

PEOPLE V. CRUELLA DEVILLE

Court: Who represents the District Attorney?

DA: _____for the people, Your Honor.

Court: And who represents the defendant, Cruella DeVille?

DA: _____ for the defense, Your Honor.

Court: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, the defendant is charged in an information with 1 count of theft, in violation of Penal Code Section 484. It is alleged that on or about October 15, 2003, she stole 16 Dalmatian puppies from Roger and Anita Radcliff. To this charge, Ms. DeVille has entered a plea of not guilty. Your job as jurors will be to listen to the evidence, and decide whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of this charge. The defendant is presumed to be innocent, and the DA, _____has the burden to prove her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Prosecutor, you may call your first witness.

DA: Your Honor, the people call Roger Radcliff.

(Clerk swears in the witness. Witness takes the stand.)

DA: Mr. Radcliff, where do you live?

Radcliff: 101 Puppy Lane, London, England.

DA: Who do you live there with?

Radcliff: My wonderful wife, Anita, our two Dalmatian dogs, Pongo and Perdita, and their sixteen adorable puppies.

DA: Did you and your wife leave your home on October 15, 2003?

Radcliff: We only left the house for about 45 minutes to take Pongo and Perdita for a walk. We returned home at about 7:30 p.m.

DA: What did you notice when you returned?

Radcliff: Our front door was open, the lock on the door had been broken, and all sixteen of our beautiful puppies were missing (sobbing).

DA: Did you find anything else in your house that was not there when you left?

Radcliff: Just a disgusting pink feather boa.

DA: Showing you what has been marked as People's Exhibit 1, is this the disgusting pink boa you found?

Radcliff: Yes! That's it!

DA: Were you notified by the police several days later that your puppies had been found?

Radcliff: Yes.

DA: Where did you go with the police to pick up your puppies?

Radcliff: To her house, Cruella DeVille's (pointing to Cruella).

DA: Showing you what has been marked for identification as People's Exhibit #2, are these your puppies that you recovered from the DeVille mansion? (Approach witness with puppies)

Radcliff: Yes, those are my beloved puppies (sobbing).

DA: No further questions of this witness, Your Honor.

Court: Defense Counsel, you may cross-examine.

Defense

Counsel: Mr. Radcliff, isn't it true that you and your wife frequently leave your house without locking the door when you take the dogs for a walk?

Radcliff: Well, I guess that's true.

Defense

Counsel: Isn't it also true, Mr. Radcliff, that your wife used to work for my client, Ms. DeVille, and that Ms. DeVille had fired your wife two weeks before this alleged theft occurred?

Radcliff: Yes, but.....

Defense

Counsel: Didn't you call Ms. DeVille one day before this alleged theft of your puppies and tell my client that you would get back at her for firing your wife?

Radcliff: Yes, but.....

Defense

Counsel: No further questions, Your Honor.

Court: Mr. Radcliff, you may step down.

DA: I'd move for admission of People's Exhibits 1 and 2.

Court: Any objection, Defense Counsel?

Defense

Counsel: No, Your Honor.

Court: People's One and Two are received.

DA: The people rest.

Court: Defense Counsel, would you like to call any witnesses?

Defense

Counsel: Yes, Your Honor, we would call, Cruella DeVille.

(Clerk swears in the defendant.)

Defense

Counsel: Ms. DeVille, did you steal the sixteen puppies from Roger and Anita Radcliff on October 15th, 2003?

Cruella: Absolutely not!

Defense

Counsel: How do you explain the pink boa found at the Radcliff house?

Cruella: I haven't the slightest idea how that thing got in their house. All I know is, it's not mine. Everyone knows I only wear black, white or red, NEVER PINK!

Defense

Counsel: How do you explain the fact that the puppies were found in your house?

Cruella: That's easy. I was on vacation in Paris on October 15th. My employees, Horace and Jasper, were taking care of my mansion for me while I was away. They must have taken the puppies. I'm innocent.

Defense

Counsel: No further questions, Your Honor.

Court: Prosecutor, would you care to cross-examine?

DA: Isn't it true, Ms. DeVille, that you were convicted of stealing in 2000?

DeVille: Yes.

DA: You say you never wear pink?

DeVille: NEVER!

DA: Did you attend the Queen's Ball on September 20, 2002?

DeVille: Yes...

DA: Didn't you wear a pink fur gown to the ball?

DeVille: No, it was more like fuschia. It was a real dark pink, not like that boa!

DA: You say you were in Paris on October 15th?

DeVille: Yes, that's true?

DA: Isn't it true that your plane got into London at 6:30 p.m., and the theft of the puppies occurred at 7:30 p.m.?

DeVille: Well, I guess that's true.

DA: No further questions, Your Honor.

Court: You may step down, Ms. DeVille. Any additional witnesses for the defense?

Defense

Counsel: No, Your Honor, the defense rests.

Court: Any rebuttal evidence on behalf of the people?

DA: No, Your Honor.

Court: Ok, we will now have closing arguments. The District Attorney will go first since the prosecution has the burden of proof. You may proceed.

DA: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we have proven beyond any possible doubt that Cruella DeVille took those puppies. She left behind her pink boa. She says she never wears pink, but yet she wore a pink gown to the Queen's Ball. It is also a fact that those puppies were found at her mansion. Even though she at first claimed she was out of town on October 15th, she finally admitted that she flew into town at 6:30 p.m., which gave her plenty of time to be at the Radcliff's house by 7:30. She's guilty, guilty, guilty.

Court: Thank you. Defense Counsel, you may make your closing argument.

Defense

Counsel: Ladies and gentlemen, in the United States of America, no one can be found guilty unless the District Attorney proves guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. What evidence was actually presented? One lousy boa (holding up the boa). This piece of evidence was never identified by anyone as belonging to my client. You didn't hear that

any of my client's fingerprints were found at the scene, did you? You can't believe a word that Roger Radcliff says either. He is out to get my client because my client had to fire his wife. The Radcliffs set my client up.

Most important of all, my client could not have committed this crime--she was just getting back into town less than an hour before this alleged crime occurred. If anybody stole those puppies, it's Horace and Jasper, not my client. Do the right thing and find her not guilty. Thank you.

Court: Thank you.

(Court then gives some brief instructions to the jury, and sends the jury off to deliberate.)