twice.

*Cut away - Back to John and Lorena at home, John is trying to seduce Lorena.*

**LORENA:** Okay, but we will have to be quick.

*There is a knock at the door.*

**JOHN:** Ignore it - salesman, he'll go in a second

*John undoes his trousers and lowers them while kissing Lorena's neck. The knocking at the door continues. Janna walks in.*

**JANNA:** Oh, so you are home. I've been knocking for about 5 minutes!

**JOHN:** Shut the door, you idiot. I'm half naked in here.

**JANNA:** John

**JOHN:** Janna

*John struggle to pull his trousers back up.*

**JANNA:** Don't worry, nothing I haven't seen before. Not like I'm interested anyway. I've heard about it.

**JOHN:** Heard about it?

**JANNA:** Yes, you and your weird fetishes. Not for me thanks. Anyway, I prefer to play hard to get - I'm not as easy as you like 'um.

*Janna flirts with John as he buttons up his trousers.*

**JOHN:** Lorena, What have you told her.

**LORENA:** Nothing. I promise

**JANNA:** What is it they call it? — BDSM, dominance. I prefer to call it— Oh yes, small man syndrome. The little man likes to dominate. You won't find me so easy to crack Mr John Wayne.

**JOHN:** What are you talking about?

**JANNA:** Don't worry, your secret is safe with me 'stud'. I've seen quite enough for one night. I might come for round 2 tomorrow.

**JOHN:** Why do you invite her round?

**LORENA:** I haven't invited—

**JANNA:** Last I checked this was Lorena's house? Maybe get a job and pay your way— then you can have a say who comes round.

**JOHN:** You can't speak to me like that in my own home.

**JANNA:** Oh John Wayne, if only you could hear your little squeak now. I'll say what I want, to who I want, where I want. You have no control over me, little man. So Lorena. I know you planned to have tomorrow off, but is there any chance you can work?

**LORENA:** Tomorrow?

**JANNA:** Yes, Julio wants to take me out and show me a good time. So I need someone to cover the Salon. Susanna said she can't, and you're the only other person I trust at the moment— what with all the money going missing and stuff.

**JOHN:** Who's Julio?

**JANNA:** Squeak, squeak. Can you do it?

**LORENA:** Okay — What time—

**JOHN:** Hold up. No, she can't work, we have plans tomorrow.

**JANNA:** With all due respect John— what am I saying, I owe you no respect. It looks like you need all the money you can get to keep up this sad existence you call a life. I am helping you in a way.

**JOHN:** No. Lorena, tell her you can't work tomorrow.

**LORENA:** John—

**JOHN:** Tell her you cannot work.

**JANNA:** I need to know, now, ideally.

**LORENA:** Well. John, we do need the money.

**JOHN:** I thought we made decisions together? But apparently this isn't a marriage it's a dictatorship. Do what you please.

*John turns away like a child, and Lorena shows guilt.*

**JANNA:** We have a few bookings, the rest of it is drop-ins. It won't be busy I promise. You're going to need the money Lorena.

**LORENA:** I'm sorry Janna. I am spending tomorrow with John Wayne.

*John turns back to Lorena and puts his arm around her in a dominating way.*

**JOHN:** I knew you'd make the right decision.

**JANNA:** Whatever. Okay, I'll just have to close up tomorrow. I'll ring the clients and tell them you can't do it. see you on Monday instead. If you're allowed to come to work that is.

**LORENA:** I'll see you on Monday.

**JOHN:** I'll show you to the door.

**JANNA:** So long sweetie. Bye John.

*Janna Leaves. But we see she is outside the door.*

**JOHN:** Why do you let that bitch come in and talk to me like that. Do you realise how small your friends make me feel? You'd think that I'd get the back up of my wife. You'd think that I wouldn't have to beg for your support. You know what Lorena— Sometimes you really make me feel like this marriage was all so you could stay in this country. The things I do for you, the life I have given up to let you be my wife. Do you even know anything about me? You need to tell me now, you know you will get deported if you've lied to me.

**LORENA:** I love you John Wayne. I married you, and I have your side. Janna, she is my boss. I need to work to keep our house and—

**JOHN:** Yes, our house. Remember that. You don't respect the woman anyway. You steal from her all the time. She bosses you around and calls the shots, snaps her fingers and you crawl at her feet. She is not a friend to you Lorena, she's a bully. Why give her the time of day. Turn up, do your job, come home. You do too much for her, when you should be at home being a good wife for me. Cooking, cleaning and keeping me happy. If you know what I mean.

**LORENA:** John—

**JOHN:** Satisfying me. What happened to keeping me happy.

**LORENA:** The moment is not here. Not now John.

**JOHN:** You selfish bitch.

*John Slaps Lorena. Return to the courtroom.*

**MURPHY:** Could you expand on the signs you noticed?

**JANNA:** Yes. She wasn't herself. I had to refund several clients are there nails were not up to scratch, and some wonky eyebrows. I took her in the back and said she could go home. But she really didn't want to leave the salon.

**MURPHY:** Physical signs?

**JANNA:** She would always wear long sleeves - but to wash hair and handle some of the chemicals, she would have to roll up her sleeves. She was battered and bruised. Not just a hit. But they were all the way around. My heart broke. I knew something was wrong. I knew it was that son of a bitch, John.

**KELMER:** Was there—

**JANNA:** Sorry, but I'm not finished. She was short of breath. She was shaking. She told one of my clients "My husband hurts me". Now you may speak.

**KELMER:** No, it's okay.

**JANNA:** Thought so. She would come to work and I would see the marks on her throat. Burns on her arms, bumps on her head. Bruises all over her back.

**MURPHY:** Was she happy with John.

**JANNA:** She loved him. Though I can't for the life of me see why. He's a waste of space.

**MURPHY:** Is this why she kept going back to him?

**JANNA:** That or she was trapped. She never dated anyone before - she was totally enthralled by him. She thought this was a normal relationship.

**KELMER:** So you think what Lorena did was justified?

**JANNA:** If he did rape her, then he got what he deserved.

**JOHN:** You vicious bitch.

**JANNA:** At least she told them where it was. I would have thrown your dick down the garbage disposal.

**JOHN:** You mother f—

**JANNA:** All the press say 'she did the unthinkable'. Women in the street admire her, they support her. Do you want to hear why? Men have been sexually abusing women for years, and getting away with it, but he, that man there, John Wayne Bobbitt, did not get away with it. He got a very clear message. You will never rape anyone again.

**JUDGE:** I think we should end there. Miss you may step down.

**JANNA:** Women should have the right to stand up to their abusers, your honour. No woman should be made to feel like a piece of meat, owned by a man. If you don't agree, then you're just as bad as the pervert sat in that chair.

**JUDGE:** Thank you.

*Janna struts back to her seat. She is applauded by Lorena, her legal team and some members of the panel.*

**JUDGE:** May we have your closing arguments please.

**KELMER:** Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a case about anger. This is a case about revenge. It's a case about retribution. It is my belief that this is a calculated and malicious act of revenge. Is this a deadly weapon, you bet. This is a deadly weapon. This is what she used. You've heard a lot of talk of psychotic behaviour, post traumatic stress disorder, battered women. But if there is no irresistible impulse, there's no insanity. But her husband came home, she wanted to have sex, he didn't, that is her right. If he forced her to have sex, she became angry, she retaliated against him. What she did cannot be excused. It cannot be condemned and it cannot be justified. I ask you to find her guilty of malicious wounding.

**MURPHY:** A woman's body, is her home. Her body is the most intimate contact that she has with her soul. To rape a woman is not only a violation of her body, but also a ravishment of her soul. It is a direct attack on the emotional structure that holds a woman together. If you believe that, that is what that woman felt when she went into that room and committed that act, the verdict is not guilty. Physical abuse, Verbal abuse, sexual abuse, forced abuse, anal abuse. This girl was crumbling, she was falling apart, she snapped. She didn't have control in that moment. To

me this is so obvious. When you're in this unhealthy state of mind, can there be any question - she could not control her impulsive action. I hope that is obvious to you. This lady is ill, and every doctor has told you that. This lady has been stripped of all dignity of all self-confidence, she needs a lot of help. She needs your help. Your verdict can give her that little bit of dignity, that little bit of respect, so she can walk out of this court room with her head held high. I know you'll do the right thing.

**JUDGE:** Thank you both. The Jury will now deliberate. In this pause I would like to share my thoughts on all of this. This is a case about a young, petit, delicate woman, who for 4 years experienced extreme brutality, as the evidence will show, of rape, beatings and threats of violence. At the time, when she committed the act of severing her husbands penis, a penis from which she could not escape - she was a battered woman. The punishment stands at 20 years in prison - I hope you can agree that a life is more valuable than a penis.

*The judge stands up and leaves the stage. John is sat head in hands. Lorena is staring into space.*

**JOHN:** We've lost this. You've fucking lost this.

**KELMER:** Excuse me.

**JOHN:** The woman who cut my dick off is going to walk the streets a free woman because of you. What am I paying you for.

**KELMER:** You have yet to pay me Mr Bobbitt. Either way, the case isn't over yet, so watch what you say.

**JOHN:** The damage is already done.

**KELMER:** Even if you do loose, try and hold some dignity, this is still being televised. Do you want the whole world to see you being aggressive towards the woman trying to help you?

**JOHN:** Why not. They all think I'm an abusive, woman beating, rapist thanks to you.

**KELMER:** Yes, I'm sure that's all my doing. Now if you'll just be quiet Mr Bobbitt.

**MURPHY:** Lorena, are you okay? Lorena?

**LORENA:** Sorry, I'm just thinking. I'm so worried.

**MURPHY:** Worried?

**LORENA:** If they find me guilty. I go to prison, 20 years. after, I will be deported.

**MURPHY:** Oh, they'll deport you first, I'm sure.

*Lorena begins to panic and sob.*

**MURPHY:** But it won't get that far. I have a good feeling about this case.

**LORENA:** You said that about the last time. What is taking them so long?

**MURPHY:** They have to reach a unanimous decision. They all have to agree.

**LORENA:** What if—

**MURPHY:** The judge is coming back

*Judge enters with a piece of paper. Everyone is attentive.*



**JUDGE:** Would the defendant please stand. In the case of commonwealth of Virginia against Lorena Bobbitt, criminal number 33821. We find the defendant Lorena Bobbitt, not guilty.

**JOHN:** NO! WHAT!

**JUDGE:** As charged in the indictment, by reason of insanity. Signed Clay S Cocalis. As such a result of insanity has been reached, It does set forth that the court shall place the person so acquitted in temporary custody for mental health treatment. And the court shall do that.

**LORENA:** Where are you taking me?

**JUDGE:** There is a mandate, you have not committed these acts as a criminal, but as an act of insanity. Therefore you must be sectioned under the mental health act of Virginia for a minimum of 45 days, thereafter until officials believe you are in the correct mental state to re-enter society.

*The Police officer escorts Lorena off stage, followed by the doctor*

**LORENA:** No, please. I'm not crazy anymore. Please.

*They exit.*

**JUDGE** I must say I am rather glad that this is all finally over. Members of the Jury, this Court dismisses you and thanks you for a job well done.

*The judge exits.*

**JOHN:** There we have it. The bitch is free to roam the street. Well done, you've sent a very clear message out to all women - chop your husbands cock off and you'll get away with it if you cry rape.

**KELMER:** Mr Bobbitt, please remember you are still in a court of law.

**JOHN:** What does that matter. I'm branded a rapist, and she's off free.

**KELMER:** I understand you are angry. She is not free, she will be overseen by doctors and psychiatrists until she is well enough to be reintegrated into society. She's not going to be let out if they think for a second she will do this, or anything the like again.

**JOHN:** This is ridiculous, she'll find me when she's out. She'll tell the whole world her story and make me out to be a horrible creature - it's all your fault.

**KELMER:** Mr Bobbitt, I suggest you stop before you are arrested for disturbing the peace. I suggest you go home, get yourself a job and never contact Lorena again.

**JOHN:** It's fine. I'm leaving.

*John exits.*

**MURPHY:** Told you I'd win

**KELMER:** How do you know I didn't throw it?

**MURPHY:** Because you're too good a lawyer for that? Why would you?

**KELMER:** Maybe because that man is the biggest asshole I've ever met.

**MURPHY:** I hear that. You didn't throw it though?

**KELMER:** No, you won fair and square. The claim of Irresistible impulse was a stroke of genius. Hat's off.

**MURPHY:** Wanna go get a drink?

**KELMER:** Sure

*They exit.*

## **Epilogue**

*Actors stand in a line and deliver the next lines to the audience.*

**JANNA:** Lorena Bobbitt spent 45 days recovering in a Virginia Mental Health Hospital until her release on the 1st of March 1994. During her time at the Hospital many members of the news media tried to contact her for an interview - The doctors turned them all away to protect her mental health.

**ROBBY:** John Wayne took advantage of the fame this trial had given him. He released 2 adult movies, 'John Wayne Bobbitt: Uncut' and 'Frankenpenis'. Which were 2 of the highest grossing porn films of the 90's.

**MURPHY:** Lorena became a recluse and kept out of the spotlight, until she met a new man, Dave Bellinger. The two have been living happily together for the last 20 years and have raised a healthy daughter.

**KEMLER:** John however struggled with the decent of fame, and tried to cling on to all he could. He became a priest at a Las Vegas Chapel, a greeter at a brothel and even sold his story in 6 different documentaries just to make some money.

**DEANE:** In 2008 the charity 'Red Wagon' was started by Mrs Bobbitt with the view to help and educate women and children about domestic violence.

**SEHN:** While Mr Bobbitt continuously found himself accused and convicted of assault by a string of new partners - including the kidnapping and rape of a prostitute Desiree.

**JUDGE:** To this day John Wayne Bobbitt still denies all counts of rape and abuse toward Lorena. While Lorena is adamant she made the right decision to cut of her husbands penis at that time.

**JOHN:** I still send Lorena letters, and texts, just to see how she's getting on. Heck I told her we should get back together— could you imagine how much a paper would pay to have the exclusive interview with us. 'The greatest forgiveness', imagine the coverage.

**LORENA:** I am happy. I don't want to see John, I'm not sure we can be friends after all we have been through. We did one television interview together some years ago— but he was as arrogant and fame hungry as he ever was.

**JANNA:** Eventually, Lorena saw that I was just in this for some fame, some money. She caught me out selling my story to the press. She didn't speak to me much after that. I started out wanting to help a friend — but with coverage like she got; if that was me, I'd have been an international name.

**ROBBY:** John was broke, and kept running away from his problems. Eventually the court had to track him down and declare him bankrupt — turns out he never paid the lawyers who represented him.

**JUDGE:** Everything you have seen and heard today is based on the true story of John and Lorena Bobbitt.

**Blackout**

**The End**

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