

Twelve Angry Teachers

By Gerald Murphy

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DEDICATION

To my wife, Nicole

STORY OF THE PLAY

Twelve teachers hold a closed hearing to decide the fate of a high school student accused of showing up drunk at a school play rehearsal and destroying a valuable prop. If they decide to expel her, the vote must be unanimous. However, the teachers have different backgrounds, varied experiences, and assorted motivations. From the thoughtful remedial education teacher to the quick-to-judge assistant coach, how will such a diverse group make such an important decision? About 40 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

Siskiyou Performing Arts Center, Yreka, CA
June 2016

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(7 m, 7 w)

JIM ALEXANDER: Pro-tem chair of discipline committee,
history teacher.

TAMMY FOSTER: Librarian.

NICOLE FISHER: Assistant principal.

DON CRAWFORD: Math teacher.

ROSEMARY DIAZ: Remedial education teacher.

JUSTIN “FRENCHY” SIMPSON: French teacher.

SEAN WINDERS: Metal shop, baseball coach.

EVELYN TERWILLIGER: Art teacher.

DUANE JANSSEN: English teacher.

DAVE JOHNSTON: Assistant football coach.

PAMELA “COOKIE” WRIGHT: Home economics teacher.

JUDY WILSON: Speech teacher.

HEATHER FISHER: Daughter of Nicole Fisher.

CHARLIE FREDERICKSON: Boyfriend of Heather.

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SETTING

A high school faculty room. American flag pinned to upstage center wall. Two long tables forming an upside down "v" toward flag, with space enough between the "v" to walk two abreast. On the tables are pads, pencils, and coffee cups. Six chairs behind each table. One small table with coffee urn below flag. Shelf above this table for coffee cups, artificial cream, sugar, tea bags. Bulletin board with various notices stage right. A generic art picture hangs slightly askew beside the bulletin board.

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(AT RISE: Teachers file in to find their seats, with some complaining about this extra duty just before the spring break. The following characters are seated from DSR to UC in this order: PAMELA "COOKIE" WRIGHT, JUSTIN "FRENCHY" SIMPSON, TAMMY FOSTER, ROSEMARY DIAZ, SEAN WINDERS and JIM ALEXANDER. From UC to DSL the characters are NICOLE FISHER, DON CRAWFORD, DUANE JANSSEN, EVELYN TERWILLIGER, JUDY WILSON and DAVE JOHNSTON.)

SEAN: I hate this! I hate this! I hate this! It had to happen just before spring break!

TAMMY: *(Closing HER ears.)* Not so loud, Sean! This isn't the football field!

SEAN: And it isn't your library either, Tammy! So I don't have to obey your stupid "keep quiet in the library" rules! And besides, I'm a baseball coach, not football!

JIM: Relax, Sean. This shouldn't take forever.

JUDY: *(To DAVE.)* This is my first time on the discipline committee. Is it hard to do?

DAVE: We usually wrap things up pretty quickly. And we only have one kid to look at today. Should be over in half an hour, maybe even fifteen minutes. Of course, if we get into disagreements...

NICOLE: I doubt we'll have disagreements. This is pretty much an open and shut case.

JUDY: Is it about the Rodriguez girl?

JIM: *(Coming to middle of room to pass out packets.)* You'll find out all you need to know in these packets, but you've probably heard most of this before.

(TEACHERS begin scanning their packets.)

COOKIE: It was in all the papers last week, and my students never stopped talking about it.

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FRENCHY: Poor girl! She must feel mortified with all this attention.

DAVE: And she was president of the SADD group too, I hear.

SEAN: SADD? What's that?

DON: I believe it stands for Students Against Drunk Drivers.

DUANE: Rather ironic considering the circumstances. That is, if the poor girl really did what she is accused of doing.

(DUANE gets up to refill his coffee cup, returning soon.)

DAVE: No doubt in my mind. The whole school knows the story. She got drunk before some stupid play rehearsal and threw up all over the place, especially on that plant thing.

ROSEMARY: Plant thing? What's that mean?

EVELYN: *(Pointing to packet.)* The plant thing is Audrey II. It's from the musical they're putting on— *Little Shop of Horrors*. Audrey II is the name of the big man-eating plant in the show that kills people. Ramona Rodriguez is accused of throwing up into this play prop.

NICOLE: The very-expensive-to-rent play prop. It costs \$1200 for just three weeks of rental, plus a \$500 security deposit. Needless to say, the drama department will have a hard time getting back the deposit after the company sees the vomit-stain damage. They might even charge them total replacement cost— about \$4000!

JUDY: Can't they have it dry cleaned?

EVELYN: I'm afraid not. Audrey II is a huge prop. No dry cleaner would even attempt to work on it.

(COOKIE rises and straightens the art picture by the bulletin board.)

COOKIE: Doesn't this irritate everyone? Why bother hanging something up if you can't do it right? *(Returning to seat.)* Sorry, that was driving me crazy.

EVELYN: Thanks, Cookie.

FRENCHY: Are they absolutely sure the Rodriguez girl is the one who did it?

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NICOLE: It's a done deal, Frenchy. When they found her that night she had puke on her lips, her hair, her face, and all over her clothing. My daughter and her boyfriend found her like that when they showed up for rehearsal.

DUANE: Does Michelle Dooley have anything to say about this? After all, she is the drama coach.

JUDY: Poor Michelle! And this happened two weeks before opening night!

DON: I think we should wait for all the evidence to come in before we rush to judgment. Insufficient facts always invite danger.

SEAN: Looks like we got us a whole bunch of facts in this here packet. I say we come to decision and get on with it. If we get out of here on time I can still make that flight to Florida to catch some baseball during spring break!

JUDY: I don't know. I don't think we should rush things. Give the girl the benefit of the doubt. After all, aren't we supposed to be innocent until proven guilty?

DAVE: Hah! I knew she was guilty the second I heard her name! Rodriguez! Her brother showed up for football tryouts with more gang tattoos than a rap singer! We threw him out of there so fast his head was spinning! Rodriguez! You can tell just by the name!

ROSEMARY: I beg your pardon.

DAVE: I didn't mean people like you, Diaz. No problems with you. I mean, I worried a bit when they hired you, but you've been okay.

FRENCHY: You *worried* a bit when they hired her?

DAVE: Stay out of this, Frenchy. You don't know these people like I do. They got different morals than us.

FRENCHY: Please don't bother to include me in your "us" group.

NICOLE: We're getting way off the topic here. Let's see what we have so far on Rodriguez.

(ROSEMARY rises to refill her coffee cup and returns soon.)

ROSEMARY: Ramona.

NICOLE: Beg pardon?

End of Freeview

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