

PSYCH WARD

Crazy Man

Original Idea

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FADE UP TO:

INT. MENTAL HEALTH COURTROOM - DAY

A small courtroom with a judge, Court reporter and two armed Bailiffs; The jury box is empty.

Judge is JULIE. Late 30's, by the book;

Prosecutor is MASON, early 40's, hard core attitude;

Defense counsel is LISA, mid 20's, excessive makeup;

Defendant is DR. BOYD; late 50's, chin whiskers;

JULIE

(bangs her gavel)

The court will come to order.
Docket three seven two nine -- Dr
Robert Boyd vs the State of
California. Is the state ready?

MASON

State is ready, your honor.

JULIE

Is the defense ready?

LISA

Defense is ready, your honor.

JULIE

Swear in the jury then...

A jury of twelve men and women enters, is sworn in and take seat in the jury box.

JULIE

The state may proceed.

Mason stands, begins to pace in front of the jury.

MASON

Ladies and gentlemen, you are being
asked to determine the sanity of
the defendant Dr. Robert Boyd who
took it upon himself to give a
child of four a transfusion of
blood when he knew or should have
known the mother's religion forbade
any such action. He then proclaimed
his actions were the result of a
conversation with an emissary of

(MORE)

MASON
God. Not God himself mind you --
but an emissary of God.

LISA
Objection. The state is attacking a
religious practice shared by
millions every Sunday.

JULIE
Sustained. The state will rephrase
its point.

MASON
Very well, the good doctor shares
the religious practice of speaking
with a higher power. But the main
issue here is a simple one...the
violation of legal and medical
ethics without any tangible proof
granted by the so-called higher
power. And without any tangible
proof, his medical and legal
rationale is deemed a delusion, or
a false belief.

LISA
Objection. Characterizing a
person's religious belief as
"so-called" is insulting and
biased.

JULIE
Sustained. The Court will strike
that.

LISA
And the defense objects to the
characterization of Dr Boyd as
delusional. That has not yet been
proven.

MASON
But it has, your honor. Yesterday
we heard testimony by the state's
own psychiatrist that Dr. Boyd has
a mental illness characterized by
delusions of grandeur and
omnipotence.

LISA
And tomorrow we will hear testimony
from the defense psychiatrist that

(MORE)

LISA
refutes those allegations. The winners of the Superbowl said they were the best team on the planet. Bragging rights do not characterize the speaker as delusional.

DISSOLVE:

INT. DR BOYD'S RESIDENCE - NEXT DAY

An exotic and expensive home in Beverly Hills.

INT. DR. BOYD'S RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM - SAME DAY

Seated at the dinner table are Dr. Boyd, his wife MARY, 30'S, and daughter CLAUDIA 16.

CLAUDIA
Do you like getting your name in the newspaper every day, daddy.

DR BOYD
Only if they spell it correctly.
(laughing)

CLAUDIA
You're funny daddy -- if its spelled correctly...

MARY
You still plan on hiring another shrink to help out in the office when this trial is over? You'll need one, given all the publicity you're getting.

DR BOYD
Depends on what God's angel has in store for me. You remember he told me I was getting a gift for saving that child's life.

MARY
What kind of gift, Robert? You really believe that?

DR BOYD
Some kind of gift that I can use to save the world.

MARY

Save the world? That sounds crazy even to me. I'd keep that to yourself if you want my opinion.

DR BOYD

You heard what the NASA scientists said...about the meteor headed to earth?

CLAUDIA

But no one believes that, daddy. A meteor twice the size of earth? Give me a break!

DR BOYD

I believe it.

MARY

And you're about the only one. When and who is giving you this power?

DR BOYD

I don't know. God maybe.

MARY

You don't know? God is giving you that kind of power but you don't know when or where? Do you have any idea how that sounds?

DR BOYD

It'll happen when it happens.

CLAUDIA

As long as it doesn't happen before my birthday party.

DR BOYD

Not to worry sweetheart. The amusement park isn't going anywhere before you turn seventeen.

DISSOLVE:

INT. AMUSEMENT PARK - A WEEK LATER - NIGHT

Claudia and a group of teens having fun at an amusement park. Video games. Rides. Pinball machines. Shooting galleries. Rollercoaster rides.

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME NIGHT

Dr Boyd and Mary seated at a booth enjoying ice cream.

A television monitor on the wall blares the news.

TV MONITOR

"....and scientists from NASA are still tracking the asteroid headed towards earth. The hundred and seventy five meter wide asteroid could cause catastrophic damage worldwide. Of course, there's always the possibility the asteroid will self-correct its trajectory away from earth as has happened so many times before...."

At the booth is a nickle machine with a video monitor that dispenses wishes. Dr Boyd drops in a nickle. "You only get one wish" flashes on the small monitor. "Choose from the wishes below"

Dr Boyd chooses "One time use of unlimited power"

DISSOLVE:

INT. MENTAL HEALTH COURTROOM - NEXT DAY

Dr. Boyd is on the witness stand. Mason is conducting the cross examination.

MASON

Now Dr. Boyd, you presume to insist that you were ordained by God to give this child a blood transfusion---

DR BOYD

---that saved his life. Yes.
(looks at his watch)

MASON

That you believe saved his life, since there is some question that the transfusion is the reason the child is still alive. But --

Dr. Boyd looks at his watch.

DR BOYD

---If you'll excuse me for a moment, but I have to redirect the asteroid's trajectory...

MASON
I beg your pardon?

DR BOYD
I won't be gone for more than a
minute.
(to Julie)
Your honor, may I be excused for
just a brief moment?

JULIE
Is this really necessary?

DR BOYD
Not even a minute?

JULIE
Very well. The court will adjourn
for Dr. Boyd's brief moment.

Dr. Boyd steps away from the witness box and enters the
'mens' lavatory.

INSERT: THE HANDS OF THE WALL CLOCK PASSES 30 SECONDS

BACK TO SCENE

Dr. Boyd returns to the witness box.

JULIE
Everything all right doctor?

DR BOYD
(smiles)
Oh absolutely your honor.
Everything is just perfect.

DISSOLVE:

INT. DR BOYD'S RESIDENCE - DEN - NEXT DAY

Dr. Boyd is sitting at a desk going over his medical charts.

Claudia is playing with her tablet.

Mary is quilting.

A wide screen television monitor is PLAYING the news.

TV MONITOR
"...In other news NASA scientists
now reveal that the earth-sized
asteroid seems to have broken up
(MORE)

TV MONITOR

and the smaller pieces are either burning up as they enter earth's atmosphere or pass earth at a much farther distance than was initially thought. At any rate it seems there is no longer any fear of danger to earth..."

MARY

You see that Robert - It's the same way every time NASA claims a meteor will destroy the earth.

CLAUDIA

I think they tell us that just so we'll go see their movies.

DR BOYD

Movie studios need something to create an audience. Why not pretend the earth will be destroyed by an asteroid...?

THE END