

TWELVE ANGRY TEACHERS

By Gerald Murphy

(Excerpts may be used royalty free for auditions.)

AUDITION 1- 5 m, 6 w

DAVE: You mystify me, Evelyn. The girl is obviously guilty. She got drunk, which no one denies. She puked all over the prop. Again, no one denies this. They found her covered in her own puke and with no plausible explanation as to how she got there. Why, oh why, oh why would you believe the little piece of trash was innocent?

ROSEMARY: Mr. Johnston!

DAVE: Okay, I'm sorry. I didn't mean that last remark. I just want the school to have justice. Can you give me any reason for not voting her guilty?

EVELYN: She might be guilty. Okay, she probably is guilty. It all seems to head in that direction. But we've barely been here for ten minutes and we're about to destroy this girl's life!

DON: Actually, Evelyn, the girl made that decision when she decided to throw caution to the wind and get drunk on school property. She is the one who is doing the destroying. We are merely witnesses.

ROSEMARY: You know I really feel for the girl, Evelyn. I know what it's like to be an outsider in a place that looks down on you. But I can't see any way out of this. The evidence for her guilt is too strong. It doesn't help for you to be stubborn about this.

EVELYN: I know, I know, I know! But can't we debate this a bit longer... just to give everyone at least the illusion that we put some time into this decision? If we expel the girl this quickly I'll never forgive myself. Can't we examine this a little more before we throw her to the wolves?

JIM: I suppose it wouldn't hurt to have a bit more conversation here.

SEAN: Speak for yourself! It would hurt me!

DUANE: I wouldn't mind a closer examination. After all, it *is* the girl's future.

NICOLE: Fine, fine. We'll rake the coals again. I don't know what good it will do, but if it makes everyone happy.

TAMMY: I did have one nagging question I wanted to ask before the vote.

COOKIE: If you had a question, why didn't you ask it?

TAMMY: You know...I was afraid it might sound stupid.

COOKIE: Okay, then what was the question?

TAMMY: Charlie Frederickson. The guy who found her drunk and asleep in the prop?

COOKIE: Yeah?

TAMMY: There were some rumors about him.

NICOLE: What rumors? He's been dating my Heather for over a year now. He's taking her to the prom. He's been to my house numerous times. He's a total gentleman.

DAVE: And he's a good football player, one of my best. If he's been involved in anything shaky, I wouldn't put up with it. Charlie knows that.

TAMMY: Do you know what roofies are?

NICOLE: Roofies? I can't believe—

TAMMY: They're for guys to give to girls.

DUANE: It's a date rape drug. Guys put them in girls' drinks, and it knocks them out. Then, they rape the girls when they are helpless. It's a devastating problem all over the country.

DAVE: And you're saying Charlie has these pills?

TAMMY: I'm not saying anything. It's just a rumor. One of my aides said he was bragging about having roofies to the guys on the team.

DAVE: Not true. Not true. If it were, I would have heard about it. My players confide everything to me. Everything!

COOKIE: I don't know, Dave. Maybe there's something here. A couple of girls in my class were saying he was dangerous to go out with.

NICOLE: This is getting out of hand. There *are* no roofies, or anything else. Charlie is a good kid, and besides, this has nothing to do with the case at hand.

DON: I agree. We're wandering off topic here. Mr. Frederickson is not on trial.

NICOLE: That's right. And Ramona is. Just because Charlie and my daughter found her drunk doesn't implicate them.

JUDY: True. In fact, Charlie and Heather are the ones who reported her. If they were involved, they would have kept quiet about the whole thing.

SEAN: All we're doing here is postponing the inevitable. The girl is guilty. Are you willing to admit it, Evelyn?

EVELYN: I'll tell you what. Let's have another vote. This time I'll just abstain. And if everyone else votes guilty, then I'll vote guilty to make it unanimous.

NICOLE: Perfect. Because the school board really wants unanimous votes in these expulsion meetings. Even one innocent vote makes them nervous.

AUDITION 2- 1 m, 1 w

HEATHER: No reason for you to be nervous, Charlie. Just stick with the story.

CHARLIE: I don't know, Heather. I'm not like you. I get nervous around teachers.

HEATHER: My mom will be there, and you know how much she likes you.

CHARLIE: Yeah, but there's eleven others. I'm afraid I'll say something really stupid.

HEATHER: You'll be fine. They don't know anything and most of them are complete idiots. Plus, you're a football star.

CHARLIE: You think that will help?

HEATHER: It sure will with your coach. He idolizes you!

CHARLIE: You're right, you're right. I'll be okay. What about you?

HEATHER: My mom's the assistant principal. There's no way they'll come after me. We just have to make sure we keep Ramona in the doghouse. Everything points to her, and we'll get out of this squeaky-clean.

CHARLIE: (*A little unsure.*) Squeaky-clean? I sure hope so, Heather. I sure hope so.

HEATHER: (*Giving HIM a hug and a kiss on the cheek.*) You'll do fine, my big husky boy-toy! You'll do fine! Now, let's go!

From: *Twelve Angry Teachers* - By Gerald Murphy
Published by: Eldridge Publishing Co.

<http://www.histage.com/playdetails.asp?PID=2685>