



The Murder of Mary Jones

TIM VICARY

OXFORD BOOKWORMS



The court room is full for today's trial. Two young men, Simon Clark and Dan Smith, stand up. The clerk asks, 'Are you guilty of the murder of Mary Jones?' 'Not guilty!' they reply. But perhaps they are guilty. The police found the murder weapon in their stolen car, and there was blood on Simon's face. If the court finds them guilty, they will go to prison for a very long time.

Can the lawyers find out the truth, by asking the right questions?

Everyone in court wants to know who murdered Mary Jones, especially her mother, and her boyfriend, Jim. You can help to find the answer, too!

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INTRODUCTION

This is a court in England. The people in the court are trying to answer a question - did Simon Clark and Dan Smith kill Mary Jones, or not? It is a very important question, because in Britain, murderers usually go to prison for life. You can see a picture of the court on page 2. Simon and Dan are there, with two policemen, the judge, the clerk of the court, two lawyers, and the twelve people in the jury. Witnesses come to the witness box, and the lawyers and the judge ask them questions. The jury do not say anything, but they listen carefully. At the end, they must answer the question - are Simon and Dan guilty of murder, or not guilty?

There are two possible endings to the play, Scene 4 (Alternative 1) and Scene 4 (Alternative 2). Read and discuss them, and decide which you like best.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Scenes 1 to 4: The courtroom

At the back of the room is the judge's table and chair. In front of this there is a chair and table for the clerk of the court. On the left of the judge's table is a chair for the witnesses (the witness box). In front of the clerk's table is a table with two chairs for the lawyers. Behind this table there are four more chairs for Simon, Dan, and two policemen. On the judge's left there are twelve chairs for the jury. There are more chairs in the room for people to sit and watch.

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

The judge;
The clerk of the court;
Ms Helen Wills, the police lawyer;
Simon Clark, a young man;
Dan Smith, a young man, Simon's friend;
Mr David Carter, Simon's and Dan's lawyer;
Jim Wilson, Mary Jones's boyfriend;
PC Norton, a policeman;
Dr Seldon, a doctor;
PC Moran, a policeman;
WPC Gray, a policewoman;
Mrs Lucy Symes;
Janet Nolan, a young woman;
Mrs Jones, Mary's mother;
The jury (twelve people);

The Murder of Mary Jones

SCENE 1

How did Mary die?

The jury, the lawyers, and the clerk of the court come in and sit down. Then Simon Clark and Dan Smith come in with the two policemen. The judge comes in and everyone stands up. The judge walks to his chair, looks at everybody slowly, and then sits down. The people and the lawyers sit down. Simon and Dan, the two policemen, and the clerk are standing up.

CLERK: Simon Clark, you are here because of the murder of Mary Jones. Did you kill her, or not?

SIMON: No, sir. I didn't.

CLERK: And you, Dan Smith? Did you kill Mary Jones?

DAN: No, sir. I didn't. I'm not guilty!

SIMON: We didn't kill her!

CLERK: All right. Sit down. (They sit.)

Ms WILLIS: (Standing up) My lord, I am Helen Willis, the lawyer for the police. David Carter is the lawyer for Simon Clark and Dan Smith.

JUDGE: Very good. Please begin, Ms Willis.

Ms WILLIS: Thank you, my lord. Members of the jury, look at the photo, please. There is a girl in the photo with a young man. She is Mary Jones, and he is Jim Wilson, Mary's boyfriend. (The jury look at the photo.)

JUDGE: Ms Willis, I haven't got that photo.

CLERK: Oh, I'm sorry, my lord. Here you are.

He gives the judge a photo.

JUDGE: Thank you. Please go on, Ms Willis.

Ms WILLIS: On 12 August, Mary was in a disco in Trenton with Jim. At midnight, she started to walk home along the road by the sea, and someone killed her.

Now, please look at the second photo.

JUDGE: Excuse me, Ms Willis. (He holds up a photo.) This photo? The photo of a dead girl?

Ms WILLIS: Yes, my lord, that's right. I'm sorry, it isn't a very nice photo. But that is Mary Jones, too.

There is blood on her head and face.

JUDGE: Yes, I see. Did someone find her there, that night?

Ms WILLIS: Yes, my lord. Jim Wilson found her body on the beach near the road at about half past twelve. He tried to help her, but he couldn't. Mary Jones was dead.

JUDGE: How did she die, Ms Willis?

Ms WILLIS: She died because someone hit her four times on the head with a spanner, my lord. Clerk, can I have the spanner, please?

CLERK: Yes, here you are. (He gives her a spanner)

Ms WILLIS: Thank you. It was this spanner, members of the jury. Look at it carefully. This spanner has Mary's blood and hair on it. Can you see that?

She shows the spanner to the jury.

JUDGE: Can I see that, please, Ms Willis?

Ms WILLIS: Yes, of course, my lord. (She gives it to him.)

JUDGE: Thank you. But who hit her with the spanner,

Ms Willis? That's the important question, you know. Who killed her?

Ms WILLIS: Who killed her? It was Simon Clark and Dan Smith, I think.

JUDGE: Why do you think that? Tell the jury, please.

Ms WILLIS: Yes, my lord. They were in the disco that evening. They went there in a car, a white Ford Fiesta. It wasn't their car - they stole it. They often steal cars.

JUDGE: I see. And how long were they there?

Ms WILLIS: They were in the disco for two hours.

At about ten o'clock,

Dan danced with Mary Jones. After that, Simon Clark danced with her.

JUDGE: Excuse me, Ms Wills. Did Jim see this?

Ms WILLS: Yes, my lord, he did. He was very angry, and he hit Simon. Then he talked to Mary for half an hour, and after that Mary started to walk home alone.

JUDGE: And Jim stayed in the disco?

Ms WILLS: Yes, my lord, he did. But Dan and Simon didn't. They went out, ten minutes after Mary.

They drove away in the Fiesta.

JUDGE: Yes. But did anyone see them kill her? That's important.

Ms WILLS: No, no one saw them kill her. But the police found the tyre marks of a Ford Fiesta near Mary's body. And later, they found Dan and Simon in a white Ford Fiesta in Bilsford.

JUDGE: Where is Bilsford, Ms Wills?

Ms WILLS: Ten kilometres from Trenton, my lord. And in the car there was a spanner. This spanner, members of the jury! With Mary's blood and hair on it! (She shows the spanner to the jury.)

JUDGE: I see. That's very important. (He writes.)

Ms WILLS: Yes, my lord. These two boys followed Mary from the disco in the white Fiesta. They stopped the car, hit her on the head with this spanner, and drove away.

DAN: (Standing up) It's not true! We didn't follow her!

We didn't go down that road! It's not true!

JUDGE: Be quiet, young man! Sit down! You can talk later!

Ms WILLS: I call my first witness, PC Norton.

PC Norton goes to the witness box.

CLERK: (Giving him a book) Take this book in your right hand and read what it says.

NORTON: I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Ms WILLS: PC Norton, what happened on 12 August?

NORTON: Well, at 12.47 a.m. someone telephoned the police and I went to the road by the beach in Trenton. I found a young woman's body there, and a young man. His name was Jim Wilson.

Ms WILLS: I see. Did Jim call the police?

NORTON: Yes, he did. He was Mary's boyfriend, I think.

He tried to help her, but she was dead.

Ms WILLS: Where was the body?

NORTON: It was on the beach near the road. There were some tyre marks in the sand near the body. A car stopped there, and then went back towards Trenton, I think.

Ms WILLS: Thank you. Wait there, please, and answer Mr Carter's questions. (She sits.)

CARTER: (Standing up) PC Norton, tell me some more about this boyfriend, Jim Wilson. He tried to help the dead girl, you say. Did he have blood on his shirt and trousers?

NORTON: Yes, sir, he did. There was blood on his face and hands and on his shirt and trousers too.

CARTER: Did you ask him about this?

NORTON: Yes, sir. The blood was there because he tried to help her, he said. He sat in my car and started to cry. He loved her, he said.

CARTER: I see. But why was Jim on the beach?

NORTON: He went for a walk after the disco, he said.

CARTER: I see. Thank you very much. (He sits down.)

JUDGE: PC Norton, one more question. Were there any cuts on Jim's face or hands?

NORTON: I don't know, sir. There was blood on his face and hands, but it was Mary Jones's blood, I think.

JUDGE: Thank you. That's all. The next witness is Dr Seldon, I think. (Dr Seldon comes in, and the clerk gives him the book.)

SELDON: I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Ms WILLIS: Dr Seldon, you looked at Mary Jones's body.

What did you find?

SELDON: Mary Jones was a young woman of about 18. She died because somebody hit her four times on the head.

Ms WILLIS: Thank you. You looked at this spanner very carefully, too. Can you tell us about that, please?

SELDON: Yes. I looked at the spanner and I found blood and hair on it. The blood and hair were Mary Jones's.

Ms WILLIS: Are you sure about that?

SELDON: Yes. They were the same.

Ms WILLIS: So did somebody kill her with this spanner?

SELDON: Oh yes. I am sure about that.

Ms WILLIS: Thank you. Wait there, please.

Ms Willis sits down, and Carter gets up.

CARTER: Dr Seldon, I want to ask you about Mary Jones's hands. Was there any blood on them?

SELDON: Yes, sir, a lot of blood. I looked at it very carefully and it was her blood. Perhaps she put her hands on her head when the spanner hit her.

CARTER: But was there blood under her fingernails, too?

SELDON: Yes, a little.

CARTER: Did you look carefully at that blood, too?

SELDON: No, I didn't. There was a lot of blood on her hands and it was all her blood. I am sure about that.

CARTER: Yes, but think carefully, doctor. What did Mary do when the man hit her? Did she try to hit him, too? Perhaps she cut his face with her fingernails.

Do girls sometimes do that?

SELDON: Well, yes, sometimes.

CARTER: So perhaps the man's blood was under her fingernails. Did you look for that?

SELDON: There wasn't much blood under her fingernails.

CARTER: But did you look at it, doctor? Did you look carefully at the blood under her fingernails?

SELDON: No. I'm sorry, I didn't.

CARTER: I see. But there was some blood under her fingernails. You're sure about that?

SELDON: Yes, there was a little blood there. Not much.

Carter sits down. Seldon goes out. PC Moran comes in, and takes the book from the clerk.

MORAN: I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Ms WILLIS: PC Moran, you looked at the white Ford Fiesta, I think. What did you find?

MORAN: Well, first I put some paper under each tyre, and drove the car over it.

The tyres made marks on the paper.

Then I took the paper to the beach, and looked at the tyre marks in the sand.

Ms WILLIS: Were they different?

MORAN: No, they weren't.

The marks on the beach were from Pirelli ZX37 tyres, and the marks on the paper were from Pirelli ZX37 tyres, too.

Ms WILLIS: Did you find any more things in the car?

MORAN: Yes. There was a lot of sand from the beach.
Ms WILLIS: I see. That's very interesting. Thank you very much. Wait there, please. (She sits down.)
CARTER: (Standing up) PC Moran, do all Ford Fiestas have Pirelli ZX37 tyres?
MORAN: No. Ford Fiestas can have lots of different tyres.
CARTER: And what about Volkswagen Polos? Do they sometimes have Pirelli ZX37 tyres, too?
MORAN: Sometimes, yes, sir.
CARTER: I see. So there are lots of cars with these tyres. Some are Ford Fiestas, but some are Volkswagen Polos. Is that true?
MORAN: That's true, yes.
CARTER: So perhaps a Polo made these marks in the sand?
MORAN: Perhaps, yes.
CARTER: Thank you. Now, there was a lot of sand in the car. Was there any blood in the car too, or hair?
MORAN: No, there wasn't.
CARTER: What? No hair or blood? Did you look?
MORAN: Yes, sir, we did. But we didn't find anything.
CARTER: But Ms Willis said, 'These young men killed Mary Jones.' There was blood on Mary's head and face, blood on her dress, blood on her hands. But there was no blood in the car, you say?

Scene 2

Jim's story

Jim Wilson goes to the witness box.

CLERK: (Giving Jim the book) Take this book in your right hand and read from it.
JIM: I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.
Ms WILLIS: (Standing up) Jim, tell me about Mary. Did you know her well?
JIM: Very well. She was my girlfriend. Our families come to Trenton for a holiday at the same time every year.
Ms WILLIS: I see. Can you tell us about the night of Saturday 12 August, please?
JIM: Well, I went to the disco with Mary at half past eight. We sat at a table and talked to our friends.
Then we danced - talked - danced - and then Mary went home.
Ms WILLIS: What time did she go home?
JIM: At about - midnight, I think. I don't remember.
Ms WILLIS: Did you see any new people at the disco?
JIM: Yes. Two young men. They danced with Mary.
Ms WILLIS: Can you see those two young men here now?
JIM: Yes. Those two there. They killed her! (He looks angrily at Simon Clark and Dan Smith.)
DAN: (Standing) We didn't kill her! That's not true!
JUDGE: Please, Mr Smith. Sit down!
Dan sits down slowly.
Ms WILLIS: I'm sorry about that. Now Jim, tell me, what did you do when Mary went out of the disco?
JIM: Well, I stayed for fifteen minutes, to talk to some friends. Then I went for a walk, and - I saw her.
There was blood on her face. I tried to help her, but I couldn't.
Ms WILLIS: So what did you do then?
JIM: I ran to phone the police. But it was no good. She was dead - and they killed her!

He looks at Dan and Simon. Ms Wills sits down.

CARTER: (Standing up) Jim, did you love Mary?

JIM: Yes, I think so - she was my girlfriend.

CARTER: Yes, she was your girlfriend. And you loved her - you think. Mary left the disco at midnight, you say. She walked along that dark road by the sea.

You didn't go with her. Why?

JIM: Why? I don't know - she wanted to go alone.

CARTER: Why? Was she angry with you?

JIM: I don't know. A little angry, perhaps. It wasn't important.

CARTER: Were you angry with these young men? With Simon and Dan, because they danced with her?

JIM: A little angry, yes.

CARTER: A little angry, you say. Did you see them dance with her?

JIM: I saw Simon dance with her, but not Dan. I went out with some friends. They wanted to see my car.

CARTER: To see your car? Why? Is it very interesting?

JIM: It's a new car - a Volkswagen Polo. I like it very much. My friends wanted to look at it.

CARTER: I see. What happened when you went back in?

JIM: I saw Mary with that boy. (He looks at Simon.)

CARTER: And what did you do then?

JIM: I was angry. I asked him to stop dancing with her.

CARTER: You asked him, you say. Did you hit him, Jim?

JIM: Well, yes. I hit him once. But he hit me first!

SIMON: That's not true! I didn't hit you! You hit me!

JUDGE: Be quiet, Mr Clark! Please!

SIMON: But it's not true, my lord! I didn't hit him!

JUDGE: Perhaps not. But you can speak later. Do you understand?

SIMON: Yes, sir.

CARTER: What did Mary do when you hit Simon, Jim?

JIM: She laughed, I think. Then she sat at a table with me.

CARTER: Why did she laugh, Jim? Did she laugh at Simon, or you?

JIM: She laughed at Simon, because he was afraid of me!

CARTER: Is that true? Or did she laugh at you, Jim? Perhaps she liked Simon, not you!

JIM: Of course she didn't! She was my girl, and she was there with me, not them!

CARTER: But you were angry with Mary, Jim. Why was that? Did she like them more than you, perhaps?

JIM: NO! I wasn't angry with her, I was angry with Simon!

CARTER: Are you sure?

JIM: Yes, of course! I was angry with him because he danced with my girlfriend, and because he killed her. Don't you understand? He killed her! Of course I'm angry - he killed her!

CARTER: How do you know that, Jim?

JIM: Everyone knows that! He followed her in his car along the road. Then he took that spanner from the car, and he hit her on the head - two, three times! Then she ran on to the beach, crying.

CARTER: What happened then, Jim?

JIM: He hit her again! And then she stopped moving, and there was blood everywhere! Lots of blood! And I tried to help her, but I couldn't, she was dead - Jim is crying. Carter says nothing for a minute.

CARTER: So, Jim, she ran on to the beach, crying, and he hit her again, you say. How do you know that?

JIM: How? I don't remember. The police said that.

CARTER: No, Jim, they didn't say that. (He waits, but Jim says nothing.) Jim, there was no blood on Simon or Dan, but there was a lot of blood on

you. And you were angry with Mary, because she didn't love you. Is that true, Jim?

JIM: No.

CARTER: Simon and Dan weren't on the beach, Jim. They didn't kill her. But you were there. You went out of the disco and followed her. Did you kill her?

JIM: NO! Of course I didn't! What are you saying?

They killed her - their car was there, the spanner was in their car! I didn't kill her! She was my girlfriend - I loved her!

CARTER: You loved her, you say. But you didn't walk home with her on that dark night, Jim. Why not?

JIM: But I did! I went after her! And I found her on the beach! She was dead!

CARTER: Did you go in your car? Your new Polo?

JIM: No, I didn't. I walked. I wanted to think.

CARTER: What did you want to think about?

JIM: About me and Mary. I was sorry - I loved her, you know - And I wanted to talk to her, of course. But she was dead! They killed her, she was dead!

CARTER: But there was no blood on them, or in their car, Jim. The blood was on you! Perhaps you loved Mary, but you killed her too - because you were angry with her!

JIM: No! Of course I didn't! I didn't kill her. I loved her!

CARTER: One more question, Jim. Do you have Pirelli tyres on your Volkswagen Polo?

JIM: What? Er - no. No, I don't. I have Goodyear tyres.

CARTER: All right. I have no more questions. (He sits.) Jim goes out, and Ms Wills stands up.

Ms WILLIS: My lord, I have no more witnesses.

JUDGE: Thank you. Mr Carter, have you any witnesses?

CARTER: Yes, my lord. Mrs Lucy Symes, please.

Lucy Symes comes into the witness box.

SYMES: (Taking the book) I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

CARTER: Mrs Symes, do you have a white Ford Fiesta?

SYMES: Yes, sir.

CARTER: What is the car's number?

SYMES: M346 WXT.

CARTER: And what happened to that car on 12 August?

SYMES: Somebody stole it, sir. I telephoned the police, and they found it next day.

There was a lot of sand in it.

CARTER: I see. Now, Mrs Symes, do you have a spanner in your car, like this spanner on the table?

SYMES: Well, I don't know, sir. You see, I did have a spanner like that in the car last year, but it wasn't very good. So now I have a better one than that.

CARTER: I see. And where is this new spanner now?

SYMES: In the back of my car, sir. It's always there.

CARTER: What about the old spanner? Where is that?

SYMES: Well, I don't know, sir. I didn't want it, you see.

CARTER: Was it in the car on 12 August?

SYMES: I don't know. Perhaps it was, but I'm not sure.

CARTER: Thank you, Mrs Symes. Please wait there.

He sits down, and Ms Wills stands up.

Ms WILLIS: Mrs Symes, was your old spanner in the car, or not?

SYMES: I'm not sure. I'm sorry, I don't know.

Ms WILLIS: Well, perhaps you put the spanner in the back of your car, and then you forgot about it.

SYMES: Yes, perhaps I did.

Ms WILLIS: Yes. (She takes the spanner from the table and gives it to Mrs Symes.) And is this spanner like your old car spanner?

SYMES: I think so, yes. Yes, it is.

Ms WILLIS: Thank you. (She sits down.)

Mrs Symes leaves. Janet Nolan comes to the witness box, and takes the book from the clerk.

JANET: I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

CARTER: Miss Nolan, you were in the disco on the night of 12 August. Did you see Mary Jones?

JANET: Yes, I saw her with her boyfriend, Jim. And then later she danced with those two boys.

CARTER: Which two boys?

JANET: Those two. (She looks at Simon and Dan.)

CARTER: I see. Did she dance with them for a long time?

JANET: For about ten minutes, yes. She danced with Dan first and then Simon. Jim wasn't in the disco then. When Jim saw them, he was very angry.

CARTER: What did he do?

JANET: He hit Simon.

CARTER: And what did Simon do?

JANET: Nothing. He didn't hit Jim. He walked away.

CARTER: I see. And was Jim angry with Mary, too?

JANET: Yes. Mary laughed at Jim, so Jim was very angry.

CARTER: Mary laughed at Jim, you say? Not at Simon?

JANET: Yes, that's right.

CARTER: What happened then?

JANET: Well, Jim and Mary talked, then Mary went home.

CARTER: I see. And what did Jim do?

JANET: He sat there for five minutes. Then he went out.

CARTER: What about Simon and Dan? Where were they?

JANET: They stayed in the disco. One of them asked me to dance, but I said no. So after ten minutes he and his friend went out.

CARTER: Now I want to be sure about this. Jim went out first, you say, and these boys went out ten minutes after him. Is that right?

JANET: Er, ye-es, I think so. It's not easy to remember.

CARTER: Thank you.

He sits down and Ms Willis gets up.

Ms WILLIS: You're right, Miss Nolan. It isn't easy to remember things after six months, of course.

JANET: No, it isn't. But I can remember nearly everything.

Ms WILLIS: Did you watch Mary and Jim all the time in the disco?

JANET: No, of course not. But —

Ms WILLIS: No. So be careful, Miss Nolan. Perhaps you are wrong about this. It's a long time ago. Perhaps these boys went out before Jim? Not after him?

JANET: Perhaps. I don't know. I'm not sure.

Ms WILLIS: Thank you. That's all.

She sits down. Janet begins to go out of the witness box, then she stops.

JANET: No, I'm right! Jim did go out first — I'm sure!

JUDGE: Thank you, Miss Nolan. Thank you very much.

Scene 3

Simon and Dan tell their story

Simon Clark comes into the witness box.

SIMON: (Taking the book) I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

CARTER: Now, Simon. This is very important. What happened on the night of 12 August? Tell me.

SIMON: All right. Well, I went out with Dan to look for a car. We often take cars, you see -

JUDGE: You steal them, do you?

SIMON: Not steal, no. We take them for the night, drive for an hour or two, and leave them somewhere.

JUDGE: I see. Do you do this often?

'We often take cars.'

SIMON: Yeah, why not? We like it. That night we took this white Ford Fiesta, and went to the disco in Trenton. We got there about ten o'clock, I think.

CARTER: Did you meet anyone in the disco?

SIMON: Yes. We danced with some girls. But it wasn't very exciting, so at about midnight we went out and drove away. Two hours later a police car stopped us. That's it.

CARTER: Now I want you to look at this photo of Mary Jones. Did you see her in the disco?

SIMON: Yes. Dan danced with her first, and then I danced with her. Then her boyfriend hit me.

CARTER: Did you hit him first?

SIMON: No, I didn't.

CARTER: Did you hit him after he hit you?

SIMON: No. He was bigger than me. And I never hit people.

CARTER: All right. Did you follow this girl out of the disco?

SIMON: No, I didn't see her go out. Dan and I talked for ten minutes, then we drove away. We didn't see the girl.

CARTER: Did you kill her?

SIMON: No, sir, I didn't.

CARTER: All right. (He sits down. Ms Wills stands up.)

Ms WILLS: When J im hit you, you did nothing. Right?

SIMON: Yes. That's right.

Ms WILLS: And what did Mary do? Did she laugh?

SIMON: I'm not sure. Perhaps she did.

Ms WILLS: She did, I think. Mary was a beautiful girl, and she laughed because her boyfriend hit you.

SIMON: I wasn't angry. She wasn't important to me.

Ms WILLS: Not important? But you danced with her.

SIMON: She was OK. She wasn't very beautiful or interesting.

Mary's mother stands up. She is very angry.

MRS JONES: Don't you say that about my daughter! She was beautiful, and she was a lot better than you!

She didn't steal cars or kill people!

JUDGE: Please sit down, Mrs Jones. (She sits down.)

'Don't you say that about my daughter!'

Ms WILLS: You weren't angry, you say. That isn't true, Simon Clark. You were very angry with Mary!

SIMON: No, I wasn't. Why do you say that?

Ms WILLS: You were angry with her because she laughed at you. So you and Dan followed her in the Fiesta. What happened then? You asked her to get in. Did she get in?

SIMON: No, she didn't.

Ms WILLS: I see. She didn't get in the car, so you were angry again. Then you hit her with this spanner and killed her.

Is that right?

SIMON: No. It's not true.

Ms WILLIS: Yes, it is. You murdered Mary Jones, Simon Clark! You killed her with this spanner!

SIMON: No, I didn't! I'm not guilty, I tell you!

Ms WILLIS: You are guilty, Simon. You killed Mary Jones.

She sits down. Simon goes out. Dan comes in.

'I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.'

DAN: (Taking the book) I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

CARTER: Dan, you listened to Simon. Did he tell the truth?

DAN: Yes, of course he did.

CARTER: Did you see Jim hit your friend in the disco?

DAN: Yes, I did.

CARTER: And after that, did you see Jim go out?

DAN: Yes. The girl, Mary, went out first. Jim went later.

We stayed, and went out ten minutes after Jim.

CARTER: And when you went out, did you see Jim or Mary?

DAN: No. We got in the car and drove away.

CARTER: All right, thank you. Wait there.

He sits down, and Ms Willis stands up.

Ms WILLIS: When Jim hit Simon, did Mary laugh at him?

DAN: Well, yes.

Ms WILLIS: Mary laughed at Simon?

DAN: Yes.

Ms WILLIS: So then Simon was angry with Mary, but you were both afraid of Jim. Is that right?

DAN: Well, perhaps, yes.

Ms WILLIS: Yes. So you waited in the disco. You were angry with Mary. She went out of the disco, and Jim wasn't with her. So you and Simon followed her in the car.

DAN: No, we didn't.

Ms WILLIS: Oh yes, you did. You stopped the car, and asked her to get in. But she didn't. Perhaps she laughed at you again. Then you were really angry.

DAN: NO! That's not true!

Ms WILLIS: Oh yes it is, Dan. How did Mary die? I know, and the jury know too. You killed her. But I'm not sure about one thing - who hit Mary first?

Was it Simon?

DAN: No -

Ms WILLIS: It wasn't Simon, you say? Then it was you!

DAN: No, it wasn't! It wasn't me!

Ms WILLIS: So it was Simon?

DAN: No! It wasn't Simon or me! We didn't do it!

Ms WILLIS: Do you see this spanner, Dan? It has Mary's blood on it, and Mary's hair. And this spanner was in your car. Tell me, Dan - who put it there?

You, or Simon?

DAN: I don't know. I didn't put it there. I didn't see it.

Ms WILLIS: That isn't true, Dan. The spanner was in your car because you murdered Mary Jones with it.

That's true, and everybody knows it.

She sits down. Dan goes out of the witness box.

Carter stands up.

CARTER: I have no more witnesses, my lord. (Sits down.)

JUDGE: Now, members of the jury, Ms Willis and Mr Carter are going to talk to you. Listen carefully.

Ms WILLS: (Standing up) Members of the jury, the police found this spanner in the Fiesta. It had Mary's blood and hair on it. They found tyre marks near Mary's body. There was blood on Simon's face, and under Mary's fingernails, too.

SIMON: Jim hit me in the disco! He cut my face!

JUDGE: Be quiet! Ms Wills is talking now, not you!

Ms WILLS: Look at these two young men. They're angry now. Think about them. They aren't very nice young men. What do they do in the evenings? They steal cars.

DAN: Yes, but we don't kill people!

Ms WILLS: You did, this time. You followed Mary, and you killed her. Think about it carefully, members of the jury. Mary is dead, and these young men are guilty of her murder.

CARTER: Did they, Jim? I'm not sure. Think carefully, members of the jury. Did Jim kill Mary? Perhaps - we don't know. But did Simon and Dan kill her?

No. They are not guilty. (Carter sits down.)

JUDGE: Now, members of the jury, there is one big question for you, and you must answer it. Think very carefully. Did these two men kill Mary Jones? Are they guilty or not guilty of her murder?

Scene 4

The Verdict (Alternative 1)

The judge, the lawyers, the clerk of the court, and Simon and Dan are all in their places. There are two policemen beside Simon and Dan. The jury come back into the room and sit down. The foreman of the jury stands up. The clerk stands up.

CLERK: Members of the jury, do you have a verdict?

FOREMAN: Yes, we have.

CLERK: And what is your verdict? Guilty, or not guilty?

FOREMAN: Guilty.

DAN: No! No, that's not true. We didn't do it!

CLERK: Be quiet! Simon Clark and Dan Smith, stand up, please!

They stand. Dan looks at Simon.

DAN: What did I tell you, Simon? Why did we go to that disco? Why did you want to follow that girl?

SIMON: I didn't! Be quiet!

JUDGE: Simon Clark and Dan Smith, you murdered Mary Jones - a young, beautiful girl. For this murder, there is only one punishment. You must go to prison for life.

DAN: But we didn't do it! Jim killed her, we didn't!

JIM: No, I didn't! I loved her! You murdered her!

SIMON: That's not true! You murdered her, we didn't!

JUDGE: Be quiet. Take them away, please.

The police take Simon and Dan out. Mrs Jones stands up.

Mrs JONES: Members of the jury, my lord judge, Ms Wills, thank you. Thank you very much.

JUDGE: That's all right, Mrs Jones. I'm very sorry about Mary, but those boys are going to prison now.

JIM: (Takes Mrs Jones's arm.) Yes. Come on, Mrs Jones. It's all right now. (They go out of the court.)

Scene 4

The Verdict (Alternative 2)

The judge, the lawyers, the clerk of the court, and Simon and Dan are all in their places. There are two policemen beside Simon and Dan. The jury come back into the room and sit down. The foreman of the jury stands up. The clerk stands up.

CLERK: Members of the jury, do you have a verdict?

FOREMAN: Yes, we have.

CLERK: And what is your verdict? Guilty, or not guilty?

FOREMAN: Not guilty.

DAN: Yes!

SIMON: That's right! That's right! We didn't do it!

CLERK: Simon Clark and Dan Smith, stand up, please.

Simon and Dan stand up. Dan looks at the jury.

DAN: (Happily) Thank you, jury! Thank you very much!

JUDGE: Simon Clark and Dan Smith, you are not guilty of the murder of Mary Jones. You are free to go.

Mrs JONES: But they killed my daughter! They can't be free!

JUDGE: I'm sorry, Mrs Jones, but they are not guilty.

SIMON: What about Jim? What are you going to do about Jim? He killed her!

JIM: I'm going home now.

He walks to the door. PC Norton walks in front of him. He puts his hand on Jim's arm.

NORTON: Jim Wilson, come with me. I want to talk to you about your girlfriend, Mary Jones.

JIM: But she's dead. Those two boys killed her!

NORTON: No they didn't. They're not guilty. Come with me, please. (Jim and the policeman go out.)

DAN: Come on, Simon. We're free! We're going home.

They go out. Mrs Jones looks at the judge.

Mrs JONES: My lord, my daughter is dead. Who killed her?

JUDGE: I'm sorry, Mrs Jones. I don't know.

The judge looks at Ms Wills and Mr Carter.

They say nothing. Slowly, Mrs Jones goes out.

'Jim Wilson, come with me.'

EXERCISES

A Checking your understanding

Scene 1

Write answers to these questions.

1

Who is the lawyer for the police?

2

How did Simon Clark and Dan Smith get the Ford Fiesta?

3

What did the police find on the beach near Mary's body?

4

What did the police find on the spanner?

5

Did Dr Seldon look carefully at the blood under Mary's fingernails?

6

What did the police find in the Ford Fiesta?

Scene 2

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1

Jim phoned the police about Mary's body.

2

Jim has an old Ford Fiesta.

3

Jim hit Simon and Dan.

4

There was a lot of blood on Dan and Simon.

5

Jim hasn't got Pirelli tyres on his Volkswagen Polo.

6

Mrs Symes has a new spanner.

Scene 3

Who said these words in this scene, to whom, and about what?

1

'Do you do this often?'

2

'Did you hit him first?'

3

'She was OK.'

4

'Did he tell the truth?'

5

'I didn't put it there.'

6

'Think about them.'

7

'There was blood on you.'

B

Working with language

1

Use these words to join the sentences together. Sometimes you must use a pronoun (he, she, her) instead of a name.

so; and; because; when; but;

1

Mary left the disco at midnight. Mary walked along the dark road by the sea.

2

Jim came back into the disco. Jim saw Mary with Simon.

3

Jim was angry with Simon. Simon was with Jim's girlfriend.

4

Jim wanted to talk to Mary. Mary was dead.

5

Mary laughed at Jim. Jim was very angry.

2

Complete these sentences with information from the play.

1

Helen Wills is the lawyer for . . . , and David Carter is the lawyer for . . .

2

All the witnesses must say, 'I promise to . . .

3

Jim Wilson tried to help Mary, but . . .

4

There was blood on Simon Clark's face, because . . .

5

Janet Nolan didn't dance . . .

3

Here are some beginnings and endings of sentences from Scene 1. Can you put them together?

1

then I took the paper to the beach,

2

Simon Clark, you are here

3

it wasn't their car –

4

he tried to help her,

5

they stole it.

6

because of the murder of Mary Jones.

7

but he couldn't.

8

and looked at the tyre marks in the sand.

C

Activities

1

Write a letter from Janet Nolan to a friend of hers, telling her what happened on 12 August.

2

After Jim hit Simon, Jim and Mary talked in the disco. But what did they say? Write their conversation. Start like this:

MARY: Why did you hit Simon, Jim? He didn't do anything wrong!

3

Write about the trial for a newspaper, giving as many details as possible. Start like this:

BEACH; MURDER; TRIAL;

Yesterday the jury at Trenton Court found two young men (not) guilty of the murder of Mary Jones . . .

D

Project work

1

Find out about a famous trial in a court. What do you think of the verdict and the punishment? Did you agree with them? Write down the information, and tell the class about it. You could also act out the trial.

2

In England, murderers usually go to prison for life. What is the punishment for murder in your country? And what about the punishment for stealing, or for hitting people?

Are these punishments the same in all countries? Make a list of crimes and their possible punishments, and talk about them together.

GLOSSARY

alone;

not with any other people

beach;

a sandy place near the sea

boyfriend, girlfriend;

a special friend for a girl or boy

cut; (n)
a break in the skin, where blood comes out

cut; (past tense cut)
to break the skin with something sharp

dance;
to move your arms and legs when you listen to music

disco;
a place to listen to music, meet people and dance

follow;
to go behind someone

foreman;
the person who speaks for the jury

guilty;
someone who has done something wrong

lawyer;
a person who knows about the law

murder;
to kill someone, not by accident

my lord;
a polite way of speaking to a judge

prison;
a place where bad people are locked up

punishment;
sending people to prison is a punishment

sand;
usually yellow or white, found on a beach

show;
to help someone to see something

sir;
a polite way to speak to a man who is more important than you

steal; (past tense stole)
to take things that belong to other people

story;
telling about something that happened

sure;
feeling that you know something very well

try; (past tense tried)
to attempt something or see if you can do something

verdict;
what a jury decides at the end of the court case

witness;
someone who sees something happen
I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;
what every witness must say in court, so that we know they are going to
tell the truth