

# The Republic

A full-length play in three acts

## Characters

<i>Janice Fournier/Juror 1</i>	<i>38-year-old woman in wheelchair</i>
<i>Walter Fournier/Juror 2</i>	<i>72-year-old</i>
<i>Pam/Prosecutor/Juror 3</i>	<i>42-year-old woman</i>
<i>Charlie/Juror 4</i>	<i>25-year-old</i>
<i>Melanie/Juror 5</i>	<i>40-year-old woman</i>
<i>Dr. Campbell/Juror 6</i>	<i>55-year-old woman</i>
<i>Dr. Singh/Juror 7</i>	<i>60-year-old man</i>
<i>Christal Bader/Juror 8</i>	<i>40-year-old woman</i>
<i>TC/Tommy/Judge/Juror 9</i>	<i>40s, man</i>
<i>Jimmy/Juror 10</i>	<i>20s, man</i>
<i>Protesters/Juror 11 &amp; 12</i>	<i>two women, 50s</i>

## Setting

*A hospital and courtroom in a red state 2023*

Act 1, Scene 1

*Setting:* A quiet emergency room in the early morning hours.

*At Rise:* Pam, wearing a MAGA hat and holding a bloody towel around her right arm, sits uncomfortably in a plastic chair, looking past Charlie, ER nurse, at the check-in desk for a doctor to attend her injury. Wearing PJs and puffy bear-claw slippers, Walter enters, shuffling towards the check-in desk, shouting and gesturing behind him to the open door.

**WALTER**

Help! You need to help my daughter!

*[Charlie stands and gestures for Walter to keep his voice down and come to the counter.]*

**CHARLIE**

You need to keep it down, sir. *[pause]* Where is your daughter?

*[Walter reaches the counter and leans heavily against it; exhausted. Taking several deep breathes he looks over his shoulder towards the door.]*

**WALTER**

She's... there's something wrong... *[pause]* with her baby.

*[Charlie strains to look out the door confusedly.]*

**CHARLIE**

Should we get her?

**WALTER**

No. No. *[in a higher pitch]* "I'll do it. I've been wheeling this thing myself for 10 years."

*[Charlie looks even more confused.]*

**WALTER** (CONTINUES)

She's pregnant. *[pause]*Thinks there's something wrong. *[pause]*Bleeding.

**JANICE** (OS)

The whole world doesn't need to know our business, Dad!

*[Charlie comes out from behind the counter and heads towards the door. Pam stands up and strains to look out the door. Walter slumps against the counter, facing the door. Finally, Janice appears in her wheelchair, wearing a sun dress, a large purse and overnight bag on her lap, a cell phone wedged between her ear and shoulder. She talks into the phone.]*

**JANICE**

Yes. Yes. I'm in the ER now. *[pause]*Sure, you can talk to ... *[to Charlie who is now standing right in front of her]*What's your name?

**CHARLIE**

Charlie

**JANICE**

Charlie

*[Janice hands her phone to Charlie who listens for a moment and then walks outside, out of earshot. Janice wheels herself to Walter who's still breathing heavily. Pam sits back down, looking at her cell phone, which is buzzing.]*

**WALTER**

Finally got the doctor?

**JANICE**

Yes. She's on her way. *[pause]* She says it's probably nothing. *[pause]* We need to sit tight... try not to panic.

*[Janice touches Walter's arm and starts to wheel herself over to the waiting area chairs, noticing Pam for the first time with a start. Walter slowly follows her to the row of plastic chairs, sitting as far away from Pam as possible. Pam stands, bringing the phone to her ear and walks off behind the chairs talking quietly.]*

**WALTER**

What else did she say?

**JANICE**

She's going to tell... Charlie... what tests *[pause]* procedures she wants done. She should be here within the hour. *[pause]* The cramping has eased... but

**WALTER**

Do you think the baby....

**JANICE**

I don't know, Dad. *[pause]* Everything feels bonkers in there.

*[Charlie returns, walking up to Janice he hands her phone to her.]*

**CHARLIE**

I'll let them know *[indicating inside the ER behind him]* what Dr. Campbell wants done. We should be able to get you back there soon. *[pause]* We're a little short-staffed tonight. *[to Walter]* Can you come up and sign some forms?

**JANICE**

I can do it. *[to Walter]* Stay here, OK?

*[Janice follows Charlie to the counter wheeling her chair.]*

**WALTER**

OK.

*[Curtain.]*

Act 1, Scene 2

*Setting:* Same, ten minutes later.

*At Rise:* Janice is next to Walter at the end of the waiting room chairs. Pam is back in her seat looking down the hall toward the examining rooms. Janice is putting insurance cards and other papers back into her purse. Charlie is nowhere in sight.

**WALTER**

What tests and procedures?

**JANICE**

I'm not sure, Dad. They just want to figure out...

**PAM**

Excuse me. Did they say how long it'll be? *[pause]* I've been here *[pause]* bleeding, for an hour...

**JANICE**

Sorry. No. *[pause]* They're kinda short-handed.

**PAM**

Where'd he go?

**JANICE**

I think he's trying to see when they can take us.

**PAM**

I've got work in the morning. *[pause]* I can't be here all night.

**JANICE**

I hear ya. *[pause]* I'm sure it won't be too much longer. *[gesturing to Pam's bloody towel]* Does it hurt?

**PAM**

Not too bad now. *[pause]* There was so much blood!

**JANICE**

Yeah. Blood always makes things look worse than they really are. *[pause]* I hope.

**PAM**

I know I'm gonna need a few stitches. *[pause]* But I can't wait around too much longer.

**JANICE**

It shouldn't be much longer.

**PAM**

Are you worried about your baby?

**JANICE**

My doctor was reassuring, but it doesn't feel right, even though the bleeding seems to have stopped.

**PAM**

Hopefully he's right.

**JANICE**

She!



**PAM**

Excuse me?

**JANICE**

She. *[pause]* My GYN is a woman.

**PAM**

Oh.

**JANICE**

She's one of the best in town. I've been seeing her for years. *[pause]* Thought I'd never get pregnant again.

**WALTER**

You never told me that.

**JANICE**

I didn't want to worry you.

*[Charlie comes from back (area of examination rooms) up to Janice.]*

**CHARLIE**

OK they're set up. *[pause]* I'll get your vitals and ...

**PAM**

What about me. I've been here since....

**CHARLIE**

I know miss. The doctor is just finishing up with another patient. It won't be long.

*[Charlie goes to push Janice's wheelchair, but she looks him off, indicating that he should lead the way. Walter stands up as Janice and Charlie head off to the back, Janice wheeling herself looks back over her shoulder to Walter.]*

**JANICE**

You can wait here, Dad. This shouldn't take long.

**WALTER**

OK.

*[Walter sits back down as Charlie and Janice exit. Walter turns to Pam, gesturing to her bloody arm.]*

**WALTER (CONTINUES)**

What happened?

**PAM**

Stupid. *[pause]* Broke a bottle. *[gesturing to his PJs and slippers.]* Cute. You were sleeping?

**WALTER**

Trying to. *[pause]* Don't get much sleep these days. *[lifting his leg and wiggling his fluffy slipper]* My wife and I used to try to outdo each other with outrageous Christmas presents to each other. *[pause]* She won that year! *[pause]* Haven't really slept since she died.

**PAM**

Wait till the baby comes...

**WALTER**

Baby? *[pause]* Oh, Jan doesn't live with me. Lives down the street. *[pause]* Glad I was there to drive her. *[pause]* Very independent.

**PAM**

Seems to be. *[pause]* How long?

**WALTER**

How long?

**PAM**

Since your wife passed?

**WALTER**

Oh. Years now. *[pause]* Used to do everything together. *[pause]* Who drove *you* here?

**PAM**

Uber.

**WALTER**

Uber?

**PAM**

That's how I got here. *[pause]* You know, the car service. Driver was afraid I'd get blood all over his car. *[pause]* This is his towel. *[pause]* Don't think he'll give me a very good rating.

**WALTER**

They rate customers?

**PAM**

I gave *him* 2 stars!

*[Walter looks at her confusedly. They both turn to look toward the back where there are some noises and a man walks out holding a large bandage to his head. He goes out the door.]*

**WALTER**

Shouldn't be long now.

**PAM**

I hope so. *[pause]* So where's the dad?

**WALTER**

Dad?

**PAM**

Your daughter's baby's father.

**WALTER**

Oh. *[pause]* Well. *[pause]* There isn't one.

*[Pam looks at Walter questioningly as Charlie comes in from back with Janice behind him.]*

**CHARLIE**

OK, miss. They're ready for you. *[pause]* Can you follow me?

**PAM**

'Bout time.

*[Charlie and Pam exit to back. Janice wheels herself next to Walter's seat.]*

**JANICE**

What were you talking to *her* about? *[pause]* She gave you quite a look there.

**WALTER**

Oh. *[pause]* Just *[pause]* You know. *[pause]* What brought us here in the middle of the night.

**JANICE**

Ah Huh. *[pause]* So, I suppose this, this, MAGA chick now knows all about my frozen eggs and desperate crawl through sperm-bank world and how now I, I...

**WALTER**

No. *[pause]* No, sweetie. I didn't say anything about you. *[pause]* What did the doctor say?

**JANICE**

She's not here yet. They were just doing some tests. They wouldn't tell me anything. *[pause]* You really didn't tell miss "bloody arm" anything?

**WALTER**

No. *[pause]* I think she just wanted to talk. *[pause]* Seemed to like my outfit.

*[Walter sticks his foot up and wiggles his fluffy slipper, smiling.]*

**JANICE**

You really didn't go into my whole, sad story?

**WALTER**

No, barely got a word in at all. She got cut on a bottle and had to take an Uber here.  
*[pause]* Did you know the drivers rate the customers?

**JANICE**

Yes. Dad. *[pause]* Everyone knows that.

**WALTER**

Well. Seems strange to me. *[pause]* But then this whole Uber thing is just...

**JANICE**

I know, Dad. Things have changed a lot these last few years. *[gesturing to her belly]*  
Hard to take it all in some times.

**WALTER**

Oh, I'm getting used to your *[pause]* "single Mom" thing, Jan. *[pause]* Really, I *am*.

*[Janice reaches over and grasps Walter's hand affectionately.]*

**JANICE**

Thanks. I mean it. For *[pause]* this *[pause]* all of it.

*[Curtain.]*

Act 1, Scene 3

*Setting:* Same. Half an hour later.

*At Rise:* Walter and Janice are sitting next to each other as in the end of the last scene, talking quietly to each other. Pam is sitting a couple of seats away from them (not at the far end of seats). She is awkwardly fingering her phone with her left hand as the new bandages on her right arm enclose her thumb and fingers.

**PAM**

Shit! The closest car is half an hour away.

*[Janice looks at her phone.]*

**JANICE**

The buses have started running. The number 10 stops at the corner in five minutes.

**PAM**

Bus. I don't... *[pause]* Buses are for *[pause]* you know, poor people.

**JANICE**

Really? *[pause]* I take buses all the time, 'cause I care about our environment.

**PAM**

In *that* thing? *[indicating Janice's wheelchair.]*

**JANICE**

Yes. *[heatedly]* In *this* thing.

*[Walter reaches over and places his hand gently on Janice's arm and she calms down and looks away from Pam dismissively.]*

**PAM**

Libtards!

*[Pam gets up and walks toward the door, peering out briefly, then returns to her original seat at the far end of seats away from Janice and Walter. Janice's phone buzzes.]*

**JANICE**

Hello, Dr. Campbell.

*[She listens for a few moments and her shoulders visibly drop.]*

**JANICE (CONTINUES)**

OK, I'll be here. *[pause]* Yes. *[pause]* Yes, I understand. *[pause]* Thank you.

**WALTER**

What did she say? *[pause]* What's going on?

**JANICE**

I can't, Dad. *[looking at him sadly]* You know *[pause]* why don't you head home and, and *[pause]* get dressed. *[pause]* It looks like I'll be here a while. *[pause]* I'll call you later.

**WALTER**

It's bad news, isn't it?

*[Janice grabs his hand and looks sharply toward Pam.]*

**JANICE**

Not here, Dad. Go. I'll call you later.

*[Reluctantly Walter gets up and starts shuffling toward the door. He looks back toward Janice. She blows him a kiss.]*



**JANICE (CONTINUES)**

It's OK, Dad. I'll be fine.

*[Walter exits. Janice sits quietly for a moment and then begins to quietly cry. At first, she just lets the tears fall but then she opens her purse to look for a tissue. Unable to find one she looks around the room. Pam notices her dilemma and looks into her own purse. Finding a sealed packet of tissues, she quietly walks over and hands it to Janice who looks up and takes it with a nod and sad smile. Janice struggles to open the packet.]*

**PAM**

Here, let me help with that.

*[Janice hands Pam the packet, which Pam quickly opens for her and hands it back.]*

**PAM (CONTINUES)**

I don't know why they make those things so hard to open. *[pause]* It's just tissue.

**JANICE**

Thanks.

*[Pam starts to walk back to her seat but then reaches into her purse and pulls out a small anti-abortion pamphlet. She turns and sets it on Janice's lap as Janice wipes her eyes and blows her nose.]*

**PAM**

You should read this before you make any decisions.

*[Janice glances at the flyer and looks daggers at Pam who turns again and walks to the door, looking for her Uber. Not seeing it she quietly returns to her seat without looking at Janice. Charlie enters from the back and comes up to Janice quietly.]*

**CHARLIE**

We just talked with Dr. Campbell. *[pause]* She wants us to admit you and prep for...

**JANICE**

Yes. Yes. I spoke with her. I understand. *[pause]* How long do you...

**PAM (INTERRUPTING)**

You can't.

**CHARLIE**

Please, miss. This is not...

**PAM**

It is. I speak for that child...

**JANICE**

Just stop.

**CHARLIE**

Let's head up.

*[Charlie again goes to push Janice's wheelchair and she motions him away as she begins to cry again. Charlie motions toward to back and Janice starts to wheel herself there with Charlie beside her.]*

**PAM**

It's murder; *[pause]* what you're planning to do.

**JANICE**

Make her stop, *[pause]* please.

**CHARLIE**

It'll be OK. Don't worry.

**JANICE**

I wanted this... *[pause]* I've been trying for so long. *[pause]* This was my last chance...

*[Charlie and Janice exit to the back. Pam jumps up and strides toward the back, shouting now.]*

**PAM**

You're murderers! You and your — so-called — doctor! *[pause]* That baby deserves to live!

*[Janice wheels herself out from the back, no longer crying.]*

**JANICE (SHOUTING)**

The fetus inside me *[pause]* that was months away from ever being a baby is, *[pause]* is...

**PAM**

You're killing it!

*[Charlie enters from the back and circles in front of Janice protectively. Curtain.]*

Act 2, Scene 1

*Setting:* An hour later. Stage is set up in three sections:  
*Stage Right* is a hospital bed, with Janice's wheelchair next to it.  
*Center Stage* is a nurse's station near Janice's room.  
*Stage Left* is the entrance of the hospital.

*At rise:* Lights up on *Stage Right* and *Stage Left*.  
*Stage Right:* Janice lies in the bed with an IV in her arm, she is scrolling through her phone. Melanie, floor nurse, enters, checks IV and begins taking Janice's vitals.  
*Stage Left:* Pam leans against a railing near entrance holding an anti-abortion sign showing a fetus. Dr. Campbell, GYN, fertility specialist, approaches the entrance and Pam moves in front of her, blocking her path.

PAM

They're planning to kill a baby in there this morning!

DR. CAMPBELL

I'm sure *they* are not. *[pause]* Don't you have some of *your own* business to attend to?

*[Dr. Campbell moves around Pam, who moves sideways to stay in front of her.]*

PAM

This *is* my business. Speaking up for helpless babies is more important than checking out Walmart shoppers.

*[Dr. Campbell and Pam both stop and stare at each other silently for a moment, then Dr. Campbell holds onto Pam's shoulder as she quietly walks around her and enters the hospital. Pam shakes her sign at Dr. Campbell's back then resumes her position leaning on the railing.]*

**JANICE**

Have you seen Dr. Campbell yet?

**MELANIE**

No. Not yet. *[pause]* When was the last time you ate or drank anything?

**JANICE**

Oh. Must have been last night some time. *[pause]* Maybe around eight.

**MELANIE**

That's good. They can take you in as soon as Dr. Campbell gets here, the procedure room is ready.

**JANICE**

OK. Thank you.

*[Melanie exits. Lights up on Center Stage.  
Dr. Campbell enters from left pausing at the  
desk as Melanie enters right.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Oh, hello. I'm Melissa Campbell, I'm looking for Janice Fournier.

**MELANIE**

Yes. Yes. We've been expecting you, doctor. She's down this way.

*[Melanie turns to indicate Stage Left.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Did you know you have a *[pause]* protester out front?

**MELANIE**

Unfortunately. *[pause]* Apparently, she was in the ER when Janice came in and she's on some crusade...

*[As Dr. Campbell and Melanie start to exit, Dr. Singh, head of hospital surgery, enters from left.]*

**DR. SINGH**

Oh. Good, you're here, Dr. Campbell.

*[Dr. Singh and Dr. Campbell shake hands and Dr. Singh directs Dr. Campbell back to the counter, looking Melanie off. Melanie exits.]*

**DR. SINGH (CONTINUES)**

We may have a bit of a *[pause]* situation here.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

I saw the crazy out front. Are you expecting more of them?

**DR. SINGH**

So far, she seems to be the extent of it. But...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

I was afraid of this shit happening when they overturned Roe.

**DR. SINGH**

We all were. *[pause]* And now, here we are... *[pause]* in the thick of it. I've asked our attorney to come in for a consult.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Surely that's not...

**DR. SINGH**

Just as a precaution...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Well, then. Let me know when she gets here. I should see my patient.

*[Dr. Campbell turns to leave and Dr. Singh joins her as they walk.]*

**DR. SINGH**

Of course. Of Course. It shouldn't be long.

*[Dr. Campbell and Dr. Singh exit left. Center Stage lights out. Stage Right Christal, attorney for the hospital, enters and walks toward the entrance, Pam moves to block her.]*

**PAM**

They're planning to kill a baby in there today!

**CHRISTAL**

Do you have a permit to stage your *[pause]* little demonstration here?

**PAM**

I don't need a permit to defend a helpless baby.

*[Christal quickly steps around and past Pam.]*

**CHRISTAL**

We'll see about *that*.

*[Christal exits and again Pam shakes her sign at her retreating back and resumes her position by the door. Stage Left, Dr. Campbell enters Janice's room.]*

**JANICE**

There you are. I'm sorry about all this.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Don't be... *[pause]* these things happen.

**JANICE**

Everything was going so well. *[pause]* Wasn't it?

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Yes, yes, but... *[pause]* As you know, gestation is a very complex process, so many different things can...

*[Janice breaks down and starts sobbing loudly. Dr. Campbell hands her a box of tissue and sits next to her on the side of the bed taking her hand.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

I'm sorry, Janice. I know how much this meant to you... How carefully you took care...

**JANICE (SOBBING)**

I did everything I was supposed to... and didn't do anything I'm not supposed to...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

I know... *[pause]* all we can do is the best we can. But the body has its own...



**JANICE**

I know... it's just...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

It's OK. Let it out. *[pause]* Yell. Scream. Cry. You're entitled. You've gone through...

*[Lights up Center Stage. Dr. Singh is leaning with his back to the counter. Christal enters right shaking her head.]*

**CHRISTAL**

So, it begins.

**DR. SINGH**

You saw her then?

**CHRISTAL**

Oh yes, in her one-armed glory; with her MAGA hat and fetus picture. *[pause]* Are we expecting more of 'em?

**DR. SINGH**

Let's hope not, but...

**CHRISTAL**

Is Dr. Campbell here?

**DR. SINGH**

Yes. She's with her patient.

**CHRISTAL**

And she's sure that it's....

**DR. SINGH**

Unfortunately. We've all looked at the images and...

**CHRISTAL**

Shit. *[pause]* This sucks... *[pause]* But we knew it was inevitable...

**DR. SINGH**

Well, when you let zealots and... and politicians... make medical decisions...

**CHRISTAL**

Shit!

*[Lights out Center Stage.  
Stage Right Pam starts marching up and  
down the walkway waving her sign.]*

**PAM**

They are killing babies in here!

*[Stage Left, Janice and Dr. Campbell are  
talking quietly. Dr. Singh steps in from  
right but keeps his distance. Janice notices  
him and points Dr. Campbell toward him.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Ah. Dr. Singh...

**DR. SINGH**

Yes. Yes. If you could...

*[Dr. Singh gestures for Dr. Campbell to join  
him outside Janice's room. Dr. Campbell  
nods, stands and turns back to Janice.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

We're making arrangements for.... *[pause]* I'll just be a few minutes.

**JANICE**

OK. *[pause]* OK.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Do you need anything? *[pause]* Are you...

**JANICE**

I'm. *[pause]* Fine. *[pause]* I'll be OK.

*[Dr. Campbell and Dr. Singh exit as  
Melanie enters and goes through the  
process of checking Janice's vitals again.]*

**MELANIE**

Shouldn't be long now...

**PAM**

Baby killers inside!

*[Lights up Center Stage. Christal is  
standing at the counter talking quietly on  
her phone. Dr. Campbell and Dr. Singh  
enter left and stop as Christal raises her  
finger to indicate she'll just be a minute.  
They talk quietly to each other.]*

**JANICE**

I wasn't planning on spending the day here; tricked out like this...

**MELANIE**

I'm sure you would rather be just about anywhere else...

**PAM**

They butcher babies in this hospital! I saw them making plans this morning!

**CHRISTAL**

OK. So, where do we stand?

*[Dr. Campbell and Dr. Singh join Christal at the counter.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

We've got a non-viable fetus; about 10 weeks.

**DR. SINGH**

And one kook outside who could bring the AG down on us for simply doing what's best for our patient!

**CHRISTAL**

I've got a call into a friend in the Attorney General's office. *[pause]* See if they have the stomach for prosecuting...

**DR. SINGH**

Why are people in this country soooo *[pause]* fucking... Stupid?

**CHRISTAL**

Welcome to Gilead.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Not helpful, team.

**DR. SINGH**

Sorry. It's just so frustrating.

**CHRISTAL**

Yes. Sorry.

*[Christal's phone buzzes and she walks away to answer it, speaking softly.]*

**JANICE**

I really, really wanted this to work...

**MELANIE**

I know you did, Dr. Campbell told me about everything you went through *[indicating the wheelchair]* and the IVF and *[pause]* everything.

**PAM**

They are baby killers inside!

*[Christal ends her phone call and returns to counter.]*

**CHRISTAL**

My guy inside says none of the ADAs would move on something like this but *[pause]* the attorney general has her eye on Governor next year and...

**DR. SINGH**

Shit! *[pause]* Politicians!

**DR. CAMPBELL**

But, surely. A case like this... *[pause]* There's no hope... *[pause]* The fetus is gone, might even simply abort spontaneously. *[pause]* Janice, *[pause]* us, *[pause]* we can't possibly be...

**CHRISTAL**

I wish that were true.

**DR. SINGH**

Shit! *[pause]* God damned mother fuckers!

*[Janice grimaces and clutches her stomach.  
Melanie leans in to help her.]*

**JANICE**

I think I'm bleeding again. *[pause; in obvious pain]* What's taking them so long?

**MELANIE**

I'm not sure.

*[Lights out Stage Right.]*

**PAM**

Big plans to kill a baby today!

*[Lights out Stage Left.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

A case like this....

*[Lights out Center Stage.  
Curtain.]*

**Act 2, Scene 2**

*Setting: Same as Act 2, Three days later.  
Stage is set up in three sections:  
Stage Right is a hospital bed, with Janice's wheelchair next to it.  
Center Stage is a nurse's station near Janice's room.  
Stage Left is the entrance of the hospital.*

*At rise: Lights up on Stage Right and Stage Left.  
Stage Right: Janice lies in the bed with an IV in her arm, she is sweaty and squirming, in obvious pain. Walter, now dressed in a polo shirt and khakis, is sitting in her wheelchair, holding Janice's hand.  
Stage Left: Pam has been joined by four more protesters with signs and visible pistols in holsters. Two are women and one is a clean-cut man in his twenties (possibly the son of one of the new women) and the fourth, TC, is a man in his 40s. They all lean against the railing near the entrance, jumping up to hand fliers out to people entering or leaving the hospital.*

**WALTER**

Is the medication helping with the pain at all?

**JANICE**

Noooooooooo!

**WALTER**

Should I ask Monica to *[pause]* get you something *[pause]* stronger?

**JANICE**

She should be back in a few minutes. *[pause]* I'm burning up.

**WALTER**

Yes, you're sweating up a storm. *[pause]* Here let me...

*[Walter leans over Janice, dabbing her face with a tissue. She tries to smile at him but winces in pain instead.]*

**JANICE**

Do you remember when Mom was *[pause]* so sick *[pause]* before, you know, before the last time? *[pause]* And Tommy and I were so excited to be expecting. *[pause]* How happy she was for us?

**WALTER**

Yes. Of course. We were *all* so happy. I think hearing that really turned things around for her that time. *[pause]* We took her home, *[pause]* what? *[pause]* Two weeks later?

**JANICE**

And that time, back home *[pause]* All four of us. *[pause]* Those precious few days. *[pause]* The last time all four of us were together.

**WALTER**

Was it?

**JANICE**

Yes. We were happy. *[pause]* Looking forward to the baby, our wedding, *[pause]* Mom in remission, *[pause]* your retirement.

**WALTER**

And every day, Tommy and I would bring home fresh flowers. *[pause]* They were set out in every room of the house. Colors *[pause]* colors everywhere! *[pause]* And the beautiful fragrances!



**JANICE**

And we talked and played cards and *[pause]* and made plans... *[pause]* You and Tommy were going to make my study into a nursery...

**WALTER**

I had already started refinishing your old crib, down in the cellar.

*[Janice folds over in pain, cringing, but keeps her eyes on her father, trying to smile through the pain. Walter looks on helplessly.]*

**JANICE**

And we couldn't decide on a color.

**WALTER**

I kept showing you and Tommy *[pause]* and Mom *[pause]* color swatches from Home Depot...

**JANICE**

He wanted an earth-tone and *[pause]* we wanted a primary color...

*[Christal enters Stage Left and is immediately surrounded by the protesters. They collectively mutter their approval to everything Pam shouts.]*

**PAM**

Here she comes, the lawyer for the baby killers!

**CHRISTAL**

Oh, you've brought along more of your *friends* today I see.

**PAM**

We're here to make sure you don't kill an innocent baby. *[pause]* We're not going anywhere.

**CHRISTAL**

We'll see about that. *[addressing the other protesters]* I don't know what Pam here has been telling you, but there is no innocent baby here. *[pause]* What we do have is a woman *[pause]* who very much wants to be a mother, *[pause]* but whose fetus is no longer viable. *[pause]* There will be no baby born no matter how long you march around out here yelling and screaming. *[pause]* All you're doing is prolonging the would-be mother's suffering.

**PAM**

Motherhood comes with sacrifice. The suffering must be endured to bring forth a precious life!

**CHRISTAL**

Not like this. *[pause]* What you're calling a baby is now more like a malignancy *[pause]* infected, dead cells that are ravaging her uterus. Every hour her health deteriorates more. *[pause]* Your little temper tantrum here will *[pause]* accomplish nothing more than cause this woman more pain, possibly permanent damage to her reproductive organs; *[pause]* she may never be able to conceive again. *[pause]* Please go home. You're not saving a life *[pause]* you're killing a lovely young woman.

*[Christal steps around the protesters and enters the hospital. They collectively mutter as they return to the railing.]*

**TC**

Is that true, Pam? *[pause]* What the lawyer lady was saying?

**PAM**

It's the same old lines they always give to justify their murders, TC. *[pause]*  
Bullshit!

**TC**

But *[pause]* she said that there will never be a baby...

**JANICE**

Mom and I wanted yellow *[pause]*Tommy wanted maple or mahogany.

**WALTER**

It was a beautiful wood *[pause]*once I took off all the old finish. *[pause]*I can still  
picture you in there as a baby. *[pause]*You always smiled up at me and your  
mother, every time we came in to check on you. *[pause]*You were such a happy baby  
*[pause]*never any trouble.

**JANICE**

Ah the wonders of selective memory.

**WALTER**

No, it's true.

**PAM**

There *is* a baby and we need to make sure it has a chance to be born.

**TC**

But she said it will never be born, Pam. *[pause]*Just a bunch of dead cells, *[pause]*  
killing her.

**PAM**

She said... They said... You've got to learn to read between the lines, TC. This woman *[pause]* who says she really wanted a baby *[pause]* started feeling some pains and decided, "Ah maybe I don't want to go through with this childbirth thing after all." *[pause]* So she comes here and says, "Get this *thing* outta me!"

**JANICE**

How did it all fall apart so fast, Dad? *[pause]* Mom gone. *[pause]* The accident...

*[Janice gestures towards the wheelchair.]*

**WALTER**

I don't know, dear. It was one thing right after another. *[loudly]* BANG. BANG. BANG... Left us with our heads spinning....

**JANICE**

Seems like a... what?... three? ... four-week long nightmare. And waking up to a completely new world.

**WALTER**

When Mom came home, they warned us that it might come back...

**JANICE**

It's all so unfair. *[pause, suddenly noticing how sadly is Walter looking at her]* You *do* understand that I know *[pause]* KNOW... I appreciate how hard those decisions were for you *[pause]* about Mom... about me... the baby...

**WALTER**

I know, *[pause]* I know. *[pause]* And, now, here we are again... Only this time, Mom isn't just down the hall... dying... And you're conscious... you can decide for yourself...

**TC**

I don't know. *[pause]* What if she really is hurting *[pause]* and there's no hope for the baby?

**PAM**

It's all part of the process. *[pause]* I spent six months on my back hooked up to tubes when I had my little Janet. *[pause]* Sometimes it's tough, there's complications. *[pause]* But you *don't* give up.

*[Lights up on center stage. Dr. Singh and Melanie are going over Janice's charts as Christal enters.]*

**DR. SINGH**

Ah. Here she is now, *[pause]* please tell me we can go ahead and end this woman's suffering.

**CHRISTAL**

I wish. *[pause]* Did you know the mob has grown again?

**DR. SINGH**

Yes, there were what, four of them when I came in.

**CHRISTAL**

Well, it's five now!

**DR. SINGH AND MELANIE (TOGETHER)**

Crap!

**CHRISTAL**

Any change in the patient?

**DR. SINGH**

Change, yes. *[pause]* But for the worse. The infection is spreading, *[pause]* she's got a fever.

**CHRISTAL**

And the best course of action is...

**DR. SINGH**

A D&C... remove the dead cells, clear out the infection...

**CHRISTAL**

Or, as the crazies call it, an abortion. *[pause]* No movement in the AG's office, *[pause]* she says if they file a complaint about what we do here, she will come after us. Says she "has no choice."

**DR. SINGH**

Yeah, right.

**MELANIE**

Janice is in a lot of pain, can I up her meds?

**DR. SINGH**

I'll go in to check on her in a minute. Do we know where Dr. Campbell is?

**MELANIE**

She says she can be here in an hour...

**CHRISTAL**

The board won't move on this. *[pause]* They don't want to risk a suit or criminal charges.

**MELANIE**

So, what *can* we do?

**DR. SINGE**

I've tried reasoning with her, *[pause]* so has Dr. Campbell...

**CHRISTAL**

So have I, believe me... *[pause]* As far as I know, they *[indicating the protesters]* haven't contacted the AG or the District Attorney's office, *[pause]* yet. Maybe if someone *[pause]* the dad, maybe? *[pause]* could convince them that there is no baby, *[pause]* no abortion.

**MELANIE**

I could go with Walter *[pause]* help him explain...*[pause]* Tell them about how much pain Janice is in.

**DR. SINGH**

That would be great, thank you, Melanie.

**CHRISTAL**

It's worth a try...

*[Center Stage: Lights out.*

*Stage Right: Walter is again wiping Janice's forehead.]*

**JANICE**

I know I was totally out of control *[pause]* when I finally *[pause]* came to... woke up. I'm sorry I was so mad... so awful to you... for deciding about Mom... and about, you know... and how Tommy fought with you about both those... tough... unimaginable decisions...

**WALTER**

I... just... couldn't lose you both.

**JANICE**

Thanks, Dad. *[pause]* You did the right thing... for both of us. *[pause, seeing Walter brighten with a small smile]* Bet you weren't planning to spend your retirement years playing nursemaid to...

**WALTER**

Hey. None of that now. There's no place else I want to be... helping you through this... That's my job. *[pause]* You were there for me last year when I had my heart attack. *[pause]* That's what families do!

*[Janice pats Walter's arm, again trying to smile through the pain. Lights out Stage Right.]*

**PAM**

They've invented a packet of lies they tell us... to excuse their butchery.

**TC**

Why would they do that? *[pause]* What's to be gained? *[pause]* Surely there's no master plan to...

**PAM**

You've got a lot to learn, TC *[pause]* These people think they're above God's laws.

**TC**

But surely, God doesn't want the mother to die... Miscarriages *are* a real thing... they happen... like... all the time...



**PAM**

She's not *really* dying. *[pause]* Don't you get it?

**TC**

But... does *that* even matter? If the baby *is* dead... if there's no hope that it'll be born... ever? *[pause]* What good does this do?

**PAM**

You just stick with me. Stick with *us* here, TC. You'll learn... *learn* all the tricks and terms they use to disguise their evil doings.

*[Lights out Stage Left.*

*Curtain.]*

Act 2, Scene 3

*Setting:* Same, an hour later.  
*Stage is set up in three sections:*  
*Stage Right is a hospital bed, with Janice's wheelchair next to it.*  
*Center Stage is a nurse's station near Janice's room.*  
*Stage Left is the entrance of the hospital.*

*At rise:* Lights up on Stage Right and Stage Left.  
*Stage Right: Dr. Singh and Christal are quietly talking with Janice, who is still sweating and in obvious pain.*  
*Stage Left: The protesters are quietly talking, checking their phones, as Melanie and Walter come out of the hospital. Pam instantly recognizes Walter and shouts.*

**PAM**

Well, if it isn't the baby killer's Papa!

*[TC looks at Walter and grabs Pam's arm, preventing her from going toward them. But Walter and Melanie approach the group.]*

**TC**

Walter? *[pause]* Does this mean Janice...

**WALTER**

Tommy? *[pause]* You're back?

**TC**

A couple years now... I'm sorry... *[pause]* how we left things *[pause]* back then...

**WALTER**

I know. *[pause]* It was a tough time... *[pause]* for everyone...

**PAM (TO TC)**

You know them?

*[Pam tries to pull TC away from Walter, but he takes him in a warm embrace. Melanie looks on for a moment then moves in protectively between Walter and Pam. Walter and TC talk to each other quietly before separating.]*

**MELANIE**

Would you *please*...

**WALTER**

Stop all this nonsense and go home. My daughter is very *[pause]* ill *[pause]* getting worse every hour.

**PAM**

We're not going anywhere...

**TC**

These are good people, Pam, give him a chance to talk.

**PAM**

They're just trying to ...

**TC**

Please. *[pause]* Let them talk.

*[Pam reluctantly steps back with the other protesters and crosses her arms. TC addresses Walter and Melanie.]*

**TC (CONTINUES)**

Has Janice... *[pause]* miscarried?

**MELANIE**

Yes. It's common with older women.

**PAM**

Blah, blah, blah... the same old...

**TC**

Stop, Pam... Let them talk.

**WALTER**

You know how much she wanted *your* baby... and... after... since then... she's  
*[pause]* well *[pause]* she's been wanting a baby for a long time...

**CHRISTAL**

So, Dr. Campbell says she's got a couple friends at San Diego University Hospital,  
where she did her residency...

**DR. SINGH**

I'm not sure she's stable enough to go that far...

**CHRISTAL**

Can we stabilize her?

**TC**

She's been trying all this time? *[pause]* Is she married?

**WALTER**

It took her a long time, after her mother passed and *[pause]* the accident... *[pause]*  
No things haven't worked out romance-wise, not that she hasn't tried, *[pause]* but  
she finally went the...

**MELANIE**

That's not important. *[pause]* What *is* important now is that the fetus she was carrying *[pause]*— the fetus she worked very hard to create — *[pause]* is dead and needs to be removed before it kills her.

**DR. SINGH**

We've been trying... but she just keeps getting worse.

**JANICE**

I *[pause]* just want *[pause]* to...

**CHRISTAL**

We're trying, Janice, we really are.... Hang in there.

**DR. SINGH**

This is the fourth antibiotic we've tried, but nothing seems to be...

*[Pam and the other protesters mutter loudly throughout next: "same old lies" "what about the baby?" "we're here to protect that baby." TC moves further away from them, gesturing for Walter and Melanie to move with him.]*

**TC**

Is Janice in pain? *[pause]* Suffering?

**MELANIE AND WALTER (TOGETHER)**

Yes, she's burning up, *[pause]* in constant pain.

**TC**

My god...

**MELANIE**

She's in very serious condition. And every hour this *[pause]* this protest continues the worse she gets. There may already be permanent damage...

**WALTER**

The doctors say the infection will kill her if they can't go in and *[pause]* do what's necessary.

**TC**

And that's an abortion...?

**MELANIE**

A D&C ...*[pause]* a very common — and necessary — medical procedure...

**WALTER**

She's suffering *[pause]* emotionally and physically, Tommy. *[pause]* You know her, you know how strong she is, never shows how she hurts... she's showing it now, letting me...

**MELANIE**

Her condition is *critical*. Can you get these people to *[pause]* just drop all this?

**WALTER**

Please, Tommy!

*[Dr. Campbell enters Stage Left and the mob starts to approach her as she joins Walter and Melanie.]*

**MELANIE**

Dr. Campbell, did they call you?

*[Dr. Campbell directs Walter and Melanie to move away from the crowd. TC moves toward the mob and indicates that they should stay back.]*

**TC (TO THE PROTESTERS)**

Give them some space. *[pause]* This isn't what you think it is...

**PAM**

Bullshit...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

No. Well, yes, we've been talking on the phone. *[pause]* I have a friend *[pause]* in California who wants to help... *[pause]* if we can get her there.

**WALTER**

California?

**MELANIE**

Do you think she's stable enough to...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

We're working on it.

**CHRISTAL**

And even if we can transfer her out of state, we're not sure that'll protect her or the hospital *[pause]* or Dr. Campbell.

**DR. SINGH**

Oh, *she's* willing to do it here, *[pause]* now, *[pause]* take whatever heat 's coming. *[pause]* She'd have done it days ago *[pause]* all this would be over...

**PAM**

They're cooking up some new scheme to...

*[Dr. Campbell, Melanie and Walter head toward the hospital entrance.]*

**TC**

Just stop, Pam. *[to Walter]* Walter, can I...?

*[Walter turns back, looks at Dr. Campbell questioningly then gestures to TC to join them.]*

**TC (CONTINUES)**

I had no idea when *they* called me *[pause]* that it was Janice...

*[Walter, Dr. Campbell, Melanie and TC enter the hospital. The protesters begin shouting again and shaking their signs. A few moments later, Melanie enters Janice's room.]*

**CHRISTAL**

Oh, good... you're back... any luck?

**MELANIE**

Maybe, some sort of ex — Tommy? Was with the mob...

**JANICE**

Tommy 's here?

**MELANIE**

He says he didn't know it was you...



**DR. SINGH**

Do you think he can *[pause]* convince them to just go away?

**MELANIE**

I don't know... he's not like the rest of 'em... He's out there, talking to Walter.

**CHRISTAL**

Let's see what he thinks.

*[Dr. Singh and Christal exit and Melanie moves in to take Janice's vitals. Janice is very groggy as she speaks to Melanie, reaching out to grab her arm with each question.]*

**JANICE**

Tommy 's back? *[pause]* He went to Atlanta *[pause]* years ago. *[pause]* He's a sweetie, isn't he?

**MELANIE**

He does seem nice. *[pause]* How's the pain level?

**JANICE**

Pain's not bad, *[pause]* but I'm burning up *[pause]* I'm drenched in sweat *[pause]* again. *[pause]* Does he think the baby 's his? *[pause]* I wish it was.

**MELANIE**

Try to relax. *[pause]* We'll get your sheets changed and get you a new gown.

*[Light out Stage Right and Stage Left. Center Stage lights up Dr. Campbell, Walter and TC are joined at the nurses' station by Christal and Dr. Singh.]*

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Any improvement?

**DR. SINGH**

'Fraid not.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Shit! *[pause]* This is Tommy, an old friend of Janice's.

**TC**

We were engaged. *[pause]* Going to have a baby, but...

**WALTER**

All hell broke loose...

**TC**

You could say. *[pause]* Anyway, what can I do to help *[pause]* now?

**DR. SINGH**

I don't think we'll be able to stabilize her enough for a flight to California.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

The new ones aren't working either?

**DR. SINGH**

Not so far... and we're running out of ... options... time.

**CHRISTAL (TO TC)**

Can you convince that mob out there to go home?

**TC**

I tried *[pause]*I'll try again, *[pause]*but...

**CHRISTAL**

I know, they don't *wanna* hear...

**TC**

Exactly.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

The hell with all this. Let's put her in an ambulance. I'll just do it in my clinic. Now. *[to TC]* Could you distract them long enough for us to get Janice outta here?

**TC**

I'll try...

**WALTER**

Thank you, Tommy.

**CHRISTAL (TO DR. CAMPBELL)**

Are you *sure* you want to do that?

**DR. CAMPBELL**

We're gonna have to confront these idiots some time. *[pause]* When did we start practicing medicine in courtrooms instead of hospitals? *[pause]* I don't mind starting to bring sanity back...

**DR. SINGH**

If, you're sure?

*[Dr. Campbell nods and Dr. Singh exits.]*

**CHRISTAL**

The hospital could still take a hit, letting you remove her...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

You can say you “were monitoring the situation and I snuck her out during lunch.”

**CHRISTAL**

We’ll go with that. *[pause]* Good luck.

*[Christal exits. Walter moves closer to Dr. Campbell.]*

**WALTER**

You know you’re taking a big risk?

**DR. CAMPBELL**

I’m just sorry I didn’t do it days ago... She’s suffered so much all ready. Once we have her ready to move, why don’t you and Tommy head out there and...

**WALTER AND TC**

Yeah, sure, of course. Just say the word.

*[Dr. Singh enters.]*

**DR. SINGH**

We’re all set, the ambulance will go out the back way quietly. Melanie has her cleaned up and ready to roll.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Thank you, Dr. Singh. *[pause]* Now disappear, *[pause]* you don’t know any of this is happening. *[pause]* Right? *[to Walter and TC]* It’s time, guys?

**DR. SINGH**

Got it.

**WALTER AND TC**

We're on it.

*[Dr. Singh, Walter and TC exit and a moment later Melanie wheels in Janice, still hooked up to IVs. Dr. Campbell joins them as they exit.  
Curtain.]*

Act 3, Scene 1

*Setting:* A year later. Stage is set up in three sections:  
*Stage Right:* the defendant's table, piled with medical records, with three chairs and Janice's wheelchair behind it.  
*Center Stage:* the judge's bench, flanked by a witness chair.  
*Stage Left:* the prosecutor's table, with two slight file folders on top and two chairs behind it.

*At rise:* Lights up on Stage Right and Stage Left.  
*Stage Right:* Janice sits in her wheelchair, an infant in her arms. Christal, attorney for Dr. Campbell, Dr. Campbell and Charlie, assistant to Christal, are talking quietly. They all wear suits.  
*Stage Left:* Pam, the Prosecutor, is dressed in a stylish pantsuit, talks quietly to Jimmy, assistant to Prosecutor, dressed in a suit.

**JIMMY**

Do you think this jury will...

**PAM**

I'm not sure. I thought, for sure, she'd take the plea, but she hasn't moved... Wants her day in court. *[picking up a file folder in each hand.]* We've got the law on our side.

**JIMMY**

It does seem pretty clear. *[pause]* But do we have *the public* on our side?

**PAM**

I'm ready to present to a jury. *[pause]* And win.

**DR. CAMPBELL**

I can't see this jury — these fine people — sending me to jail... for saving her life. Right?

**CHRISTAL**

That's what I'm hoping. But we've got options, should it not go our way. We'll be able to keep you out of jail during the appeals *[pause]* and you can keep your practice going. *[to Janice]* And, congratulations *[pause]* to both of you *[indicating the baby]* Success at last!

**JANICE AND DR. CAMPBELL (TOGETHER)**

Thanks.

**JANICE (CONTINUES)**

I was more determined than ever, after....

**DR. CAMPBELL**

You are one of the gutsiest people I know...

*[Lights up Center Stage. Melanie, as court bailiff enters with the Judge behind her a few steps.]*

**MELANIE**

All rise...

**JUDGE (SITS)**

Be seated. I understand there are no more pre-trial motions?

**PAM (STANDING)**

Correct, your honor. *[pause]* We are ready.

**JUDGE (TO CHRISTAL)**

And, you're sure you want to...

**CHRISTAL**

We are, your honor...

**DR. CAMPBELL**

Yes.

**JUDGE**

Very good. Anything *[pause]* else, before we get started?

**CHRISTAL AND PAM (TOGETHER)**

No, your honor.

**JUDGE**

All right, Prosecution.

**PAM**

Thank you, your honor. *[pause, then to the audience as The Jury]* We have here a very clear case. Dr. Campbell deliberately violated our new law that prohibits abortion after the sixth week. *[pause]* She clearly knew what she was doing was in violation of this statute because she removed, who for these proceedings we will be referring to as, The Patient from the hospital, where they would not perform the procedure. Dr. Campbell took the patient to her clinic, where the abortion was performed.

We will bring in witnesses who will attest to the fact that The Patient was pregnant when she arrived at the hospital early in the morning of March 15<sup>th</sup> last year. Other witnesses will attest to the fact that The Patient was no longer pregnant when she returned to her residence four days later. Clearly, this will demonstrate, beyond a reasonable doubt, that these statutes were violated by the defendant.



**JUDGE**

Thank you. Are you ready Ms. Bader?

**CHRISTAL**

We are, your honor. *[pause, then to the audience as The Jury]* We contend that there is no *admissible*, definitive proof that The Patient was ever pregnant and therefore, no abortion was ever performed. The testimony of non-medical *witnesses* is not proof of any medical condition. Regardless of what they might have heard from The Patient, hospital personnel or others, *they do not* have definitive knowledge of The Patient's condition. For instance, for all *their witnesses* know, The Patient may have entered the hospital suffering from appendicitis. Would this court object to us performing an appendectomy?

Of course not.

People come into the emergency room every day thinking they're having a heart attack, when it's actually gas or a panic attack. Women often think they're pregnant only to discover, after testing, that they simply missed a period.

No crime was committed by Dr. Campbell. She simply did you job, by taking care of her patient.

*[Curtain.]*

**Act 3, Scene 2**

*Setting:* Later the next day. Stage is set with nothing but a long table with 11 chairs around it. At one end is Juror #1's wheelchair

*At rise:* All 12 jurors are dressed in brown shirts and slacks (think UPS drivers) and wear name tags with "Juror #X". 6 jurors are seated, scrolling through their phones, and the other six are scattered around the room in pairs, pacing or leaning against the walls talking quietly to each other.

**JUROR #2 (RISING)**

Let's sit down and get this done. *[motioning for people to put their phones away and sit]* We all know what happened here. *[pause]* She's guilty. *[pause]* We may not like it, but it's the law *[pause]* now *[pause]* and she clearly violated it.

*[Slowly phones are put down and all the jurors take their seats.]*

**JUROR #12**

I don't think it's so *[pause]* clear cut.

**JUROR #7**

Oh, really. Come on... You don't buy that *[pause]* that *[pause]* card trick the defense lawyer pulled?

**JUROR #11**

Hey, *[pause]* cool it. *[pause]* Let her talk. *[to Juror #12]* You go ahead, dear...

**JUROR #2**

We're in for it now.

**JUROR #7**

Really?

**JUROR #1**

We're supposed to deliberate. *[pause]* So let's *[pause]* deliberate.

**JUROR #3**

Yes. I, for one, am *very* uncomfortable sending a doctor to jail simply for doing her job, *[pause]* for doing what was best for her patient.

**JUROR #2**

But what she *did* *[pause]* was an abortion. And that's illegal...

**JUROR #3**

Even so...

**JUROR #7**

So, in *your* world, doctors are above the law?

**JUROR #12**

What's THE LAW got to do with it? It's medicine.

**JUROR #3**

THE LAW does *not* inform an ER doctor whether or not to stitch up a cut on the head. It's what doctors do... *[pause]* are supposed to do.

**JUROR #11**

Someone's got a broken leg, a doctor fixes the broken leg. She doesn't first look through legal statutes to see if she's *allowed* to reset a break.

**JUROR #3**

Exactly!

**JUROR #2**

But the Supreme Court says...

**JUROR #3**

What makes a bleeding uterus different from a bleeding head?

**JUROR #2**

That's not for us to say... the court...

**JUROR #4**

Yeah... I never *got* that...

**JUROR #7**

What's to get? *[pause]* We live in a country of laws... *[pause]* and here, what she did was against *our* laws. *[pause]* Simple.

**JUROR #9**

There's nothing simple about any of this. A woman nearly died and we're talking about sending another woman...

**JUROR #11**

...the doctor who saved her life...

**JUROR #3**

...the doctor who helped her subsequently give birth to a child she's been trying to have for years...

**JUROR #9**

Yes, *that* doctor, you think should go to jail?

*[Several jurors mutter "yes" or "no".]*

**JUROR #1**

Look, there is only one question we should be trying to answer. Did Dr. Campbell perform an illegal procedure?

**JUROR #4**

But how can there be an *illegal* medical procedure? Medicine is about helping... making people better. The only medical procedure that *should* be illegal is lethal injection.

*[Another general uproar among the jurors: "that's entirely different" "we're not going there, are we?" "oh god, a bleeding heart liberal" etc.]*

**JUROR #2**

Let's stay focused on the question here...

**JUROR #4**

It *is* the question here. Medicine is about making people better when they're injured or sick. Dr. Campbell clearly made The Patient better, *ipso facto*, she did her job.

**JUROR #7**

My God! *[pause]* Latin now?

**JUROR #4**

You're the one that keeps harping on THE LAW, isn't that *filled* with Latin? You have your *habeas corpus* and the fun *voir dire* process we just went through.

**JUROR #11**

And don't forget Spirow Agnew's famous *nolo contendere*.

**JUROR #10**

Sparrow who?

**JUROR #2**

Well before your time... But that doesn't matter.

**JUROR #7**

Yes. Look. I just wanna get this wrapped up. I already missed two days of work...

**JUROR #2**

We can't let that force things. We need to...

**JUROR #4**

I can't believe you want to send her to jail?

**JUROR #2**

We don't *want* to, she seems like a decent person, a good doctor, but the law's the law.

**JUROR #7**

Yes. We don't have to like — or even agree with — it. We just need to...

**JUROR #4**

That's bullshit! This country...

**JUROR #1 (INTERRUPTING)**

That's *[pause]* something *[pause]* we need to deliberate on. Who here thinks The Patient was pregnant when she entered the emergency room that day?

**JURORS #2, #5, #7, #8 & #12**

I do.

**JUROR #1**

Based on what?

**JUROR #12**

What, what?

**JUROR #1**

Why do you think The Patient was pregnant?

**JUROR #12**

Well. Those people, the witness, the woman who was in the emergency room.

**JUROR #1**

And do you think that woman is qualified to know if someone is pregnant?

**JUROR #12**

Well, no, but the woman... The Patient told her she was and was worried she might lose it.

**JUROR #1**

Have you ever known a woman who *thought* she was pregnant, only to find out later that she wasn't?

**JUROR #12**

Sure, but...

**JUROR #1**

Couldn't The Patient have been mistaken about her condition and was actually suffering from some other ailment, like, say appendicitis?

**JUROR #7**

Sure, of course, that's possible. But why wait so long to treat her? Why take her to the clinic for treatment?

**JUROR #4**

We have no idea what the hospital and the various doctors were consulting about regarding her treatment, the Judge ruled that all her medical records were off limits.

**JUROR #7**

Yeah, sure, sure, but we all *know* what was going on.

**JUROR #6**

Look at it like this. We don't know she was pregnant because we couldn't see the medical records. The law says we are not entitled to see those records.

**JUROR #8**

NO! We *don't* know, for sure.

**JUROR #6**

Yes. I think that's right.

**JUROR #2**

OK. We don't seem to be coming to a consensus here. *[pause, to Juror #7]* Looks like you might be missing another day of work...



**JUROR #7**

Really? People? We all *know* she was pregnant. That rigamarole with the hospital records was just a technicality.

**JUROR #4**

Technicality or not. It's the law, "we don't have to *like* it, we just need to follow it." Isn't that what you said? And really it goes deeper than that. How can they make a law that depends upon a doctor's ... a *medical* determination and then turn around and tell those same doctor's how it can and *cannot* be treated?

**JUROR #12**

They make laws like that all the time.

**JUROR #1**

Really? *[pause]* Name one other Law that tells doctors how to treat their patients.

**JUROR #2**

Well doctors can't help someone who want to die, to kill themselves.

**JUROR #1**

That's not limited to doctors. Nobody can legally help someone kill themselves, in fact, it's illegal to commit suicide (though how can you punish someone who's dead?)

**JUROR #12**

There must be some... I just can't think of them right now.

**JUROR #3**

No. I think it's just abortion... and *I've* always maintained it was more about controlling women than unborn babies...

**JUROR #7**

All of this is beside the point. There's a law against what was done here and we need to...

**JUROR #11**

I don't agree. There may be a law, but we don't know what was done here.

**JUROR #8**

And, without definitive proof that The Patient was actually pregnant...

**JUROR #1**

Yeah, I can see where that all makes sense. The prosecutor, with all her witnesses, tried to convince us, but none of them actually knew...

**JUROR #2**

I have to agree...

**JUROR #1**

Definitely...

**JUROR #7**

Are you "sheeples" kidding me here? We're going to let her get away with this?  
*[pause, to Juror #5]* You haven't said much. Do you have anything to help me get these... these... people to see reason here?

**JUROR #5**

As a matter of fact, our talk here reminds me of a story from Plato... or Socrates... according to Plato....

**JUROR #7**

First Latin and now Plato? For christsake...

**JUROR #5**

It's important, I just want to get it right. I mean there's the whole story of Socrates and how he was condemned to death for... for... it doesn't matter... Anyway, he was condemned to death and he said, to be a good citizen he needed to accept the law and the judgement of him and quietly drank the hemlock... that killed him.

**JUROR #7**

See? See? That's what I'm talking about. We need to be good citizens and apply the law.

**JUROR #5**

But... but... the part I'm really thinking about now is the bit about the cave-dwellers. Plato talks about some people, say citizens, who live their whole lives in a cave... and there's some kind of opening that let's in light, but they can't go through. And as the light comes through the opening it casts shadows on the cave wall. That's all the cave-dwellers know of the world beyond their dark cave. Two dimensional figures and shapes that parade against the wall. That's all they know.

**JUROR #7**

Is there a point in there somewhere?

**JUROR #5**

Yes, yes, I'm getting to it. You see, one day, one of the cave-dwellers manages to crawl up to the opening and get out of the cave. He was amazed at all the rich colors and shapes in the world outside the cave.

**JUROR #1**

Of course, he would be. *[pause]* Imagine?

**JUROR #5**

He looked at the people and various animals who regularly passed over the opening, that cast the shadows he knew so well, and realized that he really knew nothing at all about them. There was so much more to them than the black shadows they cast.

**JUROR #1**

Imagine — only knowing two dimensions of the world.

**JUROR #5**

And after a few days, this man decided that he couldn't keep this new found knowledge to himself. He had to go back into the cave and tell the other cave-dwellers all about the world outside their cave.

**JUROR #7**

Fascinating. But what does any of this have to do with the decision we're making here?

**JUROR #5**

Everything. Because, you see, when he went back inside the cave and began telling them about all the different people and animals and plants he'd seen. But instead of taking it all in, they got upset. They told him he was crazy ... that this is their world... the cave... the shadows... "there is nothing else." For *that* world, in the dark cave, was all they knew. They didn't want to hear about "out there" and they killed him.

**JURORS #1 & #12**

That's awful!

**JUROR #5**

Of course, it's awful. And, it's exactly what the Athenians did to Socrates. Because he tried to teach them, their children, about the reality of world beyond what we see dancing on the walls. That's why they put him to death. In the cave story, Socrates was that cave-dweller who escaped and learned more about their world. I don't think that they should have killed Socrates, just like I — now — I don't think we should punish the doctor.

**JUROR #7**

Well, I for one, do not feel like an ignorant cave-dweller. I understand what's going on in the world. There's a lot about it that I don't like. For instance, I don't like that I have to serve on this jury... or any jury for that matter. But I recognize that it's part of my civic duty. We need to participate in our democracy. I vote... I mean I examine the candidates and vote... in every election. I'm pretty sure I voted for the state rep who wrote the law we're debating here. He's good guy. We agree on most things. I think this thing, however, is just... just... dumb. But as I've repeated over and over again, it is the law and we need to apply it here.

**JUROR #2**

At this point, I don't think we're debating the law at all. We're questioning...  
*[pause]* Well, I think, when it comes down to it, we're questioning how this law can ever be enforced. We have no way to know what anyone's medical condition is without medical tests and doctors to interpret the results of those tests. And since we can't force doctors to reveal The Patient's ... or any patients' medical condition...

**JUROR #4**

Yes, I think he has you there.

**JUROR #7**

It's like all of you people are watching shadows dancing on the walls. With the Doctor and her lawyers pulling the puppet strings. You just are not *seeing* what's actually going on here.

**JUROR #4**

No. You've got it the wrong way around. It's you friend the state rep who's pulling the strings... and it's you who can't see who... and what... is casting the shadows.

**JUROR #7**

We're just going around in circles here now.

*[Abruptly, the lights go out, but after a second or two, they slowly come up, but just the lights from behind the audience. The jurors silently stand and begin walking (and Juror #1 rolling in her chair) around the table. After the third circuit the spread out across the back wall of the stage and silently turn around to face the back wall. Black out. END OF PLAY.]*

